

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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THE FIGHT

FOR

N.A.L.S.O.

GROWING REVOLT AT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

8 Roland Gardens, London, S.W.7.

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Vol. 1, No. 1, 1951

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AT GOVERNMENT

POLICIES

C O N T E N T S

Page 1	Editorial notes.	Page 2	The Stockport strike.
" 3	<u>Week</u> forum on China.	" 4	Michael Stewart in Glasgow.
" 5	Silver Cod appeal.	" 6	U.S. investment in Europe.
" 7	Political notes.	" 8	The fight for N.A.L.S.O.
" 9	The CIA and Jagan.	" 10	<u>Trade union notes.</u>
" 11	Afro-Americans fight draft.	" 12	From Yalta to Vietnam.

THE SHIPYARD LOCK OUT

It had to happen sooner or later. With a viciously anti-trade union Government - especially one with a Labour tag - some section of the employers was bound to "have a go." Encouraged by the tough line the Wilson Government is taking, the shipyard employers have decided to take their own tough line. But we need not merely to see the link up between this lock out and the policy of the Government, we need to understand just how serious a threat it poses to the whole labour movement. The draughtsmen are forced to back down there will have been a decisive change in the relationship of forces between the workers and employers in this country. Every section of the movement must pledge solidarity with D.A.T.A. What the T.U.C. should discuss is not how to sugar the wage freeze policy of the Government but how to meet this and other threats to the whole trade union movement. The Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding unions must make urgent plans to bring all shipyard workers out in support of the draughtsmen. We do not normally give such specific advice to unions but the situation is so serious that such things have to be said boldly.

THE DEFENCE REVOLT

Mr. Wilson had his smallest majority since the last election on the issue of defence. This makes us very happy and we hope that the fact that some 62 members abstained (including interestingly enough both the Irish Labour member and the Welsh Nationalist) will give an impulse to opposition at all levels in the movement. Again the question of voting against must be posed: not even the prospect of the Tories winning the vote can be a deterrent now. The huge Labour majority at the polls indicates that the Tories would not force a General Election, or that if they did Labour would win again anyway. Wilson's policies are straining the whole structure of the movement. He has chosen to completely disregard last year's Labour Party conference decision on defence cuts. The enemies of the Labour Party, the ones who threaten both its structure and its cohesiveness are to be found in the Cabinet not among the abstainers.

HELPING LOCAL STRUGGLES

With the hardening of attitude by sections of the employers leading to local struggles of a long-drawn out nature (see reports in this week's issue) certain problems need to be solved. The Week, together with other left wing journals will continue to do what it can to publicise these struggles and mobilise support for them, but this is grossly insufficient. The very scale of the problem will soon cause conflicts of loyalties and priorities. The movement needs to establish a central strike fund for such struggles, open to all those who fight on the question of trade union principles. We hope that ~~most~~ many of these strikes will be official; but those which aren't must also be helped.

Appeal From Roberts - Arundel Dispute

We have just received the following appeal from the Strike Committee at Roberts - Arundel where 145 members of the following Unions are involved; A.E.U., T.&G.W.U., N.U.S.M.W.&C., P.T.U., A.S.W., N.S.M.M., U.R.T.W.A.E., E.T.U., A.U.F.W. and D.A.T.A. As a result of last week's police action many of the strikers now face large fines. All readers of "The Week" should give the Strike Committee as much support as possible.

"For fourteen weeks we have been in bitter struggle with the American Company of Roberts-Arundel Ltd. We are fighting for the basic principles of Trade Unionism, collective bargaining, recognition of Shop Stewards and the right of members to be represented as such, and demand this American Company must honour National Agreements.

This firm has tried to use every trick in the book to defeat us in recruiting scab labour, importing Americans into the factory without Work Permits, employing fly-by-night scab Haulage Contractors, cajoling the picket, intimidating the picket and subsequently trying to take the picket to court - all to no avail.

Our members are determined to fight this issue to the bitter end being mindful that a defeat on this issue is unthinkable and would have serious repercussions throughout the Trade Union Movement. The Company is virtually trying to over-ride the history and traditions of 200 years of Trade Unionism in this country. We believe this is a fundamental issue that is worthy of full support of every Trade Unionist to ensure this dispute is brought to a victorious conclusion.

On 23rd January, at a meeting with the American Chairman of this firm, the Trade Union Officials were informed the Company would not accept Trade Unionism as such; they had no objection to a member being represented by a Parson, a Solicitor or a Trade Union Official, but only on an individual basis and they would not tolerate such paraphernalia as Shop Stewards.

We trust you have read our previous appeals, and have read the Strike Committee's pamphlet*. We are now appealing for your maximum assistance.

- (a) We appeal for the utmost financial aid to be given to our members out on strike.
- (b) We appeal to you to BLACK THIS FIRM'S GOODS, and
- (c) give every possible moral support to our members in dispute. All donations will be acknowledged.

Yours fraternally,
The Strike Committee.

*The Strike Committee's pamphlet, price 6d - or more, can be obtained from the Treasurer, The Strike Committee, 125 Wellington Road South, Stockport, Cheshire. All donations and collections should also be sent to this address.

SHOP STEWARD VICTIMISED

from Ian Millar

The 15-week-old strike at the Dalbeattie factory of Steel Radiators, Ltd., is to end without the aim of the strike being achieved: the reinstatement of a sacked shop steward. Meeting last week, the strikers agreed to accept a compromise which involved the firm paying the steward, Mr. Bert M'Lachlan, either a month's salary or until he found a job, which ever was shorter. Mr. Boyd, candidate for the A.E.U.'s presidency, took a hand in arranging the settlement. The steward is not satisfied with the outcome and he is to campaign because he feels "a dangerous precedent has been set."

Roberts-Arundel Dispute.

The following are the names and addresses of firms which are still dealing with Roberts-Arundel Ltd.

Plastic Engineering Ltd., Glamorgan,
Fafnir Bearings,
Samuel Heaton Ltd., Keighley,
Bollin Engineering Ltd., Quarry Bank Mill, Styal,
Gibbons, Whitworth St., Manchester,
John Fenwick, 7 Taylor St, Bury,
Ferodo Ltd., Caernarvon,
Armstrong Cork Ltd., Oldham,
James Day, Manchester,
Crumpsall Packing Co., Oldham,
Trafford Mill, Pendleton,
Standring Ltd., Springmakers, Clover Works, Molesworth St., Rochdale,
British Ropes Ltd.,
J. Dixon and Sons Ltd.,
Mitchell Engineering, Lower Hillgate, Sto.,
M&M Hauliers Ltd., 33, Cecil St., Moss Side, Manchester,
Blackpool Tool Co., Ltd., Cowley Rd., Marton, Blackpool,
Allwood, Searle and Timney Ltd., 8 King St., Manchester,
Pickering Haulage, Driffield, Yorks.,
Norton Abrasives, Wharf Rd., Sale, Cheshire,
H&D. Ward, Dale Rd., Selly Oak, Birmingham, 29,
The Birmingham Tool and Gauge Co. Ltd., Birmingham,
Wickman Wimet Ltd., P.O. Box 29, Fletchampstead Highway, Coventry,
Robert Black & Co. Ltd., 253 Stockport Rd., Ardwick, Manchester,
The Coventry Tool & Gauge Co., P.O. Box 29, Fletchampstead Highway,
Harry Milnes, Handsworth Rd., Sheffield,
Sandvick Swedish Steels, Manor Lane, Halesowen, Birmingham,
Machine Shop Equipment Ltd., Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex,
Chas. Churchill, 2/12, The Crescent, Salford, 5.,
Tay Tool Works, Spon Lane and Bell St., West Bromwich, Brum.,
Cardale & Co., Swan St., Preston, Lancs.,
Bifurcated and Tubular Rivet Co., Aylesbury, Bucks.,
Hoburn Transport, Medway, Kent,
Calor Gas Holdings Co., Northampton,
Cyprien Fox Ltd., 25/27 Eastminster, London, E.1.,
Phonotas Ltd., Telephone Cleaning, George St., Manchester, 1.

Readers should raise the question of blacking these firms with their trade union branch and local trades council.

VERY SUCCESSFUL "WEEK" FORUM ON CHINA

A very successful forum on the question: "what's happening in China" was held under the auspices of The Week on February 24th at the Caxton Hall, London. There were four speakers: Tony Cliff, of International Socialism; Deirdrie Griswold, of the American youth journal, Partisan, who is over in Britain working for the International War Crimes Tribunal; Pat Jordan, of The Week; and Doctor Alec Tudor-Hart, of Workers' Broadsheet. Each of the speakers gave a 15 minutes' talk on their general approach to the Chinese cultural revolution, this was followed by discussion, and each of the speakers was allowed 5 minutes' reply to discussion. There was a lively but, in general, non-factional discussion. About 20 of the 85-strong audience took part. A majority of them clearly supported the cultural revolution.

MICHAEL STEWART GETS HOSTILE RECEPTION IN GLASGOW from Tony Southall

Michael Stewart, Minister for Economic Affairs, received a hostile reception when he arrived at the Highlander's Institute, Glasgow, to address a Labour Party meeting last Saturday.

The Hall was picketed by about 20 members of NALGO, who were protesting at the refusal to pay Scottish local government staffs the 7% pay increase which has been given to their English and Welsh colleagues. Justification for this grossly unfair treatment is that due to the existence of separate negotiating machinery, (something which NALGO has consistently opposed) the Scottish award was not finalised until after the July 20th deadline. Almost all the local authorities in Scotland have expressed their support for ^{the} staffs and one, Rothesay, has decided to pay the increase and faces consequent legal action by the Government. Thus NALGO's dispute is directly with the Government, and not with their employers.

Electricians in Scotland face a similar situation, for the same reasons, when their English colleagues receive their promised 1/- an hour increase under the productivity agreement this month. In this case there are grave contradictions in the Government's policy. It is economic lunacy to make emigration to England even more attractive to skilled workers who are already in short supply in Scotland.

About 50 members of the ETU turned up to picket Stewart's meeting and jostled and shoved him as he entered the hall. The Minister was clearly shaken at this opposition from workers, the majority of whom certainly voted for his party at the last election. He should also bear in mind that action like this give strength to the arguments of the dangerously chauvinistic Scottish National Party, whose membership and confidence is growing day by day. The Pollok by-election on March 9th will undoubtedly reflect the inroads they are making into traditional Labour support.

Inside the meeting, Stewart was subjected to almost consistently hostile questioning on the operation of the wage freeze - and its seeming inoperation in the field of prices.

CHANNEL TUNNEL AND MERCHANT BANKERS from a Hull correspondent

At least three consortia involving British companies will bid for the financing and management of the Channel Tunnel, following the request for offers made last week by the Minister of Transport, Barbara Castle. They are the Channel Tunnel Study Group; a second group headed by Wimpey; and another, possibly led by Costain. Each will have to prove access to some £200 million of capital with which to finance the construction, and to demonstrate its management and technical capability. When the tunnel is built a public corporation (Anglo-French) will run it. The corporation will repay the construction company, taking into account its fixed-interest debt, as well as the need "to provide a return to risk capital related to the commercial success of the enterprise." There will also be pickings in maintenance and renewal.

The Channel Study Group is the favourite. Sir d'Erlanger, who has been its fount of inspiration for many years, seems certain that this is where the contract will fall. The Group has a committee of bankers including Morgan Grenfell, Lazards, Barings, Rothschilds and Schrodgers in Britain; a Rothschild led syndicate in France; and Morgan Stanley and Dillon Reed in America.

The petition against Harold Wilson presenting the Silver Cod, with hundreds of signatures of fishermen and other trade unionists, has this week been sent to Mr. Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, who agreed to take Mr. Wilson's place at the ceremony, after the latter had withdrawn. The following letter to Mr. Peart accompanied the petition:

Dear Mr. Peart,
St. Andrews' Dock, Hull.
February 27th, 1967.

Enclosed you will find the signed petition asking the Prime Minister not to present the Silver Cod, and giving our reasons for this request. We were pleased to hear that Mr. Wilson had withdrawn from the ceremony, but disappointed and dismayed to learn that you had agreed to take his place. We believe that it is as inappropriate for you to present the trophy as for Mr. Wilson. At a time when feeling is running so high among trawlermen against the owners' record in the safety field, we feel let down and betrayed when a Labour Government associates with them in this way. Insult, we feel, has been added to injury in the last few weeks, in the use made by the owners and the Industrial Court of the Government's wage freeze policies, to reject our claim for a 48 hour week and for 8 hours' overtime payment at 6/0d an hour.

One sign of the strength of this feeling which has shown itself is the resolution carried by the Grimsby branch of the T&GWU trawlermen's section, to withdraw all support from the Labour Party. This, as you will be aware, is in a constituency represented by your government colleague, Mr. Crosland. We believe that you should reflect seriously on this whole situation, and act immediately in the spirit of our petition to the Prime Minister, by informing the trawler owners' federation that you are unable to attend their dinner, or to present the Silver Cod.

"DISGRACEFUL" CONCEALMENT OF BANKS' PROFITS from an economic correspondent

On Wednesday last week the Westminster Bank reports and accounts were described as "disgraceful" for their lack of information by an angry shareholder attending the Bank's annual meeting. On the following day the annual meeting of the National Provincial Bank was similarly marked by criticisms - this time to the effect that details of tax paid by the Bank had not been revealed. On Friday it was the Midland Bank's turn for heated exchanges between the chairman and a shareholder, Mr. Wheal, who said he thought that as shareholders and owners of the bank, "we should know how much the net profits are". He also revealed that the directors, who alone had access to this information, held between them less than one fifth of one per cent of the shares.

Such exchanges refute the argument, frequently used against the 'Open the Books' campaign, that company law provides for inspection of accounts on request.

HULL MASS MEETING IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL

We have received advance notice of a Public Meeting to be held on Friday, 17 March, at 7.30 pm, in the Church Institute, Albion Street, Hull. The speakers will be Lawrence Daly, General Secretary Scottish N.U.M., and a member of the War Crimes Tribunal, recently returned from Vietnam and Cambodia; and Ken Coates, a director of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation.

AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE from a special correspondent

In the February 27 issue of Newsweek, under the title "The Great American Purchase", Senior Editor Arnaud de Borchgrave describes European concern at the invasion by American capital. He cites the example of le Directeur General, Banque de Commerce, Bruxelles, whose "European dress and faultless French" conceals the fact that he is an American and a Vice President of New York's Chase Manhattan Bank, which just happens to own a 50% interest in the Banque. "The number of financial beachheads opened up and the amount of industrial high ground already captured in this invasion is staggering to behold. Chicago's First National Bank has bought a stake in Holland's big (50 branches) N.V. Slavenburg Bank. Late last year, Paris's Banque Mobiliere et Industrielle changed hands; it now belongs to New York's Blyth & Co. And Chase Manhattan, thanks to a steady diet of take-overs, has become the second largest commercial bank in all of France."

"Europe's bursting assembly lines, too, are increasingly apt to be owned by Americans. Companies controlled by Detroit now build more than half the automobiles manufactured in Britain and 30% of all Western European models. More than half the drugs supplied to Britain's National Health Service come either from American subsidiaries or directly from the United States. . . . ITT, the largest (100,000 employees) U.S. firm in Europe, has cornered 30% of Europe's telephone market; IBM make well over half the Continent's computers, and General Electric and Honeywell account for most of the rest. Even the French perfume industry is beginning to topple Revlon has absorbed both Balmein and Raphael; Pfizer owns Coty; Max Factor owns Corday; and this week the famous Parfums Carons is likely to sell a controlling interest to A. H. Robins Co., a pharmaceutical firm in Richmond, Virginia."

" The Surge of American ownership in Europe is growing at the astounding pace of \$11 million a day - or \$4 billion a year. In 1964, when the American business stake in Europe passed the \$12 billion mark, most experts predicted it would soon level off. Today, it is about to top \$20 billion - and is still climbing. . . . Everything European is dwarfed by the mastodons of American manufacturing, backed by the resources of the most opulent money market in the world. In a number of cases, European companies have opened their doors to American ownership only because there seemed no way to raise the funds they needed within Europe."

" An increasing number of responsible Europeans feel ominously threatened with the fate that has already befallen Canada, where 60% of all productive capacity is U.S. owned. What bothers Europeans most is their belief that business decisions crucial to their economic welfare are being made by parent companies in Detroit, Phoenix and Los Angeles, where U.S. domestic factors are still the main consideration. . . . Many of the U.S. giants, for example, carry out all their basic research at home, thus depriving their European subsidiaries of the stimulus of work on the technological frontiers."

" There is also some gloomy talk of expropriation as the only remedy. Of late, responsible Europeans for the first time have begun to raise this specter in private conversation. 'If European industry continues to labor at a disadvantage', one of them told me, 'you will see the pendulum swing back to left-wing governments and a wave of nationalisation sweep over Europe.'"

IAN SMITH IS TO INTRODUCE APARTHEID by a special correspondent

A speech made by Ian Smith over the radio on February 18 made it clear that the regime envisaged an apartheid future for the African population. He said that this is what the Africans themselves wanted, "invariably the evidence that I have from Africans is that they prefer to live according to their own customs -- to live their own way of life in the same way as the European does."

The great problem, he said, was to ensure that the African was given as good a chance in life as the European. The Government believed, he said, that the chiefs were better suited to represent Africans' views at present than African MPs.

The regime is adopting a tougher attitude towards all dissent. It has gazetted draft new citizenship laws giving it greater powers to deprive Rhodesians of citizenship unless they are born in the country.

The Minister of Internal Affairs will be empowered to take away citizenship from people whose activities are judged to be prejudicial to public safety or order or likely to harm relations between sections of the public. And during "any war in which Rhodesia is engaged" the same will apply to those who unlawfully trade or communicate with an enemy or engage in business they know would assist an enemy -- an entity that could be broadly interpreted as Mr. Smith and his colleagues who regularly refer to the struggle against sanctions as "war".

SCOTTISH ELECTRICIANS MAY STRIKE. from a Scottish correspondent

Ten Thousand Scottish contracting electricians are threatening to take strike action over the Government's refusal to allow payment of an extra 1s an hour in line with a productivity agreement applying in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Scottish agreement was not signed until July 21 last, and the increase has been frozen until next July -- although it will be paid in the South and in Northern Ireland in March.

Mr. William Blairford, executive council officer for the Electrical Trades Union in Scotland, said today that the Prices and Incomes Board obviously felt the situation in Scotland was different to that in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Both employers and men, however, disagreed. For the first time, men in the electrical trades in Scotland working with tradesmen from England would be paid different rates if the injustice was not removed.

C.I.A. DISCLOSURES: BELGIAN JOURNALISTS LEAVE I.F.J. from New York Times

The 900-member Professional Union of the Belgian Press has decided to suspend all payments to the International Federation of Journalists until "the truth" is known about accusations that C.I.A. funds have been paid to the American Newspapers Guild and, therefore, indirectly to the I.F.J. The I.F.J., of which the Belgian union is a founder member, is financed by journalists' trade unions in 26 countries....The American Newspaper Guild is the largest affiliated organisation, after Britain's National Union of Journalists.

The forthcoming conference of NALSO will be one of the most decisive that the organisation has held. Readers of The Week will be aware of the partially successful take-over bid that the SLL made at the January interim conference and the subsequent disciplinary action of Transport House. The April conference will show how effectively the SLL can mobilise to complete their take-over and to what extent the Transport House sabotage has worked.

The future for NALSO does not have to be a dead end. If left wing delegates are sent from all affiliated clubs in large enough numbers, then both the sectarians and the right wing can be defeated. A large turn-out is essential as the SLL, by one means or another, intend to muster a considerable delegation. If they are successful, NALSO will be led off into the wilderness to join the scattered remnants of the unofficial YS.

The strategy of the right is now becoming clear. Those right-wingers who voted for the SLL at the interim conference thought that, once they had done this, they could appeal to Transport House to proscribe NALSO, and then would inherit the leadership of a reorganised and purged NALSO. They miscalculated: Transport House was quick to take advantage of their plot but were not at all interested in setting up any type of national Labour student organisation. They have in mind a number of "loyal" clubs under the thumb of the local Regional Youth Officer, and allowed only regional contacts. Already, R.Y.Os. are investigating clubs and will appoint various stooge cliques unless prevented.

If NALSO can survive the Easter conference, it has an important and vital role to play. The upsurge in student militancy has very largely bypassed NALSO. This could be remedied. The preponderance of Liberals and Communists on RSA should be counterbalanced and, for the first time, a programme for students as such could be formulated. At a time when the problems of students and those of the trade unionists are being seen as stemming from the same basic causes, it is imperative that there should be a national Socialist student voice.

The Labour Party rank and file can play a most important role in the development of NALSO. De jure and de facto, NALSO is now an independent Socialist student movement, with very few external contacts and less financial help. Even if NALSO grovelled - and students at this moment are in no mood to grovel - Transport House would refuse to re-affiliate them.

Labour Parties, trade union branches, SEAs, etc., must pass resolutions deploring the disciplinary action. This work should culminate at the Labour Party Conference with a reference back of the NEC Report on Youth. It is equally important that donations should be sent to NALSO, and that they should be asked to provide speakers to explain their case and to obtain those contacts in the Labour movement that they need. Given hard work by student and Labour Party members, and given some luck, NALSO can pull through.

OXFORD NALSO SAYS SUPPORT RADICAL STUDENTS from Bernard Reaney

The following resolution was passed by the Oxford University Labour Club policy committee on February 28th: "This conference"(Annual NALSO conference)" resolves to give critical support to, and work with, the Radical Students Alliance in order to link the students' struggles with the struggles of the Labour movement, and with the aim of forming a radical national students' affiliated to the T.U.C. and the Labour Party."

HOW THE C.I.A. HELPED OVERTHROW JAGAN from a special correspondent

The following report which appeared in the February 23rd issue of the New York Times gives the low down on how Cheddi Jagan was overthrown in British Guiana: Central Intelligence Agency operatives, working under the cover of an American labor union, helped organize strikes in British Guiana in 1962 and 1963 against former Prime Minister Cheddi Jagan, informed labor sources said yesterday. The sources said the International Affairs Department of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, was actually run by two C.I.A. agents, who operated out of the union's former headquarters in Washington with the knowledge of the union leadership. The union used C.I.A. funds for $4\frac{1}{2}$ years from 1959 until May of 1964 to finance its overseas activities, mainly in Latin America.

The relationship with the intelligence agency was completely severed in 1964 by Jerry Wurf, the current president of the federation, who defeated Arnold Zander for the presidency at the union's conference in 1964. Mr. Wurf disbanded the international section.

Dr. Jagan was replaced by Forbes S. Burnham, the current and pro-American Prime Minister of the former British colony in elections in December of 1964. The Kennedy Administration had feared that Dr. Jagan would transform Guyana into another Cuba if he managed to retain power. The riots, strikes and racial strife, some of which were reportedly instigated by Mr. Burnham's faction, undoubtedly played a major part in bringing about Dr. Jagan's downfall. The sources said C.I.A. agents operating under the cover of the American union helped pro-Burnham forces and public employees unions organize strikes against Dr. Jagan during both 1962 and 1963.

The sources said the American union's relationship with the C.I.A. began in 1959 when the federation's leadership sought funds from private sources to finance training programs in organizing unions, co-operatives and other similar societies in Africa. The union leadership was at first unaware that the funds were C.I.A. money but when this was learned shortly after, the union leadership decided to maintain the relationship because funds were not available elsewhere.

Although the initial grant was a small one of \$7,500, the funds were steadily expanded until the C.I.A. was supplying about \$60,000 a year by 1961 through the Gotham Foundation. Much of the funds were used, the sources said, to help 12 to 15 public service unions in the Caribbean and Latin America, which were affiliated to the American federation's international branch, to train their members in organizational techniques and to finance educational programs. Unions in Argentina, Peru, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago were affiliated.

It is scarcely conceivable that this could take place without the knowledge of the Labour Government. We must insist that Mr. Greenwood, the Colonial Secretary during the period of the C.I.A. activity, answer the question: Did he know of the C.I.A. activity? If he did why did he not speak out and refused to have any dealings with the C.I.A.-sponsored Forbes Burnham party? If he didn't know, there is something fantastically wrong in the way Cabinet Ministers are briefed to take decisions and he must say so.

ANTHONY GREENWOOD MUST COME CLEAN ON THE C.I.A. AND GUYANA!

LOBBY OF TRADE UNION EXECUTIVES ON MARCH 2 from an industrial correspondent

Mr. Jim Hiles, secretary of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions has made a call for strong support for the lobby of trade union executives, next Thursday at Central Hall. In a statement issued on February 23rd, he pointed out that the T.U.C. was not against the incomes policy but wanted to take over the role of the Government in making it work.

"Trade unionists should not be kidded -- the effect will be the same," said Mr. Hiles, "The same difficulties in achieving wage increase will be facing them and will have to be opposed just as much as direct Government interference."

He defended his personal right and that of the liaison committee to organise and take part in lobbies and similar activities. "It is my inalienable right to fight to protect my standard of living -- it is not enough to leave it to others to do that for me," he said.

The liaison committee does not challenge the authority of the trade unions he said, but strengthens trade union organisation. "The committee wants to see unions doing the job they were created for -- to fight for the best deal possible for their memberships. This is to be found in the Declaration of Purpose adopted at last December's conference by nearly 700 delegates representing 460 trade union organisations."

"But it is apparent that there are organisations making strenuous efforts to use and discredit the activities of the liaison committee for purposes that have nothing in common with its aims. We deplore the action of these people who have no standing in the Labour movement and show themselves for what they are -- disrupters and even enemies of the organised trade union movement. As for the lobby of trade union executives on March 2 at Central Hall, we only want men and women elected by their union and shop steward organisations to go there."

Mr. Hiles' statements about "outside organisations" are understandable but regrettable. Trying to ban the ultra-left is no answer. I can sympathise with Mr. Hiles, especially in view of downright lies which have been told about the lobby and its preparation by certain individuals. The best way of dealing with the ultra-left is to tackle him politically, and avoid being drawn into organisational wrangles.

MOVE TO FORM ONE UNION FOR ALL POST OFFICE WORKERS

Mr. Tom Jackson, the newly elected secretary of the Post Office Workers Union who is strongly in favour of workers control, has called for steps to form a single trade union for all post office workers. In a letter to the general secretaries of 18 other unions representing Post Office employees, Mr. Jackson says that the Postmaster-General has already made it clear that there will be a single Board at the head of the new public corporation. This will mean that no matter what the individual place of employees may be within the corporation, they will be confronted by a single employing authority. The executive of the UPW believes that a single trade union will be the best way of meeting the challenge of change that public corporation status will bring.

AFRO-AMERICANS REJECT VIETNAM DRAFT, BRING CHARGES AGAINST GOVERNMENT

One of the most encouraging developments over the past two years has been the growth in the United States of an organized opposition to the government's dirty war in Vietnam. That this opposition has found response among the advanced elements of the black people in the U.S. should inspire people anew.

Two young black men in Los Angeles have refused to obey an order to be inducted into the U.S. Army. Karl Van Key and Norman Earl Richmond have challenged the right of the American government to draft negroes on the basis that they are not citizens but colonial subjects. The suit they have filed also charges that the war in Vietnam is illegal and contrary to United States laws and treaty obligations.

Key and Richmond's original petition states, "Petitioners were born in the United States of America and are members of the colored race... In harmony with the views and purposes of the Self Determination Committee (of which both are members) petitioners are of the belief, based upon the actual and real relations subsisting between the colored and white people in the United States, that the colored petitioners, are not citizens of the United States but colonial subjects thereof...

"By virtue thereof, petitioners believe and allege that the order of induction as addressed to them, placing upon them burdens which erroneously assume their position as citizens of the United States is a violation of the equal protection and due process clause of the Constitution of the United States...(and was) issued solely in furtherance of the military actions of the officers of the United States...in Vietnam.

"The said military actions, are unlawful in that they are in violation of the Constitution of the United States, the treaty obligations of the United States, including the Charter of the United Nations, and the law of nations and said induction order is accordingly itself unlawful. The purpose of said military actions is a colonial suppression and subjugation of a similarly unorganized non-white people, and similar denial of self-determination to them; also containment of an idea, for private and not for public benefit; and wholly beyond the war-making power guaranteed under the constitution..."

Richmond testified at his hearing, "They (the Vietnamese) have a common bondage with the Negro and a common suffering, both from the white man. I don't see why I should be there. I am fighting for the same thing they are fighting for -- freedom and self-determination."

The government is worried about the effects that this case may have in the Black ghettos nationally and is attempting to have the appeal dismissed, so far unsuccessfully. But despite intimidation and other difficulties the undercurrent of Negro resentment at being drafted for the Vietnam war while being denied rights at home is steadily coming to the surface. "Bringing it all home," in the words of Karl Van Key, "I have an obligation to Black people in America. If I give my life it will be for Black people in America"

NOTE: They stood trial Monday, Feb. 27, '67. Results were not available at press time. Statements of solidarity and/or contributions to P.O. Box 37028, Los Angeles, California 90037.

David Horowitz has written a magnificent book. The work of a scholar; fully documented, rich in relevant quotation, complete with notes, index and chronological tables, yet completely free of jargon or pedantry. It might well be sub-titled "Everyman's Guide through the post-war political madhouse," for as the story unfolds, concise, factual, unadorned, from Yalta to Vietnam, the reader has the experience of living through a nightmare or surrealist world, peopled with ghouls and schizophrenics bearing cardboard banners "Leaders of the Free World"

"Our problem has been that we expect the voice of terror to be frenzied, and that of madness irrational. It is quite the contrary in a world where genial, middle-aged Generals consult with precise social scientists about the parameters of the death equation, and the problem of its maximisation. The most rational, orderly, disciplined minds of our time are working long hours in our most efficient laboratories, at the task of eliminating us."

In the spring of 1962, Stewart L. Pitman, Assistant Secretary of Defence indicated that "under the most severe type of nuclear attack foreseeable in the late sixties or early Seventies," 110 million Americans would probably die from heat, blast or immediate radiation close to the explosions. In addition, 40 million to 55 millions probably would die if they lacked protection, but would survive if they were in fall-out shelters. Perhaps as many as 35 millions would survive without protection because they were out of range of the explosions or fall-out patterns. "Thus," Mr. Pitman said, "enough persons could live to ensure the survival of the United States as a nation." He omits to tell us how much respect for the individual, for law, for democratic processes of government, for orderly processes of social change would remain after a nuclear war in which 110 million died. These macabre situations are the logical results of the cold war. But how did the cold war begin? Not, as we are so often told, because of the ruthlessness and duplicity of Stalin or the intransigence of Russia. So anxious, indeed, was Stalin to keep his agreements and maintain good relations with the West that he stood by while British forces broke the back of the Communist-dominated Greek resistance movement, and later restored the monarchy in Greece. In Yugoslavia he disparaged Tito's partisans, extolled the counter-revolutionary Chetniks of Mikhailovich and, later, tried to make Tito agree to the restoration of the monarchy and a British occupation. The break came following the first successful atomic bomb test at Alamogordo: it came because the United States no longer needed the Russian co-operation. Secretary of State Byrnes 'adopted a position of intransigence.' His tough line was supported by John Foster Dulles. Truman announced that there would be no more Big Three Meetings. Bernard Baruch stated "America can get what she wants if she insists on it. After all, we've got it - the bomb - and they haven't and won't have for a long time to come" And so on, to Iran, Korea, Vietnam, Guatemala ... the fantastic arms expenditure, the sordid mis-representations, the pre-occupation with "positions of strength", with missile "gaps" that did not exist; the rejection of advice of men like Cordell Hull, Henry Wallace, Walter Lippmann, the rise of obsessional anti-Soviets such as Dulles, Vandenberg, Harriman.

In this book we have the indictment of a nation: we should get it in large numbers to the man in the street.