

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
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CONFERENCE MUST REJECT RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT POWER

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RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT POWER

This is how the Economist summed up the quandary of the Labour Government in its editorial on George Brown's National Plan. Translated into more precise political terms, it boils down to Labour doing the dirty work for the Tories; the kind of policy that the Tories could not, and perhaps would not, carry out. The National Plan, with its accompanying talk of "outlawing" unofficial strikers, is a proposal to reform British capitalism and modernise it. It is a proposal to solve the problems and crisis of British capitalism in order to preserve it. The National Plan makes quite clear that Mr. Wilson and co. see no perspective of introducing socialist measures in the foreseeable future. It makes another thing clear, too, that it is prepared to carry out these changes against bitter working class opposition, against what Mr. Brown would call the "old-fashioned" ideas of trade unionists.

We have pointed out numerous times before that this policy is not only disastrous for the prospects of British socialism it is electoral suicide. The result of the West German general election rams home the truth that not even in electoral terms do the policies of right pay dividends.

We shall, in next week's issue in the form of a special pamphlet, be analysing in detail the plan and, what is more important, putting forward an alternative, realistic policy for Labour. However, we must point to the Labour Party Conference as being the most important for decades. Unless this drift can be reversed at that Conference the outlook seems gloomy indeed. The unity of the party will be threatened as thousands of the Party's best political workers become disillusioned. If, on the other hand, a turn could be forced a bold advance could be made. If Labour were defeated in Parliament on the basis of the Liberals and Tories voting against a bold anti-capitalist programme, a clarion call could go out to the workers. The chances, on all hitherto available information, are that Labour would then be returned with a big majority. A study of the history of social-democratic parties shows that they invariably do much better electorally when they put forward a radical programme. This is the choice before the Conference at Blackpool.

A NOTE TO ALL BLACKPOOL DELEGATES: We will be very pleased to contact as many as possible of our readers at Blackpool. Our journal will be on sale at all the important meetings. Please make yourself known to the sellers.

T.G.W.U. SAY "OPEN THE BOOKS"

The T.G.W.U. wants an "outside body" to which shop stewards or other representatives of the workers could report management if it is clear that there is real inefficiency on the part of the firm. Mr. Harry Nicholas, Acting General Secretary, told this to 4,000 members of the union at a rally in London on September 18th. He went on to welcome the Prime Minister's idea of works level productivity committees. However he insisted that they must "have a real job to do, must be controlled by representatives of the men and must be given 'real information'".

"Management must be prepared to open books and let us see how fast we can go in raising productivity and . . . raising wages" he continued. These ideas should be seen as part of the T.G.W.U. attempt to develop its own ideas on raising productivity in answer to the Government's incomes policy, which it opposes strongly.

UNION SETS UP ITS OWN PRINT ENQUIRY

The National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants is to sponsor its own enquiry into the printing industry. This was decided at the September meeting of its executive council. Mr. Richard Briginshaw, General Secretary, commented after the meeting that "separate and independent estimates" would, he felt, be able to prove the recent report on the industry by the National Board for Prices and Incomes to be "unfounded". He could not comment on the form of his study, or when it would be ready, until he knew whether the Government would take steps to open the industry's books to the unions as suggested by the Board.

A statement issued by NATSOPA yesterday called the Board's report "meagre and inadequate" and said the reference had been made for "reasons of political expediency". "In the frenetic rush to supply the political rather than the economic answers, the painstaking and perforce lengthy investigation and enquiry in depth was not undertaken"....the national interests are not served by toying with the problem."

COMPANY LAW REFORM*

Company law reform may seem to be a remote subject for socialists, but this pamphlet makes interesting and stimulating reading. Socialist thought on company law reform has been singularly meagre according to Professor K.W. Wedderburn, Professor of Commercial Law at the London School of Economics. "We still lack....a perspective, or strategy, for socialist proposals on company law reform" he claims in this new Fabian pamphlet. The fundamental question he asks is "What are the appropriate conditions on which the community will continue to provide legal facilities for persons to aggregate and make use of private capital under the advantages enjoyed for the past century?"

Professor Wedderburn considers Company Law Reform from three different aspects: "what adaptations should be sought in the traditional scheme of disclosure, secondly how far can the law continue to rest upon the model of "shareholders' democracy" in days of increasing independent management in companies of any size, and thirdly, what modifications of the law are needed to take account of interests now not recognised by it, for example, those of employees." Of particular interest to readers of this journal are his recommendations about disclosure and the legalisation of employees' rights by legal reform.

* Company Law Reform, price 2s 9d, p.p. from Fabian Society, 11, Dartmouth Street, London S.W. 1.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' UNION'S DOUBTS ON NATIONAL PLAN

The following statement was issued by the National Union of Agricultural Workers on 16th September:

"Broadly speaking we agree with the conclusion that the best contribution agriculture can make to the national plan is through a programme of selective expansion. We also accept that this programme can be achieved with even fewer workers than are at present employed. However, it needs to be stressed that up to the present time the agricultural industry has not been "releasing" workers in the normally accepted sense of that word. Most of those who have left farming have done so of their own accord because they could obtain much better pay and conditions elsewhere.

"It needs to be appreciated that the reduction in the agricultural labour force cannot go on indefinitely, and that the farmers themselves recognise that the supply of workers in some fields of employment is already at danger level in some parts of the country. And it also needs to be recognised that in agriculture a reduction of manpower does not have to be confined only to the employed side of the industry. If farming is to be expected to manage on fewer workers and at the same time improve both production and productivity, the conditions of employment of those who remain will have to be brought into line with those of skilled workers in other spheres of employment.

"If this is not done - and done quickly - agriculture will certainly fulfil one part of its contribution to the plan - that of "releasing" workers for other occupations. But because the "release" will be uncontrolled it could put at risk the expansion and improved productivity which is also looked for from our farms. It could also endanger the prospects of the industry beyond 1970 because present trends show that the agricultural labour force has too few men in the middle-age groups and too high a percentage of non-regular workers. Furthermore the rate of recruitment of young workers is slowing up and the numbers who receive training are not increasing fast enough."

BROWN'S "EARLY WARNING" HITS TECHNICAL TEACHERS by an A.T.T.I. reader

It seems as though the A.T.T.I. has been the first union to feel the effects of the Government's "early warning system" on incomes; it is probably worth mentioning the circumstances of the case.

A few weeks ago schoolteachers were awarded a rise backdated several months. The amount of the rise averaged about 12 per cent. Teachers in technical colleges, largely represented by the Association of Teachers in Technical Colleges, a slightly more militant part of the N.U.T., has had a similar claim in for months. It had been holding out for a bigger increase for some time and the final salary settlement was expected last week. Technical college teachers were wondering whether they'd get 12, 13, or 14 per cent. Instead, there was no settlement. The salary negotiating committee said that it was not sure of its position after George Brown's statement on "early warning system" on incomes. The whole pay claim has been referred back to the First Secretary of State for "clarification."

The reaction of most of the staff in at least one big technical college is one of disgust and amazement.

Last Wednesday, the Transport and General Workers' Union Docks' District broke with all its traditions by convening a completely open meeting to which all dockers, including NASD members (and nons!) were invited. It was a well attended and deeply serious meeting. A mild outburst of heckling - demanding that Blue Union Officials should be allowed to service their own members on the docks, - was quickly quelled from the floor itself, by appeals from some of the Blue union members. The TGWU docks' officer was at pains to acknowledge the past weaknesses of his own organisation, and to accept the critical comments from NASD members present.

The inter-union problems remain very acute, and in fact exacerbated by the divisions between the Northern Blue union members and their General Secretary in London, over his agreement to accept TGWU servicing of his members in the Northern ports, and a stop to further recruitment there. This agreement effectively deprives the Northern sections of the Blue union and their officers, of any role whatever, and does not seem a constructive way of ending hostilities. An agreement on recognition of cards, and a role for the NASD committee and officials would have surely brought better results in unity.

That problem apart, the feelings of the meeting on the Devlin question were very clear. Many speakers pointed out that all the "concessions" to dockers offered by Devlin - welfare facilities, revised wage structure, higher pay for higher production, a sick pay scheme, regular employment, preservation of the 'spirit' of the Dock Labour Scheme - were all rights which dockers should have now. Devlin regards them as things to be offered in exchange for the dockers trading in their protective practices, and endorsing the growth of monopoly amongst the employers. There was considerable scepticism about the no redundancy promise in the Report. How could we believe this, they asked, when the report speaks of huge productivity increases and massive mergers amongst the employers?

Applause greeted the many speakers who - from White and Blue alike - urged nationalisation of the industry. This was no ritual appeal to an old instinct, but a hard, immediately practical alternative to Devlin, in the mind of the meeting. The TGWU docks' officer accepted it as such, and pointed to the union's official declaration of support for public ownership. Here surely, is the basis for dockers' unity - not based upon the suppression of one union, or a scramble for members by both, but on the common response of dockers to the Devlin cul-de-sac.

Nationalisation - with workers' control of the Register retained and developed - is a dockers' policy. If the TGWU can shift its emphasis on nationalisation from a worthy 'aside' to a banner headline, the basis of a united front is present. The signs from Hull's meeting are that this will happen in a short time.

ADVERTISEMENT: Nottingham I.V.S. Autumn Programme;
13th. October, Room 6, Albert Hall Institute. 7.30 p.m.
I.V.S. launch fund raising appeal. Recorded talk by
General Secretary.
Saturday 23rd. October/ Sunday 24th October - A.G.M. in London
10th November, 7.30 p.m. Albert Hall Institute.
The future programme of the Nottingham I.V.S. Illustrated
talks on local projects. For further details of the I.V.S.
contact: P. van Spall, 29, Highfield Rd., West Bridgford.

CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONALISATION OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY from a Hull reader

Of all the backward, cut-throat, industries of Britain, deep-sea trawler fishing must surely take the biscuit. Working conditions, and the status of trawler crews, must be amongst the lowest to be found anywhere. Conditions for the fish dockers and workers in ancillary trades are equally primitive. Foreign competition, and the encroachment of the big guns of the fish-processing firms into the capital structure of the industry, are producing major technical upheavals which threaten what little security the fishermen and dockers have had. In the rationalisation process which is sweeping the industry, the protective and traditional role of the unions is being undermined, as elsewhere in British industry.

HumberSide Voice has in recent months, focussed the growing concern of workers in the industry at these developments. Its campaign has concentrated on the expression of fishermen's own experiences and the fish dockers' own views. Combined with a growing militancy and effectiveness amongst the trade unions involved both on the docks and among the trawler crews, it has found a serious response in the fishing community. This response has now been given political expression by the West Hull Labour Party, which has roots in the industry, and whose delegates - predominantly working class, including wives and mothers of the industry's workers - KNOW the industry. At this month's GMC meeting, the following resolution was carried unanimously, by a very representative meeting:

"The West Hull Constituency Labour Party, being mindful of the great economic crisis inherited from the ineffectual Tory Government, and greatly appreciative of the legislation enacted in the first nine months of Labour administration, calls upon the National Executive Committee to instruct the Parliamentary Labour Party to set up a Working Committee to prepare a report on the future nationalisation of the British Distant Water Fishing Fleet and ancillary shore distributing and processing businesses under full workers' control.

"The West Hull Constituency Labour ^{Party} feels that on humanitarian as well as economic grounds the British fishing industry should be governed by the work people for the work people."

This arrives too late for this year's Party conference. But Labour MPs from fishing ports must take this seriously. The resolution can be the beginnings of a major campaign. Though it calls for action from the Parliamentary Labour Party we can be sure that this resolution can only be made effective if it is backed by an agitation and sustained by propaganda, in the fishing communities themselves. HumberSide Voice is planning to produce a pamphlet to develop and deepen the campaign. We should be delighted to hear from socialists, trade unionists, Labour Parties, and MPs who are interested in working with us on this. We don't have all the answers at this stage: we would welcome in particular offers to contribute articles on conditions and opinions from other ports.

Please send all contributions and comments to: Norman Godman,
13, St. George's Rd.,
Anlaby Rd.,
Hull,
East Yorks.

FORMATION OF LEFT CLUB IN GLASGOW

The first meeting of a projected Glasgow Left Club will take place on Sunday, 3rd October, at 7.00 p.m. in the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross. Addressing the meeting will be Enoch Humphries, President of the Fire Brigades Union, and Peter Talbot of the Scottish Commerical Motormen. The initiators of this project, who include Neil Carmichael, MP, and Norman Buchan, MP, stress that the new club should be closely connected with and orientated towards the Labour Party and trade union movement. All socialists in the West of Scotland are invited to attend. Further information can be obtained from Mrs. Patricia Southall, 97, Otago St., Glasgow W.2.. telephone: KELvingrove 5859.

BUILDING INDUSTRY WORKERS' CONTROL GROUP TO BE FORMED

Several people in the building industry in the Glasgow and Edinburgh areas, among them architects, joiners, bricklayers and terrazzo workers have been discussing the ideas of "workers control in the building industry", with a view to setting up an informal grouping in Britain to further the case for workers' control among our fellow workers in the industry. We are, therefore, extremely anxious to contact building workers throughout Britain who favour the idea. Would civil engineers, quantity surveyors, tradesmen, labourers, clerks, estimators, technicians, architects and town planners who are interested please contact:

George Williamson,
33, Kelvingrove St.,
Glasgow C. 3.

C.N.D. ANNOUNCEMENT

LET'S GO

to the Labour Party Conference
to demand an independent
foreign policy for Britain....
by opposing

Nuclear arms: nuclear bases:
Nuclear alliances: American
aggression in Vietnam: British
policy in Asia: nuclear spread:
ANF & MLF: super arms salesmen:
& Mr. Wilson's defence cuts swindle.

M A R C H

Blackpool, Sunday, September 26

Assemble 3. p.m. Gynn Square

March 3 - 3.30 Promenade

Rally 3.3. - 4.30 Sands between Central and South piers.

Olive Gibbs, Fenner Brockway, Stan Orme, MP, Hugh Scanlon, Professor Peter Worsley.

March 4.30 - 5. p.m. Promenade to Imperial Hotel.

Further details and transport from

C. N. D. (14, Grays Inn Road, London W.C. 1. telephone CHA 3872

(14, Tib Lane Cross Street, Manchester 2. telephone BLA 7511

The latest issue of the Board of Trade Journal has as its lead article a report from the commercial section of the British Embassy at Pretoria. The aim of the article is to inform British businessmen of the possibilities in the African market in South Africa. The figures it gives are designed to prove to the British exporter that he should not ignore the possibilities of selling goods to Africans in South Africa. We will leave aside the question of what the Wilson Government is doing in the field of trying to apply economic pressure on South Africa to consider what the figures reveal about the standard of living of Africans in South Africa. In other words, what Apartheid means in living standards.

The article begins: "All statistics relating to Africans in South Africa are of uncertain validity. The last figures which are anything like firm are for 1961. These show the national income as £2,165 million and the share of the Africans as £492 million or about 23%." Seeing that just over two-thirds of the population of South Africa are Africans this means that the non-African population was on average $13\frac{1}{2}$ times more prosperous than the African section. But this ratio of $13\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 isn't the whole picture, for the non-African population includes coloureds, Asians, etc., many of whom are worse off than some Africans. And this does not take account of the class differences within the whites.

If this ratio of $13\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 is staggering, the picture becomes all the more bizarre when one considers the differences within the African community. To quote from the article again: "The estimated £450 million which the Africans spent in 1963/4 was not spread evenly over the whole population. There are three main groupings: the urban Africans who live in townships near the European towns and cities "(a euphemistic way to describe enforced Apartheid)" the Africans who work on farms in the European rural areas; and the Africans who live in the rural areas in 'Reserves', 'tribal areas', 'homelands' or 'Bantustans' to use but a few of the names given to that part of the Republic's land-space reserved exclusively for the African. Numerically the first group is the smallest, comprising only some 3 million or 25% of the African population against 34% on the European farms and the 41% in the Reserves.....

"Financially, however, the picture is very different. The urban African ...has gained most from the economic upsurge which South Africa has enjoyed over the last 20 years. The best guess is that nearly 50%..of the spending power of the Africans is concentrated in this sector giving an average annual income of about £100 a head" (and these are the 'prosperous' ones living on less than £2 per week!) "For the European rural areas the comparable figure would be £32" (somewhat under 15/- per week) and for the African in Reserves only £24..." (less than 10/- per week).

South African apologists often claim that the African is better off in South Africa than in other African countries. What have they to say about these figures? And what about British big business which does so much to bolster up the Apartheid regime in South Africa? Their reluctance to take any steps to boycott South Africa cannot be unconnected with their desire to share the loot which comes from 4,000,000 Africans earning less than 15/- a week. Lastly, what about our Government? It seems only to be concerned with how to increase trade, i.e., support economically, with a monstrous regime which rests upon millions of Africans working a whole year for less than MPs get in two days. Is it "rocking the boat" to say SHAME?

Berkeley, California - Final preparations are being made by the Vietnam Day Committee located here in Berkeley for the October 15-16 "International Days of Protest" serving as a focal point of a world-wide co-ordinated effort to protest the war in Vietnam. The VDC is an outgrowth of the massive Vietnam teach-in held on the University of California Berkeley campus May 21-22 which attracted some 20-30,000 people. Target centre of the October 15-16 protest here will be the Oakland Army base which is the main West Coast supplier to the American forces in Vietnam. Although the specific details of the protest action have not yet been ironed out, the VDC is planning a dramatic move that will culminate in a massive disobedience action centring on the Oakland Army base. This act will be preceded by a teach-in that will originate out of the Berkeley campus similar to last May's event.

In issuing its call the VDC urged organisations throughout the world to "move beyond single demonstrations and rallies to one massive internationally co-ordinated action." It added: "American involvement in Vietnam transcends questions of politics. Indiscriminate bombings of peasant villages by the world's most massive military machine has outraged the conscience of the world. The time has come to go beyond debates about the politics of the war; it is time for the peoples of the world to say to the USA: STOP!" As the international headquarters and one of the 33 member groups of the National Committee to End the War in Vietnam which was founded August 7-9 in Washington D.C., the VDC has been among the most successful of the antiwar groups that have mushroomed across the country - particularly on campus. Last June it organised a demonstration in San Francisco when President Johnson addressed the UN on its 20th anniversary. More recently demonstrations have centred on military cargo being sent to Vietnam from West Coast loading ports and also on troop trains destined for duty in Vietnam.

Of significance is the reaction the VDC has received many times from some of the troops aboard these trains who have welcomed the demonstrators and at great risk have displayed signs reading: "We're with you - Keep it up!" On August 25, General Maxwell Taylor, former ambassador to South Vietnam and a chief architect of the war, was singled out by the VDC when he appeared at the Hotel Fairmont in San Francisco to deliver a talk before the Commonwealth Club, a wealth/businessmen's luncheon group. As he drove up to the hotel, Taylor's car was besieged by antiwar pickets. So nettlesome did the demonstrators prove to be that at one point they managed to block the elevator Taylor was on, thus delaying his arrival to his suite. Five members of the Committee were arrested.

VDC is also participating in less heralded "grass roots" activities such as community projects designed to enlist students as well as non-students in a door-to-door campaign to encourage people to take a stand against the war in Vietnam. Of much talk lately is the ability of the VDC to mobilise large numbers of people at a moment's notice when learning of a particular troop train or of war material being loaded for Vietnam. A typical example of this occurred on September 5th when the VDC learned of a Mexican freighter, El Mexicano, which had docked in Oakland and whose crew, then engaged in a wage conflict, had refused to carry war supplies to Vietnam. The VDC quickly organised a sympathy demonstration at the Oakland waterfront within earshot of the crew, with 60 demonstrators picketing and shouting words of encouragement. A member of the VDC toting a bull horn spoke in Spanish as a group of waving crewmen yelled back their approval.

On Monday, September 13th, Ireland was restored to the enjoyment of its daily metropolitan newspapers, and its people were more fully informed of their country's affairs than they had been either through the new (improved) United Irishman or through the state radio of TV systems, or through the local newsheets, or, if especially fortunate, through all these media. The people of Ireland will find that their ignorance has given to their Government the opportunity at least to begin the final surrender of their economy to the British interest.* There have occurred also other events of importance.

Primary among them are the reactions of the two opposition parties to the "Second Act of Union" (as it has been dubbed correctly). Naturally, Labour's attitude is the better; Brendan Corish has stated unequivocally that he is opposed to the scheme. Unfortunately, he is apparently not backed by a united party opposition being led, it seems, by Seamus Everett, "father" of Dail Eirann, and ex-leader of the right-wing breakaway National Labour Party of the 1940s; the dissidents have managed to force the Party's Administrative Council to pass on the subject a non-committal motion, asking merely for an Oireachtas debate before any final decision on the matter. But this line is exactly that of Liam Cosgrave, the leader of Fine Gael. He is in a difficult position since 1949, when his party's coalition Taoiscach, John A. Costello, renounced membership of the Commonwealth. Fine Gael has existed as a party of right-wing republicanism; of a contradiction in terms, in fact; now the contradiction is exposed: Irish capitalism can survive successfully only at the expense of the Irish Republic. It may mean the break up of the party, but Irish history shows that Providence seems to tend to protect fools, drunkards and Fine Gael.

Meanwhile anyone who is interested should write to Labour MPs and point out:-

(1) That Lemass has no electoral mandate for his Free Trade Area proposals; and

(2) that the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Area, must, on account of the subservient and inefficient nature of the Irish bourgeoisie, develop quickly into another form of neo-colonialism.

Another less important, but still significant, event occurred when Clann na Poblachta was finally disbanded in its twentieth year of life, and with one remaining T.D. Little need be said of its history; enough that it once beat Labour as the leader of the urban workers, and that it has reluctantly supplied the latter party with many of its best members thereof (not least being Dr. Browne and Senator McQuillan). The Clann's dissolution will no doubt encourage more of its members to join Labour; whether their numbers will include its deputy, Sean Tully, is doubtful. He sits for County Cavan, a small farmer constituency, and the fate of Jack McQuillan, in the similar County Roscommon, shows what happens to small farm Labour TDs; the Party can only strive to improve its image with the small farmers. The question remains: what will become of Sean MacBride, leader of Clann na Poblachta? Until recently, he seemed to anticipate a return to politics and he is not so old that this can be counted out. However, his actual entry into the Labour Party would not be a wholly happy event as his character is not such as to make for harmony in a movement. Yet perhaps one may hope that, in the 19th Dail, and if Labour gains seats in the local elections, the party may send MacBride to the Seanad, not as a politician, nor as an ex-gunner, but as the distinguished lawyer that he is, with an excellent record on civil liberties.

* The Anglo-Irish Free Trade Area measure.

continued over/

The end of the printing strike seems to foreshadow the end of another matter: Griffith Barracks (a building named, incidentally, after the most reactionary of the leaders of the successful national revolt) is the centre where the Dublin Health Authority houses those who are homeless through no fault of their own. As such, it has been run for some $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. The inmates pay a smaller rent than they would anywhere else; in return they are limited to wives and children (husbands are only allowed in on prescribed visiting hours) who are fenced ^{and} behind barbed wire and suffer considerable overcrowding, filthy conditions, some bullying from the staff.

A fuller account can be obtained from the Sinn Fein United Irishman (September issue; box 187, Dublin, for details) which does not discuss, however, the reason for the existence of this new-style workhouse. Put baldly: landowners can get more money from selling to firms building offices than either to supply sites for housing schemes or to keep letting existing houses at reasonable rents. This is only the beginning; with the ready connivance of the Department of Local Government and of the Fianna Fail-dominated Dublin Corporation, large areas of the middle of Dublin have been bought up by foreign property companies, who have schemes for rebuilding their areas with skyscraper office blocks and as few houses as possible. Since much of central Dublin (notably the Aran Quay area, on the North side of the Liffey) is still inhabited, this will entail further evictions, of which the evictees may find homes in a possible housing scheme four miles outside. However, the office boom may not reach this extreme, as we already see such mini-scrappers as Liberty Hall (new centre of the ITGWU) where several floors are vacant; on the other hand, as it seems that a member of Government Departments may take lodgings in some of these proposed buildings and thus enable the landlords to avoid paying rates on them, the boom may continue. In short, the land trade in Dublin is a seller's market and well the seller knows it.

However, as more families had to go to Griffith Barracks, conditions deteriorated and the inmates' patience (and even more, that of their husbands) declined. On August 11th, 36 adults (husbands and wives) and 51 children barricaded themselves in the canteen. After 16 days, a slowly dwindling number (due to disease) and a refusal by the Health Authority to accept their basics demand for family unit in better conditions, were forcibly evicted. Upon this event, 18 families moved across Dublin to Mountjoy Square where they have camped ever since in tents provided by well-wishers.

From that day nightly public meetings have been held, the Sinn Fein movement supported the families. Labour did so also, though its greatest support came from the two TDs immediately concerned, Dr. John O'Connell, who has done, so far, a considerable amount to fill the gap left by Noel Browne and in whose constituency Griffith Barracks lies, and Michael O'Leary, the enigmatic young Deputy in whose constituency Mountjoy Square is. Public opinion (at first hostile to people said to be "jumping the housing list") swung to support the families, due to the generally correct analyses of the situation made by such men. On September 2nd, the Dublin Health Authority voted to accept the families demand only to be ruled out of order by its Chief Executive, O'Keefe. During the next week the printing strike ended and Fine Gael concluded that the families had a good case. On 11th September, the Fianna Fail Lord Mayor of Dublin, Eugene Timmons, promised to endeavour to obtain a caravan site for the families. But pressure cannot be reduced. For one thing, where is the site going to come from? and will the Corporation be prepared to pay the price?

JAPANESE UNION FORCES SHIPPING LINES TO CANCEL VIETNAM SAILINGS

Four Japanese shipping lines, pressed by the All-Japan Seamen's Union, have cancelled their charter contracts with the States Marine Lines of the U.S. to sail between South Vietnamese ports. The Tokyo newspaper, Akahata, reported on September 15th, that the Yamashita-Shinnihon steamship line, the Daiichi Sempaku and two other lines on September 10th scrapped the contracts for eight of their ships of 1,000-ton class to carry cargo between Saigon and other South Vietnamese ports for six months commencing October 17th.

NEGRO SOLDIERS REFUSE TO FIGHT IN VIETNAM

According to news agency reports from Saigon four Negro soldiers of the First U.S. Cavalry Division (Air Mobile) have attempted a hunger strike on a U.S. troop ship on the way to South Vietnam to demonstrate their refusal to fight that country. Among them, J.L. Jackson, aged 21, was sentenced to six months in gaol and forfeiture of two-thirds of his pay on charges of "disobeying orders to prepare to move to South Vietnam." Three others are still awaiting trial.

JAPANESE SOCIALISTS PICKET AIR BASE

In an effort to block American use of Itazuke airport as a base for B-52s in the war in Vietnam, the Fukouka Prefectural Congress against the Revision of the Constitution and Nuclear Arming began picketing the airport on August 25th. About 100 members set up a barricade of six wooden frames, each about 5 feet high and 13 feet wide on a highway near the end of one of the runways. They ran up 20 red flags on 23-foot poles attached to four cars. Airport officials feared these would interfere with planes. Police sought to remove the barricades. The leaders of the demonstrators, all members of the Japanese Socialist Party, resisted and were arrested. They said that the demonstrations would go on indefinitely.

STOP PRESS

MP.s CALL FOR IMMIGRATION WHITE PAPER TO BE WITHDRAWN from Reg. Freeson, MP.

Following a small consultative meeting of Labour MPs which I called at the House on last Thursday, an appeal for a rational immigration policy was issued on 21st September, signed by 16 Labour MPs widely representative of the Parliamentary Labour Party. Further meetings will take place at Blackpool during the Annual Conference of the Labour Party. After the Party Conference and in the light of the discussions which take place, a broader meeting will be held in London, to discuss further steps to be taken with regard to Government policy in the field of immigration.

As from its publication, it is hoped that a very wide section of people will come forward in support of the appeal. It is known, from correspondence and telephones calls which I have received, that members of the Liberal and Labour Parties will support the appeal....Copies of the appeal are being sent to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House of Commons, the Home Secretary and the Leader of the Liberal Party.

Editorial note: The appeal which is very critical of the White Paper and draws attention to the fact that is in contradiction to previous Labour policy, is signed by R. Freeson, D. Kerr, N. Atkinson, S. Williams, J. Mendelson, W. H. Hamling, J. Butler, S. Newens, D. Hobden, D. Ennals, L. Jeger, D. Taverne, P. Rose, F. Allaun, B. Parkin, M. Foot.

FREE SPEECH CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Several more MPs have joined the Free Speech Campaign to allow the three representatives of the NLF of South Vietnam to visit this country. They include: Arthur Lewis, Tom Driberg, David Ensor, Harold Walker and Norman Atkinson. They have undertaken to sign adverts in the national press on similar lines to the New Statesman letter.

Money for the national press advert has continued to come in, although the rate needs to be stepped up. In addition to the towns mentioned in last week's issue 10/- donations have come from Aberdeen, Oxford, Hull and Woking. The organisers have started to receive donations from leaflets distributed at CND meeting in London last Friday.

Among the Labour Parties taking action are:

South East Derbyshire C.L.P.: at a GMC last week it instructed its delegate to the Labour Party Annual Conference to support the move to get an emergency resolution on the agenda. Mr. Geoff. Kingscott, the delegate, has been instructed to vote for resolution too.

Woodside, Glasgow, C.L.P.: has gone on record for the Free Speech Campaign and has decided to sign the national newspaper advert as a Labour Party.

North Nottingham C.L.P.: at its last meeting passed a resolution demanding that the NLF representatives be let into the country. The resolution is to go to Annual Conference as an emergency resolution and the delegate has been mandated to support moves to get it on the agenda.

Other moves are:

Sheffield Peace in Vietnam meeting: some 200 delegates attended a meeting last Sunday in the Sheffield Memorial Hall. The main speakers were John Mendelson, MP, and Stan Orme, MP. Mr. Mendelson appealed to delegates to impress their views on the coming Labour Party conference. A resolution calling for the Government to press for cease-fire in Vietnam and elections on the basis of the 1954 Geneva Agreement was passed unanimously. A resolution calling for the admission of the NLF representatives was passed with only one abstention.

Kettering (Northants) Trades Council: at its last meeting it called for the admission of the three NLF representatives. The resolution, passed unanimously, expressed "great concern" at the Foreign Secretary's refusal to allow the visit. The protest is being sent to Foreign Secretary, Mr. Michael Stewart.

GLASGOW PEACE IN VIETNAM MEETING

by Tony Southall

A meeting attended by over 200 delegates from all sections of the Labour and Peace Movements was held in Glasgow on Sunday, September 19th, under the auspices of the local Council for Peace in Vietnam. The principal speakers, John Rankin, MP, and Lawrence Daly, General Secretary of the Scottish NUM, made it quite clear that they regarded the aggressive acts of American imperialism as responsible for the threat to peace. Both made strong appeals for the maximum protest to be made at the Labour Party Conference. From the floor came an appeal for support for Nottingham City L.P.'s resolution on the refusal to grant visas to the NLF people. One disturbing note was that at the end of the meeting the chairman introduced a motion calling on the Government to dissociate itself from "either side". This seemed rather incongruous since every speaker had condemned the U.S. and making clear the justice of NLF struggle.

FREE SPEECH

Britain is a country which is famous for free speech. We show foreigners our speakers' corner at Hyde Park, and decorate our capital with blue plaques commemorating the residence of foreign revolutionaries who lived and agitated here in the past . . . Karl Marx, Mazzini, Garibaldi, Ghandi, Lenin, Nehru . . . their names make a long list, and many of them became leaders in their countries when their doctrines took hold of men's imaginations.

Now the tradition is rudely broken. The Foreign Secretary thinks that these two men are more dangerous, less tolerable, than all their fiery predecessors. He has prevented them from having visas . . .



Din Ba Thi



Pham Van Choong

Who are these men? They and their leader, Professor Nguyen Van Hieu, are the spokesmen of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. They want to come here to take part in teach-ins at Eton, Oxford and Cambridge, amongst other places. They also want to meet and discuss with Lord Russell, who is one of the leading spokesmen in the worldwide opposition to the American war in Vietnam.

The Foreign Secretary made a big hit at the teach-in he addressed at Oxford. He impressed people as being fair-minded and reasonable. One of the things he said, which contributed to this impression, was that it was essential for the British people "to have access to news, information and comment from all over the world . . . to form their own opinions and to express those opinions freely."

At Oxford with the Foreign Secretary on the platform was a spokesman of the 'Government' of South Vietnam, putting the viewpoint of the Americans who installed him. There was no spokesman of the Liberation Front, which has overwhelming support in the country. Why now does Mr. Stewart eat his words? Can he really mean that we should hear all views except those of the opposition? What is he afraid of? These young men come with no arms, or ill-intent. They merely bring arguments, which have not yet been heard here. Is Mr. Stewart afraid he will have to debate with such arguments? What has he to hide? Is any embarrassment to the Foreign Secretary worth more than the most sacred British tradition of

FREE SPEECH?

Free Speech Must be Maintained

We think that everyone in England who values our traditions will want to reverse the Government's decision.

Here are some things that everyone can do :

- * Write to your M.P. and ask him where he stands on free speech. Remind him that democracy is not only about the rights of people who agree, but about the rights of those who disagree, as well. Tell us what he says.
- * Tell the Home Secretary that you think he should disobey Mr. Stewart on this matter.
- * Tell Mr. Stewart that you think he should reconsider his position.
- * Send a donation to the Free Speech Campaign, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, 3 and 4 Shavers Place, London, S.W.1. Money is urgently needed for a publicity campaign to tell the British people what Mr. Stewart has done, and why it is wrong.

If you are a member of the Labour Party, or a Trade Union, mandate your branch to support the emergency resolution which has been submitted to the Labour Party Conference by Nottingham City Labour Party, asking the Government to reconsider its decision. This resolution will not be called unless it has widespread support. **If your branch agrees, be sure to notify the Nottingham delegate, Ken Coates, who lives at 19, Greenfield Street, Dunkirk, Nottingham.**

If you are prepared to circulate copies of a petition, write to the Free Speech Campaign or return the form below.

WILL YOU HELP?

I support the Free Speech Campaign, and am prepared to sign an appeal saying so, circulate a petition, lobby my M.P. and report the result, move support in my trade union branch for the Nottingham emergency motion at the Labour Conference (Please delete where not applicable).

I enclose a donation of to help the fight.

Name

Address

Return to Publishers, Free Speech Campaign, B.R.P.F., 3 & 4 Shavers Place, Haymarket, London, S.W.1.

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