

The Week

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on Russia to
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Washington

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
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CROSSMAN DROPS THE VEIL

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Washington

THE WEEK

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A NEW WAY FOR THE WEEK

CROSSMAN DROPS THE VEIL

Washington Post

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CROSSMAN DROPS THE VEIL

The truth is out: those of us (including Ian Mikardo) who said that the incomes policy of the Government was suspiciously like Mussolini's corporate-state policies have had powerful vindication. This has come in an indirect manner from, of all people, Richard Crossman. When he said that there can be no return to the free-for-all which existed before July 20th, he revealed that the Cabinet mean to permanently regulate wages with the full force of the law. Gone is any pretence that the wage freeze is a temporary measure designed to meet a crisis situation.

Crossman's (deliberate?) slip of the tongue must be used in the growing campaign to defeat the Wilson Government at Brighton. As we show on page 6, the tiny majority gained for the Government at the Blackpool TUC Conference was achieved purely and simply because two unions - USDAW and NUM - defied all rationality by voting both ways on the vital questions of the wage freeze and legal sanctions against unions; another completely and utterly defied its conference policy.

Every nerve must be strained to reverse these decisions; every organisation which is going to be represented at the Brighton Labour Party Conference must be forced to face up to the questions: Are they going to throw their vote behind measures designed to permanently shackle the unions in this country? Are they going to support this Government in introducing measures which will be an ideal weapon for a future Tory Government? Or are they going to remain true to the traditions of the Labour Party - the party which was created to defend trade union rights - by throwing out the incomes policy, the wage freeze and all anti trade union measures? We must go all out to defeat Wilson at Brighton.

AN URGENT APPEAL .. AN URGENT APPEAL .. AN URGENT APPEAL ..

As an act of faith with our readers, and particularly with those who have responded to our urgent call for financial help - we have resumed weekly publication earlier than planned, despite the saving which could have been effected by completing our summer schedule. A fortnightly coverage is simply not sufficient to deal with to-day's fast moving political developments, and we appeal to all readers who have not already done so to please, please, renew their subscriptions and send us what donations they can afford.

SARTRE CALLS ON RUSSIA TO DETER WASHINGTON (from Les Temps Modernes)

After having fruitlessly, but with impunity, bombarded "chosen objectives" in North Vietnam in 1964; after having increased their repressive ground forces in South Vietnam to 300,000 men - stated to be 600,000 by the end of this year; after having poisoned crops, burned forests, destroyed villages, deported the inhabitants of entire regions, tortured and executed prisoners and "suspects"; after having unloaded on this small country, in 15 months, a third of the tonnage of bombs (rounded out between times by the use of napalm, harmless gases that nevertheless kill, and slivers of steel) dropped on all of Western Europe during the fifty-six months of the second world war; after having systematically bombarded, beginning with last year, the roads, bridges, railroads, buildings, (including hospitals and schools) of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and all that fruitlessly, but with impunity, the United States began bombarding Hanoi and Haiphong at the end of June. They know the Vietnamese will not capitulate despite everything; neither the peasant fighters of the south who took up arms again in 1959 on their own initiative to liberate themselves from a regime imposed from abroad; nor the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, which is defending, alone, at a price without precedent in history, the right - and the duty - that a socialist state has to prevent the crushing of a revolution which surged up by itself in the other half of the same country.

That is why the American escalation will not halt at this point. Its next steps envisage the destruction of all organized social activity in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The American air force is preparing to bomb the dykes of the Red River, thus wiping out all the Tonkinese rice cultivation and a good part of the ten million inhabitants of the Delta; the American infantry is preparing to land on the shores of North Vietnam. These next steps of the escalation are known as the earlier ones were known a long time in advance. The United States is deliberately taking the risk of a world war because, in view of the internal division in the socialist camp, they consider this risk to be very small. Their aim, which goes far beyond Vietnam is to demonstrate:

1. That imperialism has enough forces to crush, there or anywhere else, a victorious revolutionary movement, whether or not it is armed;

2. That every socialist state that tries to prevent this repression will itself be pitilessly annihilated, even if the revolution that it seeks to aid has broken out in the other half of the same nation;

3. That despite the solemn mutual defense treaties which bind this state to the rest of the socialist world, it will be abandoned by them, so formidable is the warlike determination and the strategic superiority of the United States;

4. That, consequently, every attempt, armed or peaceful, which tends to change the social and international relations imposed by American imperialism, is a hopeless undertaking anywhere in the world for a long time to come.

This demonstration has not yet been completed but it is well on the way. For six years imperialism has been on the offensive in the entire world, making and unmaking regimes, in Santo Domingo, Brazil, West and Central Africa, Indonesia, Bolivia, Argentina... In the wake of the American Aggression against Vietnam, the most extreme and obscurantist reaction moves forward on all fronts, without the Wilsons, the Brandts, the Mitterands, the Mollets, the Nennis, who protest very politely - for isn't Johnson irascible and doesn't one have to have his ear in order to influence this great American? - taking into account that imperialism, at its present pace, can

soon dispense with their loyal services.

In this situation humanitarian and pacifist phraseology is as disgusting as praise of the Gaullist strategy is idiotic. Actually de Gaulle does nothing to aid the struggle of the Vietnamese people; he is using both that struggle and the American gliding toward a war against China to restore to European imperialism a part of its lost independence. That oppressed peoples should seek to derive advantage and borrow arms from the weakest - and therefore the less dangerous - imperialism against the most powerful is entirely in order and a matter of tactics. But to take that as a pretext for identifying Gaullist imperialism with anything progressive only reveals the vacuity of the international strategy to which opportunism leads. Lack of clarity, cowardly waiting, "realism" are the grave of the socialist and revolutionary movement; they prepare further defeats as surely as non-intervention against Spanish fascism in 1936 prepared 1940 and its sequel. However, the obvious parallel is not only with the war in Spain but also with the capitulations which preceded and followed the Munich agreement.

The United States is convinced that the Soviet Union will retreat to the very end before engaging in any test of strength. It believes that a provocation against China will not make the Soviet camp budge. It thinks it can coerce China either to lose face by remaining passive before the annihilation and occupation of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam or to provide them with the pretext, by its reaction, to destroy its nuclear centres and, if that is not enough, to transform the Chinese cities into immense charnel houses. They calculate that the USSR will watch the humiliation or massacre of the Chinese without acting. They calculate that after that the USSR will be glad to grasp the bloody hand of America and sign a new global Munich pact. Is this calculation insane? If so, it is high time to say so. Each week that passes without the socialist camp fixing precise limits, the breaching of which will entail direct reprisals, renders the unfolding the American plan more probable. Each new aggression against the People's Republic of Vietnam narrows the margin of manoeuvre for the socialist camp and comes close to the moment when it will be confronted with the worst dilemma - general capitulation or general war.

The incapacity to fix this limit and threaten the United States, before any new phase of the escalation, with "graduated reprisals" of the counterescalation, is disheartening and tragic. As easy to measure out as the American escalations, the counterescalation of the socialist powers would have the superiority of being legitimate and effective. The Aero-naval bases and the installations of the American Seventh Fleet are located at Formosa, at Okinawa, in Thailand, in the Philippines, in the Gulf of Tonkin. Seven years ago, the Soviet artillery demonstrated its ability to hit a target 10,000 kilometers away. To proclaim that there is a strict limit beyond which one would return blow for blow; to assure, while so doing, support to all the peoples discouraged by the American killings as well as by their own inability to aid Vietnam which is fighting for them all; to deliberately assume the risk of war to-day is the surest way to avoid the choice tomorrow between the reality of an imposed war and the destruction, one after the other of the revolutionary states and movements of Asia and elsewhere.

The Elections

That the Vietnam elections were confined to areas under U.S. control, that no pro-communist - nor even pro-neutralist candidates were permitted to stand, and that the ballot itself was open to every sort of manipulation appear to have done nothing to blunt President Johnson's enthusiasm for the declared result. To its record of support for a long line of corrupt governments in Vietnam the American administration now adds its sponsorship of this farce of an election.

So brazen and indefensible has become American support for the totally discredited Saigon regime that few (outside British Government circles of course) are prepared to make the moral somersaults necessary to condone it. On the eve of the election the 'Daily Telegraph' effectively discredited the results in advance by a report from its Washington correspondent that "a prosperous merchant in Dien Hoa province near Saigon, who is running for a seat in South Vietnam's 117-man Constituent Assembly, has been busily bribing voters." U.S. Government officials with whom he had discussed this had actually welcomed this "investment in corruption as an indication that the campaign was being taken seriously" ! The report sums up the calling of the elections as "a dramatic, headline snatching gamble ... by President Johnson ... to steal the limelight from Senator Fulbright on the eve of the congressional hearings on Vietnam and to deprive him of argument about the Administration's predilection for dictators."

Vietnam Photographic Exhibition

Coinciding with the TUC Annual Conference, the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation's Photographic Exhibition on the Vietnam War opened in Blackpool last week. With such a horrific - and heroic - story as the Vietnamese struggle for independence there is a temptation to concentrate an exhibition on the atrocities, and certainly enough material is readily available to line the walls of the largest hall with documentary and photographic evidence of the brutal, pitiless cruelties inflicted by US forces on the people whom President Johnson has described, in a revealing off-the-cuff phrase, as "yellow dwarfs".

Instead of such a non-stop catalogue of horror, the Exhibition attempts the more difficult task of portraying something of the history and nature of the struggle and meets head-on the inevitable questions as to what "the other side" is doing. The successes of the NLF's resistance, as well as its administrative role in the liberated areas, are all graphically displayed.

The risk of such an approach was that the general public, and particularly the uncommitted public, would hurry from atrocity photograph to atrocity photograph, ignoring the intervening displays and linking commentaries. Instead the response has been astonishingly serious and intense, with nearly every visitor working slowly and methodically through the Exhibition, often turning back to re-check various facts and figures.

Vietnam Exhibition continued

Presented in this context of the immorality and illegality of the American presence, which is itself a crime against peace, the atrocities make a much deeper impact. Undoubtedly the uncommitted visitors were shocked to the core, but they were shocked, also, into considering, for the first time, the real nature of the struggle.

In Blackpool the Exhibition was sponsored by 20 trade unions and was visited by many delegates to the Conference. Over 300 signatures were obtained for a petition pledging support for the call for a War Crimes Tribunal to examine charges of war crimes against the United States of America. Numerous enquiries were also received about the future tour of the Exhibition. A London date is to be announced in the near future, and the Exhibition is already booked for Brighton at the time of the Labour Party Conference.

Further enquiries are welcomed from organisations and individuals who can offer suitable accomodation and some assistance in local publicity. The Exhibition, which comprises nearly 200 photographs, maps and other exhibits from North and South Vietnam, takes up a total 200 ft. wall space, but half of this can, if necessary, be arranged on stands which travel with the Exhibition and which can be readily adapted to different shapes and sizes of halls. In view of the Exhibition's transport costs and the desirability of planning an economic tour, early applications would be appreciated, and should be made to Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, 3/4 Shavers Place, Haymarket, London, SW.1. Tel. Whitehall 4209.

GOVERNMENT BAN ON VIETNAM DEMONSTRATION

Just two weeks before the Demonstration which was to have marched from Trafalgar Square to the Labour Party Headquarters at Transport House, the Vietnam Solidarity Committee has been advised by the Ministry of Public Works that they cannot permit the use of Trafalgar Square. No reason is given, other than that the "decision has been reached after full consideration."

The decision shows the Government's obvious dislike for democratic expression on an issue on which it is particularly sensitive. The Vietnam Solidarity Campaign will not allow this petty minded, bureaucratic decision from preventing it going ahead with its organised protests against the Labour Government's complicity in the Vietnam War.

WILLESDON CENTRE FOR SOCIALIST MEETING

A Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21st at 8.00 pm. at Anson Hall, Anson Road, London, NW.2. The subject: "A Programme for the Left - against Wilson's policies". The speakers will be Pat Jordan (The Week), and Tony Cliff (Labour Worker)

BLACKPOOL - THE FRAUDULENT VICTORY by a Special Correspondent

The victory for the Government's economic policies at Blackpool has been widely described as a hollow one - itself a towering overstatement of the narrow margin by which legislation was accepted, and one which carefully overlooks the means by which it was obtained. With the vote safely in the bag, Richard Crossman has raised the curtain on the Government's future intentions by making it quite clear that the freeze was not introduced merely as a 12-month interruption of normal practice. Admittedly, to many of us the curtain was no more than a thin veil in the first place but it was apparently thick enough for the myopic atmosphere at Blackpool.

The effect of this deliberate misrepresentation by the Government of its intentions was heightened by two other major factors. Firstly, the utter inconsistency of the stands taken by USDAW and the NUM on two of the motions. As the following table shows this alone is enough to nullify the vote on one or other of the two final motions:

Union and Block Vote	General Council Report accepting standstill	Composite motion supporting standstill	Composite motion opposing standstill	Composite motion against early warning legislation
TGWU (1,444,000)	Against	Against	For	For
AEU (1,049,000)	For	For	Against	Against
NUGMW (796,000)	For	For	Against	Against
NUM (447,000)	For	For	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>FOR</u>
USDAW (350,000)	Against	Against	<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
NALGO (349,000)	Against	Against	For	For
ETU (293,000)	Against	For	Against	Against
NUR (255,000)	For	For	Against	Against

The second factor is the NUGMW's defiance of its own conference policy. Union members have the remedies within their own hands without recourse to the law. Nevertheless, it is instructive to note what was said by 'Justinian', the legal correspondent of The Financial Times: Commenting on the result of last week's court case against union officials, he wrote: "The judge ruled that the reversal of union policy by the executive committee was in breach of the rules as a defiance of the May Congress. ... If the union's rules had been broken, why then did the court not grant the one and only remedy, namely an injunction to restrain action which would be unlawful? Once the union officials had voted at Blackpool no other remedy the court might give would be of the slightest value. ... If officials transgress the rules then the members' rights are to that extent infringed. It seems odd that the courts should countenance transgressions by union officials to the extent of denying the only effective remedy available."

SMASH THE FREEZE - FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT

The Industrial Shop Stewards' Defence Committee has issued a leaflet on the Wage Freeze, from which the following extracts have been taken:

Prices will not be Frozen: Everyone knows that many prices have increased since July 20th. As the Financial Times put it ... "in fact, there has been no price freeze. The section in prices in the July White Paper does not amount to anything approaching a universal standstill on prices." There can be no machinery to ensure that the prices in hundreds of thousands of shops up and down the country are frozen - as we already know to our cost.

The Government's blanket refusal of increases contracted for and agreed months in advance of the freeze contrasts strangely with the exceptions permitted to manufacturers for price increases due to taxation, increased import charges, seasonal changes in supply and increased costs of components. In fact many food prices are excluded from the freeze altogether. The freeze, (like Incomes Policy) is a fraud. The effect of price increases without wages following is a planned decrease in wages.

The Employers will take the Hint: In many cases the employers will find the wage freeze and the credit restrictions an excuse to cut fringe benefits and bonuses. The attack on long established rights and conditions will be stepped up by the bosses. Short time, and above all unemployment, also mean nothing but a slashing of workers' wages. The Government is creating the framework in which the employers can most effectively fight organised workers.

Unemployment: To justify Incomes Policy, Wilson and Brown argued that wage restraint was the necessary alternative to unemployment. Now we are getting wage cuts and unemployment. Pryke, an ex-member of Wilson's DEA, stated that the figure of unemployment could reach a million by the winter after next. The City keeps its dividends, the bosses keep their profits and the workers lose their jobs.

Cause of the Crisis: The real causes of the crisis are, first, military spending abroad; second, the export of private capital overseas. In the present year the estimated loss on the balance of payments will be about £220 millions. But military expenditure abroad will be £650 millions; and private capital export, £450 millions. The crisis is a crisis of the capitalist system. It is caused by the bosses. Let them pay for it.

We must have a programme to fight the freeze: No sacking, share the work. If the employers are unable to keep a factory open, let the State take it over. Fight for rank and file control of the workers' organisations and against Government intervention in trade union affairs. Pledge full support for all workers engaged in strike action to defend conditions. In the TGWU there are sections (i.e. tank drivers) who could beat the freeze hands down. Let Cousins and his followers match their verbal radicalism with determined and meaningful action.

REDUNDANCIES

by Willie Thompson

Hard on the heels of almost complete short-time working at the B.M.C. plant at Bathgate in West Lothian, came the announcement from the North British Steel factory in the same town that 100 of their employees are to receive similar treatment, and in the same area, 46 workers are due to be laid off from the West Lothian brickworks. In the west of Scotland, major sackings at Singer's of Clydebank have been followed by the news that I.C.I. will slow down by a year construction work on its projected nylon-polymer plant in Ayrshire, and it is reported that about 50 workers there have been offered "golden handshakes" to retire earlier than normal. By far the harshest blow, however, has been the fact that discontinuance of night shift working at the Rootes Pressings car factory of Linwood has meant the dismissal of 500 production workers. In the same week 80 night shift workers attending a factory gate meeting on a victimisation issue found the gates closed against them and were locked-out for the remainder of the shift.

RISING PRICES

The Scottish Undersecretary of State, J. Dickson Mabon, has recently been having intensive meetings with over 50 local authorities, warning them, among other things, that contractors are forcing up the price of council houses in excess even of the extent permitted by the government. He promised no intervention of any sort but suggested rather a switch to industrialised building methods..... In Lanarkshire the Scottish Special Housing Association are to raise the rents of 800 of their houses. Dundee Corporation has taken a decision to do likewise, and though efforts are being made by the Labour Group to reverse it, this appears almost impossible to accomplish. Many of those redundant and on short time in West Lothian will also find themselves faced with a rates increase, and in East Lothian the County Council is raising its rents. There is talk about the possibility of increased tolls on the Fourth Road Bridge as the Joint Board sinks further into debt and finds the volume of traffic insufficient to meet its obligations.

During the week-end September 3-4 the Scottish Labour Party's annual Women's Conference was held in Falkirk. The press was excluded, except to an address given by a government minister, Miss Margaret Herbison. The following day in Glasgow a Labour Party conference was held to explain government policy to local delegates. Again the press was invited to hear only one speaker, who turned out to be, -surprise, surprise,- Miss Margaret Herbison.

Representatives of 6000 Glasgow busmen have decided to take no action meantime on the freezing of their 9/3d per week wage award. Dundee busmen are the only Scottish municipal transport employees to have done so, partially banning overtime and refusing standing passengers.

HUGO BLANCO IN DANGER!

An appeal has been made for letters of protest against the reported plan of the Peruvian Government to execute Hugo Blanco. The revolutionary socialist peasant leader has been held prisoner since 1963 and now faces a secret military trial. Blanco had organised peasant unions in the Cruzco region of Peru, which led struggles for land reform. Letters of protest should be sent to: Presidente Fernando Belaunde Terry, Lima, Peru, and to the Tercera Zona Judicial de Policia de Arequipa, Peru. Any contributions for Blanco's defence sent to this publication will be forwarded. It is hoped to include a more extensive report of Blanco's activities in next week's issue.

CITIZENS' COUNCIL SET UP

from 'The Militant'

From August 23- 26th, the Cleveland Citizens Committee for Review of the Grand Jury Report held public hearings on the Hough, Cleveland, outbreak. The Grand Jury Report said that a riot was caused in the Negro area by Communists and outside agitators. Held at Liberty Hall Baptist Church, the public review was attended by audiences ranging from 300- 800 people. The Citizens Committee plans to publish an answer to the Grand Jury Report. The first witness to testify was Earl Rowe, supervisor of the Office of Economic Opportunity in the Hough area. He described the conditions there: housing owned by landlords who do not live up to city housing codes; overcrowded families; lack of garbage collection; abandoned dwellings; lack of jobs. Rowe was on duty during the outbreak, and saw no "outside agitators... the only organisation I saw was the National Guard." When asked if there had been any change in Hough since the riots, of Rowe said: "I have seen the greatest change in my life since the occupation of Europe. I have seen city machines roll into the area, and I have seen condemned buildings come down like magic. Over 500 jobs have been found for residents in the last four weeks. Hough residents are now supervisors in the Hough cleanup campaign. I have seen more officials, more supervisors, than ever before."

There were a number of Hough residents who testified what happened to them during the eruption. Anthony Lewis, resident in the Hough area, testified that he was walking to the store to buy some bread. He saw police put some people into a police wagon. Then he saw bricks flying and four cops got out and fired. "One took dead aim with a shotgun and one took dead aim with a revolver. I saw smoke, a fellow next to me hit the ground. Somebody came to help him but the cop said, 'Stop! Don't touch him!'. When I read the newspaper report, it said that a sniper shot Percy Giles. It wasn't. This was murder."

Henry Towns told this story: He was awakened by his 16 year old wife Dianna around 4.0 a.m., because a fire was raging in the next building. Afraid the fire might spread to their house, they dressed and put their baby and three year old son into the car, along with Mrs. Towns' 12 year old brother. When Mr. Towns tried to back his car out of the driveway, he found a car was blocking it. He asked an officer to remove the car, but the officer ignored him. Finally, he blew his horn and drove across the lawn. An officer yelled "What the hell do you think you're doing?". Mr. Towns stopped to explain, and the police ran up to his car and began to drag him out. His wife grabbed him round the neck, and the police began to beat him with clubs. The car lurched forward a foot or so, and the police opened fire. When they stopped shooting, Mrs. Towns was lying unconscious, the baby was covered with blood and the little boy had been shot in the head. Mr. Towns was taken to gaol, where he was indicted on a charge of "aggravated assault". His son suffered extensive brain damage and Mrs. Towns suffered brain damage and has lost her right eye.

Another witness was Mr. Adams, who lives on Hough Avenue. He watched police from his apartment, and when they started shooting in the street, six friends crowded into his apartemnt. Police then shot down Mr. Adams' door because they alleged that somebody was shooting from the bedroom. Although they found nobody, Mr. Adams and his friends were charged with disorderly assembly next morning, having been kept in a filthy cell with 60 other people during the night. When he returned home, he found that his record player had been torn to pieces and his home wrecked.

It is significant that the first of the Research Papers issued by the Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations should deal with "The Role of Shop Stewards in British Industrial Relations." The reason for this is not far to seek. The Commission consists almost entirely of the representatives of Big Business and the Trade Union bureaucracy. Both have good reason to fear the influence of the Shop Stewards which reflect on the one hand, the embryonic development of dual power within a given industry and, on the other, acts as a break on the back-sliding Union officials, ready to sell out the rank-and-file on some spurious pretext, like "saving the pound", or another.

The general view of the steward, as he emerges out of this, not unbiased report is a shopfloor bargainer, prepared to use every opportunity to satisfy his members' grievances. "If necessary he is prepared to circumvent rules and procedures and even ignore established Union boundaries." The shop steward was originally envisaged as a sort of "middle-man" between union officials and management. In practice, however, he often acts as the true representative of the interests of his fellow-workers against both management and trade union officialdom. This is particularly true in a tight labour market situation, such as the present, when the official union leadership identifies itself with the "national interest" and abandons its main task of furthering the interests of its membership. More and more the workers at the bench turn to their shop stewards to lead them in the struggle - to-day often a three-pronged battle against the bosses the Government and the Trade Union bureaucracy.

As the report states shop stewards negotiated over a wide range of issues with all levels of management and tended to become most prominent and powerful when they had managed to obtain some control over earnings. From the management point of view, the essential role of the shop steward involved incessant challenge and constant attack. No wonder management so resolutely opposes the demand to open the books for, with this weapon the shop steward would indeed become a threat to the very existence of the present industrial set-up. Even so, the element of dual power is very much in evidence, according to the Survey. Stewards do not hesitate to exploit management mistakes and weaknesses, to restrict management freedom and prerogatives and to subject every management decision that might affect their members to continual review. From the workers' side, says the Report, it looked like industrial democracy - from the viewpoint of the harassed manager, the growth of the shop steward challenge "sometimes appears, at best, interference, and, at worst, an undermining of legitimate authority." Where the influence of the shop stewards grew in a firm, the lower levels of supervision - foremen, floor superintendents etc. - often found themselves left out of the industrial relations decisions. Shop ^{Stewards} Demand unrestricted access to top management to get speedy and satisfactory settlement. In industries where the influence of the shop stewards are growing, there is a corresponding decline in that of the joint consultative committees, which are regarded by the stewards "as an ineffective and unfair substitute for collective bargaining." The Survey recognises the shop steward as the thin end of the wedge for full worker's control in industry. It advocated legal penalties be applied to discipline shop stewards and to prevent the influence of wage drift, of which they regard the shop stewards as the prime agents. The Survey would like to see a shop Steward movement which, if it must exist at all, is as docile toward management as the average trade union official, with its powers curbed by Parliament.

"WE WANT A REVOLUTION" We demand : (from a Young Socialist reader)

- Immigration
1. Equality, regardless of religion or race.
 2. Withdraw immigration White Paper (Racist).
 3. Fight racialism in Britain.
 4. Legislate against discrimination in housing and employment.

- Industry
1. Workers' Control in nationalised industries.
 2. Workers to elect management in public sector.
 3. In private sector set up Works Councils.
 4. Oppose anti Trade Union legislation.

- Vietnam
1. Wilson must dissociate himself from US policy
 2. Recognise the National Liberation Front.
 3. Oppose US bombing.
 4. British initiative to reunite Vietnam."

In Blackpool for the Trade Union Conference last week, I was handed a leaflet making the above demands and thought for a moment that I had stumbled on a backwater beyond the reach of Transport House, where Young Socialists are still permitted to hold political views.

But this leaflet, and others equally radical, is issued by the Young Liberals ! - and is apparently having some effect on the growth of their organisation.

Young Socialists, who hold and who have worked for such ideals, are unlikely to be tempted into a party whose history belies the opportunist appeal which it is now making to youth, but there is no doubt that it stands to mop up much support from newcomers to politics. It is scandalous that Wilson's extreme right wing policies permit the Liberal Party - and in some instances even the Tory Party - to outbid us in radicalism. And it is a sobering thought that a Young Socialist who openly touted such views as the above would lay himself open to disciplinary action, or worse. Fortunately the Liberal Party is likely to be no more successful than the Labour Party in curbing the appetites which it has whetted.

LONDON WEEK FORUM

There has been an alteration in the plans for the 'Week' Forum to be held at The Lucas Arms, 245a, Grays Inn Road, Kings Cross, on Friday 18th September at 8.00 pm. Owing to conflicting engagements of the scheduled speakers on the TUC Conference, it has been decided to combine the Forum with one on the Labour Party Annual Conference. It will be held on Friday 14 October - same place, same time. The current Week Forum will now take the form of a General Discussion.

Report of the Midlands Regional Delegate Conference,
held on Sunday September 11th, from 10.30am - 4pm,
at Bradwell Hall, Porthill, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

In his opening address, the Chairman, W. Richardson, welcomed over 50 delegates who were from trade unions, tenants' associations and political parties, and commented that the conference was a step in the right direction, because 18 organisations were represented.

The purpose of the conference was not to discuss housing problems, but to see whether the first step could be taken towards forming a National Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Organisations, because there were many problems and they were not likely to grow less.

Finance lies at the very heart of the problems in housing, so housing must be considered as a social necessity and not as a means to accumulate vast profits.

The Chairman continued by saying that tenants move in isolation, without reference to a movement as a whole, and that this was one of our weaknesses. He quoted the Birmingham Tenants' Association's example of United Action (a campaign in which 15,000 tenants withheld increased rents) because he said it was necessary for tenants to unite and show their strength in order that the politicians may know that their protest is a protest with reason and strength behind it.

Mr. W. Gill, Secretary of the National Association of Tenants and Residents proposed an alliance between trades councils, trade unions and council and private tenants throughout the country, to co-ordinate research into tenants' problems.

Mr. Gill said that we were taking part not in a regional move but a national one, because we were up against a national housing policy. There are tenants' associations in Europe with up to 50 years experience. They are organised on similar lines to the trade unions in this country. He said that the tenants' organisations should not be seen as a political party as such, but they should widen their activities to deal not only with rents but with other social problems, too.

Councillor Nixon said that Tenants' Associations could be more effective in the field of housing by meeting their councillors and telling them what is really needed to make accommodation comfortable for the occupants. He said that there should be no such thing as private building, that all building should be nationalised and seen as a social service.

Mr. Skelton, from Sawley, in dealing with the organisational aspect, emphasised the point that rent should not necessarily be the central issue for tenants' associations, and quoted as an example of a broader programme some of the projects entered into by the Sawley Tenants' Association.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:-

"We, the Delegates to this Midlands Regional Conference HEREBY RESOLVE to return to our organisations with the urgent request that mandated delegates be nominated to attend an inaugural meeting to be held in Newcastle-under-Lyme on 6th November, 1966 in order to set up a Regional Committee and that an Acting Secretary be now appointed to make all necessary prior arrangements."

Mr. C. L. Allcock, 33 Wedgewood St., Woolstanton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, was appointed Acting Secretary.