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3d.

**ELECTRICIANS
IN
CONFERENCE**

(page 2)

Scarboro' Again

THE failure of the right wing to gag the opponents of German re-armament is one more demonstration of the overwhelming strength of Labour's left. For the opposition to German re-armament, reflecting as it does the mass anti-war sentiment of Labour, also emphasises its growing desire to wage a serious struggle against all aspects of Tory Policy.

It must be said that opposition

what purpose have resolutions or amendments carried at Scarborough? Will they be incorporated in "Challenge to Britain"? Or is the Scarborough conference just to "let off steam"? All affiliated bodies entitled to send delegates must have a clear answer to these questions immediately.

In our opinion "Challenge to Britain" must be open to any amendments and alterations the conference may think necessary.

This is a vital question for the Left Wing. We have considerable support, both in the party and the country, but this by itself is not enough.

The issue of the hour is policy. On what policy will Labour fight the next election?

In future issues of "Socialist Outlook" between now and the Scarborough conference we will make our contribution on this vital question.

Editorial

to this part of U.S. Imperialism's war preparations against the U.S.S.R. is of little value unless it is directed against the Tory war policy here. There is a mistaken tendency to believe that verbal denunciation of German re-armament is all that is required. This leads to false conclusions that on this basis unity between elements on the left and the right is possible.

To fight German re-armament, it is necessary to insist over and over again on the necessity for the withdrawal of British occupation forces from Western Germany. That is a key demand on German re-armament, precisely because it is the occupation which has formed the main prop of German militarism.

Labour can go forward at Scarborough on this question by adopting the principle that the German working-class must be allowed the opportunity to decide their own future.

Last year's Margate conference adopted Challenge to Britain. This statement of policy is now entirely inadequate although the "Speakers Handbook" published recently by Transport House hails it as the programme for the next election.

If it is such a programme then

LABOUR CAN STOP WAR

Hands Off Asian Peoples!

THE statement of Senator Smathers of Florida, reported in the "Daily Herald" and last week's "Tribune," ranks as the most important recent American declaration: "It would shock and astound you" he said, "if you knew how near we were to active participation in the Indo-China war just a few weeks ago. When the final story is written it will be seen that America actually took the leap, but turned back in mid-air."

There is one question every member of the Labour Party, every working man and woman in Britain, must seriously consider. **WHAT STOPPED THE LEAP?**

Why is that question important? Because active participation in the Indo-Chinese war was, as it is now, the road to World War III. If we know what stopped intervention a few weeks ago, then we are taking a first step towards preparing to STOP IT NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

What was the barrier, what was the force that disrupted the leap to war? There is only one answer—the many millions of the common people throughout the

world. Their opposition to the Third World War clogged the drive of U.S. Big Business and brought it to the ground this side of intervention in Indo-China. That opposition was reflected in the resistance of Asian Governments to being dragged into the American war plans; it was highlighted by the resignation of Aneurin Bevan, a signal of the deep anti-war sentiment in the ranks of British Labour; it revealed itself right before the American Government itself at home.

To realise the depth of that opposition to war among the working people, to understand it as the

force which disrupted the imperialist plans: that is the beginning of all wisdom in the struggle against World War III

The beginning... but not the end. For a sentiment against war can cause hesitation in the war plans, can under certain circumstances, postpone the war temporarily, but **no more.**

U.S. Big Business is now preparing again. This time it means to weld its allies firmer behind it before it leaps. To stop it finally needs positive struggle. And to turn the anti-war sentiment, the working-class potential into positive struggle, each day and every day hammering at the war preparations, demands leadership.

British Labour can give that leadership by an all-out campaign for the defence of the colonial revolution.

Labour should be mobilising the working people. Its voice should be resounding round the world demanding Hands Off the Far-East—the focal point today of the preparations for war. In this way, it could arouse a mighty movement against the war alliances, a movement of struggle against capitalism, the breeding ground of war.

That is the only way to turn imperialism back and crush it forever.

A GOOD STEP

Attlee, Bevan To Visit China



By courtesy of the "Daily Herald"

THE decision of the N.E.C. to send a delegation to China is one that will be applauded not only by the Labour Movement of this country but throughout the world.

Coming as it does when Wall Street imperialism is renewing its efforts for war on the peoples of Asia, it will be interpreted as a sign that Labour stands for peace.

The peoples of Asia will no doubt welcome this delegation, especially if it is the banner-bearer of a programme of assistance to them.

Labour can give this assistance in three ways:—

- By pressing forward the campaign for the maximum trade agreements mutually beneficial to the two countries.
- By demanding that all British troops are withdrawn from the colonies.
- By sharply warning Wall Street that we will have nothing to do with its dirty war in Asia.



Geneva Reaches Climax

IT is not in the public sessions of the Geneva Conference that the real and important discussions take place. It is not even in the sessions restricted to a small circle of forty or so persons. It is not there that the cards are placed on the table and the bargaining over the fate of the world's millions begins. It is the private place where Eden meets Chou-en Lai or Bedell Smith meets Mr. Molotov that encloses the important negotiations.

What cynicism is expressed there we shall only know fully when one of the participants recounts his experiences as Churchill in his memoirs has recounted the discussions between himself and Stalin at Yalta.

However, it is not necessary for us to secrete ourselves in a Geneva private parlour to know that the negotiations there are reaching a climax.

The latest diplomatic moves in the West make that clear. Geneva is now on a knife's edge. Either the Great Power representatives reach agreement giving U.S. Big Business an opportunity to carry on with the building of a "united will" in Asia; or the conference breaks up to be followed by full military intervention by imperialism in the Asian continent. That is the ultimatum which the American Government and its allies are posing.

Mr. Dulles has said that the Indo-China military situation is slip-

ping "faster than was expected." What Mr. Dulles meant was made plain in a despatch from Washington on May 25th, by James Reston, the "New York Times" correspondent. He declared that official U.S. reports on the Indo-Chinese situation were "depressing." His despatch is worth quoting from at length.

"There have been defections among the native troops to the Communist side," he wrote.

By
Bill Hunter

"Some of these contributed to the loss of Dien Bien Phu, where the French, ironically, got their fiercest support from the Germans fighting with the Foreign Legion. The Communist fifth column is an increasing worry, even in Hanoi and Haiphong.

"The rich Kingdom of Cambodia is politically wobbly..."

Those who place faith in Eden to tell the U.S. to go it alone, or to hold back the South-East Asia Alliance, should note well the following comment.

Reston continues: "Until now, the British have insisted on waiting until the end of the Geneva conference before taking any new political commitments in defence of the South-East Asia area. Officials here now have the impression, however, that, with the military situation deteriorating in Indo-China, the British have decided to put a time limit on their patience."

Dulles himself, in his remarks

of May 25th, declared the prospect for "moral sanction" by the United Nations of possible military intervention in Indo-China "looks somewhat better than they have recently."

The U.S. Government sought to cash in on this "better prospect" by instigating the recent move of Siam to request the Security Council of the United Nations to send observers to determine whether Siam's security is threatened by the victories of Vietnam. This appeal took place after the Siamese delegate had discussed the question with the U.S. delegates at Geneva and after it had been discussed in Washington. According to "Newsweek" the U.S. and Britain stood together in principle behind this "dramatic move." Thus the propaganda excuse for direct intervention in Indo-China is being prepared, once again under the United Nation's cloak, as in Korea.

All this has a bearing on Geneva and the conclusion that it has reached a climax.

James Reston declares: "The Eisenhower administration... is now developing this theme; that it will acquiesce in any armistice the French feel will not communitise the whole peninsula but if the Communists counter this with what amounts to a demand for the surrender of the peninsula, the United States will be forced to consider military action, which it might not be able to restrict to Indo-China." (my emphasis).

The international moves of the American Government with its Allies in tow are directed towards putting pressure on the Soviet and

A BAD STEP

Labour Leaders Visit Prince's Mansion

MR. HUGH GAITSKELL, Mr. Denis Healey and Mr. Tom Williamson attended a mysterious conference in Holland last weekend. The mystery is only in the way it was called, there is no mystery about its purpose.

The invitations were issued by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. Before the conference began some of the participants innocently declared to the press they didn't know what it was all about. By Tuesday, however, they had produced a ten-page statement. It declared the purpose of the meeting "was by means of a free and frank exchange of views to improve mutual understanding between Europeans and Americans on problems of common concern."

Chinese leaders for a compromise while at the same time preparing for a breakdown at Geneva. They seek a quick solution either way.

The U.S. is prepared to accept partition in Indo-China or some solution which will leave a toe hold for imperialism there. It can then pad that toe-hold around with a Far-Eastern military alliance. Whether or not the terms offered are sufficient to get the Chinese and Soviet leaders to trade remains to be seen. As we stated in the beginning of this article we are not in on the real discussions at Geneva.

We do know, however, that the Labour movement must be clear on

The question is which Europeans and which Americans? Apart from the royal prince, there were present—Mr. John Strider Coleman, of Detroit, a business man; Mr. Nelson Dean Jay, the European representative of J. P. Morgan, the vast American banking concern; and Mr. David Rockefeller, who is a nephew of the United States Ambassador. The "Manchester Guardian" reports the Americans there as being "former members of the Democratic Administration and business men who support the present Republican Administration."

European business men were also present. From Britain came four Tory members of Parliament, the leader of the Liberal Party and Sir Oliver Franks, the deputy chairman of Lloyds Bank. Into the middle of this gathering, ob-

viously not feeling a bit out of place, entered Messrs. Gaitskell, Healey and Williamson—two Labour M.P.s and a trade union leader.

The "western cause of freedom" was well to the fore in discussions, according to the statement issued after the meetings. The composition of the meeting makes it clear that the freedom discussed was freedom for Big Capital, and how to make the world safe for it. It is a disgrace that three Labour leaders from Britain can collaborate in such a task and find "problems of common concern" with American Big Business.

The N.E.C. is quick to proscribe the left. It is time it took action against those who draw up a common programme with the enemies of the Labour Movement.

China will solve nothing. The Indo-Chinese fight for liberation is part of the great colonial revolution which cannot be confined in artificial frontiers. It will go forward. If in pursuance of any agreements made with the capitalist powers, Communist leaders attempt to hold it back, then it will find other leaders and erupt once more.

Lastly, and most important, we know that the biggest barrier to any imperialist intervention in the East, either now or in the future is the power of the Labour movement itself exerted in direct, root and branch, opposition to all imperialist plans.

Correct

SPEAKING in Shrewsbury on the 23rd May, Barbara Castle declared the French continue the war for the so-called independence of Viet Nam, when every expert knows if you had free elections tomorrow the people would vote for Ho Chi Minh. If the government commit troops to this war the people will not stand for it.

FOOTPLATE MEN: UNITED AND FIRM

THE threatened national strike of loco-men is off but the issue is not yet resolved. By their determined action the men have won the support of their union, the A.S.L.E. & F., against lodging turns. The union now has the responsibility for providing the lead in the struggle against the Railway Executive.

It would be absolutely wrong to imagine that the men have been forced back by Fleet Street pressure and that the issue is settled.

A mass meeting of Tyneside footplate men congratulated the A.S.L.E. & F. Annual Conference for its decision to press for the total abolition of lodging turns. It asked that lodging turns due to begin on June 14th be withdrawn, otherwise their resolution stated "we take action to be decided by a further mass meeting."

Old Oak Common men carried a resolution which declared: "That although we footplate men at Old Oak Common are still united and firm in our desire to stay on strike we will, in a democratic spirit carry out the unwelcome decision from the Bristol Central Strike Committee.

"We do this in the earnest desire for unity, so that, should there be no success in the efforts of the men's representatives to abolish this type of working, we shall, in unity with men of all regions, take strike action again to

stop the British Transport Commission destroying our family life with rostering of this detestable type of train working."

This we think puts the issues squarely. It is now up to the British Transport Commission.

MAY FIGHTING FUND

The "Socialist Outlook" is duly grateful for the following donations received:—

Nottingham readers, 20/-; T. Enwright, 5/-; J. Pennington, 10/-; R. J. Dutch, 15/-; D. E. Painting, 2/-; F. Turner, Wallasey, 5/-; Leicester Socialists, 40/-; Mrs. L. G. Pond, 11/-; South-West London readers, 100/-; M. D. Milne, 1/-; Bermondsey readers, 2/8d.; R. J. J. Johnson, 4/-; R. T. Shelley readers, 17/-; Birmingham readers, 81/-; Birmingham Special Effort, 137/4d.; Leeds readers, 273/4d.; Birkenhead readers, 10/-; Upper Norwood readers, 5/-; Platts Workers, 36/-; Salford supporters, 44/-; Islington readers, 20/-.

Total £41-19s.-4d.

Correction in Fighting Fund for April: — Birmingham readers, 74/-; R. T. Shelley readers, 24/3d.

Electricians In Conference

By Our Industrial Correspondent

THE annual conference of the Electrical Trades Union met at Margate from May 24th to 28th; 327 delegates representing 220,000 members were present. Unlike some large union conferences which are dominated by the "holiday spirit", this is one union where the delegates get down to work. A businesslike standing orders procedure governs their attendance and conduct.

There is another reason why E.T.U. Conferences are interesting. The rank and file are amongst the most politically advanced sections of the Labour movement. But this does not mean that the union is a plaything of the C.P. On the contrary, over a period now there has been evidence of the maturing of a growing Labour left wing opposition, and on a number of occasions in recent years it has succeeded in defeating the platform on some important issues of C.P. policy. It is this force which the C.P. tops fear and not the right wing, who are small in numbers.

CONFERENCE AND WAGES POLICY

On the first day the conference appropriately placed on record its appreciation of rank and file militancy during the recent guerilla strikes. On Tuesday, Mr. Stevens, introducing the debate on Wages, Prices and Profits made the important declaration: "The priority job of the Executive Council

after this conference will be to initiate wage applications in all industries where our members are employed." He concluded by saying: "we will use all the resources of our organisation in the fight to improve the standard of living of our membership."

The policy appears to be one of struggle, although Mr. Stevens was non-committal about how this struggle would be waged. It is estimated that the recent guerilla strikes cost the union a sum running into six figures. If such a policy is envisaged for the future, it is difficult to imagine how the resources of the union could stand it. Already it is believed that an increase in subscriptions and a special levy is being contemplated. The administrative example of the ill-fated Canadian Seamen's Union should be studied by the E.T.U. leadership.

MISTAKE TO UNDERESTIMATE CONTRACTORS

It would be a great mistake in this respect to underestimate the electrical contractors. These gentlemen enjoy the support of the most reactionary engineering employers. If they should decide to fight, the militancy of the union will be determined, not by its financial remittances to members, but by their ability to struggle—and such action has to have a long period of thorough preparation. The members must be prepared for hardship and the leadership must base its strategic policy on the developments in other sections of industry.

To win a decisive victory the E.T.U. must march in step with the most militant sections of industry; any conception that victory can be achieved by pressure threats paid for out of the funds of the union, could breed some fatal illusions.

THE POLITICAL DEBATES AT CONFERENCE

The main political debate at the conference was on German re-armament. The following motion was presented by Mr. Haxell, a member of the National Committee of the C.P.

"This Conference views with grave apprehension the proposals providing for the rearming of Germany.

"After two world wars, in which Germany was the principal aggressor and which resulted in a colossal loss of life and widespread devastation, we are now being called upon to acquiesce in steps which will inevitably lead to a third world war.

"Conference is opposed to and will fight with all the resources at its command to prevent the implementation of the inflammatory policy of German re-armament."

Mr. Haxell apparently found some difficulty in justifying the present C.P. line on peace, with quotations from socialist sources so he utilised one from Disraeli which declared that "if there were a military alliance between Britain, France and Russia, war would be impossible." This he commended to "Mr. Eden and his advisers."

Of course Mr. Haxell simply forgot that there was no Soviet Union during Disraeli's time and consequently the fundamental contradictions between its nationalised economy and the economies

of the capitalist west did not present themselves as they do today.

A refusal to recognise these contradictions forms the bedrock of the false policies propagated by the C.P.s today around the theory of "peaceful co-existence." It is precisely because the Soviet nationalised economy is incompatible with capitalist economy that it enjoys so much working-class support. Capitalism must continuously strive to remove it. Hence there can be no lasting peace through treaties.

Whilst it is not excluded that the Soviet Union may have to sign treaties from time to time, it is absolutely necessary for the Labour Movement to understand that these temporary agreements cannot by themselves remove the war danger.

CRITICISM OF RESOLUTION

This resolution came in for much correct criticism on the grounds that it was by implication fostering anti-German sentiments.

Mr. Haxell became extremely annoyed and his reply was to indulge in slander to cover up for the lack of a political case. In replying to criticism from the floor he said: "I often wonder whether, in reality, they are really left wing, or whether they are not really right wing in a very heavy cloak of disguise." Of course Haxell knows full well that his socialist critics are not "right wing". His demagoguery was calculated to inflame the conference. The large number of abstentions in voting on this resolution was proof that he did not succeed.

A resolution requesting the withdrawal of U.S. troops because amongst other things they lowered the "moral standards of our womenfolk" was defended by the platform and came in for some heavy criticism from the floor because of its nationalistic outlook. So much so that Mr. Foulkes, the chairman, intervened by accusing the critics of providing bullets for the press. This did not halt the criticism which as in the case of German re-armament was based upon solid socialist

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Efficiency: But Not At Our Expense

Says Miner PRICE JONES

AT last it has happened, the age of miracles has not passed. The newspapers have at last admitted that the National Coal Board can make profits.

The N.C.B. Report shows that for last year this much-maligned industry actually showed a profit of £353,647. This was achieved after once again paying out the annual 'ransom money' (compensation) to the tune of £14½ millions.

A Chairman of a private company would no doubt have been very pleased to make such an announcement in his Annual Report. But Sir Hubert Houldsworth, N.C.B. Chairman is disappointed. Who with? Well, of course, the man who cannot 'pass the buck' any farther down the line—the miner. Why is he 'disappointed'? In January the N.C.B. and the N.U.M. negotiated a wage-increase for the day-wage men in the industry. We day-wage workers pressed for a rise due to the inability of the then existing wage-rate to cope successfully with the rising cost-of-living. But the proposed increase was offered and accepted by the N.U.M. on condition that the miners increased output by 2½ per cent.

I am fully aware that the job of a Union is to negotiate, to the best of its ability, for the benefit of its members, but surely its job is not to obtain 'awards' at any cost. Surely they must have realised that the inference behind the condition imposed is that the miner is not doing his best and that to get him to work harder all that is needed is to show him the 'carrot on a stick' in the form of a rise in wages.

Even if that was true, there will inevitably arrive a time when the

old donkey just cannot go any faster. I believe that is the position we have reached in the pits. By the way, the cause of Sir Hubert's 'disappointment' is because there is no sign yet of the 2½ per cent. increase. He does say, however, that last year there were seven less working days (due to an extra week's holiday and the Coronation Day holiday). He admits the miners made up five of these lost days.

There are three ways in which output can be increased in any industry. They are:—

- (1) To work harder.
- (2) To work longer, or
- (3) To increase the productivity of the worker.

As to the first point—from my own experience of colliery work I can honestly say that by far the larger majority of miners are already working as hard as they possibly can. Make no mistake about it, the officials will see to that.

The second point is answered by the fact that modern mining is run on a continuous cycle basis, each of three shifts being dependent on the other two. Even if the miners would agree to work longer hours it would be impossible—there are only twenty-four hours in a day.

That leaves us with the third of my three points, i.e. increased productivity.

I readily agree that the N.C.B. has and is making great efforts to increase the efficiency of the mines, but the benefits from most of these re-organisation schemes will only be felt in a few years time. Incidentally, I am very pleased to note from the Report that for the first time since the "Plan for Coal" was produced, the actual capital expenditure for the last year almost balanced the estimated expenditure (£52.4 millions against an estimate of £52.6 millions).

In an effort to increase productivity the Coal Board has speeded up mechanisation of almost every pit under its control, but this has created its own problem—more coal, but dirtier coal.

The old method of hewing coal was by the pick and spade, the collier being paid for the amount of coal he filled into tubs. Today coal is obtained by being machine-cut—the cutter ploughing a straight path through coal and



dirt. The collier is paid for filling a certain volume of material on to a conveyor belt. He has no time to try to sort out the dirt—the coal must be 'filled off' so that the two following shifts can prepare for the next day's coal-filling. The result is that far more tubs are filled and wound up the pit than in the old days, but there is a far greater amount of dirt in the tubs.

As a pit can obviously only wind as many tubs as its winding-engines can manage it will be clearly seen that if the amount of dirt filled into coal tubs underground could somehow be lessened then the saleable coal output would rise accordingly.

From this same question stems another problem—that of sorting and cleaning the coal.

In almost every case collieries have sorting plant designed to cope with the amount of dirt found in coal mined under the old method. With this great increase in the dirt content of coal tubs the screens are inefficient, being incapable of dealing adequately with the dirt. I quite agree that the Board appreciates this and are busy erecting modern screening plants in different parts of the coal-fields, but here again we are faced with the fact that this is a long term policy and until these new plants start to operate we shall be faced with this dirty coal question.

As an almost immediate method of lessening this problem, I suggest to the N.C.B. that they should consider the possibility of lengthening of existing screen conveyor belts and the employment of more screen-hands. This would mean that more workers would have more time to pick out the dirt before it shoots down into the wagon labelled 'coal' and would also stop the cry of "Lazy miners getting astronomical wages for filling dirt."

YOUR COST OF LIVING

What the Statistics Hide

MOST of the big Trade Unions are preparing for another round of wage claims. They say that their demands are based on a steadily rising cost of living. Is it really costing more to live these days when we see at least some prices coming down?

The Tory Government and the industrialists deny that it is more expensive. Tory M.P. Miss Pat Hornsby Smith said recently at Potters Bar that the Socialist lies about the cost of living were as dishonest as their war-mongering lies at the last election. "The cost of living index has remained stable at 140 from March to December last year," she proudly asserts.

Last year the nation had consumed more beer, more tobacco and consumer's goods of all types, said Mr. Butler in February of this year. He also re-assured us that our wages had risen more than prices and he wound up by leaving us with the really comforting thought that the real purchasing power of dividends had fallen by 35 per cent. while real wages had risen by 28 per cent. since the period before the war. He hastened to add: "Statistics are never conclusive."

We can be thankful for that. It leaves us the opportunity for finding statistics which more closely conform to our experience.

Let us start with any working-class housewife. She is only too painfully aware that the pay-packet which her husband brings home today buys much less than it did a few months ago in the way of food and other essentials. In the lower paid groups a larger proportion of income is spent on food. As one gets into the higher income groups more is spent on clothes, furniture and entertainment.

Thus if the price of food rises

Apology

We regret a printer's error in the article by Jack Stanley—"East-West Trade"—which appeared in our last issue. The paragraph in which the error occurred should have read:

As the article in the "Observer" states, in the six months ending May 15th, 216 applications for licences to export machine tools worth £27,707,628 were received by the Board of Trade, 61 of these applications being allowed, but these 61 included 52 for which no licence was required, leaving actually only 9 licences that were granted. On May 15th a further 154 applications had been made covering goods worth £25, 156,884...

and average wages indexes we can see how right Butler was when he said that, "Statistics are never conclusive."

What we want is a cost of living index that is truly related to the cost of living and one which can reflect the various spending habits of the different income groups.

One last piece of armour to deflect the Butler Axe. Remember he said that more beer, tobacco and consumers' goods of all types had been bought last year. Of course he was right. More were bought. But who bought them? Certainly not you nor I. We bought less because some of our income had been filched right from under our noses and given to the better-off sections.

This re-distribution of income took place, as must have been anticipated by the workers under a Tory Government, when they removed the food subsidies and raised the bank rate amongst other things. By way of compensation to those hardest hit they gave certain tax allowances. But thousands of workers who happen to pay no or very little tax, received no compensation whatever.

It is obvious therefore that the Trade Unions wage demands are based on the real needs of their members. If the workers are to defend their living standards a vigorous wages campaign is absolutely necessary. The Labour Party must give the Trade Unions all possible support in their coming struggle.

Socialist Outlook Editorial Board

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Bernard Dix Continues His ... Spotlight on Colonies

THE attitude adopted by the Labour Party on the colonial problem will, to a very large degree, determine the lines of future policy in much wider spheres for some considerable time. Practically all trends of thought within the Party are unanimous in acknowledging the existence of a problem, but analysis of it—and solutions—vary considerably.

"Socialist Commentary," the journal which gained a national reputation when it featured a contribution by Herbert Morrison recently, presented in its issue of March this year an article dealing with the "backward areas." This article, while containing a number of original ideas, follows fairly consistently a line of thought which is often propagated within the Party—thus an examination of its content will not be amiss.

ARMS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

The article begins by stating, in most positive terms, that whoever cares about helping the backward areas should, "once and for all", stop tying it up with the problem of defence and arms: it is of the opinion that expenditure on arms and economic assistance to backward areas are two quite separate issues. The problem—as "Socialist Commentary" sees it—is where, out of the £12,000 million of our national income which is not spent on arms, is the necessary money for economic assistance to be found.

"Socialist Commentary" suggests, as a start, that 1 per cent of the national income be spent on providing economic assistance to backward areas—a sum amounting to approximately £140 million a year. It then proceeds to demonstrate how this sum could be raised. If every insured earner in the country were to pay an extra shilling a week over and above what he already pays for national insurance the sum of £52 million a year would be raised; this could be "a kind of world insurance to other peoples" and a special stamp provided on the insurance card. The remaining £88 million could be met from direct taxation "where the rich could make their greater payment."

The "Socialist Commentary" concludes by stating that it is necessary to emphasise to the British worker that he is a rich man, positively rolling in wealth compared with the worker in Africa and Asia.

WHERE DOES THE "SOCIALIST COMMENTARY" GO WRONG?

Firstly, the "Socialist Commentary" adopts an attitude which, in the final analysis, means that all other demands on the national income must be relegated to second place in favour of military expenditure. It considers that arms expenditure is sacrosanct and untouchable.

This is an opinion which, unfortunately, finds a certain amount of support in various sections of the Party. So much is this so that Dick Crossman, writing in "Tribune" of August 14 last year, was moved to observe:

"If the gravest menace to the 1929 Labour Government was the 'aristocratic embrace' which finally engulfed Ramsey McDonald, the gravest menace to the 1950 Labour Government was the hearty handshake of the Chiefs of Staff."

How true this statement is can be readily judged from the fact that "Socialist Commentary" considers feeding the insatiable appetites of the Chiefs of Staff with funds for their war machine,

as ranking higher on the list of priorities than assisting the depressed peoples of the world. From the very start, it turns the list of priorities upside down and then proceeds to continue backwards in an effort to find a solution to the problem!

A FUNDAMENTAL MISTAKE

The next mistake of "Socialist Commentary" is one of a more fundamental character. It arises from the proposal that the workers of Britain contribute £52 million a year for economic assistance to the backward areas.

This proposal overlooks one very simple point—that Britain today is still a capitalist country and still engages in the exploitation of colonial countries. A large percentage of the productive capacity in Britain is still owned by a small class of people—50 per cent. of all private property being owned by 1 per cent of the population. A correspondingly large proportion of personal incomes in this country are derived from rent, interest and profit. Something like 20 per cent. of all personal incomes originates in other than wages or salaries, this being after taxation.

The profits being drained away from the colonies—which are in the main backward areas—are still large sums; in 1952 about £30 million left Northern Rhodesia alone to find its way into the pockets of capitalists overseas.

The British worker, when the issues are made clear, will not object to assisting with the advancement of the workers in the poverty-stricken areas of the world. He will, however,

object to paying £2 12s. 0d. a year as compensation to the people in the backward areas for the activities of the capitalists while at the same time these capitalists continue to exploit both him and the workers overseas. For that is what the proposals of the "Socialist Commentary" mean—the British worker is being asked to subsidise the imperialist activities of the British capitalists!

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

If the Labour Party is to pursue a Socialist policy and not degenerate into a philanthropic charity organisation it must first of all realise that the prerequisite to economic assistance is political independence. This means that all those backward areas which are colonial territories must receive immediate independence—this is the first step and one which conditions all else.

Secondly the policy of the Labour Party in this country must be one which will make drastic inroads into the wealth of the capitalist class, for only in this way will it be possible to find the necessary money for providing economic aid. When these things have been done the road to economic co-operation as free and equal partners will be open—with the people of both sides exploiting their natural resources to the mutual advantage of all.

It is in this way that the people of the colonial and backward areas will achieve their economic and political emancipation. It is in this way that the workers of this country can best render assistance to them.

WHY BRITAIN CAN'T WIN IN MALAYA

MANY critics of this book have acclaimed it or rejected it as some kind of a personal satire on General Templer. This is not exactly true. While the author is quite explicit in his criticism of General Templer's methods, nevertheless his book contains much evidence—political and economic—which, in my opinion, implicitly indicts the whole system of British rule in Malaya.

The problems of Malaya did not begin with the "Black and Tan

so in August, 1945 Lord Mountbatten signed an agreement with the guerilla army promising them arms, equipment and money in return for assistance during the intended invasion. In return for this agreement the C.P. dropped all references to an "independent republic."

What happened after that is best described in the author's own words "the surrender of the Japanese in August, 1945 made the invasion unnecessary and British troops landed in September... In the meantime the M.P.A.J.A. had emerged from the jungle and had assumed control of the countryside and the towns... In December, the M.P.A.J.A. was disbanded, 5,500 arms being handed in and each man receiving \$350 for his services." The disarming of the revolutionary people was official Kremlin policy after the war.

In January, 1946 trade and industry were brought to a complete standstill by a nationwide strike. The Labour Government immediately rushed through constitutional reforms which made a few niggardly concessions to the native propertied classes—and split the national movement. The Chinese community were bitterly opposed to the reforms (which were anti-Chinese) and organised a successful "hartal" in 1947 and a boycott of the Singapore elections.

The political situation, despite the bogus reforms, deteriorated rapidly and in June 1948 a state of emergency was declared throughout Malaya. Strikes were forbidden and the Pan Malayan Trade Union Federation was illegalised. Repression was the answer to the desperate plight of the working people—particularly the squatters and Chinese workers—who were determined to end British colonial rule for ever.

The history of Templer's regime is a grim confirmation of Bevan's warning that "you cannot starve a national revolution into submission." The examples of Tanjong Malim, Pekan Jabi, Sungei Pelek and Permatang Tinggi stand as a mute but irrefutable indictment of his brutal policy of 22hr. curfews, "operational rice rations" and incendiaryism—a policy that has not only failed to achieve the desired results but has provoked greater and stiffer resistance from the people. The futility of his policy was admitted by the General himself in April 1953 when he said: "There are probably as many

The Plot Thickens! Latest U.S. Moves Against Guatemala

PARDON me while I laugh; but the idea of Guatemala constituting a threat to the United States is really too funny. The U.S. is 60 times the size of Guatemala; and has 40 times as many people. To say Guatemala is a serious threat is like saying the Isle of Man is a serious threat to the Irish Republic, or Albania to Great Britain!

But the implications behind the United States political and press campaigns against Guatemala are serious, very serious indeed. The last fortnight has seen a stepping-up of the campaign; and the campaign has been dutifully echoed on this side of the Atlantic. And the reason for it being stepped-up? Just that Guatemala has exercised her sovereign right as a sovereign state to buy arms to defend herself. It may be that Guatemala's fear that her Central American neighbours are planning aggression against her are unfounded; but when one considers the type of imperialist plotting that I exposed in last week's "Socialist Outlook", one has to admit that Guatemala is justified in preparing for the worst.

THE ARMS MYSTERY

Well then, you may ask, why does Guatemala buy arms from an Iron Curtain country? Because of force of circumstances, that's why. Wanting to re-equip the army, Guatemala sought to buy arms from the United States; and the U.S. denied supplies. Other countries behaved in the same way; so a Communist-controlled country had to be approached.

by Peter Ibbotson

There's certainly a whipped-up mystery about these arms. First the State Department said they came from Stettin in a Swedish ship; but the Swedish shipowners denied it and offered the ship's papers to the Swedish Foreign Office for investigation. Then the State Department said the shipment was 2,000 tons, and that it was carried from the port of Puertos Barrios "under conditions of extraordinary secrecy." (Very extraordinary, if the State Department knows all about it). Then we hear that these 2,000 tons are carried in 10 railway wagons. H'm—and the maximum tonnage of the standard American 8-wheel freight wagon is 50 tons!

WILEY TAKES THE FLOOR

Senator Wiley, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, however, had different information. He saw the Guatemalan Ambassador to the U.S. who confirmed that the arms shipment was only 400 tons. That was on May 18th; but since then the State Department has assiduously continued to refer to 2,000 tons.

But what do these 400 tons amount to? In terms of weight, says the U.S., 400 tons would supply for each one of Guatemala's 7,000 soldiers and 3,000 police one machine gun, one pistol, and one 60 mm. mortar. Wot, no ammunition? asks Mr. Chad.

And what does Senator Wiley go on to say? That "no ship is loaded behind the Iron Curtain with one ton, or 1,000 or 2,000

tons of arms, unless that shipment is a part of the master-plan of world Communism. That plan is aimed at one principal objective—the domination of the world." (Speech on May 19th to the Inter-American Bar Association).

American reaction to the shipment of arms is sinister and quite in keeping with the pattern of events in Central America—and elsewhere, where the U.S. stations armies of occupation as a "defence of the free world against Communist aggression." Plane-loads of arms were promptly sent to Honduras and Nicaragua, in accordance with armaments agreements signed a month earlier with Nicaragua and less than a week earlier with Honduras!

The U.S. is annoyed with Guatemala because that country is determined to cast off the shackles of American big-business economic domination. In the ten years that have passed since a century of military dictatorship ended and the liberal regime of Arevalo and Arbenz began, the standard of living has improved, and the social services have been extended.

IMPERIALIST AIMS

What's really at the bottom of the State Department's hoo-ha about the arms for Guatemala—is the desire to continue the economic enslavement of millions of Central Americans—a refusal to abandon by one jot or tittle America's monopoly-capital imperialist empire. It's the big stick policy; which hasn't worked at Geneva. It didn't really work at Caracas where Guatemalan Foreign Minister Guillermo Toriello gave Dulles a thorough verbal trouncing and drubbing. And, smarting under rebuffs at Geneva and Caracas, is it to be wondered at that Dulles is having another go at waving the big stick on his home wicket where he thinks he'll have more chance of success?

Postscript: It is reported that two more shipments of arms are on their way to Guatemala. Dulles has said that the reports haven't been substantiated, but it's also reported that the U.S. Navy is out in the Atlantic looking for these ships. What the navy will do when it finds these ships isn't stated; but in the name of international law, freedom of the seas, and freedom of trade, what right has the U.S. Navy to look for ships of a friendly power merely because reports, admittedly unsubstantiated, say they are carrying arms? Or because of any other reason, anyway?

(A review of "Malaya: Communist or Free". Author: Victor Purcell C.M.G. Publisher: Golancz. Price 15/-)

book: What to many British soldiers had seemed the unpleasant duty of slaughtering their fellow human beings as a means of avoiding being slaughtered by them, General Templer visualised as a fox hunt... The idea caught widely, and Mr. Rene Cutforth reported of a visit to Malaya he made in late 1952 "I met an Irish officer of the Gurkhas who talked of the bandits exactly as if they were foxes—'That was a fine bandit, a damn nice run.'"

You want to know why 40,000 British troops can't win the war in Malaya? — That's why!



IN FORMOSA, Chiang Kai Shek, beginning a new term of office as "President of Nationalist China" declared he would do everything possible "to complete the task of recovering the mainland." He appealed for assistance from the non-Communist world to accomplish the Nationalist mission "of avenging ourselves and recovering the country in the 6 years of my present term of office."

IN SOUTH KOREA, a successful candidate, elected in opposition to President Syngman Rhee's Liberal Party, was arrested on May 27th and accused by the police of "attempted murder."

IN NAIROBI, KENYA, British military headquarters announced last week that they had carried out the main phase of their "Operation Anvil." Eighty thousand of Nairobi's 100,000 Africans were questioned. 27,000 have been detained in three camps for further questioning. Road-blocks still bar Kikuyus from free passage in and out of the city.

THE EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA—Haile Selassie—is on a visit to the United States. On his arrival there he declared Ethiopia has adopted a "policy that eschews bargains and material advantages."

THE AIR MINISTER OF SPAIN, Lt. Gen. Eduardo Gallarza, said in New York on May 26th, that Spain with American help plans to build a modern jet-plane air force.

Future deliveries of United States jet-planes and spare parts, plus technical aid will give Spain the modern air force it needs, he said. He declared also that American instructors are already in Spain teaching pilots how to fly jets, and that other trainees have come to the United States to study.

IN BRITAIN out of 13,000,000 houses 5,436,000 have no bathroom.

HERR HERMANN AKS was described in 1946 by the U.S. Office of Military Government "as the leading spirit of the Deutsche Bank, which combined an unusual concentration of economic power with active collaboration in the criminal policy of the Nazi regime."

In 1952 Aks became Chairman of the Deutsche Bank and is at present a director of 29 other companies.

IN EGYPTIAN VILLAGES, "92 per cent of the population have bilharziosis or amoebic dysentery, 64 per cent. are affected by intestinal worms, 6 per cent. with syphilis, 6 per cent. with blindness and eye diseases"

"More than 50 per cent. of the infants die before the age of 5. The average length of life for the population in these villages is 15-20 years". (Extracts from a Report published in 1951).

BRITISH WORKERS' EARNINGS in real terms fell 3 per cent. between 1952-53. In the same period they worked 48 minutes a week longer.

EGYPTIAN POLICE on May 27th charged British troops with shooting and killing an Egyptian in a village three miles south of Port Said.

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Terror in North Africa

THE Central Council of the Movement for Colonial Freedom, which represents Labour Party, Trade Union, Co-operative, Peace, Religious and other organisations throughout Britain and which is supported by 61 M.P.s and many distinguished persons in the fields of art, literature, and science, expresses its profound horror at the executions taking place under French administration in North Africa.

Some of the victims are little more than boys, only 16 or 17 years of age. Most are young men on the threshold of their lives. They are dying because they cherish the noble love of freedom which inspires the best of mankind in every country.

A young Tunisian nationalist, Mahomad ben Nasir, was recently executed. Shortly before his death he declared: "My life is of less interest to me than the freedom of my country. I do not fear death. I am certain that my country will soon break the chains of its servitude. No one in the world, no country however great its tyranny, can stop the march of my country to its deliverance."

American News Letter

Victory For Negro People

by An American Correspondent

THE Negro people of America won an important victory when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that segregation by colour in the public school system is a violation of the U.S. Constitution.

But the claim made by the Voice of America, and other propaganda agencies of American imperialism, that the Supreme Court's action is a demonstration of the "democratic process at work" in America is a bald faced lie. The further claim that segregation has already been abolished is just as big a lie.

Fifty-eight years ago the Supreme Court ruled that segregation was "constitutional," provided that "equal facilities" were provided, knowing full well that facilities actually provided for Negroes were, and still remain, miserably inferior to those of whites. The present capitalist-controlled Supreme Court has reversed that odious decision, not

out of a change of heart, but out of sheer political necessity.

The court's decision represents a partial concession to the steadily mounting demand of the Negro people for equality. Equally important, it constitutes an effort to lessen the fierce hatred that the coloured colonial people of the world nourish against the white supremacist rulers of America.

Yet even as it handed down its decision, the court deliberately postponed to an indefinite future date a ruling on the crucial questions of **how** and **when** segregation shall actually be ended in schools. Thus they have provided the Southern ruling class, which is most concerned with the question, with an important breathing spell to organize their forces to either knock out the decision or, failing that, to devise formulas for evading it.

As of this writing, not one single school has been de-segre-

gated, and if the Southern capitalists and politicians have their way, none will be.

Rabidly Negro-hating Governor Herman Talmadge of Georgia on May 23 arrogantly declared: "The people of Georgia will not comply with the decision of the court. It would take several divisions of troops down here to police every school building in Georgia, and then they wouldn't be able to enforce it. We're going to do whatever is necessary to keep white children in white schools and coloured children in coloured schools."

At the same time the decision has given strong new impetus to the Negro struggle for equality. At the very same time Talmadge was spewing his defiance, the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, the principal organisation of the Negro people, and the spearhead of the long fight that led to the decision, was holding a conference of Southern Negro leaders right in Talmadge's Georgia to map plans to secure enforcement of the ruling. The conference militantly declared that the Negro people would "resist the use of any tactics contrived for the sole purpose of delaying de-segregation."

Thus the decision is already accomplishing the exact opposite of its intended purpose of appeasing the Negroes into slowing down their fight for equality.

It is a dubious question as to whether any substantial number of converts have been won throughout the world to the "American way of life" by the Supreme Court's ruling. But it can be reported with certainty that, very much against its wishes, the Supreme Court, and the capitalist class it speaks for, have succeeded in impelling the American Negro further along the road that leads inevitably towards a final showdown struggle for full emancipation.

wage restraint with the same eloquence he now devotes to increasing M.P.s' wages? A great many of those take sandwiches to work and cannot afford a "decent meal."

Thousands of ordinary undistinguished party members give up hours of their spare time and quite a bit of their money. They do this because they believe in Socialism and they don't mind making sacrifices for it.

They would like to see their M.P.s set an example for the whole of the working-class on these matters.

Labour will arouse real enthusiasm and support from workers when it acts like a working-class party.

M.P.'s Vote Increase ... For Themselves

by R. Pennington

MOST rank and filers in the Labour Movement did not take it kindly when by 280 votes to 166, M.P.s voted themselves an increase of £500 per annum. Only recently the House of Commons has rung with exhortations to the workers to restrain their wage demands. The lower paid worker and the old-age pensioners struggling on a starvation pension could hardly be expected to be gratified on hearing M.P.s pleading poverty on £1,000 a year.

Opposition to the increase on the part of Tory M.P.s was, of course, hypocritical. They were not concerned with raising the standards of the lower paid, but only with making propaganda.

Possessing large private incomes they had no hesitation in waxing eloquent against the increases and attempting to discredit Labour M.P.s as deserting their principles.

However, our own M.P.s did not cover themselves with glory in supporting the increase. And the speeches some of them made would certainly arouse a justified anger among the workers who read them.

Mrs. Jean Mann (Coatbridge and Airdrie) for instance, supporting the increase, explained that she was the only one in her family who didn't possess a car.

This compelled her to use buses which often go by full while she stands there waiting. "If this in-

crease comes along I shall probably be able to afford a taxi," she said.

To the thousands of working-class housewives who, because of economic necessity, are compelled to take jobs in industry the prospect of Mrs. Mann being able to afford a taxi must have been very consoling. They also queue for buses, in many cases after doing arduous and dreary jobs in the factory, to return home to get a meal for their families and then begin their domestic duties.

Sir Hartley Shawcross was in the House of Commons. Before the debate began it was whispered by some that he had gone there with the express purpose of lecturing his Honourable Friends on the evils of Inflation. However, a disappointment was awaiting. Sir Hartley spoke most eloquently on the necessity for a 50 per cent. increase in M.P.s' salaries.

"When I see some of my colleagues going into the tea rooms and literally unable to buy themselves a decent meal—and all of us know there are a number so placed, I feel ashamed for myself and ashamed that we in this House should have allowed such a state of affairs to arise." A fine and noble sentiment from the M.P. for St. Helens. What of the old-age pensioners who found it so terribly difficult to buy their full rations? What of the workers whom Sir Hartley lectured on

C.E.U. Wage Claim

THE first meeting in a nationwide campaign by the Constructional Engineering Union for a wage increase for outside workers was held in Glasgow last night. Members endorsed the action of their executive council in the application for an increase, and pledged support for any action the council might decide to take to enforce the demand if it was not conceded by the employers.

Mr. Jack Stanley, general secretary, said that similar meetings were being arranged for other parts of the country. So far as Scotland was concerned, they would carry on with meetings at sites and at works' gates, and there would be another mass gathering when the programme was further advanced.

Meetings have already been arranged to take place for Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool, Newcastle, Sheffield, Rotherham, Scunthorpe, St. Helens, Bolton Manchester and Liverpool. Details of these will be published later.

£18,675

ON Friday, June 11th, 1954, a Social Evening is to be held at the Mayfair Restaurant, Lime Street, Liverpool, at which Mr. Jack Stanley, General Secretary of the Constructional Engineering Union will present a cheque for £18,675 to one of the Union's members who sustained an accident whilst working for Messrs. Alexander Findlay & Co., Ltd., Parkneuk Works, Motherwell, at the Ministry of Supply factory, Capenhurst, Wirral, Cheshire.

It is understood that this is the largest amount ever awarded to a workman for an accident sustained during the course of his normal employment. The result of the claim proves the value of having a Trade Union at your back for support.

The Employers' appeal against the award was dismissed.

News from Guiana

● On May 18th, the Bureau of Public Information announced that the Superintendent of Prisons and the Assistant Superintendent have been interdicted from duty and an enquiry will be held "into certain reports of irregularities in the administration of the prisons."

● The P.P.P. in its weekly newspaper "Thunder," which now has a circulation of 16,000, has called for an intensification of its boycotts and a reduction in the consumption of rum to reduce government revenue.

● The Customs Department has finally released publications held for several weeks which were sent to Mrs. Jagan. Only banned publications were restricted.

Youth Discussion: Leaguer Stan Yapp Tells:

Why The League Declines

I HAVE read with interest the two articles that have appeared highlighting the problems of the Labour Party League of Youth.

The main deterrent to the recruitment of youth into the Party is as Norman Atkinson suggests, the non-existence of a Socialist policy. Only the immediate formation and earliest possible implementation of such a policy can halt the discouraging trend of the League to decline. Such a policy for the League must to a great degree be determined by youth itself.

At present, the annual (the N.E.C. has not yet formally established it at that) representative conference of the League—is denied the fundamental right to discuss aspects of policy affecting youth.

It is only after continued pressure by League members that promises have been made of possible concessions in allowing limited discussions on certain subjects. No doubt such subjects would be chosen by Transport House as to divert the attention of the League from vital discussion on matters directly affecting youth, as for example, the meaningless wrangles on the need for an alteration in the structure of Local Government that recently formed the subject of one of two study documents supposedly meriting the closest attention of the L.O.Y.

If the N.E.C. doubt whether youth are capable of determining aspects of policy concerning them, then let them look at the constitution of the A.E.U. an outline of which has already been given in "Socialist Advance" Transport House's Youth periodical.

Here representatives of the young engineers meet to discuss resolutions submitted by the Workers' Committees through their respective Divisional Committees. Any resolution carried "... requesting National Committee to instruct Executive Council..." is forwarded to the policy making body of the union. If endorsed there, it becomes Union policy and is binding upon the Executive to implement.

Even with the well-known manipulators of the bloc vote at Annual Party Conference it is certain that if the L.O.Y. were able to do this, much of what they submitted would surely receive the support of a large section of the conference.

While the leadership of the Party continues to do nothing apart from talking about the gradual granting of concessions the League will continue to decline. That might be well to the liking of some of them since the youth section of a movement, if given the chance, often becomes the most militant part of the movement.

Although the Adult section of the Party is also engaged in the

People, Places and Politics

By Cassia

SPLIT PERSONALITIES

IF I were a psychiatrist looking for likely patients I would certainly pay a visit to the area around Fleet Street where most of Britain's newspapers are produced. For there, surrounded by the roaring presses and irritating teleprinters, I am sure I would find many a potential schizophrenic on the editorial staffs.

The buildings of the "Daily Express" would, I feel sure, provide a reasonable number of patients. For years the editorial staff of the "Daily Express" have conditioned their minds to the theme—"Set the People Free," a theme which they constantly hammered, pushed, shoved, and slid into the minds of the readers. Now, according to the standards set by the "Daily Express," the people are free. One would therefore expect that the "Daily Express" would rejoice at every manifestation of the people using this freedom which they have gained—but does it?

Commenting on the strike of the railwaymen against the system of lodging turns the "Daily Express," in a leading article of May 28, said: "This is anarchy. This is not the rule of negotiation or common sense. It is the rule of the mob." Can't you just imagine the editorial staff of the "Daily Express" worrying themselves into a nervous breakdown deciding when, and under exactly what conditions, the people become the "mob," and freedom becomes "anarchy."

I imagine that a similar problem confronts the editorial staff of the "Daily Mirror," the newspaper which carries the proud slogan—"Forward With The People" on its front page. In an editorial on May 24 this newspaper expressed the opinion that the strike of the loco-men was a "babyish issue" and a "juvenile complaint," the reasons given for it by the strikers were, said the "Daily Mirror", "puerile." The difficulty facing the "Daily Mirror" editorial staff must be to decide exactly when the forward march of the people enters the crawling stage and feeds on bread and milk.

SAVED BY THE BELL

FIVE years ago the former American Secretary of Defence, James Forrestal, decided that his political predictions had been realised and that the Russian Army had invaded America. So he sought safety by diving through the window of the nursing home to which he was confined—it was sixteen floors above street level! Last week

very nearly saw the mass imitation of the feat which ended the life of James Forrestal.

A rumour spread that an American battleship had been sunk off Formosa and that as a consequence America was at war with China. Confusion and panic struck the stock exchanges of London and Paris. Share prices began falling and stockbrokers prepared themselves for the final plunge which would save them from bankruptcy and perhaps even worse. But then, before the world was deprived of the services of even one of these valuable economic assets, fate intervened.

The rumour it was explained, had begun because American forces serving overseas had been ordered to report merely in order to exchange their military currency in an effort to beat black-marketsters—not because an American battleship had been sunk. The panic subsided, the windows were closed, and the share prices rose once again.

SNOOKERED?

THERE is little doubt that the Right Wing of the National Executive Committee have manoeuvred themselves into a position which is likely to prove most uncomfortable in the near future.

Just over a fortnight ago the N.E.C. decided that majority decisions would be binding on all members—or else! A week later the N.E.C. met once again and decided that the previous ruling would not apply to the recent decision on German re-armament; it also decided that a series of private regional conferences would be held at which Executive members would "expound and defend the policy of the Executive" on this subject.

This last decision can only mean one thing—that the Right Wing realises that its position on German re-armament is one which is liable to have serious repercussions if forced upon the Party. It also means—and much more interesting from the rank and file members' point of view—the ordinary member will have the chance of telling the leadership, in private, exactly what it thinks about German re-armament.

There is little doubt that such an opportunity, providing the rank and file are suitably vocal, will have some effect on the attitude which the N.E.C. will adopt at the Scarborough Conference later in the year. In any case it will enable members to relieve some of the frustration they often experience at not being able to indulge in a real polemic with the Party leadership. Excuse me while I buy some throat pastilles!

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"THE British Government is a traitor to democracy and to the interests of its own country. It prefers to drift on without an intelligible foreign policy, engage in competitive national re-armament, fatalistically moving towards an imperialist war of the old order. Then I suppose we shall be expected to support it."

Herbert Morrison, "Forward," July 3, 1937.

E.T.U. Conference

(Continued from page 2)

foundations, demonstrating once again that the E.T.U. is not simply a happy hunting ground for the C.P.

CONCLUSIONS

The most predominate political force in the E.T.U. is undoubtedly the C.P. faction. It is organised and it controls the apparatus. The right wing will never control this union again, but Labour's Left will undoubtedly strongly influence union policy.

Rank and file electricians want a genuine socialist leadership and the vast majority therefore refuse to swallow hook line and sinker the full policy of the C.P. They do, however—and correctly so—support every militant action

taken by the union leadership to improve their conditions.

Labour's left within the union has strengthened its position over the past two years. This can be shown by a comparison of the motions this year with those of a few years ago. The C.P. has watered down many of their policy motions and this year the withdrawal of the resolution on "democratic rights" which favoured C.P. members of the union leadership being permitted to attend L.P. conferences is proof of this. Labour's left is politically beginning to replace the C.P. on matters where it held a clear field a few years ago. This trend will undoubtedly continue.

TOTTENHAM AND DISTRICT
L.P.S. Shareholders' Meeting
Wednesday, 9th June
G. HEALY
(Member of the Editorial Board "Socialist Outlook")
OUR PLANS FOR THE PAPER
Room 8, Tottenham Trades Hall, Bruce Grove, Tottenham.

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