

# The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS  
Vol. 5, No. 8. 24th February, 1966

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**VIETNAM :  
THOUSANDS  
IN  
UNITED STATES  
PROTESTS**

**ANTI-TRADE UNION LEGISLATION :**

**BACK THE  
T.G.W.U.**

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54 Park Road, Lenton, Nottingham

Subscription : £2 per annum and pro rata

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ANTI-TRADE UNION LEGISLATION :

# BACK THE

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INCOMES POLICY - BACK THE T.G.W.U.!

The Economic Committee of the General Council of the T.U.C. has decided by 8 votes to 12 to recommend that George Brown's "early warning" legislation be endorsed. True, the Committee also recommends that the Bill be amended to compel prior notification of dividends: but this measure will not, even if it is accepted by the Government (which is unlikely) redress the undemocratic balance of the new law.

As is made perfectly clear in the letter by Professor Fogarty in the Times of last Tuesday, which we reproduce on page 12, the Government has shown no signs of recognising that "companies concern others besides shareholders and creditors." Our often repeated call to the unions that it is imperative that no negotiations take place on the question of incomes policy until the accounts of industry are completely available to union inspection has not yet been heard by most members of the General Council, even though the TGWU has valiantly taken it up. The new company legislation at present travelling through the House is pitifully inadequate to meet the needs of the unions in this respect. Even if the Prices and Incomes Board were to scrutinise company accounts before dividends could be sanctioned, this in itself would not protect the unions from the attrition of their powers threatened in George Brown's menacing Bill.

This, by imposing a 30-day standstill on the implementation of wage agreements, constitutes a fierce attempt to control "wage drift" (that is, the advance, by local negotiations, beyond nationally agreed pay rates) which is responsible for a key element in the economic strength of workers in the dominant sectors of Britain's economy. In turn, its sanctions will be directly deployed against shop stewards, without whom there can be no effective trade unions in our present set-up. The fact that these sanctions are to be held "in reserve" is small comfort. The members of the General Council are reported to have sought an assurance that they will not be held legally responsible for actions in contravention of the new law. Whether Mr. Brown gives such a cynical pledge or not, union members most certainly will very rapidly decide to call their errant officers very firmly to account, once the implications of the Bill are borne upon them. Harry Nicholas is reported to have stood firm against the new Bill. He is completely right to do so, and must be supported by every socialist. Every pressure must be brought on the other union officers to bring them into line with the policy of the TGWU. At the same time, MPs must be warned that this is a line which must not be crossed. Those MPs who have threatened the whips they will not vote for this Bill <sup>must</sup> receive every support.

Mr. Jim Griffiths, the Secretary of State for Wales, interviewed on BBC Wales recently, stated that the number of collieries in South Wales is to be reduced and the manpower concentrated into 60 pits. This has posed the following questions. What preparations are the Government making for the men who will be displaced, the sick, the disabled who cannot be employed in the industry? Are they to suffer the same fate as the hundred or so Pwllbach men who are now signing on at the labour exchange? When the union's representatives met Lord Robens to argue for the retention of Pwllbach colliery until adequate suitable employment could be found, we were told in no uncertain terms that we were knocking on the wrong door.

The Government had declared its policy to close down production at the so-called uneconomic units, and all the board could promise was to keep redundancy down to the minimum. The unemployed men at Pwllbach cannot find jobs within travelling distance of their homes and there are no immediate prospects of them doing so. The unemployment problem will develop if and when the board decides to close the next colliery, particularly in the West Wales area. There are no jobs available for our men until the new factories are built and the men re-trained for the new jobs at the factories. It is necessary for us to examine the position to see what the Government is doing in the form of adequate preparation to prevent this local crisis. Most of Wales is now scheduled as a development area with special Government incentives for incoming industry, but without powers to direct industry, this can be ineffective. Milford Haven has been a development area for years and has still the highest unemployment rate in Britain.

The Government has declared that for the whole of Britain, 26 advance factories are to be built some time in the future. The total area of these 26 factories amounts to 370,000 sq. ft. The one Prestcold factory at Swansea, which stood empty and idle for 18 months, until taken over by the Ford motor company, is 660,000 sq. ft. The average factory might employ perhaps 60 workers. In West Wales, which Mr. Griffiths says will be the worst hit, three trunk road schemes will be started to encourage new industries, but construction on these roads will not start until 1969/71. A new Government training centre is to be opened at Llanelli. Development certificates in the last 12 months to March, 1965, may produce 5,700 new jobs in Wales, but similar and even bigger estimates have been given every year, while the actual net loss of working age population from Wales goes up from 2,000 to 4,000 annually. If and when these factories are built, what will they produce? In my notes in the September/October, 1964, issue of The Miner, I referred to the profit made by the manufacturers who provide the N.C.B. with mining equipment and the huge profits made by these manufacturers. These factories could very well be built by the N.C.B. itself to provide the wherewithal that is required in the south western divisions. Props, conveyors, electrical equipment, etc., that are required in the coal mining industry could be turned out from the factories, and the problem of training could very well be overcome by the board transforming some of the pithead baths that are now derelict into centres to provide training for men who could become the skilled workers that would be required for the factories. Not only would such an innovation provide suitable employment for our men after training, but could save the board a considerable amount of money that now goes to make up the profits of the manufacturers that provide the mining equipment.

The Sunday Times business news editor calculated in the February 20th issue that the Bank of England had spent about £300,000,000 in foreign exchange during the last three months of 1965 to save sterling. This huge sum was used to "unwind" forward deals carried out in the June-September sterling crisis. In June-September, Britain's gold reserves experienced a true fall of £450,000,000 despite the fact that the official figures indicated a fall of just under £100,000,000. Mr. Anthony Vice, who made this his lead item, culled these figures from United States balance of payments statistics, which have just become available in Britain. "These statistics," he points out, "show, for October-December a £400,000,000 shift in American banks' deposits from foreigners. That shift, according to the U.S. official commentary, reflected the strengthening of the pound, which led foreigners to buy pounds in exchange for dollars from official British agencies.

"Of this £400,000,000, just under £100,000,000 was reflected by an increase in Britain's published gold reserves. According to the U.S. data, we repaid only about £60,000,000 of the Federal swap in October-December." Whilst these rather technical details may seem remote from day-to-day politics, in practice, they underpin the whole economic and political policies of the Government. The position of British capitalism was worse than we were led to believe. Moreover, rescue operations of this kind cannot be repeated indefinitely. Hence the tremendous pressures on the Government to get a "permanent" solution by rationalisation, by putting the unions in their place, etc. These figures, plus the poor trade returns for January should serve to indicate to us that 1966 will see more trouble for whatever government is in power. Sad to say, it appears that Labour is just as likely as the Tories to seek to solve this at the expense of the workers. Soon the union conferences will start; Mr. Wilson should get a warning from each of these conferences that he is in for big trouble if he puts the 1966 sterling difficulties on the backs of the trade unionists.

OXFORD C.S.E. MEETS

from an Oxford reader.

The first meeting of the Oxford City branch of C.S.E. was held on Saturday the 5th of February, and was attended by about 35 people, who were members of the Oxford University Socialist Group, Oxford C.L.P., Newbury C.L.P., A.E.U., C.P.G.B., trades councils and Young Socialists. Those present were predominantly political activists from university and city. The theme of this opening meeting was "The British Working Class Today". A.H. Halsey opened the discussion. Among the points he stressed was that the workers had not suffered "embourgeoisement": affluence to <sup>them</sup> meant something like £18 a week, which would be regarded as starvation wages by his fellow dons. Studies in Luton, where the workers were mainly newcomers to the town, showed that the pattern of life and consciousness was of the kind regarded characteristically working class. Dr Halsey gave an account of the widespread educational deprivation among workers and their families. This, he remarked, was likely to be at an extreme intensity in the coloured immigrant areas, and C.S.E. should think of addressing itself locally to this question.

John Palmer and Geoff Carlsson gave a picture respectively of the national and the shop floor economic situation, and the attack by the Government and business on workers' bargaining power. A C.S.E. branch could work in a servicing role to the local labour movement, not "telling the workers what to do" but providing facts and figures where needed. Among floor speakers, Bro. Jenner (Oxford Trades Council secretary) remarked that only one speaker, Geoff Carlsson, had spoken to him in his own language. This was a general problem: nobody was telling the workers about socialism.

## JOURNALISTS' UNION HAS CRITICAL INCOMES POLICY RESOLUTIONS

The Annual Conference of the National Union of Journalists, which is to be held in Scarborough on 21-24 April, has the following four critical resolutions on wages policy:

From Trade & Technical:

"That this ADM instructs the NUJ's representatives at the Trades Union Congress to move the end of the TUC voluntary "early warning system" on salary increases proposed by its constituent Trade Unions and urges the TUC to oppose the Government's proposed legislation for the regulation of wage claims."

From Rotherham:

"This ADM instructs the NEC to oppose, by all appropriate means, the introduction or proposed introduction of any legislation which would restrict the right of a trade union to bargain freely for improved wages and conditions for its members, or to withdraw the labour of its members when deemed necessary."

From Swansea:

"That this ADM resolve to sever immediately all connections with the Trades Union Congress, especially since future wage claims by the NUJ will first have to be submitted to the TUC for vetting and because it is becoming increasingly embarrassing for journalists to be affiliated to a body which gives its wholehearted support to one major political body."

From Periodical and Book:

"This ADM, welcoming the attempt made by both sides of industry and the government to establish an effective and equitable productivity, prices and incomes policy, deplors any attempt to interfere by statutory control with collective bargaining and instructs the NUJ's representatives at this year's Trades Union Congress to oppose any legislation that would lead to statutory control."

These resolutions reflect the general concern in the trade union movement about the Labour Government's incomes policy. They also indicate the way various sections of the movement are reacting to the Government's policy; the Swansea call is, of course, an old one in the 'white collar' unions but it is a warning to the Government and those who back it. The call for an ending of the close relationship between the Labour Party and the unions might evoke a response if linked with militant slogans against the incomes policy and anti-trade union legislation.

from an N.U.J. member

### BRISTOL C.S.E. FORMED

from Tom Nicholls & Alan Smith

The inaugural meeting of the Bristol branch of the C.S.E. was held on Sunday 13th February. In addition to a number of socialists from Bristol there were two observers from Gloucester present. Chris Farley, a member of the National Steering Committee, outlined the general purpose of the centres and explained what was happening nationally. A small committee consisting of Chairman, Don Bateman (ILP), Secretary, Alan Smith (LP & YS), Treasurer, Roger Bartlett (LP & YS), and Mr. Kamat (LP), Tom Nicholls (LP), Katy Rintoul (LP), Ken Smith (LP & YS) was elected. Anyone interested in joining should contact either Don Bateman, 26, Burleigh Rd., Bristol 7; or Alan Smith, 9 Ashgrove Ave., Bristol 7.

ROAD HAULIERS "HAVE LITTLE TO FEAR" FROM INTEGRATION WHITE PAPER

Our transport correspondent writes: Motor Transport, a journal which reflect business interests in the road haulage, analysed the likely consequences for hauliers of the Government's decision to bring out a White Paper on an integrated transport system. Its special correspondent wrote:

"Road operators will have little to fear from the promised White Paper on integration, I forecast. Despite much ministerial flag waving on this, as a reaction to pressures from the unions and Labour's left-wing, Ministry of Transport investigators working for Mrs Castle are taking a very long and calm view. The White Paper....will prove something of a paper dragon. There is to be no direction of traffic from road to rail, by edict by taxation, by densing, and no compulsory merging of road passengers undertakings at an early date. All the emphasis will be on the long term, looking ahead as far as 30 years. And a selected method to shape the transport policy of the future is likely to be control by investment.

The correspondent then outlined the way the Transport Ministry economists were working: "Their first job is to find which is the cheapest form of transport today on two main routes of the country. To do this they are to cost out all traffic, passenger and goods.....The next stage is to forecast the growth of traffic over the next 30 years, and to assess the effects of new techniques for the various means of transport on costs. Finally - and this is the object of the exercise - they will collate their facts and figures for the Government to decide where investment should go in order to provide the transport system of the future.....

"Road transport need not come out badly from these studies. The road versus rail battle is only pertinent on the long runs between towns, and the growth of night trunking by roads since the war puts a lot of weight on the road side of the scales. Such night use of the roads must earn the plaudits of the economists, since it is giving the best return on the amount expended on the provision of the roads. Side by side with these long-term costing exercises, Ministry men are engaging in extensive sounding of users of transport. They are asking industry what are their preferences in modes of transport....It is already clear that Mrs. Castle is no more to be panicked into rush measures than was her predecessor, Mr. Tom Fraser. ....The signs are that integration, in the Minister's mind, means something more closely akin to co-ordination, i.e., dovetailing rather than merging.."

His last point was quite whimsical: "Studies carried out by Lord Hinton will, I gather, play no part in the preparation of the White Paper. Mystery still surrounds what he may have advised the Minister and his advice seems to <sup>have</sup> sunk without trace."

Editorial continued/

Only when the disastrous measure has been defeated will it become clear to the Government that its present neo-capitalist incomes policy is totally unacceptable. A socialist policy for incomes is completely inseparable from structural - socialist - reforms in the economy and a great expansion of trade union powers. This involves defiance of the bankers, and stringent anti-capitalist controls. As the unions begin to demand these positive measures, an alternative strategy to the bankrupt drift of Mr. Wilson's administration will begin to take shape .

## VIETNAM SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED IN HULL AND NOTTINGHAM

Two meetings were held in the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign last week. The first, in Nottingham on February 18th, was attended by <sup>over</sup> 100 people, who contributed over £11 to the collection. The panel of speakers reflected the unity of those forces who side with the Vietnamese Revolution: the chairman was Lionel Jacobs - chairman of the Nottingham Trades Council; Ken Coates - ex-chairman of the Nottingham City Labour Party and Chanchal Singh - president of the Nottingham branch of the Indian Workers Association, were the other local speakers; and Chris Farley of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation also spoke. Names of those interested in helping the solidarity campaign were collected, and a local convenor has been appointed for the campaign: Mr. Keith Bloor, 53, Central Ave., Nottingham, Telephone: Nottingham 66183. Anyone interested in taking part in the campaign should contact the latter if they live in the Nottingham area.

The Hull meeting took place on Sunday 20th February (a fuller report of this meeting will appear in next week's issue) and was attended by 60 to 80. Held under the auspices of the Hull Left Youth Forum, the main speakers were again Chris Farley and Ken Coates. A leading light in the Youth Forum, Dave Godman, took the chair. There was considerable interest expressed in the campaign and a small committee to sponsor it locally and work for a Hull delegation to the solidarity conference came into being. Anyone in the Hull area who wants further information should contact: Alan Rooney, 12, Sunnybank, Hull.

## ENFIELD STUDENTS TO SPONSOR VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

At their last meeting the members of the Enfield College of Technology Socialist Society decided to sponsor the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. They will work for a delegation to the National conference from the Enfield area and are to hold a meeting on the question during the next term. Anyone in the Enfield area who wants information should contact: M. Tikley, secretary Enfield College of Technology Socialist Society, Technical College, Queensway, Enfield.

## TRADE UNIONISTS' CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE TO BE ESTABLISHED

Following some preliminary discussions, it had been decided to devote special activities to ensure a good trade union participation in the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and especially a strong trade union delegation to the solidarity national conference. It is planned to write to sympathetic trade union branches to ask them to sponsor the campaign and to ask leading trade union figures to support it. A meeting of active trade unionists <sup>ESs</sup> who are sympathetic to the campaign is in the process of being arranged. It is hoped that all active trade unionists who read The Week will contact P. Jordan, 4, Dane St., Alfred St. Central, Nottingham, if they <sup>can</sup> help. Addresses of sympathetic trade unionists and trade union branches would be especially helpful.

## VIETNAM DAY MEETING TO BE HELD IN LONDON

We have been given the date of the meeting to be held in London to support the Berkeley students' international Vietnam Day. It will be on Friday the 25th of March at the London/Welsh Centre, and a wide range of speakers representing the supporters of the campaign <sup>will</sup> outline the aims of the campaign. Please book this date and start telling your friends.

Ken Tarbuck's analysis of the post-1945 Labour Government is breathtaking if nothing else. One would have thought that it was the generally reactionary context in which that government operated plus the failure to advance beyond its reformist initiatives, rather than its success in executing them, which brought about the crisis on the left. Ken Tarbuck stresses social services and nationalisation- he nowhere mentions the intense implementation of cold-war policy, colonial repression, rearmament, wage-freeze and strike-breaking. Of course the point can be made that the Attlee Government nowhere betrayed socialist principles because it never had any, but this hardly advances the argument. The question of stalinism, while germane, is not fundamental to the present call for unity. It is quite inadmissible to use this as a pretext for excommunicating the C.P., which for its part, does not propose to rake over in a sectarian manner the historical past of other sections of the left. The important point is this: whatever the shortcomings may be, the C.P. is the only considerable organised marxist force in Britain and no effective fight on the British left is possible unless this is taken into account.

Finally, the implied hint that the C.P.G.B. may not be totally behind the N.L.F. is completely objectionable. Even the most superficial acquaintance with current party literature should be sufficient to destroy such an idea. The N.L.F. is quite willing to negotiate- provided that the U.S. abides by the terms of the Geneva Agreements- and the C.P. fully endorses this demand. Ken Tarbuck's article is unfortunately one more example of that sectarianism which is the plague of the British left (C.P. included) and needs to be decisively broken before any advances will be made.

WAR IS NOW TOTAL

from John Attenborough

Ken Tarbuck's rejoinder to Arnold Kettle was disappointing apart from a reminder of the pivotal importance of nationalisation under workers' control. It displayed a flagrant disregard of the realities of power and implied that the end justifies the means. He calls for 'struggle against imperialism until it is defeated'; for a 'policy directed to defeating America and its allies in their overseas adventures'. Has he forgotten the basic lesson of the 50's: war has become total,- and absurd? Guerilla war cannot bypass total war, for as we see in Vietnam, it escalates until there is the naked confrontation of the Super Powers poised for sudden and complete annihilation of each other... Socialists who fight for the survival of the human race and the establishing of peaceful procedures for rapid advance to international justice and prosperity will need realism, stoical perseverance, and programmes formulated at a high intellectual level. I suggest to Mr. Tarbuck that this kind of approach to Vietnam requires, among other things, not sneering at the 1954 Geneva Agreements, but campaigning for their implementation. This in turn requires that we support and attempt to influence those groups and individuals in the U.S. who stand by the Agreements, who accept the autonomy of the NLF, and who have a REAL CHANCE of modifying American foreign policy. For if they, unsocialist though they are, can prevail, then peaceful coexistence will become meaningful and valuable- especially to those Vietnamese and Americans who have to kill and be killed.

One final point: there is a danger of talking of imperialism as though it were a monolithic, immutable monster. We are really talking about a number of states which have dissimilar social, economic, political systems, populated by human beings at various stages of enlightenment. Consequently there are alternative foreign policies to acquiescence in the status quo v. endless/bloody conflict.

## A PROGRAMME FOR A PROGRAMME (An Outline for CSE Branches) by Peter Sedgwick

Local Centres should rely in the first place on their own nearby resources as regards the provision of lecturers and speakers. The aim should be to deal in topics that are of local interest to a labour movement audience; we should envisage people attending and participating because the topic engages them rather than because a particular "name" is on the platform. National or other well-known lecturers can best be used for week-end schools. Left Clubs of a few years ago probably tended to wear out speakers by inviting them long distances to audiences that could not be summoned.

At some point a decision will have to be made as to how far the local Centre should organise gatherings of its own (classes under its own auspices, schools, meetings) and how far try to join with the gatherings of other organisations (speakers to TU branches, co-ops, etc.) If the latter, then as far as possible a consecutive series of attendances should be arranged, preferably with the same speaker, otherwise rapport will not be established properly, and contact will be lost. The suggestions that follow will apply in the main whether or not they are pursued at special CSE meetings.

The main areas that seem to be worth covering are: industrial topics with a social/political implication; local labour history; local civic issues with a democratic or welfare content. It may be possible to introduce sophisticated political topics; by "sophisticated" is meant anything outside the personal life-experience of most workers, and e.g. Vietnam is in this sense a sophisticated issue. If you can manage this without landing up with the selfsame committed Left as you started with, good luck. If a trade union or co-op requests a speaker on a political issue of this sort, you should be equipped to cope. Here are some suggestions for dealing with the more limited but more direct topic.

### 1) Industrial/Social Questions

Examples: Incomes Policy; the Apprenticeship System; Industrial Safety; Contracts and Rule-books; Industrial Unionism at Home and Abroad; Pensions and Benefits; Noise; Monotony and Vigilance in Industry; Redundancy Payments; Dispute Procedures; Work Study - for whom?; Automation and the Workers; Shop Stewards Yesterday and To-day; The Working Week; Overtime and the Family; Disablement and Retraining; Health Risks in the Working Class; Wage Labour and Capital; The Law and the Profits; Workers and the Law; the State and the Bosses; Mergers and Takeovers; the Effects of Night Work; Mental and Manual Labour; Trade Union Democracy; the Drive to Rationalise Industry; the Right to Strike; the Cost of Living - Index and Reality; White Collar Trade Unionism; the Stock Exchange and Industrial Finance.

In addition, functions can be organised around the problems of particular local industries. A local shop-steward and a Socialist social-scientist could make a good combination here; e.g. Men and Rails (covering the situation of railway workers, the role of railways in society, the failure of bureaucratic-capitalist nationalisation). Meetings can be held simply on a theme like: Car Workers Speak for Themselves; the discussion can be tape-recorded and edited for possible publication. Policy reports (like the Hull Anti-Devlin Report) can be produced; they will take time, but once there, form the basis for militant educational activity.

to be continued/  
BERT WYNN: As we went to press we heard of the untimely death of Bert Wynn, one of our sponsors. We will publish an appreciation next week.

This book deals with the extent of poverty in 1953-4 and 1960. As previous recognition of the survival of poverty has been confined almost entirely to the aged, this new study is particularly valuable because it extends the scope of the enquiry to the whole population. The raw materials of the authors were the Ministry of Labour Household Expenditure Survey of 1953-4 and the Family Expenditure Survey of 1960. In both samples the aged were under-represented compared with the population at large, but adjustments are made for this before the final conclusions are given. The authors are also cautious about changes between the two dates and make full allowances for the difference between figures based on expenditure returns and those based on income.

Poverty is a relative term but the usual custom is to measure it by comparison with the minimum subsistence level needed to maintain a family of a certain size in health. The authors have used the N.A.B. scales as a standard which is generally accepted. There was some improvement in the real value of these scales between 1953-50, but the increase was slightly less than the increase in the real living standards of those earning. Households with less than the bare scale rate plus the actual cost of housing are deemed very poor and those with the rate but less than 40% above the rate are counted poor. The NAB disregards small savings and income, and gives additional grants to many recipients of Assistance, so that to extend the poverty range by up to 40% above the bare scale rate is logical. The 1953-4 figures showed 10.1% of all households to be poor and 2.1% very poor. As many of the households were single person households, mainly elderly retired, the percentage of persons is somewhat smaller-7.8% and 1.2% respectively (approx. 4million and 600,000 people). In addition to the elderly retired poverty was found disproportionately often among large households containing wage-earners. 11.5% households of six or more were poor. Over 1/3 of all persons living in poverty belonged to households headed by full-time workers.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH LOW EXPENDITURE 1953-4

<u>Employment status households with low expenditure</u>	<u>Total in sample</u>	<u>Poor persons</u>	
Retired	68.4%	20.4%	49.3%
Sick	4.3%	2.3%	7.2%
Unemployed	3.1%	1.0%	5.3%
Working part-time	4.6%	2.2%	3.6%
Working full-time	19.6%	74.1%	34.6%

One aspect of this study which has caused concern is the number of children living in low expenditure households- in 1953-4 30% of the persons living in such households were children and 8.2% of all children in the sample were living in such households... In 1960... over 41% of the persons living in poverty belonged to households primarily dependent on earnings as the source of income, and 35% depended on pensions as the primary source...

Changes in population structure between 1953-60 partly account for the increase in poverty: the percentage of aged increased from 11.1 to 11.7, and the number of families with dependent children increased by 20%, with 5 children by 26% and with 6 or more by 45%... Professors Townsend and Abel-Smith suggest that the chief lesson for social policy from their survey is the need to give more attention to the problem of poverty among children. Concern for the aged must not be allowed to hide the fact that the aged are less than half the total number of persons living in poverty and the number of children is more than 2/3 that of the aged...

PROTESTS BY AMERICANS AGAINST U.S. BOMBING IN VIETNAM from 'The Militant'

BERKELEY Between 4-5,000 students at the University of California walked out of classes on February 9th to attend a rally against the war. This walk-out climaxed three days of intensive anti-war activity at the Berkeley campus. For the first two days, students attempted to turn their classrooms into discussions on the war. 400 teaching assistants voted to endorse this plan for classroom discussions, and they were held in over  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the classes. Some teachers took votes on the question.

The Vietnam Day Committee has held rallies almost every day for a week, of 500-1,000 students. The administration claims this is a violation of the rules about speakers, but the VDC has been able to hold every rally it has planned. However, the administration is bringing three students up on charges as a result of VDC activities. The VDC now plans to hold a student referendum on the Vietnam War.

NEW ORLEANS A very successful teach-in on the Vietnam War was held at Tulane University on February 5th. Sponsored by the Tulane Liberals Club, it was attended by more than a thousand for most of the night. It went on until 5.00a.m. Amongst the defenders of U.S. intervention were John Piercey of the U.S. State Department and Edward S. Butler III, executive vice-president of the information council of America. By 1.00a.m. the government defenders had granted that the U.S. position in Vietnam is illegal and immoral and relied only on the "national interest" argument. (The State Department man had left by 9.00p.m.) A parade and demonstration against the war was planned for February 12th.

WASHINGTON, D.C. A group of veterans protesting against the war on February 5th in front of the White House handed over their discharge papers, campaign ribbons and medals to be returned to President Johnson as an act of disassociation from the government's Vietnam policies. They were supported by a picket line of several hundred people. Some forty veterans one by one dropped their papers into a box, some of them making brief statements as they did so. White House guards refused to take the papers. Another attempt is to be made to hand them to President Johnson.

NEW YORK Some 1,000 people picketed in front of the United States Mission to the U.N. on February 5th to protest against the bombing of North Vietnam. The demonstration was sponsored by the Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee.

DETROIT On February 1st some 250 marched in downtown Detroit in a hastily-called demonstration to oppose the resumption of bombing of north Vietnam, despite cold weather and snow. This demonstration was called by the Detroit Committee to end the war in Vietnam, and was a success (by Detroit standards) partly because the committee had set up telephone chains in advance to deal with such a contingency.

BOSTON On February 1st, the day after the resumption of the bombing, 100 people marched against the escalation of the war. Signs carried read "Bring the troops home now" and "Stop the Bombing".

Details of an astonishing West German police document setting out in great detail how strikes should be broken were published by the East Berlin Neues Deutschland on December 25th. The newspaper reproduced in photostatic form long extracts from the West German document, which had originally been printed as a confidential supplement to the West German semi-official magazine Die Polizei in April, 1965. The six page plan, calling for close police-employer collaboration, confidential police agents in the trade unions,, and mass arrests of 'agitators', was drafted by Police Commissioner Josef Müller, who works on the staff of the Police College at Hilstrup, North-Rhine-Westphalia.

The document takes the form of an account of an imaginary strike launched by the Metal Workers Union, most militant of the West German trade unions. Here are some extracts:

"After wage negotiations have broken down, members of the Metal Workers Union are polled; 83% of the organised workers declare in favour of trade union measures. Since March 1st 1965 they have been on strike....

"At 6.45a.m. on March 22nd there is a serious clash at the factory gate of the West German Steel Works between a group of between 200 and 300 strikers, obviously under the influence of agitators, and persons willing to work who wish to enter the factory....The reports from the Steel Works, and also a confidential tip from the trade union that similar action is to be expected at other factories, cause the Police President to apply to the Minister of the Interior for support from the Mobile Police, which have been standing by for some days. (Mobile Police in W. Germany are semi-military police forces living in barracks; they are equipped with armoured cars, machine guns etc., ed.)

"The strike situation has now become more acute. Messages have just come in that a group of about 500 persons has rallied in front of the Steel Works. Traffic is blocked. Pamphlets have been distributed calling for forcible measures against persons willing to work, and making propaganda against the Government. Some ring-leaders have been recognised and photographed.....A company of the Mobile Police, together with detectives and watercannon prevents further assemblies at the factory gates, arresting ring-leaders and securing evidence.....

"When a strike threatens, information should be sought on the ...leading personalities, situation of possible strike H.Q.....Contact should be made with the strike leadership and the employers should be asked for the following information: a) Numbers of strikers and persons willing to work. How many are organised in trade unions? b) Which workers are known as radicals? How has their previous behaviour been? c) Details on those willing to work. Do they include foreign workers, and what countries do they come from?...For the gathering of information, detectives should be used individually and in groups. It is useful if they are equipped with cameras, since photos make prosecution easier. Police dogs are useful for guarding factory property; in other cases their use is psychologically dangerous and should be avoided .....For the arrest of ring-leaders, special arrest squads should be formed. All preparations must be made to bring those arrested, under guard, to the arrest cages."

IMPORTANT CORRECTION: The Vietnam Solidarity meeting in Birmingham on Tuesday, March 1st, is to be held at the Council Chamber at the University.

The Kenya Government has banned 'Africa and the World', the monthly magazine published in London. The ban is in reply to an article written by the editor, Mr. Douglas Rogers, in the current issue criticising Kenya's Finance Minister, Mr. James Gichuru, for his televised statement in Lagos during the recent Commonwealth leaders conference, that Southern Rhodesia was not yet ready for majority rule. He said that Africans in Rhodesia were not so advanced as those in West Africa or Kenya. The 'Africa and the World' article said that Mr. Gichuru's views were bringing Kenya into international disrepute and called on other leaders in Kenya to disassociate themselves from his statement. Referring also to derogatory remarks about Vice-President Oginga Odinga which Mr. Gichuru made at a London Press Conference, the article said that Mr. Gichuru was "exploiting to his own advantage the truce that was declared in Kenya for national unity", and exploiting the goodwill of left-wingers to "impose reactionary views and policies on the whole Government and country".

Mr. Douglas Rogers has had a long association with Kenya politics. He was London secretary of the old Congress of Peoples Against Imperialism, and later he was the first general secretary of the M.C.F. He went to Kenya in 1962, and was the first European to join Kenyatta's KANU, and became the first editor of the KANU paper "Pan Africa". He returned to London in 1964 to start "Africa and the World". "Africa and the World" has already been banned by South Africa and the Smith Government in Rhodesia.

INDONESIA: APPALLING SLAUGHTER OF COMMUNISTS

from Pat Jordan

It is about time that there was some movement of protest in this country about the appalling slaughter of communists and others in Indonesia. The carnage is on a much higher level than even the Vietnam war, and when we realise that these people are being killed and maimed for their political ideas we also see that we have a duty to protest. A recent issue of The Economist had this to say: "The rooting out of the PKI has gone further and deeper than even the army had expected...Deaths from the army's mopping up operations have been relatively few. Killing by kris and club has taken the heaviest toll. Estimates of the numbers of killings since October range from 87,000 - officially admitted by the president - to gossip of 350,000. Ghoulish rumours of log-jams of bodies in the rivers of Solo and Malan have reached Jakarta but there is no official confirmation or denial. Army sources estimate the deaths at between 185,000 and 250,000. In the East Java district of Malan a welfare organisation has already registered 400,000 children orphaned since October.. The scourge has spread to Bali, Sumatra and the Celebes....."

COMPANIES BILL - LETTER TO "THE TIMES" FROM MICHAEL P. FOGARTY

I note with astonishment that the Companies Bill leaves the whole industrial relations side of companies out. It does not require publication of labour and other costs important for consultation and negotiation. It does not give employee representatives any rights, such as is written into German law, to receive reports on their company's plans and progress, to access to data needed for negotiating and enforcing agreements, to be present at the Board, or to claim damages if employees' interests are treated unreasonably in the closure, contraction, or transfer of a plant or a major switch in its type of production .....