

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
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**UNIONS
VERSUS
LABOUR
PARTY**

In the Westminster doghouse...

ALL BARK

AND NO BITE

71, Onslow Gardens, London N.10

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ALL BARK AND NO BITE

Harold Wilson's "Dogs" metaphor has brought glee to headline writers and ensured the maximum publicity for every bark from the members of the parliamentary labour party. The deep and threatening bay from the member for Nelson and Colne, Sydney Silverman, MP., has been widely reported in the press but few will have read the full text. We print this in full on the following pages.

Mr. Silverman not only deals scathingly with Harold Wilson's self appointed right to deny any freedom of expression to members of the parliamentary labour party, but he does so in words which are refreshingly clear and unambiguous. He describes the Prime Minister's speech as "the most dangerous attack on social democracy ever made in this country in my time". He refers, too, to the four specific issues - Vietnam, The Common Market, The Wages Policy, and Armaments - mentioned by Mr. Wilson.

The Week applauds Mr. Silverman's outspokenness on all these issues. Perhaps if enough M.Ps. had barked like this, the biting could have been kept to a minimum. Now the indications are that biting will be necessary if the Government's reactionary policies are not to become the law of the country. Abstentions may be good for the soul but, where issues involving the basic rights of the trade unions are involved, the strength of loyal trade unionists' opinions should surely lead them to try and prevent such measures reaching the statute book. The mere withholding of a vote, when it does nothing to alter the outcome of the voting, becomes eventually a personal luxury which is largely irrelevant to the seriousness of the matters concerned. However, the fact that the dogs are now barking in concert is excellent. Perhaps some of our trade union leaders can now show they have some bite as well as a bark.

A BITE FROM NOTTINGHAM

Three local dogs who have steadfastly refused to be shut up in their kennels have just delivered a bite on which we are not at this stage permitted to comment. The three, Peter Price, Bob Gregory and Geoff Coggan, all members of the Labour Party in Nottingham, were disciplined by the NEC following the Tribunal investigations which took place in the city after the expulsion of Ken Coates. They were barred for 3 years from holding any office in the party or of acting as delegates to their constituency or city parties. They have now issued a High Court Writ against Sara Barker, Len Williams, and NEC members John Boyd, Frank Chappell, and Anthony Greenwood MP, in which they seek a public declaration that these NEC decisions are null and void.

SILVERMAN'S LETTER TO SILKIN

The following is text of a letter from Mr. Sydney Silverman M.P. to John Silkin.

"I did not hear the Prime Minister's recent speech to the party meeting but it has, as you know, been much publicized (apparently deliberately) and in the absence of any repudiation, I must assume that the reports are accurate. I think it is the most dangerous attack on social democracy ever made in this country in my time.

"I am afraid it is no use writing to the Prime Minister. He is too sure he is right, too contemptuous of other people's opinions, too neglectful of Cromwell's advice to the protesting divines - "I pray you gentlemen think it possible you may be mistaken." But I have always been grateful for your own accessibility, your readiness to listen and your willingness to understand. I have, of course, had more than "one bite". I have differed from majority of my parliamentary colleagues on a number of occasions. Perhaps I may list a few of them.

"Before the War I opposed the Party's support for non-intervention in Spain. I bitterly resisted the cold-shouldering of the Soviet Union which alone defeated the genuine collective security which could have stopped Hitler in time and saved the world from the tragedies of the Second World War. During that War I have opposed the mass obliteration of the civilian populations of open German states and the substitution of unconditional surrender for the formulation and attempted agreement of constructive war aims so that we should not once again, having won a costly war, lose the peace for which we fought. I may have been wrong on some or all of these causes. But I fought them in good company and I think most people in our party would today concede that most of them were right. I do not know what Harold Wilson thought of them then. Perhaps he was too young to know or care. But I suspect that with all the wisdom of hindsight he would accept them now.

"After the War I fought the first Labour Government on a number of issues. I thought they were wrong about Palestine. That the adoption of the Fulton policy was a disaster and I wanted a firmer and warmer policy of reconciliation with the Soviet Union. So, I suspect did he. I wanted to develop East-West trade both on economic and political grounds. So did he. I thought German rearmament a mistake. So did he. I thought the colossal rearmament programme following the outbreak of the Korean war was unjustifiable, unrealizable and calculated to produce nothing but a runaway inflation which would sacrifice all the achievements of postwar economic reconstruction and, as an incidental consequence, the loss of power for half a generation. So did Harold Wilson. And we were right.

"In Gaitskell's day I thought the elaborate endeavour to shelve or abandon the economic basis of the Socialist criticism of capitalist society and the basis of social reconstruction short-sighted, misconceived and fundamentally unsound. So did he. I thought the pretence that this country could be an independent nuclear power was dishonest and should be abandoned. So did he. I cannot say that I succeeded in many of these causes, at least not at the time nor can I remember that I ever derived any advantage from their advocacy.

"But it is some comfort to know that these rebellious minority views are now accepted in the party in virtual unanimity and if Harold Wilson is now

Leader of the Labour Party and Prime Minister with undisputed and unchallengeable authority, that is largely because he advocated them too. So, if today I disagree fundamentally with some major policies to which the establishment seems inexorably committed, I can say two things in defence of my right to do so. One - as a greater man once claimed - that I have not always been wrong, and two, that by his own example, it is the duty of a loyal member of a party, if he thinks that his leaders are wrong, both to say so and to act accordingly. Whoever may have the right to deny the truth of either proposition, Harold Wilson is not one of them.

"Now a short word about each of the four issues to which the speech referred.

1. Vietnam.

I do not believe that Mr. Wilson really thinks that U.S. policy is right. He may think that it does not help to denounce it. But it certainly does not help to endorse it. Several months ago he disassociated this country from the policy the U.S. has now resumed. Is it wrong for British socialists to continue to condemn it? He recently defended that resumption, accepting the United States assertion that North Vietnam had broken the truce. They did not break the truce, and therefore the continued ass-
everation that it is all North Vietnam's fault is a lie of almost Hitlerian quality and scope.

2. The Common Market

I continue to defend the position which he and Hugh Gaitskell before him adopted and which he has not yet formally abandoned. If I needed his licence to do that, when did I lose it?

3. The Wages Policy

Nobody is against the wages policy. What we oppose is the endeavour to get one by imposing the sanctions of the criminal law. That is not merely foolish and unworkable, it is the abandonment of a clear socialist principle in favour of something very like a Fascist principle.

4. Armaments

The present expenditure is as wrong now as was the expenditure which in 1950 he resigned from a Socialist Cabinet rather than defend. It is additionally wrong today, when it renders the achievement of any other socialist objective, including peace itself, virtually impossible. These are all matters to which the Government and the Prime Minister is pledged to Parliament and people alike. Of course, it is the duty of a Government to govern. Of course it is the duty of its supporters to sustain it in Parliament in doing so. But it is the duty of the Government to govern as it promised the people it would govern. It is the duty of those elected to support it to see that it does and to withdraw their support when it does not. That is what I have done and will continue to do.

Finally I would remind the Prime Minister that there have been many socialist tragedies in Europe in our time. This may be our last chance to avoid another and the greatest.

"In tragic life, God wot,

No villain need be! Passions spin

the plot:

We are betrayed by what is false within."

SCOTTISH LABOUR DISCUSSES ENTRY INTO COMMON MARKET

The following letters were published in the SCOTTISH MINER, journal of the Scottish Area National Union of Mineworkers. They take up the question of the Common Market; to join or not to join.

J. Brightman of Pontefract, Yorkshire, writes: Mr. McGahey states that the coal miners of Britain should stay out of Europe. I disagree with him entirely. We ought to have been in the European Coal and Steel Community from the start. And it would have been a lot better for the entire mining community if we had. I would like to ask Mr. McGahey if he agrees with me that in the E.C.S.C. countries the coal miners have achieved a lot more in wages, fringe benefits, service holidays, early retirement benefits, re-training and the guarantee of their wages up to 90 per cent in some cases in the event of a pit closing down.

Take the under-18s. They get not less than four weeks' paid holidays in all the Six countries. Is that so bad? In West Germany, all coal miners over the age of 55 can and in some cases must retire when a pit closes down. Their previous wages are paid up to 90 per cent and not less than 60 per cent for the rest of their lives. Is that so bad? What does a redundant miner get here? As for disabled miners -- when a pit closes in West Germany they are safeguarded by law. Are they here? What's wrong with miners being laid off work for three days with half pay as they were in West Germany? Here in this country we are stockpiling the surplus coal which means loss of earnings for the NCB.

I wonder from the nation's point of view which is the best. The surplus of coal in Western Europe he talked about does not matter so long as we can compete with the others in the Common Market. And I think we could.

Mick McGahey, Vice-President of the Scottish Area NUM answers: (the reply has been edited for space economy) Mr. Brightman is accurate in most of his facts but totally mistaken in his conclusions. It is true that miners in the European Coal and Steel Community generally speaking, enjoy better pensions and fringe benefits. But it is not true that these are laid down by the E.C.S.C. and are obligatory on the member countries.

Miners' wages and conditions are far from uniform in the six countries of the E.C.S.C. and there is nothing in the Paris Treaty of 1952 setting up the E.C.S.C. which says they must be. Indeed, the High Authority of the governing body of the E.C.S.C. recently complained about the difficulty in achieving what they call "harmonisation".

"The disparities that persist, even between different regions of the same country are an indication of the extreme difficulty" it is stated. "Living and working conditions are governed by economic factors such as the situation of the undertaking in the Common Market, the state of labour supply, etc., and by sociological factors such as the relative size and influence of the employers' and workers' organisations. These factors operate differently in different countries and even in different areas or concerns within a single country."

So it is clear that membership of the E.C.S.C. does not bring about the social benefits that Mr. Brightman would have us believe and I am sure believes himself. He is way out on wages. For example, certain social

benefits, particularly family allowances, are much better in France than they are in Britain. But wages of French miners are far less than they are here.

It is true that allowances advanced by the E.C.S.C. help tide a man over until he finds a job and boost his wages for a spell should he take work elsewhere at lower earnings. But they end after a year and then the worker is on his own. And for many of the workers, the only new jobs available are at wages a good deal lower than they earned in the pits. It should never be forgotten that the basic aim of the European Coal and Steel Community is to rationalise both industries -- that is, to cut out the "unprofitable" parts.

One important part of the picture which Mr. Brightman omits is the tremendous struggles of the coalminers in the E.C.S.C. countries as witnessed in the massive demonstrations and strikes in the Borinage in Belgium in 1961 and in Decazeville in France in 1962.

Or the successful resistance to the plans to transfer 5,000 miners from the declining Central-Midi coal fields in France in the 1950's to the expanding Lorraine coal field. And, of course, more recently we had the tremendous struggle against closures in the Belgian coalfield where two miners were actually killed in the fight to maintain their jobs. So things are not quite so rosy for the miners of Western Europe.

Britain's coal and steel industries are going through a very difficult period just now. They would find themselves very much worse off if they entered the Common Market. For we would not be allowed to keep out cheaper coal or steel from any of our Community partners. There are other implications associated with our entry. Food prices, it is admitted, would rise by approximately 4s.6d a head -- £1 a week for a family of four. It is for all these reasons the Scottish miners are opposed to entry into the Common Market.

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** WEEK READERS' FORUM **
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** DAVID HOROWITZ **
** Author of new Penguin **

** FROM YALTA TO VIETNAM **

** Friday, March 17th, at 7.30 p.m. **

** Caxton Hall, Westminster. **
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CHINA'S TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

This article comprises extracts from a report in the SUN which appeared Sat. March 4. The report comes from Dr. Kurt Mendelsohn, F.R.S. the Oxford scientist, who has just returned from his third trip to China.

The "China Watchers", as the newspaper correspondents in Hong Kong and Tokyo like to style themselves, are too absorbed waiting for civil war to watch out for one of the most important events of our time: the emergence of a technological power of fantastic dimensions. If China can maintain her present rate of scientific and industrial development, she will have eclipsed the rest of the world by the end of this century. She may possibly draw abreast of the West and Soviet Russia in the eighties. I first visited Chinese laboratories and factories in 1960. Ten years earlier, there had been nothing but chaos and destruction, the legacy of half a century of civil war and Japanese invasion. The first factories bought from Russia were taking shape in 1960, but the Soviet experts were leaving, with the work often half finished. To the Chinese, knowing full well that they would be unable to obtain the missing equipment, this was a severe blow.

A good deal of their own effort was spent on the much ridiculed backyard industries, often attached to agricultural communes. Machine tools were rarely available and I saw girls winding with their bare hands electrical transformers for the agricultural grid. Nearby, a couple of boys and another girl were cutting out the transformer housing with chisel and hammer. Measured by Western standards, productivity was miserably low, but one suspects that for the Chinese, the transformers, although most welcome, were less important than the training. These youngsters, and there were 10,000 of them, were the future factory foremen and they were learning industrial skill the hard way. Two years later in spite of the Russian withdrawal and two disastrous harvests, remarkable progress had been achieved. I saw a huge factory producing precision grinding equipment for machine tool manufacture and there was marked improvement too, in the universities and technological institutes. Through my scientific colleagues I met Mao Tse-tung and Foreign Minister Chen Yi, who both emphasised China's need for rapid expansion of science and technology. This resolve has not been forgotten in the upheaval of the cultural revolution.

While the Red Guards are marching and the loud-speakers are blaring, the factories are humming and production is increasing everywhere. Both quality and range of Chinese industrial products are remarkable. There are oceangoing motor ships, air conditioned diesel trains, cars, buses, gas turbines and electrical generators, all made in China. Even more impressive are the highly sophisticated products, such as electron microscopes, precision balances, cameras, computers and every kind of electronic, optical and medical equipment. In fact, there are now very few things China cannot make and she is beginning to produce at an amazing rate. In the research laboratories of the Academy of Sciences I was shown a lot of very advanced equipment -- for instance, super-conductive magnet coils operating in liquid helium. My Chinese colleagues emphasised that their achievements till lag far behind those of the Western countries, but there is no doubt that in only a few years they have gone an incredibly long way.

Backed by a population of 700 million of highly skillful and very intell-

igent people, China's technology will be a match for any country in the world as soon as she has come into her full stride. One doubt remains, however, the most important product of a technological country are its scientists and engineers. The cultural revolution has closed China's universities since last summer. The Chinese said some time ago that they intend to shorten their courses which, based on the Soviet pattern, are unnecessarily long. Possible they will have made use of these last months to revise the syllabus and they may, in fact, gain time by a new shortened span of study. However, time will not be on their side for very much longer. If the cultural revolution is allowed to go on for most of 1967, China may lose heavily, not by political disunity but by the interruption of technological training.

ANGLO-RHODESIAN SOCIETY AND CITY OF LONDON RACIALISTS by a Hull Reader

By chance, I have come across a somewhat sinister anonymous leaflet on Rhodesia. It is a four-page printed documents of about 1,500 words. It can only be described as racist. It is not positively know who printed it or who published it as no such information appears on the leaflet.

But who has produced this leaflet? Well, one clue is contained in the final sentence of the leaflet -- "it has befallen to a small group of British financiers and bankers within the City of London to issue this clarion call, who for very obvious reasons must remain anonymous." The very vague address of "Threadneedle Street, London E.C.2." is all that is printed on the end of the Leaflet. This leaflet is now circulating in the Hull area. It happens to co-incide with a forthcoming meeting to be held by the Hull Anglo-Rhodesian Society on March 18, 7.30 p.m. at the Hull Royal Station Hotel. The speakers at this meeting are to be Patrick Wall, the Tory right-wing Labour MP for West Hull. The subject of the meeting is to be sanctions and the effect on Britain.

The 'City of London' interests who have produced the leaflet have this to say about sanctions: "It is not the imposition of sanctions against Rhodesia in itself which is the canker in our midst. It is the wholesale flight of capital from Britain which causes the City alarm." This "small group of British financiers and bankers within the City of London" are quite crude in their racism: -- "Unfortunately, the crux of the whole matter is simply for the mass of 'Commonwealth citizens' living and sponging in our midst."

It is quite reasonable to suppose that this leaflet is at least in part produced by the Anglo-Rhodesian Society because the particular copies of it that I have seen all bear the rubber-stamp mark of Ernest Gay, a Hull life-insurance underwriter and chairman of the forthcoming meeting mentioned above. Needless to say, Hull's anti-racist Left is preparing a counter offensive.

The above report should be read in conjunction with THE WEEK article on "Who's Who in British Racism" which appeared in Feb. 2 issue.

VIETNAM FREE SPEECH CAMPAIGN. by David Robinson.

The Campaign is now entering its closing stages and every effort will be needed to gain maximum support during the next week. A further application has been made to the Home Office for visas for members of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam to visit this country and take part in Teach-In's on Vietnam at Oxford, Cambridge and London University, (Imperial College). Arrangements for these meetings are already underway and if the visas are refused in spite of the pressure brought to bear through this petition then it is planned to use them as broadly-based platforms of protest at the British Government's attitude. The provisional closing date for the return of petition forms is March 17 - forms received after this date will be used in a second advertisement.

Support received from Members of Parliament so far has been very encouraging, but I feel sure that support from this section will increase considerably during the coming week. A question to Roy Jenkins on N.I.F. visas has been tabled by Frank Allaun for thursday March 7.

Signatures received from M.P.'s so far include:-

Frank Allaun, Donald Anderson, Ronald Atkins, James Bennett, Syd Bidwell, Albert Booth, Robert Davies, James Dickens, Bob Edwards, Andrew Faulds, Ted Fletcher, Gerry Fowler, Eric Heffer, Peter Jackson, Hugh Jenkins, Anne Kerr, David Kerr, Russell Kerr, Arthur Lewis, Stan Newens, Eric Ogden, Stan Orme, Marcus Lipton, W.J. Owen, William Molloy, Brian Parkyn, Ernest Perry, John Rankin, Ben Whitaker, William Wilson and G. Roberts.

Petitions have been sent to all Labour and Liberal M.P.'s as well as to a number of Conservatives.

Signatures from academics are also coming in at an increased rate. This section was sponsored by Malcolm Caldwell (London), Ken Coates (Nottingham), Ralph Miliband (L.S.E), Joseph Needham (Cambridge), Raymond Williams (Cambridge) and John Westergaard (L.S.E.). Those who have signed include Sean Gervasi (Oxford), C.A. Coulson (Oxford), J.D. Bernal (Birkbeck) A.C. Offord (London), and Jean Robinson (Cambridge). Universities represented so far include:- Birmingham, Aberdeen, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hull, Liverpool, London - Imperial College, Birkbeck, Bedford, Institute of Education, L.S.E. Middlesex Hospital, School of Oriental & African Studies and University College, Bradford, Exeter, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Surrey, Sussex.

A section of the Free Speech Campaign is now underway to gain the support of Constituency Labour Party Officers throughout the country. In the first week of this section we have already received support from Darwen, Dumfries, Bute & Nth. Ayrshire, Haltenprice, Hornchurch, Newbury, Oldbury & Halesowen, Sutton Coldfield, Thirsk & Malton, Thornhill, Tonbridge, Rotherham, Wandsworth Central, Wokingham and Woodside.

Among the increased Trade Union support received in the last week has been £1 donation towards the Campaign from the David Brown Tractors Limited Shop Stewards Committee (Huddersfield) and a £10 donation from the South Wales area N.U.M. A large number of A.E.U. and T.G.W.U. branches have signed the petition. Leeds, Ealing and Nottingham & Dist. Trades Council, have also given their support.

The following two items appeared in the English language edition of Granma of January 29. Although they were printed (on the same page) without comment they indicate the attitude of the Cuban leadership very clearly.

USSR AND CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO COLLABORATE

Moscow, January (TASS) - Agreements providing an important basis for commercial and economic relations between the Soviet Union and Chile are expected to be signed this week in Moscow. (the agreements were actually signed) It appears that for the success of this economic collaboration, Soviet credit is to be given to Chile under advantageous conditions. One of the agreements has to do with the construction projects for industrial enterprises in Chile. The Soviet delegation, which visited this Latin American country several months ago, has stated that the collaboration may cover several branches of the Chilean economy.

The Soviet Union will supply machinery and equipment for the plants to be constructed with Soviet technical cooperation. The Chilean representatives had already expressed their readiness to purchase machinery and equipment from the Soviet Union amounting to sixty million dollars. Trade relations between Chile and the USSR will also be increased. To date the USSR had purchased raw materials (mainly wool) from Chile. It is expected that the Soviet imports from Chile will in the future increase the percentage corresponding to finished and semi-finished items.

WHAT IS THE FREI GOVERNMENT?

Frei's Government represents the oligarchic and pro-imperialist interest that oppose revolution and social-political transformations in the brother country of Chile. It is a government at the service of the exploiting classes. Frei designed himself a "reformist" during his presidential campaign but has carried out no social change whatsoever.

On the contrary, he has opposed every type of change in favour of the workers and peasants and has supported the owners and employers unleashing a wave of savage repression against strikes and popular protest movements. On the international scene, he maintains a policy of subservience to the dictates of the United States Government. Defenders of the so-called "Alliance for Progress" support Eduardo Frei. His "reformism" and the "Alliance" are, in truth, one and the same aspect of imperialist policy in Latin America. That is why Frei and his Government are considered one of the principal allies of imperialism. Frei defends the interests that oppose the working caclasses.

In regard to Cuba, Frei is, in addition, an accomplice to the criminal blockade against our economy. For that reason he is repudiated by every sincere revolutionary on this continent.

The same issue of Granma contains very militant articles on Vietnam, including one entitled: "When war means peace." Another feature was a cartoon by Nuez with two characters, one a bearded, gun-carrying, horse-riding man in motion, the other sitting on a donkey, is podgy and is exclaiming: "I am the vanguard!", he clutches a book entitled: "Theory."

The 1,200 workers at Eckersley's mill assembled in the canteen. Over the loudspeaker, the manager said, that he had grave news. All of them were going to lose their jobs. But the one consolation was that the name of Eckersley would not die; it would be used on products made elsewhere. When he sat down, miraculous though it may seem, all the workers about to become unemployed, cheered!

This pathetic piece of news from Wigan is typical in the crisis of textiles. Without a tradition of militancy, both workers and union are offering no serious resistance. They place their faith in a government inquiry into the industry. It is difficult to imagine what they hope this will achieve. From the wholehearted support of Harold Wilson for the investigation into the printing industry and elsewhere, he clearly supports modernisation -- his euphemism for introducing new machinery and cutting the labour force. Higher profits and lower labour costs go hand-in-hand in Harold's schema. And that is why, undoubtedly, he applauds present trends in textiles.

The industry is very prosperous -- for the shareholders. The giant Viyella empire, which sacked 2,170 last week, sales rose from £8 million to £68 million between 1963 and 1966! Yet, this has been done with fewer workers. During the 1960's employment in cotton spinning dropped from 136,000 to 99,000 and in weaving from 123,000 to 89,000. But this is only a beginning. While still increasing output further, Mr. Joe Hyman, of Viyella, expects the industry to shed two-thirds of its existing labour force by 1970.

This is the crux of the crisis. When the unions dwell on cheap imports from Portugal, they are raising what, in essence, is an irrelevancy.. were the government to forbid all imports of textile goods, the same trends towards centralisation and unemployment would still exist. These are inherent in the capitalist system.

The unions can only counter it, therefore, by posing the socialist alternative -- public ownership with workers' control. They should be pointing out that workers are being sacrificed on the altar of higher profits. It will not be the shareholders who will be signing on at the Labour Exchange. Their prospects are quite rosy. Financial columnists in this week's Sunday Times and Sunday Observer regard the giants of the industry -- Courtaulds, Viyella, English Sewing Cotton -- as good investments.

But we are likely to see the same pattern repeated throughout the industry that happened in Courtaulds last year. The firm's profits rose 33% in 1964, 41% in 1965 and 9% in 1966. Courtaulds celebrated this phenomenal achievement by closing down four mills at Bolton. Such behaviour yearns for a militant response.

From the the textile unions, however, it will not get it. Instead of adopting a class line, they are veering further away from a class position and angrily talking about disaffiliation from the Labour Party. Those writers, like Pat Jordan, who say "Stay in the Party and fight", are not so much wrong as missing the point. They should realise that the textile workers' response is based on a lack of political sophistication and knowledge. Their unions have always been a bulwark of the right-wing. At Labour conferences they have always supported the platform on issues like

the pay freeze, public ownership and the bomb. And it is unthinking support by the union's officials reflected apathy among the rank and file. Few members ever bothered to play a part in local constituency parties.

The same is true of the Pottery Workers who have also disaffiliated. In his book Potbank, Mervyn Jones mentions how the executive uncritically supported the Transport House line. Burning political questions were never discussed at conferences or branches. Apathy existed at all levels. A study of Newcastle-under-Lyme politics showed no pottery workers were members of the borough council or active in the local Labour Party. Only 57 per cent of pottery workers voted Labour compared to 85 per cent of North Staffs miners.*

Things might have changed slightly in the Pottery Workers' Union since these two books were published. Hewitt has retired as general secretary and Alf Dulson has taken his place. But even so, both with the disaffiliation of the pottery and textile workers, I cannot escape the conclusion: It is not so much that the left is losing potential support by these moves, as Harold Wilson is losing a staunch friend.

* Constituency Politics. By Frank Bealey, J. Blondel and W.F. McCann. p.179

Liaison Committee for Defence of Trade Unions

National Month of Protest 1967

END THE WAGE FREEZE

NO ANTI-TRADE UNION LEGISLATION

Prices have gone up by nearly 5% since our last wage increase! That means a reduction in your standard of living of 1 shilling in every pound! The shareholders and surtax payers have been left untouched. How much longer can we see this situation go on? The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Yet even now the Government is planning to extend the freeze into next winter. The only way that the freeze will be ended is by the united action of working people. Join in solidarity. All Out.

Sunday, March 12th

MASS DEMONSTRATION AND MARCH

Assemble Hyde Park/ Marble Arch 2.30 pm: March to Trafalgar Square National rank and file speakers
Chairman, Bill Jones T&GWU

Please report all local activities against the Incomes Policy to the Liaison Committee. In every locality activity should begin in the Month of Protest. Bring Banners and posters on the demonstration.

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E A S T E R D E M O N S T R A T I O N S

All Readers of The Week should give these activities their fullest possible support, as this year's Easter activities are concentrated the War in Vietnam. It is essential that we turn out in force and put forward the solidarity line. A special leaflet is being prepared for Easter.

EASTER SATURDAY, 25TH MARCH

A continuous mass moving picket will be mounted starting at 2.30 p.m. at Grosvenor Square, W.1. (nearest tube Bond Street or Marble Arch.) The picket will go from the U.S. Embassy, Grosvenor Square, via the Foreign Office, Whitehall, to the South Vietnamese Embassy, Kensington.

EASTER SUNDAY, 26th MARCH

The March will assemble at 11 a.m. at Northolt Village Green (nearest tube Northolt on Central Line) past the U.S. Air Command H.Q. at Ruislip. Lunch at Southall Park. Tea at Ealing Common. March disperses at Turnham Green at 5.30 p.m.

EASTER MONDAY, 27th MARCH

Assemble at 10.30 a.m. at Acton Green (nearest Tube Chiswick Park or Turnham Green). Lunch - Hyde Park Exhibition Ground at 1 p.m. (nearest tube Hyde Park) and on to Trafalgar Square for a rally at 3 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF 100 - ALDERMASTON

The Committee of 100 will be organising a March from Aldermaston on Good Friday (24th March). Assemble at 12 noon at Falcon Field, Aldermaston. The march will link up with the CND Easter Demonstration on Sunday at the lunch break at Southall Park. V.S.C. participation will be discussed at the London Members' and Supporters' meeting at Central Hall, Westminster, 7th March, 8 p.m. Readers from out of London requiring accommodation over Easter should contact David Robinson at 11a Wormwood Street.

N.B. If any reader of The Week can help with accommodation for marchers, they should contact CND, 14 Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1.