

The Week

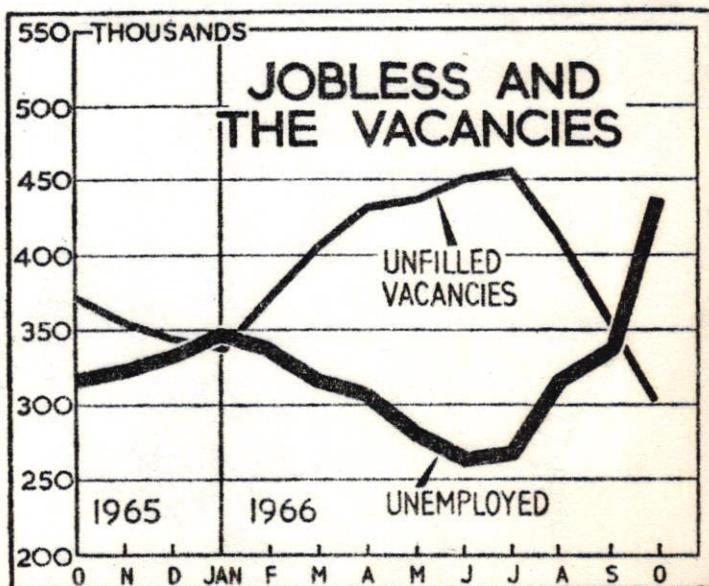
A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
Vol. 6, No.15, 27th Oct. 1966

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War Crimes
Tribunal
rumours
discounted**

THE WILSON

PLAN



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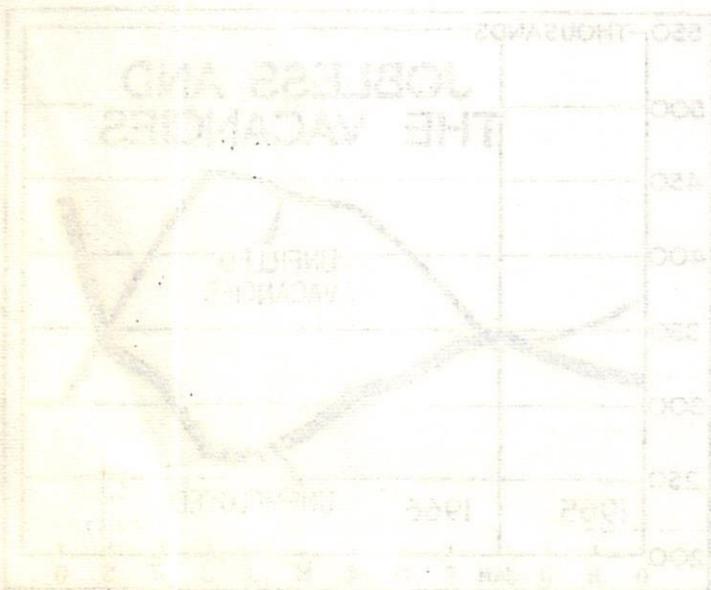
THE WEGM

A HEAVY ANALYST'S SOCIETY
 Vol. 6, No. 1, 1963

THE WILSON

THE

PLAN



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TWO TACTICS FOR FIGHTING WILSON

The picture is not yet clear about events in Parliament on Tuesday. Some 26 Labour M.P.s are reported to have abstained but on the basis of not "making a public display." We hope very much that these reports are not correct for they show, if they are true, a very mistaken attitude towards the problem of fighting the Government's right wing policies. As we have pointed out before, the question of voting against or abstaining is secondary to what will do most to mobilise and inspire opposition to the Government's policies. We believe that the militant trade unionists who are fast becoming disillusioned with the Labour Government, and are thus in danger of rejecting political means of struggle altogether, would be stimulated by a vote against the Government. This is a matter of opinion, but what cannot be doubted is that secret opposition, behind closed doors, is the least likely way of winning their support.

The problem is not to win concessions as the result of "horse-trading" but of fighting to build an alternative leadership to Mr. Wilson and his team. Such an alternative leadership must rest on mass support and a clear understanding of the deep and irreconcilable differences that exist between the present leadership and that which seeks to replace it. Mass support and political understanding of the nature of the differences and the need for a **real** socialist policy and strategy will only come about as a result of a fight. Those who seek to gloss over the differences by concessions, by "give and take" are, regardless of their intentions actually harming the struggle against the Government's Tory policies. Their "objective" role is to make it easier for Mr. Wilson to put across his policies. These are hard words but they express a spirit of regret rather than denunciation. We are not concerned with exposing "fake lefts" in order to justify ourselves. We are concerned with building, by the process of frank and honest discussion and a lot of hard work, a left which will be able to stop the present rot.

The question of whether or not disciplinary measures will be taken against the abstainers is still open. Let the whole of the left unite on this issue: any move to expel, or withdraw the whip from, the rebels must be fought all way.

MR. WILSON'S "INTEGRITY"

Norman Atkinson was quite right when he said that the statement by Gunter that Mr. Wilson's figure of 2% unemployment as being acceptable was after redeployment "reflects on Mr. Wilson's integrity." Frank Cousins was right when he said that had the T.U.C. and Labour Party conference known that this figure meant after redeployment, these two meetings would not have supported the Government's economic policies. It must be said quite bluntly: Harold Wilson lied, and deliberately deceived the movement in order to get votes on record for his policies. He has lied all along to the movement over the incomes policy, Vietnam, relations with the U.S., etc., but this is not because he is dishonest by nature: it is because when one chooses right wing policies, one has to give up all moral integrity.

In a three-quarter page advertisement in the October 14th 'New York Times', seven leaders of the conservative wing of the negro movement attacked the concept of black power. The form of the ad was a "restatement of basic principles". Without mentioning CORE or SNCC or black power, these leaders declare: "There is nothing new about these principles. What is new is the conditions which compel us to restate them- not the least of which is their abandonment by some individuals and groups whose positions are nevertheless frequently interpreted as representing the civil rights' movement." The Rev. Martin Luther King has switched back and forth on this question. When asked if he was considering a campaign in opposition to CORE and SNCC, he replied "Yes". King did not sign the advertisement. On October 15th at a press conference, he endorsed the statement. The 'New York Times' explained this as King's backing of "negro repudiation of black power concepts". But at the same press conference, he said, "It is a false assumption that the so-called white backlash is caused by the slogan 'black power'. Actually the black power slogan has been exploited by the decisionmakers to justify resistance to change." King made a further "clarification" on October 16th, saying he endorsed the four major principles of the advertisement, but he was not signing it because he feared it might be interpreted as an attempt to "excommunicate" organisations like CORE and SNCC. He reiterated his opposition to the black power slogan.

The advertisement stated four principles. The first is rejection of "separatism either moral or spatial". Neither CORE nor SNCC believes in a separate nation, while some black nationalist groups do. Another principle they affirmed was "welcoming" and "urging" the "full cooperation of white Americans in what must be a joint endeavour if it is to prosper. It should go without saying that in seeking full equality for negroes, we cannot and will not deny it to others who join our fight." This misses the point about white support for the negro struggle. It is not a question of denying whites "equality". CORE and SNCC both have white members, but want black leadership. Some black nationalist organisations do not allow any white members. But this too is not "racism in reverse". The negro struggle is after all, the struggle of black people. What is wrong with black people leading their own battles? And the negro people have had experience with white support, especially from rich liberals who "support" the struggle with their money as long as they can control it. This kind of support has almost always been a conservatising influence on the negro movement. The advertisement also says: "We repudiate any strategies of violence, reprisal or vigilantism, and we condemn both rioting and the demagoguery that feeds it." This "principle" amounts to nothing more than joining the racist smear attack on black power as meaning lust for violence. CORE and SNCC do not advocate violence. They advocate negro self-defence against violent racist attacks. The final principle in the ad is commitment to "the attainment of racial justice by the democratic process". They spell out what they mean: "The force of law and its fulfillment in the courts, legislative halls and implementing agencies, the appeal to conscience, and the exercise of the rights of peaceful assembly and petition are the instruments of our choice." Conspicuous by its absence is any desire for gaining political power. One of the most promising features of the black power movement is the possibility of the development of independent black political action to win some real power to begin to change the conditions in the ghettos. While SNCC and CORE do not have an unambiguous stand on this question, we have the example of the Black Panther Party, which is a big step in the direction of winning such power. But all of these leaders are the conscious vote-hustlers for the Democratic Party.

Mile Miles, representing the Youth Forces for National Liberation (Jamaica), is at present in Britain and is planning to address a meeting in Nottingham quite soon. The article below is taken from a recent YFNL statement: "Jamaica is fast approaching boiling point. Strikes, riots and political violence are becoming the order of the day. The policies of both major political parties are becoming more exposed and unpopular - for behind their show case of prosperity and development primitive backwardness and poverty remain the lot of the masses of our people....The rulers of Jamaica have launched a new counter revolutionary offensive since 1962. On the one hand, the Jamaican Labour Party Administration has pledged itself to the service of U.S. imperialism to smother the revolution in blood. On the other hand, the People's National Party has been forced to take up the banner of socialism which they themselves have already trampled underfoot.

...It was reported in New York in October last year that Donald Sangster, Minister of Finance and Acting Prime Minister, was "quite satisfied" with his talks with banking and insurance chiefs in Canada. Sangster said: "I set out to sell Jamaica and to tell them what a wonderful country Jamaica is." With a sinister bluntness Sangster admits his crime. So he and his colleagues have certainly sold Jamaica - right into the pockets of the World Bank, the United States treasury and the Anglo-American monopolies.

We ask Sangster what is wonderful about the conditions of the squatters and the unemployed....of the thousands of underpaid and exploited workers and the illiterate and downtrodden peasantry....about a country that can provide only the mental asylum, the alms house and the prisons for their so-called under-privileged masses, and forces hundreds of thousands...to seek bread in strange and hostile lands?

The only things wonderful in Jamaica at the moment are the millionaires' tourist resorts enjoyed by foreigners; the millions in profits taken out by imperialism; the fabulous limousines and mansions that politicians like Sangster enjoy and the life of luxury and uselessness lived by the..parasites.

All these "wonderful things" are created by the sweat and blood of the Jamaican workers who for over 300 years have been going without proper food, housing and medical care. Many are yet to enjoy the "privilege" of running water and electricity, and many thousands more are yet to see their children given the opportunity of a proper education.

...But the Youth Forces for National Liberation call upon the people to ~~UNITE~~ - forget old party loyalties - and close their ranks against the common enemy. The politicians are fast losing the confidence of the people; their parliamentary antics and ballot-box Western democracy are exposed as a big hoax, a fraud and a deception....as the politicians lose control over the people, their usefulness to the capitalist class is diminished. So the next logical step the capitalist class will take is to replace their discredited and impotent politicians with raw military force and possibly a direct U.S. imperialist take-over. **THIS WE MUST PREVENT.** The mobilising of the people into a united revolutionary third force to remove and replace the existing two corrupt parties is the popular call and the historical necessity in Jamaica at the moment. Only a revolutionary third force can unite the nation and place political power in the hands of the peasants and workers. We call upon patriots, all socialists, and all people in the towns and in the country to rally to the Patriotic Revolutionary banner and to save Jamaica from the old set of corrupt politicians."

U.S. LOSSES OUTSTRIP PRODUCTION IN VIETNAM

In an article in the New York Times, Hanson Baldwin writes: "In one month's operations over Vietnam and Laos, an Air Force squadron based at Ta Khli, Thailand, lost 15 out of 18 aircraft and nine pilots. ... Severe shortages of aircraft and pilots have been created by the steady and increasing attrition of the air war over North Vietnam, plus operational losses all over the world and the failure of the services up to now to retain many of their skilled younger pilots. Navy sources say that except for the squadrons operating from the three carriers at 'Yankee Station' off North Vietnam, virtually all of the rest of their combat squadrons are below strength in either planes or pilots or both. The shortage is so acute that the Navy says it is taking old Lockheed T-33 jet trainers out of storage to supply Naval Air Reserve Units. In turn, the Douglas A-4B models of the light attack aircraft flown by the naval reserve - a model first flown in 1956 - are being transferred to regular Navy squadrons. The A-4B had been virtually out of the regular navy inventory.

"The Air Force is feeling a similar strain. Except for two squadrons, scheduled to be deployed to Southeast Asia, the Tactical Air Command in the U.S. is a training unit, officers say. All of its available squadrons are committed. The shortages have occurred because the losses of certain types of aircraft from combat have been larger for many months than the production rate of comparable replacement aircraft, and because casualties and the resignation rates of pilots have exceeded readily available replacements. The imbalance is attributed in both cases by some officers in both services to the refusal of the Defense Department to authorize expansion of production and training facilities soon enough. Results, in any case, have been a 'draw down' upon inventories, the assignment of pilots from other duties or other types of aircraft to combat flying, and a strain upon personnel.

"Despite a recent authorization by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara for 280 additional aircraft - about 240 of them for the Navy - the production rate of the combat types used by the Navy in Vietnam will not exceed the official loss rate until next year, naval officers say. The Air Force does not expect to reach its full inventory of aircraft until July 1968, given continuance of the present loss rate and production schedule. The losses, both in absolute terms or numbers of aircraft, and in percentages of total sorties flown, have increased for a number of reasons. More and more United States squadrons are being committed to the air war and hence more sorties are being flown over North Vietnam and Laos. Aircraft production, on the other hand, has encountered many, and increasing bottlenecks. Shortages in skilled labor and certain types of material have delayed deliveries. In the last year the lead time (the time between placement of order and delivery) for heavy aluminium extrusions increased from 12 to 50 weeks; the lead time for heavy aluminium forgings doubled.

"The pilot situation in the services is somewhat comparable to the aircraft situation. One naval officer said the Navy had a "shortage" of 1,660 pilots and the Marines had a shortage of about 650. His figures included all billets - ashore as well as afloat, in key administrative staff and non-operational jobs as well as in flying "slots" - that are normally filled by qualified pilots. In both the Navy and Air Force, a "comb-out" of these "billets" has occurred in order to provide qualified aviators for Vietnam. However, this represents a temporary expedient. The Air Force is increasing its training from 1,965 pilots in the fiscal year 1966 to 2,760 this year. However, it is concerned about the pilot resignation rate, for 704 resigned last year."

The following letter was recently sent to the Editor of the New York Herald Tribune:

"Your article concerning the War Crimes Tribunal (5 October) contains several factual errors:

1. The French Government has made no overture of any kind indicating any disapproval whatever concerning the choice of Paris as the venue for the public sessions of the international War Crimes Tribunal next March. On the contrary, Lord Russell received a letter very recently from the French Presidential office expressing appreciation for Lord Russell's remarks on the President's speech in Phnom Penh.

The American Press continues to speculate about official French disapproval, despite the fact that the French Government is on record for refusing to ban the Tribunal, stating that it could only act if there were violation of French law. It is misleading to interpret these words as hostile to the Tribunal.

2. So far from the report attributed to Vladimar Dedijer that the Tribunal would be held in Sweden going undenied, Dedijer himself issued a denial that these words were his or that this was true, which was published widely and distributed by Tanjug, the Yugoslav Press Agency.
3. The constituting sessions of the Tribunal were always planned for a place other than the formal hearings involving witnesses, and these sessions will take place in London in the very near future.

It is a pity that there should be such confusion about the Tribunal's plans, but we must disclaim responsibility for inaccurate and speculative stories published in the American Press before checking with us, and then picked up by the European Press with equal lack of confirmation. I very much hope the welcome interest of the Press in the War Crimes Tribunal will express itself more judiciously, so that the public may be correctly informed."

WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL LITERATURE AVAILABLE

The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation has available the following articles explaining the scope, aims of the proposed War Crimes Tribunal. There is no charge but contributions towards postage and cost would be appreciated.

- "Negotiations or Withdrawal - Which Way to Peace in Vietnam?" by Bertrand Russell
- "Post Script: To the Conscience of Mankind" by Bertrand Russell
- "Civilization at the Bar" by Bertrand Russell
- "Eichmann and Everyman: The Moral Challenge of Vietnam" by Ralph Schoenman
- "Petition in Support of the International War Crimes Tribunal"

Write to the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, 3 & 4 Shavers Place, London, S.W.1.

An Appeal from the
FORT HOOD THREE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Since the Fort Hood Three G.I.'s were courtmartialed they have been held in the maximum security section of the stockade at Fort George Meade, Maryland. There they are awaiting transfer to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where Pvt. David Samas and PFC James Johnson are to serve five years at hard labour, and Pvt. Dennis Mora is to serve three years.

The treatment of the three soldiers at Fort Meade has been harsh and cruel. Not only are the men treated as if they were hardened criminals or potential suicides but they are quarantined from the other men as if they had a terrible disease. Men in nearby cells are punished simply for looking at or talking to one of the Fort Hood Three.

Although the Army contends that the three men must be "segregated" from the other prisoners for "their own protection", the truth of the matter is that the Fort Hood Three are virtual heroes in the eyes of many soldiers. The Army wants to avoid any contact or dialogue between the Fort Hood Three and other G.I.'s who may be moved to oppose the war.

When information about the condition of the men at Fort Meade first reached the Fort Hood Three Defense Committee, Rev. A.J. Muste, co-chairman of the committee sent a telegram of protest to Provost Marshall Cunningham at Fort Meade. A press release was sent out by the Defense Committee which was picked up by the NEW YORK POST. Several local organizations have succeeded in getting their congressmen to protest the treatment. James Weschler, Editorial Page Editor, NEW YORK POST condemned the treatment of the men in an article in the POST on October 10.

Baltimore and Washington D.C. groups received considerable publicity when they staged several demonstrations outside Ft. Meade a couple of weeks ago.

The Defense Committee urges all supporters of the Fort Hood Three to do the following in connection with the treatment of the three men:

1. Reproduce the October 7 letters of the men and distribute them widely to both civilians and G.I.'s.
2. Use the letters in attempting to get prominent local figures, Congressmen, etc., to protest the treatment of the men.
3. Organize massive letter writing campaigns to: Captain Brixton, Confinement Officer, Post Stockade, Fort George Meade, Maryland.

EDITORIAL NOTE: The letters referred to in the text of this page, are being reproduced by the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and can be obtained from them (please send s.a.e.), on request. Please write to: Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, 8 Roland Gardens, London S.W.7. Further information on this case of the three American service-men who are being victimized because they refused to fight in Vietnam, can be obtained from Fort Hood Three Defense Committee, 5 Beekman Street, 10th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10038.

ONE MILLION JAPANESE STRIKE AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION

In the biggest political strike in Japan since the war, nearly a million Japanese workers stopped work on October 21st, in protest against U.S. aggression in Vietnam. The strike, called by Japan's Sohyo trade unions and the National Council of Independent Trade Unions was preceded by a series of mass meetings all over Japan, and demonstrations in which there were a number of clashes with police. Japan's coal-miners led the strike with all of them staying out for 24 hours, while railwaymen, teachers, Civil servants and others went on strike for shorter periods.

A statement by the Japanese Socialist Party said the success of the strike showed that the Japanese people were opposed to Premier Sato's policy of co-operation with the U.S. and its aggression in Vietnam. The strike was all the more significant as it took place in defiance of the Japanese Government's threats to punish workers joining what it termed an "illegal political strike".

JAPANESE COMPLICITY IN VIETNAM WAR

The following article which appeared in the latest issue of the ECONOMIST shows just how far Japanese big business and its Government, are involved in the Vietnam war:

"The Japanese will not be at next week's Manila meeting of America's allies in the Vietnam war, since officially they are not involved in it. Yet not only is Japanese industry "uninvolved" to the tune of £200 million this year in American military procurement, plus another £500 million in export indirectly due to the war to Formosa, South Korea, the Philippines and the United States; a Japanese-manned fleet of 25 tank landing ships is operating with the Seventh Fleet off Vietnam. The 2,300-ton vessels, which sail under the American flag, carry supplies and sometimes soldiers. They call at ports along the coast and go up rivers to American battle positions. As convoys approach South Vietnam, they are protected by Seventh Fleet air patrols and by escorts of destroyers or minesweepers. So far none has been attacked at sea, but three have been fired on by guerrillas. One Japanese seaman has been killed and another wounded.

Crews are recruited by American naval offices in Yokohama and Sasebo, an American naval base, by the city employment bureau and by a branch of the shipping bureau of the Japanese transport ministry. Though crews sail without the protection of Japanese laws on conditions and insurance of seamen, waiting lists for the job are long and few men have quit. Unskilled seamen are paid a basic salary of £40 a month, captains up to £240. "Hazardous duty" pay enables the average seaman to send home about £130 a month. On top of this come "attack bonuses": £27 for an attack at sea, £18 if the ship is attacked while it is berthed.

Japan's opposition parties have missed few opportunities to protest against the use of Japanese seamen in the Vietnam war under an agreement that was originally made without the knowledge of the opposition. They are waiting for the first heavy casualties to step up pressure on the Liberal-Democrat government. The prime minister, Mr. Sato, evades official responsibility by calling the sailors "mercenaries" - as indeed they are. But American recruiting officers, recognising the political dangers of the deal, have begun hiring replacements in South Korea and Okinawa."

SEAMEN'S UNION APPOINTS JIM SLATER

Mr. Jim Slater has been appointed full-time North-East Coast district secretary of the National Union of Seamen. The appointment, made by the union executive, is a vote of confidence in a popular seamen's leader attacked by Mr. Wilson in the Commons during last summer's strike.

BUILDING SITES TO STOP ON NOVEMBER 7

With anger mounting on construction sites throughout the country at the freezing of a 2½d - 3d an hour increase, building workers are to stage a national one-day strike on November 7. The strike call has come from the rank and file London Building Workers' Joint Sites Committee under the slogan "Smash the Freeze".

The pay increase, part of a three-year package deal, was due to operate for a million men from next month but under the Prices and Incomes Act it has been postponed until May 1967. Bonus payments have also been put off. Several of the major construction sites in the London area have already announced their support for strike action, and Merseyside workers are making plans for the stoppage after yesterday's walkout by contracting electricians.

LEGAL CONTROL OF STRIKES INEFFECTIVE

Experience showed that additional legal sanctions against unionists breaking with procedures and agreements were not likely to lead to any reduction in strikes, Mr. A.J. Marsh says in a Paper authorised by the Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations. Mr. Marsh, a senior research Fellow in industrial relations at Oxford, contends that attempts to enforce procedures and agreements in Britain would involve both a change in their character and in the attitude of the parties towards them.

"Certainly disputes would become much more a matter for legal decision, although there is nothin in the British legal tradition which would suggest that lawyers are adept at handling the problems arising out of industrial relations. Procedures themselves would have to be largely re-written in a much more rigid way, particularly at shop floor level. It is not that strikes are not a problem, but it seems more useful to study the actual circumstances of strikes, rather than rely on overall disciplinary remedies backed by law," he argued.

A SOCIALIST SOLUTION FOR THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

The recently formed Coventry branch of the Centre for Socialist Education has organized a meeting with Jack Jones, assistant General Secretary, TGWU and Hugh Scanlon, Executive Councilman, AEU as speakers, (Both speakers in their personal capacity.), on Friday 4th November at 7.30 p.m. at The Municipal Staff Canteen, Derby Lane, off Broadgate, Coventry. Tickets available at 1/- each from Mrs. Patricia Knight, 9 Thirlmere Close, Hawthorn Lane, Coventry. Telephone 64320.

The following is the text of a leaflet distributed by the Transport and General Workers Union to explain why the East Yorkshire busmen are on strike:

NO BUS TODAY?

We, the bus crew members of the T. & G.W.U., regret the public inconvenience caused by the refusal of E.Y.M.S. MANAGEMENT to provide a decent service for the public and decent conditions for the crews.

WHY ARE WE ON STRIKE?

There are two issues:

1. East Yorkshire and Corporation buses share routes in the town - but wages and bonuses are agreed separately for the two Undertakings.

Hull Corporation have agreed to a $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ pay increase and long service - E.Y.M.S. REFUSED TO EVEN TALK ABOUT IT!

The E.Y.M.S. have tried to impose extra work on these share routes on the bus crews. Routes where E.Y.M.S. crews would be getting up to 30/- a week LESS than Corporation crews for identical work.

For six weeks we have been telling the Management - NO INCREASE in this work until you negotiate about the pay for it. FAIR WARNING - but the Management was so indifferent to BOTH your inconvenience and our conditions that they didn't even arrange to discuss it AMONG THEMSELVES until 9th Nov. They still sought to IMPOSE these services - knowing the deep-seated feeling of the crews.

2. Most people travel in the peak hours. Some of our members are required to work these three spells during the day - but though they are at the disposal of the Company for 11 hours of the day, they are only paid the $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours worked. MANAGEMENT again are trying to INCREASE these unpopular duties - but REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE them - as far as they are concerned bus crews are objects that make buses go - to be used and discarded as the Company feel fit.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We have offered to provide Hospitals with the services to convey Nurses to Work and Visitors to Patients - without pay. E.Y.M.S. MANAGEMENT refuse to allow it unless we run all other services.

OUR OFFER STILL STANDS!

We will return to work on the Schedules operative on the day before the strike, Saturday 15th October, if: (a) the COMPANY agrees to NEGOTIATE over the difference between Corporation and E.Y.M.S. pay on the same routes, (b) the Company agrees to NEGOTIATE the spells of duty which are unpopular. BY NEGOTIATE we mean mutual agreement, not the MANAGEMENT telling us what they intend to do - and walking out when we put the problems of the crews.

The issues at dispute here are also National issues which have been before the Council and which the Employers refuse to discuss. The ONLY theme in their mind is that agreed practices should be eliminated..... Now we ask for your

S.O.G.A.T. SLATES WILSON'S "TORY POLICIES"

In a pamphlet being circulated among its 220,000 members the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades accuses the Government of "pursuing Tory policies". SOGAT's members in the daily newspaper industry have been given notice by the Department of Economic Affairs that the Government intends to forbid payment of a 2s-a-week cost-of-living bonus. In the pamphlet SOGAT's executive states: "We oppose the wage freeze, therefore, because it is based upon an erroneous policy; in short the Government is pursuing Tory policies. Should we give up our trade union rights and responsibility for such policies? SOGAT says No! The Government Ministers have said they had no wish to use compulsion, but who put the restriction and freeze laws on the Statute? Who brought them in? SOGAT did not; the Government did, and they did so with clear intent, i.e. to use them to restrain wages and trade union activity by compulsion.

"The Government Ministers have been blackmailing the TUC and the whole movement for over a year by threatening that unless they acquiesce they will be compelled by law. We in SOGAT are not just knockers at the Government, we are genuinely worried when we hear Government Ministers say that free collective bargaining has come to an end and that the Government will now intervene. If the pattern is to be shown by the NPA bonus, if it is not paid, then over the short period involved, this puts £40,000 straight into the pockets of the newspaper proprietors. But millions of pounds are involved elsewhere in industry. Are prices being reduced as a result? No, on the contrary, they continue to rise without legal restriction; increased dividends and profits prevail."

"WASHINGTON POST" COMPARES 1966 WITH 1926

The Washington Post of October 24th took the British Government to task for its economic policy and says that sooner or later - "perhaps before the decline in the British demand for imports harms other countries" - a more effective and humane alternative to deflation will be found. The accounts of industrial unrest that is following in the wake of Labour's deflation bear a disturbing resemblance to the events of 1925-26 when Winston Churchill then Chancellor of the Exchequer, returned Britain to the gold standard at the parity", the newspaper says in a leading article. An effort to validate that decision by reducing wage rates led to a disastrous general strike."

MR. RICHARD MARSH ADVOCATES COMPETITION

The extent to which Labour has adopted Tory criteria in relation to nationalization is shown by a recent item in the Financial Times:

"Mr. Richard Marsh, Minister of Power, last week replied to critics of certain appointments to the Organising Committee for the National Steel Corporation. Many of the arguments were "indicative of some of the mythology which surrounds public ownership", he told a meeting in London of the National Federation of Scrap Iron Steel and Metal Merchants. "We really must get rid of the idea that taking an industry into public ownership places it in an economic vacuum where it can be isolated from the chilly winds of commercial competition", he continued. "When the Government decided to nationalise the steel industry it decided it was going into business, and that is the only successful approach to running an industry like this, regardless of who owns it."

"..a comparison of the cost of the two sets of proposals shows an addition to the wage bill of 38% to satisfy the trade union proposals and 10% to satisfy the employers' proposals. The gap between these two figures is very wide indeed and we do not think that much progress can be made with this method of settlement until after the amount has been determined. So we shall deal with the amount first and we must say at once we think the employers have now gone as far as it is reasonable to go. Certainly that is what they have aimed to do."

You've guessed it! Devlin, ever ready with his praises of employers' "reasonableness", back at his favourite occupations! The above quotation is the heart of Devlin's latest proposals (just published by H.M.S.O., Command 3104, 1s.9d) to "solve" the deadlock over the pay increase which is to accompany so-called decasualisation in the ports. Devlin goes on to faithfully report the employers' contention that a large proportion of the extra cost "will have to be passed on in the form of increased charges. They cannot in this respect disregard the national interest and in this respect they may well be criticised for offering too much rather than too little." What astonishing cheek!

We should perhaps remind readers that a few months ago, another Government appointed Inquiry, the Pearson Report on the seamen, spoke of the shipowners' "reasonable" offers, beyond which they couldn't possibly go and of how devoted those same shipowners were to the "national interest". May we also remind you that the seamen hit back in no uncertain terms, demonstrating quite clearly (in Not Wanted on Voyage, the N.U.S. militants' pamphlet, produced in Hull and taken up by the union nationally) that because of the secrecy which surrounds shipowners' profits, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE THE "REASONABLENESS" OF ANY WAGE OFFER. The dockers must respond in the same way. Their union claims have been rebuffed by Devlin almost completely. Local union comment on Humberside from Brother Dave Shenton, the TWGU regional secretary, has already shown the disquiet felt by dockers. He has said: "great play has been made of the £25 a week, but there is no guarantee of this wage. Devlin merely says that the average earnings should be £25 a week. High and low tides are of no use to us. Under present conditions, some dockers could be earning £30 a week while others could earn only a few pounds."

Most port employers are private companies, with no obligation to publish profits. Others amalgamate their profits from stevedoring with profits from other activities - particularly shipping, which has special and totally unjustified privileges to maintain secret profits. All we can discover is the profits of the public wharfing companies in London. A calculation made by the Hull Port Workers' Committee showed that in January last, those profits had increased 300 times as much as piece-rates for dockers. The dockers said then that the employers could only prove them wrong by OPENING THE BOOKS TO UNION INSPECTION. And that's what they must respond to Devlin's sermons about "reasonable employers."

Then there is the question of HOW the increase is to be paid. The unions wanted a straightforward wage increase, the employers wanted it in the form of a "modernisation" payment. This frankly called, by Devlin, a "sweetener"! The bitter pill to be swallowed with this meagre sugar lump, is an all-out attack on "restrictive" practices, and particularly continuity rules. The employers' aim is to "buy out" the dockers' controls. Devlin backs them

continued over/

Devlin proposals continued/

to the hilt. To yield, he says, on the "modernisation payment" principle, would be to lose "the battle" (for modernisation) before it was begun. Elsewhere, the Report does make clear that the unions now understand what Voice has argued all along: that decasualisation is being pressed now by employers as a means of increasing their control over the dockers. The unions told Devlin that "decasualisation can no longer be regarded as the benefit it would have been if it had been introduced when it was first asked for. Even then there would have been two sides to it - the advantage of a regular wage against the loss of freedom that is inherent in casual employment. There would have been times in the past when the balance would have come down heavily in favour of the regular wage. Now it is the other way round. Today there is not the same uncertainty about obtaining work."

So Devlin's £2 a week "modernisation" payment aims to buy out the dockers' hard won freedoms which, limited as they are, should be the stepping stone to greater things, workers' control, and not sold out so cheaply.

N.B. This article has been especially written for the November issue of Humberside Voice.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS!

from Dave Windsor

In a paper to the British Nuclear Energy Society, Dr. Glen T. Seaborg, Chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, predicted that by 1980 plutonium production will have reached a level sufficient for "tens of bombs a day." Dr. Seaborg's answer to this grim prospect is to call for an extensive system of controls. I would put another point of view: if by 1980 we are likely to have enough H. bombs made every day to wipe out civilisation, surely the question of socialism as a worldwide system is a matter of urgency?

NOTTINGHAM READERS! - BOOK THESE DATES!

Nottingham supporters of The Week have organised two activities to raise funds for the journal. There are:

A BONFIRE NIGHT SOCIAL AND BARBECUE at Cloud House, The Severals, Stapleford on Saturday, November 5th starting at 8.00.

This will be a really enjoyable evening with a fireworks display, outdoor cooking, plenty of music, drink and food (rumour has it that there is to a "Robin Hood" raid on a rich farm and the roasting of an ox to feed the poor Week supporters). Dr. John Daniel's home is somewhat difficult to find so in our next issue we are to publish a map showing the way. Everyone will be welcome to this event and if people from outside of Nottingham require accommodation they should let us know post-haste.

WEEK JUMBLE SALE on Saturday November 12th. We will be giving full details of this next week, but in the meantime anyone who can help or provide jumble should contact either Mrs. Whawell, telephone Nottingham 281833, or Alf Gardner, telephone Nottingham 42963.