

The Week

*Haringey
rents
struggle*

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

6^D

Vol. 8. No 1. July 6th 1967

P O V E R T Y
S C A N D A L

71, Onslow Gardens, London, N.10.

Subscription: £2 per annum and pro rata

Harrington
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THE WAGE

60

A NEWS ANALYST FOR SOCIALISTS
Vol. 8. No. 1. July 1937

POVERTY STANDARD

Subscription: 45 per annum and 100 per year
17, Oxford Gardens, London, E.C.10.

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THE POVERTY SCANDAL

A Government report, issued this week, has completely demolished the myth of the affluent society. It reveals that nearly half-a-million families - comprising up to one-and-a-quarter million children - have incomes below assistance level. Anyone who is familiar with the miserly national assistance "benefits" will realise that this means living in dire poverty. Living at this low level of income not only leads to a low standard of living, with the accompanying low nutritional standards, etc., it is extremely demoralising and tends to take away the dignity of the families affected. The role of the Labour Government has been to make this situation worse, as was recognised by The Economist last week when it described the incomes policy as being horribly unfair to the lower paid.

The latest issue of the Journal of the Child Poverty Action Group underlines this situation with two blistering attacks on Government policy from Frank Cousins and Brian Jackson, director of A.C.E. (the Advisory Centre for Education). Frank Cousins links the struggle of the T.G.W.U. for the £15 a week minimum wage with the struggle against poverty. He accuses the Government of not understanding the need for an incomes policy which would equalise incomes upwards.

The fight against poverty is one which must be taken up seriously by all those on the left who want to break the present impasse in British politics. Who can deny that a campaign against poverty is an urgent social necessity? Yet on the other hand, such a campaign is impossible unless it is linked to bringing about a basic change in Government policy. British capitalism cannot afford to both bolster up the pound and fight against poverty. If British capitalism cannot bolster up the pound it will probably collapse. The Labour Government has tried to justify its incomes policy in terms of socialism by saying that it is designed to protect the lower paid against the selfishness of the highly-paid, highly organised unionists. Therefore, at one blow we campaign for an aim which seems reasonable to the vast majority of the people, which seems to be the logical conclusion of the Government's declared aims, and yet which cannot be achieved without a fundamental, anti-capitalist policy being adopted.

The scandal of poverty both confirms and re-vitalises our basic socialist commitment, it gives us a ready-made argument to make the ideas of socialism relevant to wide layers of the population. We should not miss this opportunity.

ADEN: FROM BAD TO WORSE

The decision to move into the Crater area of Aden - taken, we are told, by the military against the wishes of the politicians - shows the logic of the position Wilson has got into. Having decided to maintain a military presence against the wishes of the mass of the people of Aden, the Government has to face the consequences of that decision. There is only one alternative to being immersed in a deeper and deeper crisis: a bold, unequivocal decision to withdraw British troops immediately.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES from David Robinson.

Merger of Technicians' Unions Proposed.

Two militant white-collar unions, the Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives and Technicians (ASSET) and the Association of Scientific Workers (AScW) are to amalgamate if their members give approval. A joint statement by their general secretaries said the executives had agreed unanimously to recommend the merger, which would create the biggest technicians' union in the world.

It would be called the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, with a membership of 80,000. The statement said it was expected this would rise to more than 100,000 within three years on the basis of the existing rate of growth of the two unions. Clive Jenkins, general secretary of ASSET, said the two unions were merging on the basis of complete equality with a joint executive composed of equal numbers from both sides. Although no date has been set for the proposed amalgamation, if the executives' recommendation is endorsed by ballots of the members of both unions it is likely to take place early next year.

White Collar Unions Supported.

In a letter to The Financial Times, Monday July 3, Jack Jones, Assistant Secretary of T&GWU, emphasised the necessity for organising staff-workers in trade unions. He attacked the 'harmful industrial myth that there is some fundamental distinction between the way in which the problems of manual workers and staff workers have to be dealt with.'

'Even if it were ever true that the staff worker's problems could be dealt with on an individual basis (and I suspect that "individual" here is a euphemism for "subservient") the plain facts are that the trend in staff organisation, takeovers, office design, and office machinery has created a situation where individual treatment of basic wages and conditions is more likely to represent favouritism than a proper means of handling these issues. The staff worker is just as likely, more so in some cases, to be made redundant in large numbers when industrial reorganisation occurs, and his wages are just as likely to be increased (or not increased) for a whole grade of employees as is his industrial counterpart..... Of course, as in the case of industrial workers, there are always individual problems that arise, but these are in fact much more equitably and effectively solved within the framework of a good collective basic agreement than in a jumble of salaries resented by many and understood by none. White-collar trades unionism is moving rapidly ahead - despite the old myths.'

Drop in Wages for Construction Workers.

The June Ministry of Labour Gazette gave the results of an enquiry into earnings and hours in the construction industries. It shows that average weekly earnings of adult male workers fell in the period June 1966 to January 1967. The drop in the wage packet varied from 13s 7d to 32s 9d a week. The reason given for the fall was a decrease in hours worked. This varied from 1.8 hours for the skilled and qualified workers to 3.3 hours for "plus-rated" men, helpers, mates and handymen.

PIT CLOSURES News from Joe Kenyon

Another so-called longlife pit has been WARNED. The Woolley Branch N.U.M. have just held a special meeting. To discuss Union business? No! It called a meeting to further propogate the National Coal Board's subtle device to ease its manpower problems and to intensify its campaign for squeezing the last ounce of sweat from those men unable to escape from the industry and, of course, by reason of its policy, to create further reasons and excuses for contracting the industry still further.

The men at Woolley Colliery - one of Yorkshire's biggest pits employing 2,300 men, have been warned that the pit is "in the red" and unless they increase production, the pit may be next in line for the chop. Arthur Scargill, the branch delegate, said, "The purpose of the meeting was to bring home to the men the seriousness of the position. It is better to do something now than to wait until the position was more serious. The N.C.B. expects every man to do his utmost if the pit is to survive", he said.

Up to now, Woolley has been regarded as one of Britain's longlife pits; hundreds of men have been sent there during the past few months from other pits that have closed down. What sort of a shuffle-arse game are they playing? For Christ's sake, how long are the union leaders going to persist in cracking the whip every time the Coal Board say's MOVE? For much too long now, the union leaders have been too sterile, too witless in meeting the challenge put to them by the Coal Board.

If it really is so - and they must know - that the Government is bent on running the industry down, then the union should tell the Board and the Government that they will no longer co-operate in the closing of pits unless: firm guarantees are given that alternative SOCIALLY-OWNED industry will be set up to provide attractive employment for the men coming from the pits; that there shall be no unemployment for redundant miners; that protected employment shall be given to the disabled miners who are at present being booted on to the dole-heap when a pit closes; that if the industry is going to be run down, be honest about it and not underhand, as at present. Let's have the cards on the table (the books as well); let it be understood that the responsibility is the Government's and the risks involved recognised and accounted for.

The N.U.M. should also advertise to the young men leaving school:
KEEP OUT OF THE COAL INDUSTRY - THERE IS NO SECURITY AND NO FUTURE
IN IT FOR YOU - YOUNG MAN STAY AWAY.

In this sort of situation, this is about the only way the N.U.M. can offer a challenge to the Coal Board. They should tell the Board and the Government that they are not prepared to stand by and see their members exploited and sweated for the sake of cheap coal.

NO DISCUSSION - PIT STOPS from a special correspondent

Two hundred miners at Lea Hall colliery, Rugeley, Staffs, were on strike on July 4th and pickets were on duty outside the entrances of other pits in the Cannock Chase area. The men came out after learning that the management have refused to discuss with union leaders ways of increasing productivity at the pit without the introduction of a third shift, due next Monday.

VICTORY AT NOTTINGHAM COLOUR BAR PUB?

by Jill Westby (Secretary of the
Anti-Colour Bar Organisation)

A partial victory has been won over the licensee and employees at the "Mechanics Arms", the colour bar pub in Nottingham which was the subject of an article in the last issue of The Week.

On Friday, June 30th, between 30 and 40 people, black and white, went to the pub soon after 6.30 pm., intending to hold a "drink-in" if coloured men were not served. That is, they would each have one small cheap drink which would last them until closing time - a ploy which can result in cutting the pub's takings to an all-time low.

Although the first group of about ten, including one West Indian, was not initially able to buy drinks, the situation changed as more mixed groups came into the pub and everybody was served. It was noticeable, however, that the licensee's wife avoided serving coloured people, turning her back on those who requested drinks while her husband took over the orders! The reason for this apparent change of attitude is twofold: we have reason to believe that the police have added some pressure to that already provided by demonstrations reported last week. Of course the police have acted all along in such a way as to play the whole thing down, even giving the licensee no assistance when he wished to turn out the demonstrators. On Friday however, policemen remained outside the pub for most of the evening in a police car, and a Black Maria was spotted in the area!

At a further meeting in a more congenial pub, it was agreed that this matter must not rest there, as the colour bar may well have been lifted for the pleasure of the Nottingham City Police for this one occasion only, and that it would be necessary to carry out more individual test cases sporadically in the future. It was also agreed that an organisation be set up to fight the colour bar in Nottingham and a Committee was duly elected, consisting of Mr. Lyn, Comrade Homri MacLean, George Dowe, Ernest Whittingham, Roy Whittingham (all West Indians), Dennis Smith (Guinanian), June Carr, Barry Donlan, Bob Gregory, Brian Simister and Jill Westby (English). The Committee is to hold its first meeting this week, and the future development of the Mechanics issue in particular, and the activities of the new organisation will be further reported in The Week.

RACE RELATIONS ACT EXPOSED (No. 2) from Tom Nicholls

The article on Race Relations in Nottingham has brought us mail from several readers, including a report by the National Council for Civil Liberties which was sent to us by Tom Nicholls:

"The Race Relations Act has now been used against the Oxford Committee for Racial Integration whose members were picketing a colour bar hairdresser in Oxford. The Committee had originally advised a girl who had been refused service to complain to the Race Relations Board, which pointed out that the shop did not come within the scope of the Act. A member of the Committee tried unsuccessfully to meet the manageress. Other customers were refused and a methodist minister then went to see the manageress who denied discriminating. A week later an Indian girl was refused an appointment.

Race Relations Act Exposed / continued

"Only after these moves was it decided to organise a small, peaceful picket as a last resort. The police were informed the day before it was due to begin. Chief Inspector Isherwood of Oxford City Police, who is "Police Liaison Officer for Racial Integration" informed the Committee that the demonstration could be in breach of bye-laws and the Public Order Act. In the event 5 picketers, including two clergymen, Councillor Olive Gibbs and the Chairman of OCRI were arrested. . . . and charged with 'displaying insulting signs whereby a breach of the peace was likely to be occasioned contrary to Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936, as amended by Section 7 of the Race Relations Act.' When the case was heard the charges were dismissed.

"What cannot be dismissed are certain questions posed by this incident. Why did the police including the officer responsible for race relations think it more important to stop a peaceful and responsible protest rather than make enquiries about the situation which prompted it? Why were costs refused to the defendants? Why was a policy decision taken at high level to arrest the picketers even before the picket took place? Why was the Public Order Act used when no threat to public order existed? Why was the Race Relations Act used against racial integrationists?"

PARENTS MAY TAKE OUT WRITS AGAINST NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION

Nottingham City Education Committee's decision to cut back on the school meals service has come under heavy fire. Following Ken Coates's statements in the Press to the effect that parents might have a right of legal redress, there has been a series of protests against the action. At the Fernwood School, Wollaton, parents held a protest meeting and said they would take the matter further if their children were continued to be turned away. In the City Council meeting on Monday, Councillor Peter Price (who recently won his legal battle against the Labour Party NEC, but who is still refused the Labour Whip) pointed out that the 1944 Education Act clearly laid down that "on every day on which a school maintained by an Authority is open for instruction, the Authority shall provide mid-day dinners for day pupils attending the School." Following the Council meeting there was further extensive press coverage under the headline "Writs on School Meals."

DEMOCRACY IN THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS from Paul Gerhardt (Bromley L.P.Y.S.)

The farce of democracy in the LPYS continues. At a National Committee on June 24, David Collins, the selected representative from the Southern Region, was elected national Chairman. The only members of the committee to oppose this were the two who had the courage to offer themselves for endorsement by their own regional conferences: Mike Caffoor (London) and Mike Kalahar (Eastern Region). The following day the Southern Region Council met to elect its new regional committee. David Collins, already National Chairman, was opposed by John Larke of the editorial board of Rebel for the position of representative for Kent. Collins was defeated by a 2 to 1 majority, and at the next meeting of the regional committee John Larke was elected chairman of the Southern Regional Council. This farce must now stop. Collins must resign and offer himself for endorsement (or otherwise) of the L.P. Young Socialists in the Southern Region.

WHY WILSON AND BROWN VACILLATE OVER THE MIDDLE EAST by Pat Jordan

It is impossible to understand the incident in which Brown was criticised for being "pro-Arab", because of his speech at the United Nations, unless one puts the affair in the context of the dilemma which faces British imperialism in the Middle East. On the one hand the present Labour leaders were forced, because they have adopted a general strategy of supporting American imperialism throughout the world, to support Israel in its aggressive stance towards the Arab powers. This was all the more the case because the Israeli Government had as one of its main aims the toppling of the left-nationalist regime in Syria. This Government had given the Iraqi Petroleum Company, in which there are powerful British investments, a great deal of trouble earlier this year by insisting on higher oil royalties and the paying of back-debts on the royalties. On the other hand, British imperialism cannot, for a variety of reasons, afford to antagonise the Arab people and their governments. Already we see that the position of British imperialism has been made even worse in Aden because of the Middle East crisis. But of particular importance is the effect that the Arab countries' oil embargo is having on the balance of payments position.

The Times Business News, of July 3, estimates "balance of payments stands to lose anything up to £150m. or even more in the first 12 months". The reasons are varied; "BP for example, looks like having to increase its tanker capacity by almost 50 per cent so long as the Canal is closed. Its existing 6m. tons capacity was almost fully stretched handling current oil flows from the Middle East to Europe through the Canal. The Capre route will add 20 days to the 40-day round trip using the canal. Short-term charter rates have rocketed to about £7 per ton voyage. And at present the oil companies are reluctant to save on the longer-term rates when the canal may be opened at any time. If this position continued for 12 months, it could cost BP £100m. in foreign currency of which only about two-thirds would be quickly recoverable from consumers on the continent."

Wilson has a harder problem than other western countries because "In 1966 the United Kingdom imported almost 50m. tons from the boycotting countries (Kuwait 15,700,000. Iraq 10,400,000. Libya 10m. Saudi Arabia 6,500,000, Qatar and Abu Dhabi 4,400,000 and Algeria 1,600,000). This was 69 per cent of total crude and partly refined oil imports, most of the rest coming from Nigeria (9.9 per cent) Venezuela (9 per cent) and Iran (6.1 per cent). Demand would normally be about 10 per cent higher during the next 12 months. Iran, which produced 105m. tons in 1966 and will face stiffer competition on the continent from the Arab states which are boycotting the United Kingdom might be able to supply an extra 25m. tons a year to Britain. The only major extra cost would be higher freight charges allowed for above."

Moreover: "Nigeria, which produced 21m. tons in 1966, cannot be relied upon for much extra supplies so long as acute political uncertainty threatens the country's stability. Thirty million tons from Venezuela at about an extra 35s. a ton would cost about £50m. although part of this would accrue to British oil companies operating in Venezuela."

The left should seek to take advantage of the difficult situation facing Wilson by pressing all the harder for the evacuation of all British troops from the Middle East and for the ending of support for Israel. In this way we will be helping the Arab Revolution in the most practical way.

JUMBLE SALE IN AID OF HUGO BLANCO'S FAMILY

On Saturday, the 8th July, at 2.30 p.m. at Greenwood House, 446 Uxbridge Road, London, W.12. (North Hammersmith Labour Party Rooms). We would be very grateful for some assistance from anyone who can come say an hour or so before the sale starts. Also of course for any jumble which we will gladly pick up at agreed times, if they will telephone me 743 - 5791..Anything will do -

HARINGEY RENTS STRUGGLE HOTS UP

from a correspondent

In its issue of June 8th, The Week gave an account of the recent rent increases in the Labour Borough of Haringey, and of the activity of the Haringey Action Committee of Tenants. Since then, there have been several developments in the situation. The Action Committee's petition has led to the formation of several new tenants' associations and there are now associations on the majority of the Council estates in the borough. A Haringey Tenants and Residents Federation has been set up with representatives from nearly all these associations. This Federation has called a mass lobby of the Haringey Council on Monday, July 10th; the first Council Meeting since the increases have come into effect. This lobby will take place outside the Civic Centre, Wood Green High Road, N.22. from 7.00 p.m. onwards. It is hoped that there will be a massive attendance from Council tenants who have signed the petition, and all readers of The Week in the Haringey area are urged to come along and show their solidarity.

The growing anxiety at this wave of protest inside the Labour Party is shown by the decision of the Wood Green Party to expel Ted Wheeler, the Treasurer of the Action Committee. The main charge brought against Wheeler was that he had permitted the delivery of the Action Committee's leaflet (reproduced in The Week of June 8th) during a Council by-election in one of the Tottenham Wards. Wheeler's name appeared as publisher on the leaflet. Wheeler was requested by the Agent to suspend delivery of the leaflet during the by-election period only a few days before the election; he replied that he was not in a position to instruct other members of the Committee to withdraw the leaflet. If the Party had been interested in withdrawing the leaflet rather than provoking Wheeler, the request would surely have been made some time before. It was pointed out during the discussion that many other members of the Labour Party supported the Action Committee and that this was a clear case of victimisation. An added smear was the allegation that Wheeler in private conversation to one individual member of the Party, had expressed the intention of not voting Labour in the G.L.C. elections. Wheeler denied this and the matter was not pursued, although the allegation undoubtedly influenced the vote.

When Wheeler asked the Agent under what rule he was being expelled, there was an embarrassed silence while the Agent fumbled through the Rule Book, before mumbling something about 'conduct contrary to the principles of the Party'. "Left" M.P., Joyce Butler sat silent throughout the proceedings. Another member of the Wood Green Party has been warned that further public criticism of the Party may render him liable for expulsion.

Ted Wheeler is an active trade unionist, devotes much time to local immigrant problems and is Chairman of the Haringey Council for Peace in Vietnam. He has been a Labour Party worker since childhood and is a former Youth Officer of the Wood Green Party. He is appealing against his expulsion and all sections of the Labour movement are urged to pass resolutions deploring his expulsion.

MASS LOBBY of the Haringey Council on Monday, 10th July from 7pm.

Support the Haringey Tenants and Residents Federation and STOP the threatened rent increases.

THE CIVIC CENTRE, Wood Green High Rd., N.22.

ADEN DEMONSTRATION IN GLASGOW - from Bob Purdie

One result of its economic depression and high unemployment has been to make Scotland a prime recruiting ground for H.M. Forces. In fact a large proportion of the troops in Aden at present are Scots and many Scots workers who have been in the Armed Forces have served in Aden.

This has had a negative influence on the thinking of many such workers, placed in a situation where they are the object of the attacks of the Adeni Liberation Movement and confused by the propaganda of the British Press and the Army itself, they are unable to understand the true reasons for the struggle of the Adeni people and respond with bitter racist attitudes which influence other workers and lend support to the imperialist policies of Wilson and Brown.

The recent escalation of the conflict and the killing of British soldiers in Crater has led to an outburst of jingoist propaganda in the "popular" press. This spurred supporters of V.S.C. in Glasgow to think seriously about the problem and to take action to combat the reactionary press campaign. A poster parade and leaflet distribution were organised as the best forms of action which could be mounted quickly and effectively. Invitations were sent to various groups on the Left, but unfortunately the response was not great - in fact some sections expressed the view that it would be a waste of time.

In the event, eight people with posters which said "Bring back the troops now" and linked up ~~the~~ Wage Freeze with support for the feudal Sheikhs, walked through the main streets of Glasgow last Saturday afternoon (1st July) and distributed leaflets explaining the true nature of the struggle in Aden and finishing up with the slogans "No British Vietnam in Aden!", "No Support for the Feudal Sheikhs and Oil Millionaires!" and "Bring the Troops Home now!"

All of the participants felt qualms about the smallness of their numbers and the likely response but, in fact, far from derision or hostility they were greeted first by puzzlement and then by a large measure of support - it was evident that the slogans were getting across. The experience of this action has been very valuable, both in gauging the response to anti-imperialist slogans and the value of even small groups of people taking public action to combat reactionary propaganda.

The growth of V.S.C. has been accompanied by a growing realisation of how the issue of Vietnam is linked with the wider problems of domination of the under-developed world by the big monopolies. The action of the Glasgow comrades shows that a more generalised anti-imperialist movement is necessary and can be developed. Incidentally, the demonstration had quite an international character; three Scots, two English, one Irish, one German and one Indian participated.

POSTSCRIPT TO SQUARE GRIP STRIKE ARTICLE.

"Last week's edition contained the latest news of the strike at Square Grip Reinforcement Co., Newhouse, Lanarkshire. Our correspondent unfortunately left out the address to which donations should be sent to assist the 18 individual still out of work. This is: Iam Armstrong, 5 Loch Road, Chapelhall, Airdrie, Lanarkshire. We hope that readers will try and raise funds from their organisations to try and assist these men."

USE OF NAPALM BY ISRAEL - Press Release from Free Arabia Committee

An Emergency Conference of the Free Arabia Committee was held at the New Ambassadors Hotel, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. on Sunday, 2nd July, 1967. The object was to present signed testimonies by three doctors and photographic evidence regarding the use of napalm by Israeli forces against the Arabs. The meeting was well attended and the Committee was described as the only British organisation of Solidarity with the 100 million Arab peoples. Mr. Faris Glubb, son of Glubb Pasha, faced a barrage of accusations and penetrating questions on various delicate matters.

The Daily Telegraph representative accused the Committee of being biased - the answer being that the Committee was merely that of solidarity with the Arab peoples but NOT specifically with their various Governments.

Signed statements by three doctors stating that they had treated wounded soldiers and civilians suffering from wounds probably caused by napalm, were presented. Horrible photographs of burnt victims and burnt-out RED CRESCENT (equivalent of our Red Cross) ambulances were taken by some.

A message personally given to the Committee by Princess Dina (King Hussain's ex-wife now in London) caused some interest as she is expected to come into the news shortly. The message read:

"There was a very generous response to the appeal I made on June 16th on behalf of the Arab victims of the war, particularly in Jordan, on behalf of those same people, I thank all those who have felt the human problem and answered the need. In view of the acute need for shelter, food and medical care, which I witnessed personally during my recent trip, I renew my appeal to all those who can help in kind or money. I will see to it that contributions are delivered to those who need it most. Money to Arab Relief Fund c/o Westminster Bank Ltd., Piccadilly, W.1. Goods to Free Arabia Committee, 5 Bow Lane, E.C.4."

There are some 200,000 homeless refugees living in the open under primitive shelters and rumours of typhoid and dysentery amongst children are already reaching the outside world. £700. worth of blankets, medicine and material for babies has already been delivered by Princess Dina. The following is the text of one of the signed statements presented to the press:

"From early Thursday morning (June 8) until mid-morning on Friday (June 9), I participated in operating room and ward activities in the Military Base Hospital in Amman, Jordan. One floor of the hospital containing 150 patients, which was around 20 per cent of total admissions, were burn cases consistent with burns made by napalm. All of these were second-degree; the third-degree burn cases could not be evacuated from the battle-field area. I visited the morgue of the hospital with the resident pathologist and saw corpses of soldiers who had been bandaged at the front and who had burns on areas of their bodies other than those bandaged. This indicated that raids had been conducted on ambulances in which these soldiers were being evacuated. The pathologist confirmed that the burns had been inflicted by napalm."

Dr. Salim Saab,
American University Hospital.

Y.C.L. Exposed on Vietnam and Aden - from John Blair

The strange behaviour of leading members of the Young Communist League at a recent meeting of the Glasgow Youth for Peace in Vietnam has caused comment in Glasgow political circles.

At the A.G.M. of this body on 26th June, a resolution was put forward by Vietnam Solidarity Campaign supporters and Young Socialists that any medical aid collected by the Campaign should be sent to the National Liberation Front and North Vietnam. Anxious to preserve their alliance with the Student Christian Movement (a body which its spokesman had previously described as being composed of 'everyone from fascists to communists') the vast majority of Y.C.L. members present, including their District Organiser, voted against this. Instead it was agreed to send aid to 'those areas where it was most needed'.

At the end of the meeting, a member of the V.S.C. announced that a demonstration had been called by a group of individuals for the following Saturday to call for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Aden. Participants in the Y.P.V. meeting were invited and it was explained that events in Aden could lead to a 'British Vietnam'. The reaction of the aforementioned leading Young Communist was to protest vehemently to the Chairman that such announcements were out of order in a body devoted to Vietnam. Aden had 'nothing to do with what we are here to discuss'.

It would seem that in the interests of a very doubtful form of unity, the Young Communist League is prepared to sacrifice its principles of solidarity with national liberation movements and to abandon any attempt to educate its 'allies' in the basic facts about imperialism - British and American. Reports of this meeting will, no doubt, be received with interest in the branches of the Y.C.L.

Oppositionists draft Open Letter to Young Communists by Claude Andersson

Recently a group of oppositionists in the Young Communist League reproduced the report of the Young Liberals on the Y.C.L. congress in the form of an open letter to all Young Communists. The open letter also emphasised that the oppositionists had no leanings towards the Liberals or their capitalist politics, and that it was in this form because this was the only way that a real opinion could be expressed without fear of expulsion.

Here are some extracts from the Young Liberal report which, as can be seen are quite astute criticisms coming from a bourgeois youth organisation.

"Recent actions by the Y.C.L. leadership in compromising their line on Vietnam to participate in the "Youth for Peace in Vietnam" may only be the beginning of a more general easing of Marxism for "Left Unity",...the writer then proceeds to expose in detail, the 'democracy' that prevailed at the congress -

"However, moderation on policy did not mean any easing on discipline and for many observers and new 'comrades' alike, the 26th Y.C.L. Congress proved a great eye-opener as to how Party policy is 'controlled'. In a frenzied attempt to appear democratic, the Y.C.L. leadership managed to create more contempt than admiration for their organisation.....the Y.C.L. officers were keen to impress on everyone that the ultimate in democracy was being used; this was not the view held by many observers or delegates. Gerrymandering tactics caused what could have been an important conference to turn into a continuous satire on democracy acted by the National Committee." - the writer also seems to recognise the travesty and distortions of Marxism that the

OPEN LETTER TO Y.C.L. (cont'd from previous page)

After spending a weekend listening to the steamroller tactics of the Y.C.L. leadership to create "Left Unity", I wouldn't recommend that anyone take it too seriously. At present it is the biggest hoax in British politics."

The report finishes up by making a very pertinent remark about the Communist Party which has long been known by the Party's opponents from the Left and is becoming increasingly better understood by the ruling classes everywhere....."the Y.C.L. congress rather than proving their strength, showed their weakness. After three days closely observing the Y.C.L. I can recommend to LBJ that his C.I.A. is almost redundant, the Communists couldn't have taken over Skegness, even less have led a revolution."

NEWS FROM VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN - from Jim Clough

On the march - The climax of the "Vietnam Week" came on Sunday with the march from Trafalgar Sq. to Hyde Park Corner. The number of people on the march although spectacular in itself (about 6000 or 7000) did not appear to measure up to represent the "greatest 'political' event ever in Britain" that the British Council for Peace were hoping to make it. The Morning Star talked about the speakers at Hyde Park "who spoke out with a single impassioned voice to Mr. Wilson, 'Tell Johnson to stop the bombing' but nothing was said about thousands of young people behind the V.S.C. banner who shouted the militant slogans in defence of the Vietnamese revolution that are more fitting for a Communist Party! The V.S.C. made a very impressive intervention with more N.L.F. flags sold than every before, in fact it made rather a mockery of the 'official' line of the Communist Party and the protesters who would appear to be content merely with Johnson's cessation of bombing North Vietnam. One unusual incident took place immediately opposite the U.S. Embassy. Apparently a young man and his girl friend were walking on the other side of the pavement waving U.S. flags at the marchers, when all of a sudden, the flag was snatched from the man and burnt with a chorus of cheers from marchers who gathered to protect the incident from police intervention. In the evening, after the speeches had ended, the renaming ceremony of Grosvenor Square, organised by the Committee of 100 took place with about one thousand people present. Many people carried nameplates bearing the appropriate new name of "Genocide Square".

Photographic exhibition - The exhibition has been circulating almost non-stop recently. It was in Colchester at the end of last week and is at present in Southall from Monday until Wednesday. This showing is organised by the Indian Workers' Association. On Thursday it will be shown for another three days in Tenterden, Kent.

V.S.C. Meetings - A supporters and members meeting is to be held at the new premises of the Campaign: 49 Rivington Street, E.C.2. (Old Street tube), on Tuesday, 11th July at 8.00 o'clock. Also a meeting organised by West Middlesex V.S.C. on 14th July 7.30 p.m. is to be held at the Cavendish Pavilion in Huislip.

Johnson's "Appeal to the American Conscience"

Johnson's latest speech (given on June 27) was full of the most incredible clichés - "Measles have been returned from the pages of history" - and contained references to "cussers" and "doubters". Perhaps the most revealing section read:

"And although we have only six per cent of the population in the world, we have half of its wealth. And bear in mind that other ninety-four per cent of the population all would like to trade with us. Maybe a better way of saying it is that they would like to exchange places with us.

Now I would like to see them enjoy the blessings that we enjoy. But don't you help them exchange places with us because I don't want to be where they are."

Unemployment basic cause of Buffalo riots

There have been many reports about the riots in Buffalo (and other cities) but it is important to understand that unemployment underlies this violence as a fundamental, insoluble problem. The New York Times of June 29 reported: (A) "meeting in Mayor Sedita's office centred on attempts to provide summer jobs for about 3,500 unemployed youths..... The Mayor agreed to call the heads of businesses together in an attempt to find the jobs". The result: "A recent attempt to get local businesses to provide summer jobs led to the promises of about 150, one city official said." (my emphasis).

Howard Levy denied bail

Captain Howard Levy, who was recently court-martialled, has been denied bail by the Army on the ground that a "confidential source" has informed them that Levy would defect to a Communist country if released. They know, of course, that if Levy is released on bail, great support will be mobilised behind him.

U.S. CALL FOR END TO TRADE WITH CUBA from a special correspondent

On July 2 a House of Representatives sub-committee called for forceful measures to stop "free world" trade with Cuba and criticised a recent British credit for a large fertiliser plant there.

The sub-committee on inter-American affairs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in a report on Communism in Latin America, said that U.S. friends and allies trading with Dr. Fidel Castro's Cuba furnished the Premier with "additional resources to expand his revolution."

The report said: "The British are trading with Cuba and recently completed a credit guarantee for a large fertiliser plant, despite our protests".

The report also criticised credits to Cuba from Spain, Japan, France, the Benelux countries, Morocco, the United Arab Republic, Italy and Canada.

JOHNSON'S VIETNAM HEADACHE

from Dave Windsor

The following despatch from the Financial Times correspondent J.D.S. Graham, dated July 3 from Washington, shows the mess that Johnson is in because of his Vietnam policy:

"Mr. Robert McNamara, U.S. Secretary of Defence leaves for Vietnam later this week on a visit that has enormous implications for the American economy in the fiscal year which began two days ago. His first concern will be to examine in the field General Westmoreland's request for more troops. When the general was in Washington earlier this year, he is reported to have asked for five more divisions, about 150,000 men, as the optimal increase.

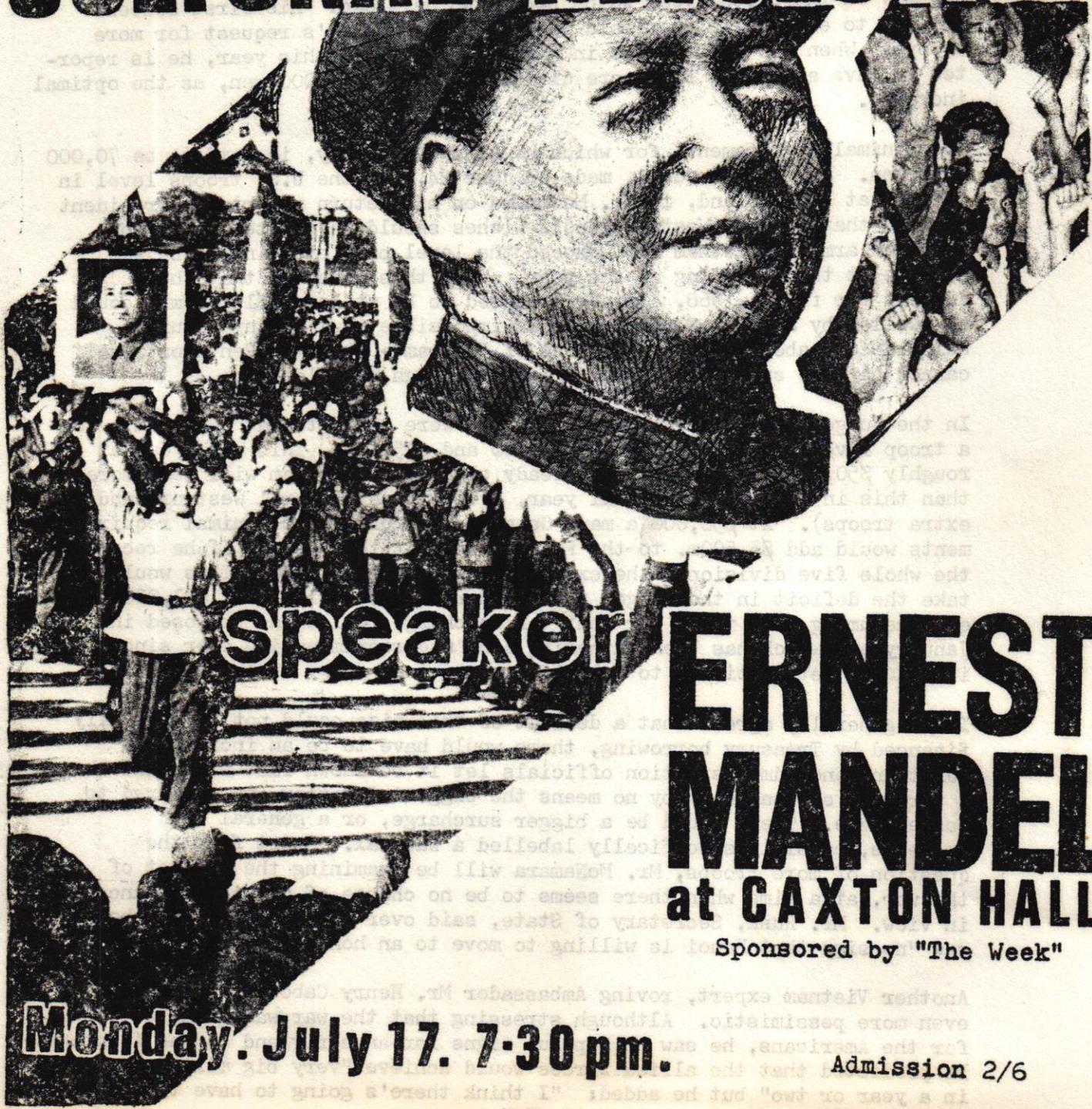
His minimal requirement, for which he argued strongly, is said to be 70,000 more men. The latest count, made on June 24, put the U.S. troops level in Vietnam at 446,000 and, if Mr. McNamara on his return reports to President Johnson that General Westmoreland's wishes should be granted, then the American army in Vietnam will exceed the level predicted in the Budget message at the beginning of the year. What this means is that the Budget deficit for fiscal 1968, already expected to be at least \$13,500m., could be swollen by another \$7,500m. It is impossible to make any accurate calculations about the special cost of Vietnam - even the Pentagon itself cannot get the sums right - but this is a rough calculation.

In the Budget, the Vietnam costs for 1968 were estimated at \$21,900m., for a troop level averaging between 400,000 and 475,000. This works out at roughly \$50,000 a man. (It is already clear that Vietnam will cost more than this in the present fiscal year, even without General Westmoreland's extra troops). At \$50,000 a man, General Westmoreland's minimal requirements would add \$3,500m. to the Federal deficit this year. If he received the whole five divisions, the extra cost would be \$7,500m. This would take the deficit in the Budget to the unprecedented figure of \$21,000m., even assuming that the 6 per cent tax surcharge, which was proposed in January and which has been gathering dust and recrimination ever since, is enacted retroactively to July 1.

It is generally agreed that a deficit of this size could not be healthily financed by Treasury borrowing, there would have to be an increase in taxation, and Administration officials let it be known last week that the 6 per cent surcharge is by no means the biggest tax they are prepared to contemplate. There could be a bigger surcharge, or a general tax increase, possibly specifically labelled a war tax. Apart from the question of more troops, Mr. McNamara will be examining the conduct of the war, at a time when there seems to be no change of any significance in view. Mr. Rusk, Secretary of State, said over the week-end that he saw "no sign that Hanoi is willing to move to an honourable settlement".

Another Vietnam expert, roving Ambassador Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, was even more pessimistic. Although stressing that the war was going better for the Americans, he saw no hopeful signs for an early end to the fighting. He predicted that the allied forces would achieve "very big military results in a year or two" but he added: "I think there's going to have to be a U.S. presence there for a long time".

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