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EXPOSE THE TORY PARTY ELECTION MANIFESTO

The election manifesto of the Conservative and Unionist Party, available from any W.H. Smith bookshop, must be studied by all socialists. Careful study will arm them with a whole series of arguments which can be used on the doorstep to good effect. Cleverly written, it is principally directed at the so-called floating voter, i.e., those sections of the lower middle class (in the psychological sense rather than social) who lost confidence in the Tory Party in the later years of its administration, and whose defection led to election defeats for the Tories. Without giving too much ammunition to the enemy, it plays up this section's prejudices, panders to its snobbery by hints, innuendoes and by attacking selected aspects of Labour's policy. It is truly the manifesto of a conservative party: each page is littered with phrases which stress the continuity of policy that could be expected if the Tories win. The expression (with slight variations) "we shall continue to" occurs no less than 22 times, and there are numerous cases of "we are already", "we are at present", "we have improved", "we have set up", "we have extended", etc.

Attacks on the Labour Party are rare but significant: "The Socialists... would relegate Britain to the sidelines", "The Labour Party's policy of extended state ownership and centralised control would be economically disastrous..", "We shall censure the working of the Commonwealth Immigration Act, which we passed against bitter Labour opposition..", "Their leader may protest that grammar schools will be abolished 'over his dead body' but abolition would..be inevitable..", the "Socialists" are taken to task for sneering at affluence on page 26, and there is a final warning that "the gains of the past" would be imperilled by "Socialism". The message is clear: "Vote for us! Otherwise those Socialists will relegate Britain by getting rid of the bomb, they will nationalise, bring in 'blacks', make your child go to a comprehensive school and take away your affluence."

The manifesto itself shows that readers are being led up the garden path. On page 19, after admitting that the programme which is promised would be a costly one, it states, "Our proposals are based on our target of a 4% annual growth rate and on a high level of savings." What it doesn't explain is how the 4% is to be achieved - at no time during the last 13 years of Tory rule has a growth rate of 4% been achieved, in fact most of the time it has been well below 3%. Whenever it has approached 3% (and on the one occasion when it exceeded it) there has immediately followed a balance of payments problem. Just now leading economists are dismissing the 4% target, the Financial Times economics correspondent said on 25/9/64 that "...the idea of 4% growth, if accepted uncritically, is a dangerous one; spending plans based on it are vulnerable.." Alan Day of The Observer said on 27/9/64, "...4% is a figure whose significance is magical rather than scientific."

Elsewhere one gets a glimpse of probable anti-working class measures the Tories plan: on page 10, we read, "An effective and fair incomes policy is crucial...We shall take a further initiative to secure wider acceptance and effective implementation of such a policy" (our emphasis). On page 15, "All these measures..should help to reduce industrial disputes. They also highlight the lack of justification in present conditions for many restrictive practices of labour. The trade unions have a vital responsibility to diminish such handicaps to Britain's competitive strength."; immediately following there is a promise, in bold type, to have an early inquiry into the law affecting trade unions. On page 23 it is stated that the system of housing subsidies will be revised and that authorities will receive aid in clearing slums, if they "charge proper rents with rebates..." - a clear warning to Labour local authorities. If the Tories aim to use this programme to mobilise "floating" voters, we need all the more to use it to mobilise workers against the Tories.

THE NEW I.L.O. MANUAL ON WAGES*

from New Dawn 12/9/64

"Wages" is not just another learned book on some theories of wages determination, nor is it a sophisticated discussion of certain aspects of the broad subject of wages. Its great merit is that it succeeds in what it sets out to be, namely, a workers' educational manual covering the main principles and facts about wages. The book does this in simple and clear language and is remarkably comprehensive. Divided into 16 "lessons", the first four dealing with an historical survey are followed with four lessons on the basis for fixing wages. Lessons 6,8 and 9 cover systems of payment by results, fringe benefits and profit-sharing schemes while the 7th lesson deals with job evaluation as a basis for rational wage-fixing. The 10th lesson covers wage-fixing methods, ranging from straightforward individual agreements to complex minimum wage-fixing machinery. Women's wages and the application of the principles of equal remuneration for work of equal values are discussed in the 11th lesson.

Ways and means of protecting wages are outlined in the 12th lesson and the 13th lesson deals with some of the theories advanced by economists in the hope of finding principles which determine wage rates. The last three lessons are concerned with the main problems encountered by any National Wages Policy and the international problems caused by wage differences. With only just over 100 pages it is a model of brevity and conciseness without over-simplifying a very complex subject. The book is intended for individual study or linked to study courses. The member who little spare time and no previous knowledge but who wants to understand the essentials of a subject of supreme importance to the trade unionist will not regret the investment of 4s 6d in the price of this book.

* International Labour Office, Workers Educational Manual, obtainable from the London Branch Office of the I.L.O., 38/39, Parliament St. London S.W.1.

CIVIL SERVICE UNION OPPOSES FEE CHARGING EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

The following letter appeared in the Financial Times from John Tindall, General Secretary of the Ministry of Labour Staff Association:

"For many years legislation has been awaited to bring some measure of national control of fee charging employment agencies. As long ago as 1951 it was the view of the Government that the issuing of annual licences to fee charging employment agencies should be the responsibility of a competent authority and that the same authority should also keep check on fees charged by private employment agencies. This view is in line with the alternative part of the ILO Fee Charging Employment Agencies Convention (Revised) 1949.

"It has been found in other countries such as Sweden, that to skimp the expansion of the national employment service involves the risk of increased cost to the community. It does not, therefore, follow that the placing of people in employment by private fee charging employment agencies saves the taxpayer one penny....In my view it is necessary to look at the employment services..in relation to the needs of a planned economy. Just as it is necessary to have raw materials delivered at the right time to maintain production, so it is necessary to ensure that there are sufficient workers from the top executive down to the man on the shop floor....The ratification of the ILO Fee Charging Employment Agencies Convention (Revised) 1949 by the next Government would help towards achieving stability of the labour market.

BIG SACKINGS DUE AT B.O.A.C.based on Flight report

Stage three of Sir Giles Guthrie's plan for BOAC, and one that could cause the most trouble, is now being negotiated with the unions. According to some reports, up to 7,500 of BOAC's 21,686 staff are due to lose their jobs by 1968 - 3,500 of them, it is said, in the more immediate future. All BOAC's efficiency campaigns in the past have been accepted by the unions on the understanding that there would be no redundancy. Now they are being asked to accept it, and evidently on a vast scale. If pressed through, it will almost certainly ground both BOAC and BEA.

There is no doubt that BOAC is overstaffed - though no more so, and probably less so, than is BEA. But air transport is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Can it really be true that by 1968, when BOAC is at least $\frac{1}{3}$ bigger, it will need $\frac{1}{3}$ less staff? Common sense protests. We have looked at BOAC's staff productivity..and although improvements are needed it seems Sir Giles may be going to extremes, as we believe he is with his Super VC10 cuts. Are BOAC's estimates of their 1968 staff requirements going to be as vaguely and as superficially substantiated as were their 1968 fleet requirements? We fear that Sir Giles may find himself understaffed - just as ^{we} have predicted he will find himself short of Super VC10s - in three or four year's time.

AN APPEAL FROM 'VOICE OF THE UNIONS'

When the question of steel nationalisation comes on to the agenda in the new Parliament, an extremely fertile opportunity exists for the left. If Labour sets its face against repeating the old, sterile Morrisonian forms of organisation, and really works to involve the steelworkers themselves in running their own organisation, this can give nationalisation a completely new and vital image. Will this chance be seized? This depends very much on the initiative of the left. Above all, it depends on the part the steelworkers themselves decide to play in determining their own future. If there is a sharp demand for democratic forms of control, widely supported throughout the industry, then this will be the springboard for a real left offensive which could help Wilson to overcome his right wing advisors.

To help focus these demands, Voice of the Unions is keen to bring out a special issue for steelworkers. A number of experts in the industry are willing to help to put it together, and there is some support for the idea in a number of key steelworks. But to do this will cost money. Can we appeal to Week readers to help to raise the necessary cash? We shall need around £50, if the job is to be done. We feel some that this sum is available for such a cause, provided the interested individuals and organisations are asked for it. If you can raise a donation, however small, please send it to: "Steel Voice Fund", c/o Richard Fletcher, 71, New King's Road, London S.W. 6.

VOTE RIGGING ALLEGATION IN SEAMENS' UNION The TUC is to appoint an observer to sit in at the committee which has been set up to investigate statements which allege large scale ballot-rigging in the National Union of Seaman. Mr. T.G. Bishop, a former NUS organiser, has sworn an affidavit in which he asserts that in 1960, when ships docked at Tilbury, he filled in unclaimed ballot papers in support of the late Jim Scott and Mr. Hogarth. He says he filled 3,000 votes for Mr. Hogarth when the latter was elected with a majority of 21,000 over the Seaman's Reform Movement candidate Jim Slater. Neither Mr. Scott nor Mr. Hogarth knew of the ballot-rigging it was further stated.

NEW TOWNS' HOUSING PROGRAMMES SLOWED DOWN from 'Brickie'

The reports of the Development Corporations of New Towns, which were issued on the 24th of this month, speak of the difficulties facing them in the housing field. Stevenage says "Housing progress has been the major disappointment of the year." Basildon reports that shortage of labour and overloading of the building industry have retarded the housing programme, and that the waiting periods of housing applicants have lengthened to two years. Aycliffe expresses doubt whether existing resources can meet its housing programme within the envisaged 12 years. Corby says that its housing programme had to be slowed down to less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the previous year's rate. Welwyn reports a further increase in the waiting period from 21 months to just over 30 months.

All the Corporations are investigating new techniques in industrialised building to meet this situation. But clearly their difficulties stem from Government policy, and the concentration on luxury and office block building, which lead to shortage of labour, land and rising costs.

INCOMES POLICY WON'T WORK, SAYS PROFESSOR from our economics correspondent

Professor Frank Paish, in the latest issue of the Hobart papers, Policy for incomes (published by the Institute of Economic Affairs), opens up an attack from the right on the ideas which have been accepted by Mr. Maudling and, as far as we can tell, Mr. Wilson. Professor Paish is one of the most adamant critics of what he calls "overfull employment", by which he means the amount of unemployment we have today. If the degree of unemployment is not increased, he holds, then the incomes policies which are advocated by both parties will be self-defeating. With more unemployment, incomes policies would be unnecessary, because wages could be held down in the traditional way, by the threat of the dole queue. If employment levels are maintained at their present position, then any interference with competitively-determined wage-levels will mean, says Professor Paish, that profits will rise and that inefficient firms will be featherbedded. This will mean that:

"the pressure for greater efficiency will be relaxed and..in the long run the rate of growth might be slower than in an economy where efficiency was enforced by competition."

Even if unions agree to restrain wages demands, Professor Paish thinks that the economic pressures of competition for labour will:

"face the employers, the trade unions and possibly also the Government with difficulties so great that they would lead ultimately to its breakdown." All this reinforces the lesson that capitalism is confronted with deep-seated problems to which it has no solution without returning to high unemployment levels. If Mr. Wilson is to tackle this problem, then he will have to engage in deep-probing structural reforms, unless he is to become the architect of Tory restoration.

ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP FORMED IN BRISTOL Tom Nicholls reports: An Anti-Apartheid Group was set up at a meeting in Bristol recently. The speaker was Mr. J. Slovo, an advocate who defended Nelson Mandela, and who was forced to flee the country through Bechuanaland. Mr. Slovo said that more than 1,000 Africans were arrested in South Africa every day for breaking the pass-laws. An encouraging amount of support was received from trade union circles. The Bristol Trades Council expressed support at its last meeting and agreed to send an observer. A representative from the TGWU attended and messages of support were sent by TU officials.

SUCCESSFUL C.N.D. DEMONSTRATION IN BARROW by Alan Rooney

About 100 people took part in the CND demonstration in Barrow-in-Furness last Saturday, 26 September. This was an anti-Polaris demonstration and marks a growing concern with the Polaris issue in the North-West. It was the largest political demonstration in the town in recent years. The demonstration began with a march through the town centre and the Vickers shipyard where Polaris is being built. The local people showed considerable interest and most of them read the leaflets they were given.

The police were everywhere - some in uniform, some in plain-clothes. When people took photographs of the covered-up Polaris from the public road, they were moved on by the police. Later, at the public meeting, plain-clothes men photographed all the speakers and marchers. The speakers attracted quite an audience outside the Town Hall. Eric Montgomery, secretary of the Barrow trades council and a worker at Vickers, gave the background to the labour situation at Vickers. After a ten weeks' strike the draughtsmen on Polaris have been sacked and now the welders have come out because they consider that they are not getting a high enough rate for the job. There are signs that this strike is spreading to the Polaris welders at Cammell Lairds, Birkenhead. It seems likely that Vickers will have a showdown with the welders very soon. The management have threatened to close the entire shipyard if labour troubles continue. As Mr. Montgomery pointed out, this is one way of stopping Polaris production - but it is not the most satisfactory way. Here, he called for a policy of scrap-and-build in the shipbuilding industry; a policy geared to the production of oil tankers, liners and freight carriers. (This is already the policy of the Lancashire Federation of Trades Councils.)

Other speakers included Dick Nettleton, North West CND organiser, Ray Challinor and Alan Rooney. Later, a CND delegation discussed the situation with the Barrow Labour Party. The delegates urged the local party to press for immediate scrapping of the Polaris project under a Labour Government and the initiation of a 'scrap-and-build' programme for shipbuilding.

The local paper, the Barrow News, which has been touting the slogan "Barrow + Polaris = Prosperity, Barrow - Polaris = Depression" for some time, made the CND demonstration front-page news (in a slanted kind of way). The North West CND are going ahead producing three editions of Focus bulletin Barrow.

SETBACK IN ROYAL ARSENAL BOYCOTT MOVE by Bill Vester

The left in the Royal Arsenal Co-op suffered a setback when a move to boycott South African goods was voted down at the members' quarterly meetings recently. The fault seems to be, not lack of support, but failure to mobilise it. This must be taken care of if progress is to be made in the RACS.

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

MILITANT, the vigorous new paper that campaigns for socialist policies for youth and labour. Tired of the faction fight? Then get your copy now from S. Mani, 40a, Stapleton Rd., London, S.W. 17. 9d post paid.

MORE COMMENT ON THE WORKERS' EDUCATION MEMO

From J.H. Saunders (a Raleigh shop steward)

I have read the memorandum and found it of great interest, and constructive in its purpose. First, we must ask ourselves what is the ultimate aim of the Socialist Party? My own definition of this would be: all frontiers have to be eradicated voluntarily and the world geared to extracting its full resources to give full benefit to all mankind. ^{But to} achieve this the barriers of capitalism, religion and colour ^{must be overcome} Education is already rocking these barriers.

Capitalism is yielding ground. It is conceding a few crumbs to delay the inevitable end, and at the present the working class is apathetic enough to accept slight improvements in its standards of living and to remain complacent. The introduction of a new special socialist education scheme could connect the day-to-day life of socialists with the ultimate aim of the Socialist Party.

From David Steele (Young Fabians)*

That the left should educate itself and others is unquestionable. That it should set up a separate and distinctive educational organisation of its own to do this is much more debatable. There are two points that I would like to make. First, opting out of the new TUC directed scheme may result in our losing more ground than we gain, and second, that in a separate organisation we will be saddled with the unsavoury reputation of a propaganda body disguising itself as a university. Let me enlarge on these points in turn.

The absorption of the NCLC by the TUC agency will probably leave scant possibility of student initiative to put the kind of broadly educational classes that we want instead of narrowly defined trade union curricula. If the TUC agency does arrange other than industrial relations classes, then it is highly likely they will be on political and economic subjects - but we cannot guarantee the bent that these will take or even that they will be put on at all. With the organisation controlled as it is, from the centre, we can have little say on what lines it will be run. Granted all this, we will gain nothing and lose a great deal by opting out at this early stage before we have the facts of the way it has moved to persuade others....

The second point is bound up with the whole question of what is socialist education. Why is there a need for a separate independent socialist educational organisation? I can hear the WEA asking this question. If there are classes demanded on socialist theory or Marxism, or any of the subjects on which we would like to see courses why not let the students request a tutor through the WEA? With sufficient students in any one place, is it likely that the WEA would refuse to put on such courses?....There are signs that in the revival of factory classes the WEA is moving back to its original conception of workers' education. Cannot these be used and expanded?

The toughest question is raised when we ask whether the tutors must be members of the left...Few educational organisations today would deny their teachers the right to make judgements. What I claim they do have the right to deny them is to be partial; that is, to deliberately withhold facts or views which might lead to a contrary opinion to be formed...One difference from the WEA is accepted, that all the tutors in a new organisation would call themselves socialists, which would guarantee a certain approach from the start. However, do not most socialist teachers at one time or another find themselves in the WEA, and is their reception there so bad that they cannot carry on their work freely?

* Somewhat shortened for space reasons.

SIGNIFICANT U.S. STRIKE

by Ken Tarbuck

The United Auto Workers Union called 260,000 of its members, employed by General Motors, out on strike on an issue that has great import, both for the U.S. labour movement and the British. The issue is one of working conditions. Walter Reuther, president of the union, said that the strike was called because General Motors was unwilling to meet the "standards of decency demanded by the workers." The main issues are production standards and union representation. It was pointed out that the company was prepared to grant the equal economic benefits paid by the other major auto companies; but this was ^{not} the issue. The union accuses the company of planting microphones, etc., in the lavatories, and in union offices in the plants. It also objects to intimidation of workers by company psychiatrists. One presumes that these go to work on workers who are maladjusted enough to grumble about the company, and get recorded by planted "bugs". However, even more telling was the other point that Reuther made, "values have become so distorted that they (G.M.) think the sole purpose of our free society is to grind out greater and greater production and reap the profits They have lost all track of the human equation on the production line, and this strike is about the human equation." In March last Reuther accused General Motors of being "the largest, glorified, goldplated sweatship in the world."

All this contrasts oddly with the usual image projected about American "business unionism". What is at issue here, in this strike, is the fundamental question of who controls the factories. Just how far-reaching the effects of this will be cannot be gauged as yet. If the union wins this struggle it could mean a big step forward for the whole of the U.S. labour movement. What has to be considered is not only the effects of this within the auto industry, but also its wider implications. The fact that this issue - who controls - arose at this time is no accident. Whilst there is no obvious or direct link with this and the negro freedom fight, its connection as a symptom of frustration and determination should not be lost. Both are attacks on capitalism that arise from the daily basic conditions of those involved. Nor should the reversal of the decline in U.S. union membership be forgotten in this context. Since 1957 there has been a small but steady decline, now it is reported in the latest issue of U.S. Labour News that this trend has been reversed, and that total union membership is climbing. Again, one has to say that this is no accident at this time. Capitalism may be 'goldplated' in the U.S., but it is unable to solve its basic problems: e.g., the newly 'discovered' poor. Even its goldplating creates problems for the working class. This is why this particular strike of the auto workers needs careful study. Even when capitalism 'solves' the economic problems it does so at the expense of the working class and the "human equation."

Those who today are advocating workers' control in Britain should follow this development closely, because it may well have important lessons for us; both theoretical and practical. The most immediate conclusion one can draw is that the strike underlines in a clear way the idea that highly paid workers are not only militant about wages, rather that these high wages can lead to a posing of new and explosive issues. The theoretical discussions that have taken place about alienation are today moving from the abstract to the concrete before our very eyes. The so-called backward working class has moved with remarkable clarity. When Reuther speaks about the "human equation" he is talking about spying, brainwashing, speed-up and, above all, control. Not exactly new problems but the manner and timing of their presentation indicate a new animation of the American scene.

11 YEARS IN DEATH CELL - HAS PEN PAL FRIENDSHIP BANNED from Dick Skyers

The almost unbelievable cruelty and intolerance of the deep south was graphically illustrated by a press story last week. A Negro who has been in a Louisiana death row for 11 years has been forbidden to carry on his three-year-old pen pal correspondence with a Swedish woman. The reason - they are not of the same race! Edgar Labat, a 41-year-old former New Orleans hospital orderly was convicted by an all-white male jury of assisting in a white woman's rape in 1950. He pleaded Not Guilty at his 1953 trial and a series of pleadings and appeals have given him eight stays of execution. If his case hangs on until next March, he will break Caryl Chessman's death row ordeal of 11 years and 11 months.

In Stockholm, Labat's pen-pal, 39-year-old Mrs. Solveig Johansson, wrote to the prison, saying she was Labat's "adoptive mother." The prison authorities' reply was typical: "Adoption of a Negro by a white isn't legal in Louisiana."

"BIRDMAN OF ALCATRAZ" NEED NOT HAVE DIED by Constance Weissman

Robert Stroud, the "Birdman of Alcatraz" need not have died in the federal prison medical centre in Springfield, Missouri, last November. A fellow inmate, Paul Salstrom, has revealed that Stroud, who died of a heart attack, had unsuccessfully begged for medical attention because, as he told a friend, he thought he was dying. At midnight November 20, 1963, guards coming on duty were informed by those going off that the doctor-on-duty should be called for Stroud, Salstrom relates in an article in The Peacemaker, the pacifist journal published in Cincinnati. At 1 a.m. Stroud again called for medical help to no avail. Only after he was found dead in his cell next morning was the doctor called. The doctor's demand why he had not been called during the night was overheard by a number of inmates. The man whose tragic but inspiring story of life imprisonment became known to millions through the film, Birdman of Alcatraz, might not have died if he had been given medical attention since heart failure can often be prevented by heart stimulation..

CANADA ACTS TO CURB U.S. INVESTMENT from a special correspondent

Mr. Walter Gordon, the Canadian Finance Minister, announced in the House of Commons on September 22 that there should be a limit of non-resident shareholdings in banks, life insurance companies, trust companies and loan companies of 25% of issued shares. Individuals should be restricted to a 10% holding. Shares held by the shareholders associated with the non-resident will be taken into account in determining the 10%. The proposals came into effect from midnight September 22-23. There will be nothing to prevent shares from being registered in the name of a Canadian where a non-resident is the beneficial owner, but in such cases the shares will be non-voting ones.

A Royal Bank of Canada spokesman said that these curbs were primarily directed at American investment in Canada, although there might be some effect on British insurance companies. Stiff fines and jail sentences could be incurred by company directors who break the new laws. The Bill provides a fine or up to 5,000 dollars or up to a year in prison or both.



THE THIRD WORLD REVOLUTION

CUBANS CONTINUOUS OF CASTRO'S SISTER by George Jerrom

Ed. Note: This is the second part of the interview with George Jerrom who visited Cuba this summer.

Question: How did you find people reacted to the defection of Castro's sister?

Answer: Mostly they were contemptuous of her, and it only served to unite many of them more firmly behind Fidel. Their reasoning for this was quite clear. The Castro family had been part of the bourgeoisie and therefore could be said to have an interest in maintaining the previous system of U.S.-style exploitation. The fact that Fidel had overturned this system and had not adopted the usual pattern of revolution in Latin America, i.e. turning over the keys of the treasury and the key positions of exploitation to his family and supporters had no doubt distressed his sister, who on her own admission had been a counterrevolutionary for five years. With these words, of course, she had placed herself firmly in the class opposing social change and revolution - the puppets of the U.S.

Question: How did the people react to her statements when she arrived in Mexico?

Answer: they most certainly knew of them; they are ^{not} denied access to world news - in fact they can tune into Miami as easily as we can the BBC if they want to hear the US version of world events. As to how they reacted to her statements, particularly about the island being a prison, they simply pointed out that they were not and asked you to see for yourself the freedom of the people. This, of course, is a true situation as I said last time the freedom of the people is greater now than ever before and to return to the "freedom" of Batista and U.S. economic exploitation is inconceivable. The initial attempt of the C.I.A. to make the escape appear hazardous was also treated with scorn, the Cubans pointed out that she could have left on any normal flight, which is, in fact what she did.

Question: Did any of them express any more pointed comment?

Answer: Well, I suppose so, if you mean personal against Fidel's sister. Some expressed the personal view that she was a bitter and jealous woman. But this type of criticism is not general. The Cubans are well aware of the political consequences and argue on this basis rather than start attacking the person because of character deficiencies. I think it true to say that the Cubans themselves do not place such great emphasis on the fact that this particular defector was Castro's sister. After Fidel had spoken on the matter and placed her in no different a position from that of any other counterrevolutionary the matter was settled - it is natural, I suppose, that the western press should make much of the episode as proof the Daily Telegraph articles recently in which there wasn't any substantial fact.

The effect of the revolution on the Cuban people is reflected in every aspect of their lives, so perhaps readers would like to ask questions.

PRO-KHRUSHCHOV SPLIT IN NEW ZEALAND C.P.

from Owen Gager

After a discussion on a world meeting of Communist parties at the Canterbury District Conference of the Communist Party, Frank McNulty, the National Secretary of the Freezing Workers' Union, and several others, walked out. They had supported the call by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union for a world meeting of Communist parties. Earlier, McNulty and those associated with him had been accused of leading the local party in a pro-Soviet direction by a large pro-Chinese minority who have formed a breakaway organisation.

McNulty is one of the many Communist trade union functionaries in New Zealand who have taken a pro-Soviet line in spite of their party's official pro-Chinese stand. He has stated his intention of forming a new group, though some observers who have worked with him in the C.P. feel this is unlikely. Should such a group be formed there would be three independent groups of marxists outside the Labour Party in Christchurch: the Workers Action Movement and the associated Young Communist League, which regards the C.P. as insufficiently pro-Chinese; the official party organisation which is formally pro-Chinese; and a pro-Soviet faction which would receive some support from the local New Zealand-U.S.S.R. Society, and have considerable trade union influence.

MOVE TO BLACK FRENCH GOODS IN NEW ZEALAND BECAUSE OF NUCLEAR TESTS

A New Zealand correspondent reports:

The movement ^{the} against French nuclear tests at Muroroa is gaining ground in New Zealand. On August 8 Hiroshima Day March at Auckland, Eddie Isbey, president of the North Island Waterside Workers' Union, stated that his union would black French goods if test preparations continued. The Australian Council of Trade Unions and the Indonesian trade union federation have urged similar action on their affiliates.

In Auckland a Committee for Resolute Action against French Tests has been set up under the chairmanship of a student, Richard Northey. Ad Hoc committees in Wellington and Christchurch are cooperating with it. CRAFT's aims include an embargo on supplies from New Zealand to the testing site, and the convening of a Southern Hemisphere conference on the tests. Its main objective, however, is to organise the sending of a vessel, or vessels, into the testing area "to deter the French from holding their proposed testing series." CRAFT has received extensive press and radio publicity. At the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament national conference in late August, some CRAFT supporters opposed CND concentration on the objective of a nuclear free zone, and wanted more action directed against French tests specifically. CND, on this issue, seems at the tail of the anti-nuclear test movement.

BIG DETERIORATION IN BRITISH TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA

Explaining why the British Government and industry had chosen Australia for the biggest ever, £25m. overseas fair, the Financial Times quoted these figures: "...From a post-war peak of almost 50% in the early fifties, Britain's share of Australia's import trade has already fallen below 36%...In the past year Britain was the only major supplier to gain no benefit from the expansion of £107m. in Australia's overseas purchases."

SOUTH AFRICAN FIRM PROSPECT FOR OIL IN ANGOLA

The following report from the Financial Times gives further evidence of the increasing tie up between the fascist dictatorship of Salazar and the Apartheid regime of Verwoerd:

South African mining interests are having talks with the Portuguese Government on concessions to prospect for oil in the Portuguese colony of Angola. It is also possible that they may take over part or all of the existing oil interests of the Belgian-backed Companhia Dos Petroleos (Petrofina) in Northern Angola. The negotiations are between the Portuguese Government and Federale Mynbou, the Afrikaans mining house which recently became associated with General Mining and Finance Corporation. If successful, they could have an important bearing on South Africa's ability to withstand an oil boycott.

The chairman of Federale Mynbou, Mr. W.B. Coetzer, has confirmed that the company was having talks with Portugal on possible oil concessions in the south of Angola. If successful, expenditure of "a great deal" of money would be involved. He added that he knew of the possibility that the present contract between Petrofina and the Portuguese Government might be terminated and that, if so, his company would be interested. But he stressed that this was a matter for the Portuguese and for Petrofina. Reports reaching South Africa indicate that the Portuguese are dissatisfied with the present rate of development and production by Petrofina, whose reported reluctance to exploit the reserves to the full is attributed to conditions of oversupply in the world oil market.

MORE PRESS EXTRACTS ON REPRESSION IN SOUTH AFRICA from a South African reader

'Listed' teachers to be banned from profession

The Cape Times of Sept. 10 contained a letter from Professor Julius Lewin drawing attention to the fact that the announcement by the Minister of Justice that from January named communists would be banned from teaching in the universities affected Professor H.J. Simons. Professor Lewin paid tribute to Prof. Simon's academic activities and pointed out that he was one of the few specialists in his field - African Government and African Law. Prof. Lewin ended by saying that to deprive Prof. Simon of his profession would be an act of persecution and nothing to do with the national interest. The Rand Daily Mail contained a similar letter from Prof. Lewin concerning his friend Prof. Roux of Witwatersrand University (The head of the botany dept.) who left the Communist Party as long ago as 1936.

Weeks in solitary cells from the Evening Post 5/9/64

The list is growing of men and women who went to jail under the 90-day detention clause and were released without being charged...Some have spent weeks in solitary confinement" cases cited include: Mrs. Rea Jones (5 weeks); Dr. May Katzen (27 days); Mr. M. van der Burgh (30 days); Mr. P. Rodda (19 days); Mr. T. Beard (19 days); after 55 days: Miss B. Trewwhela; Miss S. Weinebrg; Mr. G. Tomkinson; Mr. G. Lamb; and Mr. T. Bell. After 28 days: Mrs. N. Kitson; after 21 days: Mr. E. Wentzel.

Luthuli's son-in-law jailed: The Mail of 5/9/64 reports: "Dr. Pascal Ngakane, the 34-year-old son-in-law of ex-chief Albert Luthuli, was yesterday jailed for 51 months by the Durban Regional Court for taking part in subversive activities..." The charges: becoming an officer of ANC (sentence 12 months); taking part in ANC activities (15 months); helping two men to escape (2 years)

On a recent visit to London I came across a paper which, although it has been going for 100 years, I had not read before. City Press heads its editorial column: "Free Trade - Sound Money - No Coercion" and contains some of the most frankly right wing material I have seen for a long time. It caters for the City and perhaps the best idea of its readership is given by item on the front page which, in big letters on a shaded background, urged: "All liverymen should go to Guildhall on Tuesday at noon to elect the Lord Mayor." Maybe I shouldn't have been so surprised after all! A few quotations will give an idea of the temper of the paper:

Full employment will kill the £ - Money Matters by S.W. Alexander

"All political parties at this election are promising the electors a continuance of "full employment". On doing so they are making a promise that cannot be fulfilled. We are going to have unemployment again....It is unquestionably true that a continuance of the full employment policy...means that the pound must collapse. The reason being that government is printing more and more money to keep people in employment, regardless of whether their activities are profitable or not...since April 1, 1911, £104 million had been provided by the government to finance work for 126,900...Clearly, if such enterprises had been thought worthwhile by private enterprise they would have been carried out without government assistance.

"Elsewhere we find authoritative statements that in a number of industries in this country from 3 to 5 times as many men are required for a given operation as in the United States...These and other instances reveal that British industry if efficiently operated could perform with far fewer workers. Indeed, there are circumstances in which we would have a million unemployed. No one wants to see that but what we have to recognise is that if we are to earn our keep in the world...we have to produce with the highest efficiency...Of course at all times there can be full employment - for people at a price and whether we like it or not we shall in due time have to free the market so that we know what prices should be. When that happens we shall find enough people to work on the buses and tubes and in domestic service" (sic) "and for a hundred and one other jobs now starved of workpeople....."

"The right way to go about it would be to withdraw all the privileges from the sectional interests which have prospered in consequence of those privileges. A fall in stock market prices would be sufficient to eliminate a considerable part of the excessive profits of which the Labour Party complains and free imports would provide that discipline of capital and labour which is badly needed"

(Businessmen) Pay attention

an editorial

".....The great mass of people who are unable to judge for themselves are influenced always by tiny minorities. In modern terms these are minorities of the left and of the right. These minorities are the most important people in the country...in spite of the vast quantity of information now provided through the press and radio a relatively small number of people have the integrity and judgement to decide what is the right course of action. So in these days we urge that businessmen should take an interest in politics not only at elections but all the time...Wisdom is confined to the few but given support they will multiply greatly and secure the support through their own example and integrity of the many who do not and cannot understand."

Postscript: I don't suppose anyone will be surprised to learn that in its "Press Probe" it said that the Tory Party was "in all respects ..better than ... Labour"