

# The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS  
Vol. 7 No. 7 16th February, 1967 6<sup>D</sup>

- 1 Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians
- 2 Association of Scientific Workers
- 3 Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association
- 4 Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives & Technicians
- 5 Society of Technical Civil Servants

# FIVE UNIONS DEFEND WORKERS' RIGHTS

8 Roland Gardens, London, S.W.7. Subscription: £2 per annum and pro rata

Association of  
Management, Education  
and Allied Professions

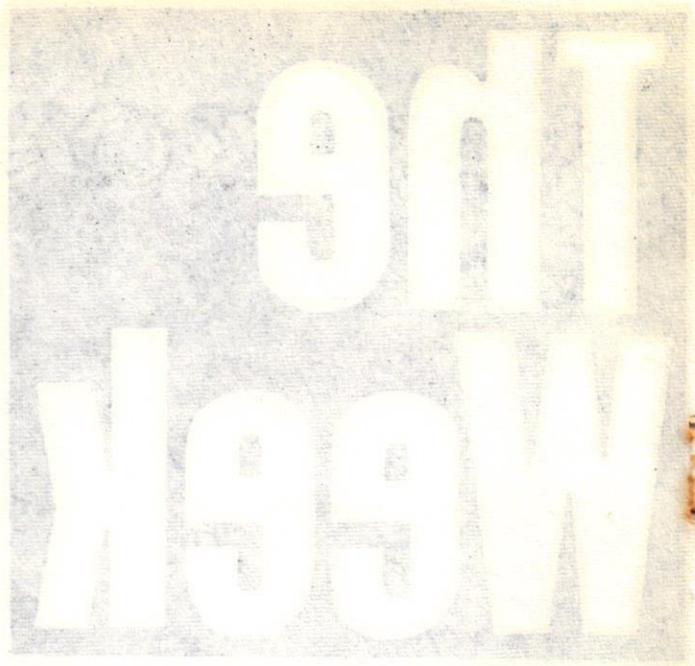
Association of  
Scientific  
Workers

Engineering and  
Allied Professions  
Association

Association of  
Professional  
Technicians & Technicians

Society of  
Technical  
Professionals

1  
2  
3  
4  
5



A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIETIES  
Vol. 7 No. 4 - 1974 February, 1974  
Co

# FIVE UNIONS DEFEND WORKERS' RIGHTS

Subscription: £3 per annum (incl. postage)  
8 Roland Gardens, London, S.W.7.

## C O N T E N T S

Page	1	Editorial notes	Page	2	Militant action now!
"	3	11 months' strike.	"	4	NUPE Rank & File militant.
"	5	Wilson passes the Silver Cod	"	6	Education split in Glasgow.
"	7	CIA book service.	"	8	U.S. notes.
"	9	NALSO struggle.	"	10	Political notes.
"	11	Vietnam Free Speech.	"	12	War Crimes investigation team.

### LOBBYING PARLIAMENT

The reports we have received about the coming lobby of Parliament on February 21st indicate that it is going to be successful. There have been a number of lobbies of Parliament and the point must be crossing people's minds as to what good these demonstrations do. We will say quite bluntly that if the lobbies stop short at the point of merely advising how best Labour can save the capitalist economy they are no good at all. If however they have as their aim the stimulation of struggle it is another matter.

We have noted before that the Government's incomes policy has been forced through with very little resistance by the working class. With the single, but heroic, exception of the seamen's strike no large body of trade unionist have fought the Government. We have also noted that the overwhelming blame for this apparent apathy is to be laid at the doors of those people who have constituted the traditional left leadership in this country. But we must qualify this by saying that many have supported the Government or been slow to resist it for good intentions. We do not believe that every M.P., every trade union leader has been lost to the cause. This lobby and other such action is to a great extent a struggle for these people's consciences. But this is more than merely saving a few people for socialism: if a bloc of M.P.s would really oppose the Government, if trade union leaders would call upon their members to fight the wage freeze the whole political situation in this country would change. Wilson knows this very well and this explains most of his manoeuvring. Let us make 1967 a year when his bluff was finally called!

### THERE IS NO WORD TO EXPRESS MY DISGUST

This is what one Labour M.P. was said to have exclaimed after hearing Wilson defend the American resumption of bombing of North Vietnam. There is absolutely no basis upon which his case rests. The New York Times this week disclosed that the American administration's claims about the numbers of infiltrators from the North were completely unsubstantiated. Westmoreland is claiming a figure which is 8 times what the McNamara is saying. Calculations done show that the figures the U.S. puts out cannot possibly be true: yet Wilson used these figures to justify his agreement with the resumption of the bombing. We can only echo those words above.

### FRIENDS OF N.A.L.S.O.

If anyone has any ideas about the struggle against the way Transport House has treated N.A.L.S.O. they should contact the former secretary of N.A.L.S.O., Mr. Julian Atkinson at 4, Dane St., Alfred St. Central, Nottingham. News of any protest action should go to him and to the secretary of N.A.L.S.O.: Bruce T. Bebbington, Chandos Hall, University, Manchester 2.

## MILITANT ACTION TO BEAT THE FREEZE

The action of the five unions in calling a series of national meetings to oppose the Government's incomes policy is both commendable and timely. The statement by Frank Cousins that he will back to the full the provincial busmen if they want to strike is encouraging. The lobby of Parliament planned for February 21 shows every sign of being successful. In short we see that a feeling is growing against the Government and that more and more people are talking in terms of action. What is now needed is action. The problem of how to fight the wage freeze and defeat the Government is one that faces all trade unionists and socialists. The decision of the Potteryworkers' Society to disaffiliate from the Labour Party shows that the Government's policies threaten the whole structure of the Labour movement. In the absence of any sign of a real mass left alternative to the Labour Party, the breaking of the trade unions' relationship with the Labour Party could only help right wing forces.

Moves to try to take the struggle outside the framework of the trade union movement are very understandable but to be deplored. To abandon the trade unions is to give up the struggle and let the right wing win by default. After the sell out of various seamen's struggles voices were raised to push the idea that the seamen should leave their union. We have to be very thankful that the vast mass of militant seamen ignored this advise. Every trade unionist must demand of his union that it fights for his rights and organise against those trade union leaders who refuse to do this. In particular every effort must be made to demonstrate to the union executives when they meet on March 2nd that they must throw out the Government's incomes policy. Every promise that the Wilson Government has made has been broken. Many were willing to support the Government because the sacrifices called for were to be temporary ones - now we find that the Government -backed by such journals as New Stateman and Socialist Commentary wants to make the punitive aspects of the incomes policy permanent. Many people supported the incomes policy because they were told that it was designed to be "fair" and protect the poorly paid workers against the greediness of the better paid ones. It has been amply demonstrated that this is a complete lie: the first ones to suffer under incomes policy have been the lower paid workers: the agricultural workers, the railmen, etc.

There is no justification for the T.U.C. or any union trusting the Wilson Government any more. Now Wilson seeks to solve his economic problems by making every effort to get into the Common Market. It is clear that to a very great extent these problems will be solved at the expense of the workers: Government spokesmen, including George Brown, have made no secret of the fact that entry would mean a 14% increase in food prices.

A very heavy responsibility lies upon trade union officials in this situation. Experience shows that given a lead, the rank and file workers will respond with militant action. Experience also shows that this Government looks upon co-operation from the trade unions as encouragement to be even more anti-working class. The lessons are clear:

MILITANT ACTION NOW!  
DON'T LET THE RIGHT WING GAIN CONTROL  
OF THE UNIONS!  
MAKE THE UNIONS A VEHICLE FOR WORKING  
CLASS STRUGGLE!

Thirty three men are still on strike at the Square Grip Reinforcement Company Ltd., Newhouse, near Paisley, Scotland. The strike is over union recognition, and is officially supported by the T&GWU. The company (an English one) produces high tension steel for building projects and also columns for reinforcing concrete. It has eight factories, plus one in Bulawayo. The eighth was opened in Glenroth, Fife, in July - after the dispute was well under way. Approximately fifty workers are in each of the company's factories, which between them comprise Scotland's biggest steel supplier, selling at a considerably cheaper price than its competitors. Newhouse is the largest of these factories, and the most militant - partly because its workers are by far the lowest paid on the Newhouse Industrial Estate, and partly because many of the workers were union men in their previous jobs.

Up to November 1965 resentment had been steadily growing and walk-outs had taken place as a result of various disputes within the factory; e.g. bonus, heating, first aid, etc., but the annual wages conference in November was the last straw which led to the formation of a T&GWU branch in the factory. At this conference an increase of 7d on the basic rate of 5/4 per hour for all Square Grip workers was agreed by the management, but bonus rate was cut by 25% - which meant that some men got less at the end of the week than before the "increase". Within three weeks of this agreement 90% of the workers had joined the T&GWU, but management refused to meet the full time officials or to recognise the union.

In January 1966, 21 men were paid off, as "the demand for material is not enough to carry these men" - this despite the fact that overtime and night shift was being worked (unusual at this time of the year). All the paid off workers were union card holders - itself a significant fact. In February, despite meetings with Ministry of Labour officials, the Company still refused union recognition. As a result, the workers, with union backing, decided on March 27th on strike action. On the following day all except 17 non-union men were out. On March 29th, the 57 workers received letters dismissing them "because they had broken contract" - a contract which some men had never signed, some had never even received, and some had signed because they would not otherwise have got the job.

For the first three or four weeks the factory was almost at a standstill, but on 6th May succeeded in getting an indictment against three full time T&GWU officials, two branch members and all members of the T&GWU, preventing them from carrying out their normal functions. The judge decided there was a basis for a court action, on the grounds that under the Trade Dispute Act of 1906 it is not certain that T.U. recognition is a Trade Dispute. This means that the Union can no longer "black" the factory, although they are officially supporting the strike until May 1967, when the case is to be heard.

The dispute is a very important one for the whole Labour movement. If in May the Court declares that the fight for recognition is not a Trades Dispute a dangerous precedent will have been set which will make unions supporting strike action over union recognition liable for damages. The costs of the strike, which, even after 11 months, still involves 33 men, are very heavy. The Scottish N.U.M. has donated £500 to help defray these but more support is urgently required. Donations received by The Week will be immediately passed on to the Strike Committee.

The front page of the Public Employees Journal - N.U.P.E.'s newspaper - contains an interesting article entitled: "Branches give thumbs up for E.C. policies." It reads:

"Strong backing from union branches for the Executive Council's critical attitude towards the Government's pay freeze and economic squeeze is apparent in the preliminary agenda for N.U.P.E.'s National Conference scheduled to take place at Brighton in Mid-May. Nearly two hundred resolutions have been submitted by branches. Many of them call on the union to push ahead with efforts to secure higher wages, longer holidays, equal pay and improved conditions of service. One of the major debates of Conference will undoubtedly take place on a clutch of resolutions dealing with economic matters. The Government fails to find a single supporter among branches submitting these resolutions.

"Most of them, however, back the line taken by the Executive Council. And a number specifically call for endorsement of the E.C. statement on the economic situation. Criticism of Government legislation to limit trade union activities in the field of collective bargaining features in a number of resolutions. Another aspect of Government policy singled out for criticism by branches is the high level of military expenditure. In the group of resolutions on wages the need for a positive incomes policy is frequently stated. The need for a minimum wage - stated by N.U.P.E.'s General Secretary Sydney Hill after the local authority manual workers' pay settlement last June - is one aspect of such a policy to receive support from the branches. The case for the lower paid workers, including local and health service employees, and for a redistribution of the nation's wealth is outlined in a number of resolutions on wages.

"A group of 15 resolutions centres on holidays. Many of them urge that all local government and health service employees should receive a basic holiday of three weeks. Equal pay for women is the subject of six resolutions. Occupational problems of concern to particular groups of members are detailed under special headings. In this way all grades of local government and health services will have a chance to air their views at the conference"

40-HOUR CALL FOR SEAMEN'S CONFERENCE from an industrial correspondent

The Seamen's Union will be holding its annual conference in May, and just now branches of the N.U.S. are drawing up their resolutions for that conference. South Shields branch has decided to ask the conference for the calling of a another national strike as from July 1st in support of the 40-hour week. Readers will remember that one of the conditions of the ending of the strike last year was that the 40-hour week would be introduced by that date.

MARCH FOR BLANCO'S CLEMENCY

This coming Sunday, February 19th, there will be a march to the Peruvian Embassy to demand clemency for Hugo Blanco. Called by the Committee for Solidarity with the Victims of Repression in Peru (8, Eaton Terrace, London S.W. 1.), the demonstration will begin at Marble Arch 3.00 p.m. It will be preceded by a short meeting so supporters are asked to be at Marble Arch by 2.15 p.m.

Last December it was announced that Harold Wilson was to present this year's Silver Cod award, made by the trawler owners to the skipper who returns the biggest catch during the year. The announcement - together with the publication of Humberside Voice's pamphlet It's Men's Lives\*, the growth of union militancy and leadership in the industry, and the campaigns against accidents and dangerous practices which was sparked off by the loss of the St. Finbarr - has triggered off an amazing flood of publicity, in the press and on television. A nation-wide petition demanding that Wilson should withdraw from the owners' ceremony was circulated by seven sea-going fishermen last month, and received wide publicity in the Hull labour movement. The T.G.W.U.'s executive secretary, Jack Jones, whilst not commenting on the Silver Cod, expressed sharp views last month on the safety aspect of the industry, and promised that the union was going to kick up "one hell of a fuss" until conditions were improved. The union is demanding that the Merchant Shipping Act amendments, promised by the Government, should give the fishermen shipboard powers to check the arbitrary decisions of competitive minded skippers who fish in dangerous weather conditions.

With 800 signatures so far received for the petition, including ones from Devon, from London busmen, Hull's trades council and labour party delegates, and with £20 contributed towards the cost of publishing the petition, the Trawler Owners announced this week that Wilson had cancelled his engagement to present the trophy, just over three weeks before the event. He explained that he would <sup>have</sup> commitments that day in connection with the Common Market negotiations. But the fishermen's spokesmen claim that the feeling in the industry has forced Wilson to withdraw from his shameful association with a bunch of employers who, in the words of the petition, "have shown...an indifference to human suffering which is only comparable to the coal-owners of the last century." As Mick Neve, one of the union's fishing officers in Hull, pointed out to the local press, "he could still attend the function despite going to Luxemburg the same day. In these days of jet aircraft it would be possible." Brother Neve also warned that fishermen would still protest if the Prime Minister's replacement at the ceremony was a member of the Government or of the labour movement.

From this great symbolic victory, the fishermen are now mobilising in angry mood against last week's decision of the industrial court to reject their claim for a 48-hour week (the present basic is 56 hours, but fishing ground work means anything up to 80) and for 8 hours overtime on Sunday at 6/- an hour. The court concurred with the owners' argument that such a settlement would be contrary to the Prices and Incomes Act!! Jack Jones publicly warned that the decision could turn the fishing industry into a storm centre. Last week, the Hull branch of the fishermen's section resolved that "our executive officers at national level take whatever action is necessary to pursue our legitimate claim to a successful conclusion. We assure our officers that they have our 100% backing in any action they might consider necessary to achieve success." Jack Ashwell, one of the union officers in Hull, has said that "if the union is going to call a national strike, the men are prepared to back it to the hilt."

\* Available from Janet Blackman, 42, Pearson Park, Hull; price 2/- post paid. Bulk supplies rates available on request.

Somehow, we doubt if any member of the Labour movement who has any knowledge of working class feelings about scabs, will want to step into Wilson's shoes on the vacant rostrum at the Fishmonger's Hall on March 8th. If they do, they will be endorsing not only the exploitation of courage and self-sacrifice which is symbolised by the hateful trophy, but also the disgraceful association between the government's wage freeze, the trawler owners' rejection of the wages and hours claim, and the use made of the industrial court to support both government and owners.

POSTSCRIPT: Since writing the above, we have learnt that Mr. Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, has agreed to take Wilson's place at the ceremony, and that therefore the petition is going forward

#### EDUCATION SPLIT IN GLASGOW

by Tony Southall

Five Corporation schools in Glasgow - Hillhead, Allan Glen's, the High School for Boys, the High School for Girls and Notre Dame - charge nominal fees to parents. Consequently they have formed a privileged sector in the City's education system. In spite of constant demands from the City Labour Party the Corporation Labour Group has continually found excuses for not eliminating these schools and has even gone so far as to completely rebuild one of them. Further to this, Glasgow also has a number of non-fee paying selective schools. Amongst these is St. Mungo's, run by the Morist Brothers, a teaching order of monks, which the council recently agreed to rebuild as a partially selective school.

At the City Labour Party's Annual Policy-Making Conference, held on February 5th, a resolution demanding the immediate ending of both fee-paying and selective schools was carried without dissent. Replying for the Labour Group, Councillor George Moore, Education Convenor, gave a specific undertaking that he would introduce a resolution to this effect into the appropriate sub-committee on 23rd February. But he made it plain that he was not sure that his proposal would be accepted. He had originally proposed a committee of 5 Labour and 3 Tory councillors, but Labour councillors had forced the acceptance of 2 representatives from the church and had deprived him of his casting vote. At the City Labour Party two Labour councillors spoke, almost hysterically, against the resolution. At least one Labour councillor, prominent in the rat-race to win nomination for the Pollok by-election, has publicly declared he will never be party to such a move.

In these circumstances there will need to be a strong campaign between now and February 23rd to ensure that Labour councillors carry out the clearly stated policy of the Party - and that appropriate action be taken against them if they do not do so.

#### L.S.E. MEETINGS ON TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT PROBLEMS

A series of meetings is at present being held at the L.S.E. on trade union problems. The meetings which are open to all - we especially want socialists and trade unionists to attend - are at the L.S.E., Houghton St., W.C. 2 starting at 7.30 p.m. Jim Mortimer speaks on February 15th, on "Trade Unions in Contemporary Britain"; Geoff. Carlsson on February 23rd, on "Trade Unions, Shop Stewards and the Incomes Policy"; Ken Coates on February 27th on "Socialism and the Trade Unions" (this meeting starts at 6.00) and on March 6th, K.W. Wedderburn on "Trade Unions, militants and the law."

Steve Jeffery

An article by Geoffrey Wolff, Book Editor of the Washington Post, appeared in the New York Herald Tribune on February 9th. Under the title "Government Control of Books", Mr. Wolff warns of "the double activity, the secret suppression and creation of history, which reinforces the fears of American writers that their government cannot be trusted and that it is not mature or brave enough to subsidize the open dissemination of ideas."

"Recently, for example, George Carver wrote for the highly respected periodical Foreign Affairs an article supporting our official policy towards North and South Vietnam. Mr. Carver is with the CIA but this crucial information was not related by Foreign Affairs. Worse, it is possible it was not given to the magazine. It is illegal for the CIA to operate as an intelligence-gathering or intelligence-disseminating organisation in the United States. The same restriction applies to the United States Information Agency, which is bound to confine itself to propaganda activities abroad. Yet its officers admitted several months ago in hearings before a sub-committee of the House Committee on Appropriations that part of the activity of its 'Book Development Program' has been the secret production of manuscripts, published by private companies which the USIA subsidizes, and sold in this country without any government imprimatur or other acknowledgement of the circumstances of origin."

".... Reed Harris, appearing before the sub-committee in his capacity as director of the USIA Information Center Service, said of these books: 'We control the things from the very idea right down to the final edited manuscript.' Perhaps the books are valuable and accurate .... what is certain is that they surely do not tell the reader what he wants to know: that they are works which the USIA admits would never have been written without government support and would not have been released by a commercial publishing house with subsidization - either because they were unworthy of publication or they were unmarketable."

At the same sub-committee hearings, Leonard Marks, director of USIA, and Ben Posner, assistant director, were questioned about the Book Development Program by Rep. Lipscomb. After listing four books developed during 1965, Mr. Posner made it clear that this material was "not for the Record." The following exchange then ensued: "Rep. Lipscomb: Do I understand that this list is considered classified? Mr. Posner: In the sense that we have not in the past divulged the government's connection with it, yes sir. Rep. Lipscomb: Are any of these books on this classified list distributed and sold within the United States? Mr. Posner: I believe that they are; yes."

At this point the interrogator makes it quite clear that he has no objection to the manipulation of the overseas reader: "....." Rep. Lipscomb: I am for the Book Development Program for distribution overseas. I believe you can do lots of good with it .... but there is a principle involved in my mind that when an American citizen who subsidizes a book reads it, he should know. Mr. Marks: That's a point of view which I understand. Rep. Lipscomb: I assume you are distributing them overseas for propaganda purposes? Mr. Marks: Yes, definitely; to tell a story. Rep. Lipscomb: Is it being sold in the United States for propaganda purposes? Mr. Marks: No."

"In other words what is meant to manipulate a foreign reader is believed by Mr. Marks to be a fair and objective account to an American reader. But the truth is that a student writing a paper about our intervention in the Dominican Republic has before him in Mallin's account of 'The Truth About the Dominican Republic' a controlled package which is not truly labelled. If he is misled before he gets past the dust jacket and title page, what can he expect of the book itself?"

GOVERNOR REAGAN WANTS STATE EMPLOYEES TO WORK TWO DAYS FOR NOTHING

Governor Ronald Reagan, following up his attacks on education spending, has called upon state employees to work without pay on two holidays this month - Lincoln's birthday on February 12th, and Washington's birthday on February 22nd. The proposal provoked an immediate reaction from the General Manager of the California State Employees' Association, who described it as "ridiculous, uneconomical and ill timed", and as "the latest morale-lowering lemon in a series which has included a freeze on hiring of all new employees, and talk of laying off employees." "Where," he concluded, "does it all end?"

TEXAS PRIESTS PUNISHED FOR JOINING IN LABOR DEMONSTRATIONS

On February 1st two Roman Catholic priests were among 10 persons arrested near La Casita farms at Rio Grande City, Texas, where they were demonstrating in support of a minimum wage for farm workers of \$1.25 an hour. As a sequel to the demonstration, the two priests, the Rev. Sherrill Smith and the Rev. William Killian of San Antonio, were ordered by Archbishop Robert Lucey to undergo a five-day punishment tour at the Via Coeli retreat.

AIR FORCE GENERAL SAYS "ATOM BOMB THEM !"

Speaking in Los Angeles on February 9th, Curtis leMay, a retired Air Force general and a past Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that the Vietnam war must be won with bombs - even atomic bombs - and can only be lost by negotiation. "Communist aggression", he added, "can only be halted by communist disasters." He discounted the likelihood of Chinese or Soviet intervention in the event of further American escalation.

BRITAIN SHARES IN VIETNAM PROFITS from an economic correspondent

The current issue of The Statist discloses that British exports have benefited from the war in Vietnam, rising from £1.2 million in 1962 to more than £4 million in 1966. US construction consortia are buying some £25 million of goods for Vietnam in Singapore, most of it British. The £4 million direct sales include machinery, motor vehicles and whisky. Vietnam's fantastic inflation has also profited the Royal Mint, which supplies its coinage, and De La Rue and Bradbury Wilkinson, who print its currency notes. "Peace," says The Statist, "could well be bad for inflation."

Mention has been made in The Week of the disaffiliation of N.A.L.S.O. by the Labour Party. What has not been referred to are the specific circumstances which gave the N.E.C. the pretext for getting rid of its embarrassing student organisation. These circumstances were provided by an extraordinary N.A.L.S.O. Conference at L.S.E. on 3rd and 4th January, where replacements were elected for six members of the N.A.L.S.O. E.C. who had resigned. Five of the six newly elected committee members are known S.L.L. supporters. As a result S.L.L. supporters now have a majority on the committee.

There are two disturbing aspects to these developments. Firstly, there is the manner in which the elections were held. Full constitutional notification of the conference was not given - indeed, a number of constituent clubs received no notification at all; there were no formal checks on who were delegates, or on their credentials. Only 25 of 96 member clubs were represented. Of the identifiable factions present, it is notable that the S.L.L. votes were turned into a majority by the addition of those of the Wilsonites and reformists, among them the Cambridge right. For only one post did a Wilsonite oppose an S.L.L. candidate, and then several votes were required to produce a clear cut result. This alliance was clearly a pure piece of opportunism on the part of the Wilsonites; they took advantage of the situation in order to discredit N.A.L.S.O. in the eyes of the Labour Party, and give Reg. Underhill and the N.E.C. the excuse to disaffiliate. Rarely has the cynicism of the Wilsonites been so blatantly exposed.

The second aspect is the future of N.A.L.S.O. It has not recently been as active as many might have hoped, but it is a necessary organ. The danger now is that it will be destroyed as a potentially effective force by the sectarianism of the S.L.L. and the cynicism of the Wilsonites. This story is already familiar from the history of the Young Socialists. This process must be halted at the N.A.L.S.O. conference at Manchester in April. A good attendance of delegates is essential.

#### THE LEFT AND THE DISAFFILIATION OF N.A.L.S.O. by Pat Jordan

As last week's issue of this journal showed, the action by the N.E.C. of the Labour Party in disaffiliating N.A.L.S.O. was extremely crude and very bureaucratic. Yet it must be said that the response from the left on this question has been minimal. Some sections have even suggested that no fight be put up because the S.L.L. obtained a number of seats in the extraordinary conference. This argument is both unprincipled and illogical. Cowardice in the face of the right-wing or the hiding behind the argument of other people's sectarianism is self-defeating. Any defeat on the left (no matter how bizarre this left may be) is a defeat for the whole left and changes the relationship of forces in the Labour Party in favour of the right. If one wishes to fight sectarianism - and I think that this is very necessary - one must do so politically. Failure to fight politically is an indication of a lack of confidence in one's ideas.

There is another very real reason for defending N.A.L.S.O.: just now there is a ferment in the universities. The creation of the Radical Student Alliance<sup>and</sup> the protests against the raising of overseas students' fees will bring thousands of students into action. If there is not a radical body to attract them to the left wing of the Labour Party they will go off into the wilderness: either to the Y.C.L. or Young Liberals. The left in the Labour Party is in urgent need of reinforcements: N.A.L.S.O. could really help.

OH, WHAT A LOVELY WAR

from Chris Farley

The following report appeared in the Sunday Telegraph of February 12:  
"Last Thursday, British United Press reported a rumour that Mr. Dean Rusk - United States Secretary of State, might announce a settlement of the Vietnam war, this caused the worst slump on the Tokyo Stock Exchange for more than three years."

The New York Herald Tribune (Paris) reported on February 9th;  
"....Japan has profitted economically from the war. Last year, U.S. military procurement from Japan totalled \$470 million. Some sources have predicted that U.S. military orders may total \$500 million this year if the war continues....."

NAPALM FIRM DOES WELL

from a U.S. correspondent

On February 7th, Dow Chemicals (the firm which manufactures NAPALM) reported that its net earnings jumped 13% and its sales 11% in 1966. The company said earnings amounted to \$4.06 a share compared with \$3.58 a share in 1965. Sales rose to a record \$1.31 billion from \$1.176 billion in 1965.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SCRAP POLARIS

WORK FOR PEACE

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

S a t u r d a y , 2 5 t h F e b r u a r y

Assemble 9.00 am Islington Square, Liverpool.

March through City Centre to Pier Head.

Ferry across the Mersey, march past the shipyard at the time of the Polaris launch 11.15 am and through Birkenhead to an

Open Air Rally

at 1.00 pm

at a central point in Merseyside.

Transport is being arranged from towns throughout Britain.

Enquiries to C N D

14, Tib Lane, Manchester 2  
(telephone: 061 BLA 7511)

Factory Lane, Birmingham 19  
(telephone: 021 NOR 2447)

14, Grays Inn Rd., London W.C.1.  
(telephone: 01 CHA 3972)

The campaign to obtain visas for members of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam has acquired new urgency with the American refusal to accept the seven-day truce offered by the N.L.F. and their immediate resumption of the bombing of North Vietnam. It is well known that for a number of years the Central Committee of the N.L.F. has been anxious to send speakers to this country to give their point of view of the war. However, every time an application for a visa has been made the Labour Government has turned it down. N.L.F. speakers have spoken in most West European countries, but in spite of the British Government's claim that it wanted the British people to <sup>hear</sup> all views on the war the answer has been no.

Petitions calling on the British Government to grant visas to N.L.F. spokesmen are already being widely circulated in the trade union, academic and Parliamentary circles. A similar petition campaign is now being organised for C.L.P.s Secretaries and Chairmen.

Well over 100 trade unionists have signed the petition so far. This section of the campaign was sponsored by Lawrence Daly (General Secretary, Scottish Area, National Union of Mineworkers); Bill Jones (General Executive Council, Transport and General Workers Union); and Ernie Roberts (Assistant General Secretary, Amalgamated Engineering Union). Among the union branches supporting the petition are Leamington Spa A.E.U. No.8.; Gloucester No. 4 A.E.U.; Brough D.A.T.A, Brough C & A.W.U; Altrincham Passenger Branch T & G.W.U., and others. A good number of signatures have been collected from Hull Trades Council. Another notable signatory is Dave Shenton, Hull Regional Secretary T. & G.W.U.

The academic section is sponsored by Malcolm Caldwell (London); Ken Coates (Nottingham); Joseph Needham (Cambridge); John Westergaard (L.S.E.) and Raymond Williams (Cambridge). So far signatures have been received in good numbers from Leicester, Leeds, Hull, Oxford, Cambridge, London and Bristol Universities. Other signatures have been received from a good number of other universities. Among those signing are J.D. Bernal, C.A. Coulson, A.C. Offord, and Joan Robinson.

The process of getting Parliamentary support is in its early stages but already seven Labour M.P.s are sponsoring the petition for circulation to other M.P.s: Frank Allaun, Syd Bidwell, Bob Edwards, Stan Newens, Stan Orme, Eric Heffer, Peter Jackson.

Quite a number of the people signing the petition have donated money towards the cost of putting an advert in The Times on the question.

The campaign is expected to gather momentum with the latest developments in the Vietnam war.

It would be most helpful if members of The Week could give this campaign their maximum support. Copies of the petition can be obtained from

Vietnam Free Speech Campaign,  
c/o, 71, Onslow Gardens,  
London N. 10.

# INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIME TRIBUNAL FIRST INVESTIGATION TEAM DENOUNCES AMERICAN CRIMES IN NORTH VIETNAM

**T**HE First Investigation Team of the Bertrand Russell International War Crime Tribunal arrived recently in North Vietnam to investigate the U.S. imperialists' war crimes in Vietnam.

It comprised:

—Leon Matarasso, a French barrister at the Paris Court, Chairman of the Law Committee of the International Tribunal,

—Setsure Tsurushima, a Japanese professor of economics at Osaka University, Assistant Secretary-General of the International Tribunal,

—Jean Pierre Vigier, a French physicist, professor at Paris University,

—John Gerassy, an American journalist and writer, Director of the Bertrand Russell Peace Organisation in the U.S.

—Malcolm Caldwell, a British professor of economics at London University.

—Wilfred Burchett, an Australian journalist, and

—Roger Pic, a French journalist and T.V. reporter.

On January 12, 1967, at a press conference, the team spoke about the activities during its stay in North Vietnam.

After making clear that the purpose of the B. Russell International War Crime Tribunal is to try the U.S. war criminals in Vietnam, Leon Matarasso, head of the team clearly pointed out:

*"Since our arrival in North Vietnam we have visited dozens of localities and contacted scores of witnesses. We have read many documents and examined many material evidences. Now we can conclude with certainty that the U.S. has conducted large scale and systematic air raids on purely civilian targets in North Vietnam. We can assert that large numbers of hospitals, schools, residential quarters, churches, pagodas and temples, dykes and dams have*

*been bombed. These places bear a marked civilian character and can in no way be mistaken for military targets. Through our investigation, we have clearly seen that the U.S. has used weapons strictly banned by international law. These weapons are solely intended to massacre the civilian population such as 'lazy dog' bombs, napalm and phosphorous bombs".*

Leon Matarasso pointed out: *"By waging a war of aggression against Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists have sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam which serve as the legal basis of the Vietnam problem".*

*"The U.S. imperialists are waging an aggressive war against Vietnam with means and methods strictly banned by international law. These acts are undeniable proofs of the war crimes committed by the United States in Vietnam".*

He concluded: *"Before arriving here, we imagined that the Vietnamese would run out of strength in face of the force of steel of the U.S. But contrary to our anticipation, we have found the Vietnamese people as optimistic, courageous and confident as ever. The Vietnamese people, mostly peasants, have risen up arms in hand and fought valiantly and staunchly against one of the biggest industrial powers of the world. We can demonstrate that they have fought with their absolute confidence in their final victory. And they themselves have inspired such a confidence in us".*

After giving a number of proofs of the use by the U.S. of toxic chemicals and poison gas, Jean Pierre Vigier, a French physicist and professor at Paris University, pointed out that these weapons were not used against "concrete and steel" blocs as claimed by the U.S.; they were only intended to kill human lives and strictly prohibited by international law.

Jean Pierre Vigier introduced to the pressmen two male witnesses: Hoang Tuan Hung, 46, in Quang Ngai province (South Vietnam), a victim of phosphorous bombs dropped by the U.S. on May 10, 1965, and Hoang Van Hap, 26, a peasant of Van Kieu national minority in Vinh Linh area (North Vietnam), wounded by U.S. napalm bombs on February 22, 1965.

The journalists could see many scars on their bodies which evoked the painful images of the victims of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, victims whom Vigier had seen with his own eyes.

He pointed out: *"In the history of mankind there are peoples who shoulder the burdens for the whole world. At present the Vietnamese people are shouldering that heavy task. Of course, all peoples have the right to decide their own destinies. But the struggle of the Vietnamese people has also close relations with the struggles of other peoples. All freedom-loving people who are watching the Vietnamese people's struggle have seen that that struggle will be certainly victorious."*

Another member of the investigation team, Setsure Tsurushima, a Japanese professor of economics at Osaka University and Assistant Secretary-General of the International Tribunal, also gave many evidences and listed concrete figures of U.S. air raids on dykes and irrigation works, rural markets and agricultural cooperatives with the aim of sabotaging North Vietnam's agricultural economy. He warmly praised the achievements of North Vietnam's agriculture, particularly in raising paddy yearly output to five tons per hectare in many localities.

Setsure Tsurushima added: *"The U.S. bombing of dykes and irrigation works could not prevent agricultural develop-*

*ment in North Vietnam. It is clear that U.S. bombs and bullets have failed to shake the fighting will of the Vietnamese farmers. Meanwhile, South Vietnam which was known as a granary of Indo-China and was a former rice exporter now has to import rice due to U.S. occupation".*

Setsure Tsurushima said that he had seen with his own eyes the good development of North Vietnam's agriculture in spite of intensive air raids by the U.S. This had inspired his firm confidence in the final victory of the Vietnamese people, he concluded.

Speaking next, John Gerassy, an American journalist and writer, Director of the Bertrand Russell Peace Organisation in the U.S., listed undeniable proofs of U.S. air raids on the civilian population in Hanoi, Haiphong, Thai Binh, Thanh Hoa and Vinh Phuc. *"These raids,"* he said, *"were exclusively aimed at killing people, and shaking the Vietnamese people's fighting spirit. But it has also been proved that the fiercer the U.S. air raids, the firmer the Vietnamese people's determination to fight them. Never in history has there been a nation which is so closely united and so firmly determined to fight to the death against the enemy as the Vietnamese people."*

*"Probably what symbolizes the fight we have seen in Vietnam is the fact that the aircraft of a country with the most advanced science and technique in the world have been shot down by Vietnamese peasants."*

*"In Thuy Dan (Thai Binh province) we have met peasants going to their fields with guns slung across their shoulders. I asked them with astonishment: 'Why don't you have fortifications or gun supports? How can you fire at them?' A peasant replied: 'When the planes come we'll use our own backs as gun supports'. Such a people will never knuckle under."*