

The Week

A.E.U. polls victory

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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Vol 8. No 3. July 20th 1967

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A.E.U. bolts

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Vol. 1, No. 3, July 1933

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END EAST OF SUEZ NOW!

It is quite possible that the Government will use the projected defence cuts as a smokescreen to push through cuts in social services. This would be double-dealing on two levels: firstly, the projected defence cuts - despite the dramatic way they have been treated in the capitalist press - are a long way off and subject to modification, or even reversal. Secondly, such a "package deal" would completely ignore that fact that whilst "defence" expenditure is devoted completely to preserving the interests of British imperialism, social services' expenditure is merely designed to ameliorate some of the worst effects of unequal distribution of income under modern capitalism. To put a cut in one sector on a par the other is to fly in the face of everything the Labour Party stands for.

Far from being diverted by Wilson's manoeuvres, the left should demand an immediate cut in "defence" expenditure now, an end to the so-called British role in world affairs - which in essence means the use of the resources of this country against national liberation movements - and the use of the money saved to increase social services' expenditure.

A.E.U. POLL VICTORY

The news that Hugh Scanlon came top of the poll in the A.E.U. election to replace Sir Bill Carron is excellent. The left seems poised to inflict a devastating defeat upon the right wing in the second biggest union in the country. This defeat would immensely encourage all militants and would help to tip the balance of forces throughout industry in favour of a fight against the Government. However, we must mark a note of caution: the right wing forces in this country are well aware of the importance of this election, they will do all they can to make sure that Boyd wins the second ballot. There is bound to be an unprecedented barrage of press interference in the election. Scare stories will abound and every trick - witness today's story in The Times that Birch has told his supporters to vote for Boyd in the second ballot - will be used to create confusion and split the left.

The supporters of Reg. Birch will, we are sure, stand firm and do all they can to ensure a left-wing, anti-incomes policy and anti-capitalist victory. The supporters of Len Edmundson, despite the undeserved right-wing tag they have received, are essentially against the establishment in the A.E.U.; the logical thing for them to do is to transfer their votes to Scanlon. If the supporters of Birch and Edmundson were to swing behind Scanlon an overwhelming victory would be achieved. This would send a shock-wave through-out the entire British trade union movement. This would represent a terrible defeat for Wilson and his wage-freeze policy - let us not miss the chance.

WORKERS' CONTROL SUPPLEMENT: We have enclosed a workers' control supplement with this issue of The Week. In the enclosed form there are details as to the cost of extra copies, etc. We would like to take this chance to congratulate the Editorial Board of Voice of The Unions upon their initiative in producing this special issue.

OPEN LETTER FROM NALSO

The following is an open letter to members and supporters of the Labour Party which we are printing on behalf of the Executive Committee of N.A.L.S.O.

It is already six months since the National Executive of the Labour Party arbitrarily severed all relations with the National Association of Labour Students. At the time this was explained by Reg Underhill on behalf of the National Executive Committee, as the result of "recent developments within the Association." They complained about the militant policy statements adopted by the N.A.L.S.O. January interim conference of this year, particularly those in relation to the Government's Incomes Policy and "Wage Freeze", and Wilson's shameful support of the American aggression against the people of Vietnam. It was also alleged that N.A.L.S.O. had passed under the control of the Socialist Labour League, an allegation which the leadership at no time substantiated.

The January 26th decision of the N.E.C. to break with N.A.L.S.O. - without advancing any reason whatsoever for the action - showed clearly that the organisational complaints made by the N.E.C. were nothing but a cover to push out of the Party those people who had been critical of the continuing rightward drift of the Wilson leadership. For our part, we could not justify our claim to be socialists were we not to raise our protests about wide-scale attacks upon trade unions. Nor were we alone. Thousands of trade unionists throughout the country swung into opposition to the Government, and as the recent council elections have shown, Labour supporters in every major city in Britain have registered a warning to the Government to abandon what are nothing less than anti-working class measures.

Because we are essentially a student organisation, we were the first to feel the intolerance of the party leadership towards those who are fighting for socialist policies. We believe that this undemocratic action against N.A.L.S.O. represents a threat to the democratic tradition of the movement as a whole, to the rights of all organisations within the Party to express their criticisms and, as is the right of any members, to work loyally to change the direction of party policy. Coming on top of three years of betrayal and capitulation to Toryism, and the attacks upon students' conditions - with the threat against grants - such actions can only further discredit the Labour Party in the eyes of students.

It is even more urgent that at this time the Party be informed of the manoeuvres being carried out by the leadership. Having cut off all organisational aid to N.A.L.S.O., they are now enlisting the support of hand-picked clubs, who are prepared, at least at the present time, to be uncritical of the leadership. By providing them with the resources taken from N.A.L.S.O., they are damaging the possibility of a broadly-based student socialist organisation emerging from the present growth of radicalism among students.

N.A.L.S.O., since its inception in 1946, has always been connected organisationally with the Labour Party and has been considered its student wing. During that time it has provided a vehicle for the recruitment of student

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socialists to the party, and while at times we have been critical of Labour policy, we have always been loyal to the socialist traditions of the movement. Our constitution, which was adopted in April, states that the aim of N.A.L.S.O. is: "To secure support for the principles of the Labour Party as laid down in Clause 4, to represent N.A.L.S.O. policy, and seek close working links between students and the Labour Party and the Trade Union Movement at all levels." We have not abandoned these objects and N.A.L.S.O.'s Annual Conference opposed those who wished to abandon the Labour Party to the right wing.

We are appealing to you to help us to regain our rights within the Party. At the coming annual Labour Party Conference in October, the N.E.C. will be asking for the endorsement of its actions against N.A.L.S.O. We appeal to all trade unions and Constituency Labour Parties to mandate their delegates to oppose this section of the N.E.C. Report and to insist upon a full discussion on N.A.L.S.O.

For any further information and donations to help pay for the costs of this statement, write NALSO, Ruskin College, Oxford.

THE C.B.R. LOCKOUT - THE LATEST SITUATION from Chris Arthur

The Lockout has now entered its 14th week, the employer still refuses to even discuss reinstatement and has blocked all efforts - by Ministry of Labour, M.P.s, local public opinion, etc., to get a peaceful settlement. The National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers has notified the T.U.C. of the dispute and has written direct to the National Executives of all Unions affiliated to the T.U.C., asking for practical support in declaring CBR Mills 'black'. The financial appeal of Brighton Trades Council raised over £700, mainly from Sussex trade unionists. A number of solidarity demonstrations were organized. A constant picket line has been maintained, 13 hours a day, seven days a week. The victimized men are standing firm! A joint campaign committee has been set up, comprising representatives of the Lockout Committee, Brighton T.C. and individual T.U. members, councillors, etc. The committee asks you to help in the following ways:

- 1) Immediately contact your local M.P.s, get pressure put on Minister of Labour.
- 2) RALLY - A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY 30TH JULY AT 3 P.M. AT THE PEACE STATUE, BRIGHTON/HOVE BOUNDARY ON SEAFRONT - FOLLOWED BY A PROTEST MARCH.
- 3) Local T.U. branches, shop stewards, etc. - the CBR lads would be glad to send a speaker to one of your meetings.
- 4) Further donations always welcome, although the committee thanks those who have already contributed.

Since the dispute started, a woman employee was sacked at a minute's notice after joining the Union. This week, the BBC "24 hours" crew were interviewing various people. One of those still at work joined the Union and the following day answered questions by BBC interviewers. The next day he, too, was sacked. So now there are 19 victims of this arrogant and reactionary sweatshop employer.

All enquiries should now be made to: Mike Taylor, Room 4, 16 Lowes Rd., Brighton.

The 1.2 million men of the US and other intervening forces conducted 41,959 ground actions, 33,354 air sorties, and unnumbered naval attacks against the NLF. According to the authorities the results were 2,114 enemy dead, and all this during the space of one week. The troop strength of the Liberation forces however, was still reckoned to be the same as at the end of the previous week.

This weeks "modest" accomplishments were achieved at a cost of \$500 million to the US and a human cost of 2,027 for the US and its allies and stooges. We are told that 449 of these were killed, the rest wounded. Three eight engined bombers were destroyed and several smaller air craft were also lost during the week. These figures as well as the admission that no territory changed hands indicate the nature of the war. But from time to time US units are ambushed as at Con Thien during the week of July 8th when 800 US were killed or wounded. The Da Nang base (which was thought as safe as Saigon) was attacked by by NLF rockets which destroyed 11 airplanes, damaged 31 others, immobilised the base completely and caused 186 US casualties.

Apparently the US authorities say this kind of action is rare, and the NLF forces are still as elusive as ever. "it's like Indian wrestling" a US colonel said. "About the only way to win is for the other guy to get tired and give up". It is in the context of that kind of war that the Johnson administration has consented to send from one to four more divisions to Vietnam. That new troops will bring about dramatic changes in either the nature or the course of the war is considered unlikely by both civilian and military observers. In fact some US officials wonder if this build up might even have adverse effects. They fear US manpower will mean less effort by Ky's puppet army. According to the US, 'respectable' Vietnamese are themselves worried by an increase in US troops. "How can you make peace when you constantly make WAR". That position is of course wholly at odds with the position of the military dictators in Saigon. "Chief of State" Gen. Van Thieu said recently that it is better for the Americans to send reinforcements than for his government to undertake a full scale mobilisation of manpower, which might cause dislocations in the economy.

No claims are made by the military men in Washington that the increase in American troop strength will make any immediate difference, whether the buildup involves 10,000, 50,000 or 100,000 more men.

They will face the same problem the 460,000 Americans already in Vietnam are faced with- finding the enemy in numbers large enough for "productive warfare".

VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN BULLETIN No. 6.

Contains up to date information on the progress of the war and full details of all Vietnam Solidarity Campaign activities. Special rates for bulk orders. From: V.S.C., 49 Rivington St., LONDON, E.C.2. - 9d a copy post paid.

UNION CALLS FOR GPO TO MAKE OWN PLANT

from Ian Walker.

Manufacturers of telephone equipment, as well as the Post Office, are to blame for the decline in quality of Britain's telephone service, the Post Office Engineering Union says in a sharply critical report out this week. It thinks the G.P.O. would benefit from making its own equipment. Surveying the last decade of tele-communications, the report talks of a highly profitable service starved of money, bedevilled by inaccurate forecasting and burdened with old plants susceptible to breakdown.

The ring of four firms which has supplied 99 per cent of exchange equipment in recent years - Standard Telephones and Cables, Associated Electrical Industries, General Electric and Plessey - is said to have been apparently disinterested in the potential growth of the market. This stemmed from their certainty of receiving orders, which will total more than £60m. this year. In February the union told the Industrial Reorganization Corporation that development of a telephone service was held up by shortage of exchange equipment: out of 1,250 current contracts, it said, 900 were behind delivery date. "Surprisingly the manufacturers relied completely on Post Office forecast", the union says. "The possibility of a real breakthrough in demand has existed at least since the beginning of the 1960s and the manufacturers ought to have been aware of this."

The G.P.O. has already decided to end next year the ring system for ordering telephone apparatus. The union wants the exchange equipment monopoly deal ended at the same time. It also sees a strong prima facie case for the G.P.O. going farther and making its own equipment, as urged in the White Paper on the reorganization of the Post Office. Time and again the report returns to inaccurate forecasting. A 1963 White Paper said the waiting list for phones - then 44,000 - would be eliminated by March, 1966. By last December it had risen to 122,000. Of these people 53,000 had been waiting for more than two years: 106,000 were delayed solely by lack of exchange equipment.

The union talks about an increase in faults due to the failure of the system. An independent survey showed that by the summer of 1965, 21 per cent of S.T.D. trunk calls were going wrong, compared with 11 per cent via the operator. Trunk calls from London were less reliable than from elsewhere. For local calls, the average failure rate was 8 per cent. In response to a union demand the G.P.O. will now attempt to overcome these faults by placing maintenance before new connexions. The report shows that compared with other countries, Britain is just not phone conscious. Of 18 countries listed, only Denmark and Norway had smaller increases than Britain's 63 per cent rise in the last 10 years to a total of 11.2m. phones.

Having dredged through the public and private failures, the union concludes there is tremendous growth potential - for telephones, for telex, for data transmission and processing. Hopefully it adds: "If the Post Office is prepared and able to seize the opportunities, really substantial progress is possible in the next 15 to 20 years."

Sinai oil for Israel

First shipments of crude oil from captured oilfields in Sinai will be pumped soon into tankers which will sail to Eilat. From there it will go by pipeline to Haifa for refining. The total capacity of fields captured by Israeli forces in Sinai is estimated at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. tons high quality crude annually. But this figure is unlikely to be reached for some time as some installations were damaged in the fighting or sabotaged by escaping Egyptian troops.

The fields concerned are Abou Rodais and El Balin in the southwest of the Sinai Peninsula. Some of the 100 producing wells are situated five miles offshore. The fields are owned jointly by Egyptian Government and the Italian ENI consortium. About 18 Italian technicians remained on the spot during and after the fighting, but the Israelis propose to operate the fields with Israeli experts under the management of Lapidoth Oil, which already operates smaller fields inside Israel proper.

With some \$30m. worth of excellent crude thus available, Israel must export it for it well exceeds Israel's own requirements. Israel is unwilling, for obvious reasons, to rely solely on the Sinai fields and annul existing contracts for crude imported by tanker from the Persian Gulf through Eilat.

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BRIGINSHAW REPLIES TO TIMES EDITORIAL

Your shallow editorial comments (July 12) concerning the Scottish newspaper stoppage are unworthy of your newspaper. To suggest that an organization responsibly led, as it is, by a democratically elected executive council, has in the circumstances of the dispute indulged in doubtful tactics shows an ignorance of the facts and realities of this industrial conflict in particular, and the general situation in industry of which it may be symptomatic.

The various outside influences on normal matters of industrial negotiation are effecting a transfer of power from the trade union executives to the shop floor. A head of steam will explode if it is held down too long. It is certain that workshop demands will exceed those proposed by responsible negotiators in the trade unions whose experience teaches them the art of the possible, but there must be equally responsible and experienced people engaged on both sides.

The officers of our society do not convey "dark hints" as events proved. They warned, as responsible people with an interest in the prosperity of an industry, of the inevitable consequences of toying with an important industrial problem.

RICHARD BRIGINSHAW, Joint General Secretary, Sogat.

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BRITISH FIRMS' FAR EAST PROFITS

The United Kingdom gets over £70m. a year in invisible earnings from the troublesome Far East. A total of £64,500,000 comes from profits and interest and another £6m. from royalties, according to figures for 1965, the latest available period. India makes the highest contribution from profits and interest, £25,400,000. A further £3,500,000 comes from India in royalties. Malaysia produces £22,300,000 in profits and interest, Hongkong £7,400,000, Pakistan £3,700,000, Ceylon £2,900,000, Thailand £1,500,000 and Singapore £1,200,000.

POVERTY AND STARVATION IN MISSISSIPPI from David Robinson

Orville Freeman, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, has been forced to announce new measures to provide food for millions of poor Americans. This is the result of a physicians' report published by the Southern Regional Council of Atlanta, Georgia, which said:

"In child after child we saw: evidence of vitamin and mineral deficiencies; serious, untreated skin infections and ulcerations; eye and ear diseases, also unattended bone diseases secondary to poor food intake; the prevalence of bacterial and parasitic disease, as well as severe anaemia, with resulting loss of energy and ability to live a normally active life; diseases of the heart and the lungs - requiring surgery - which have gone undiagnosed and untreated; epileptic and other neurological disorders; severe kidney ailments, that in other children would warrant immediate hospitalization; and finally, in boys and girls in every county we visited, obvious evidence of severe malnutrition. We saw children afflicted with chronic diarrhoea, chronic sores, chronic leg and arm (untreated) injuries, and deformities. We saw homes without running water, without electricity, without screens, in which children drink contaminated water and live with germ-bearing mosquitoes and flies everywhere around. We saw homes with children who are lucky to eat one meal a day - and that one inadequate so far as vitamins, minerals, or protein is concerned. Their parents may be declared ineligible for commodities, ineligible for the food stamp programme, even though they have literally nothing. We saw children fed communally - that is, by neighbours who give scraps of food to children whose own parents have nothing to give them. In sum, we saw children who are hungry and who are sick - children for whom hunger is a daily fact of life and sickness, in many forms, an inevitability. We do not want to quibble over words, but 'malnutrition' is not quite what we found: the boys and girls we saw were hungry - weak, in pain, sick; their lives are being shortened; they are in fact, visibly and predictably losing their health, their energy, their spirits. They are suffering from hunger and disease and directly or indirectly they are dying from them - which is exactly what 'starvation' means."

One of the physicians, Dr. Raymond Wheeler, of Charlotte, North Carolina, told a congressional sub-committee today that Mississippi was virtually a prison for poor Negroes. Those seeking help were harassed and discriminated against by state officials. "There is an unwritten but generally accepted policy by those who control the state to eliminate the Negro, either by driving him out or starving him to death."

CORE CALLS FOR 'BLACK REVOLUTION'

At the Congree for Racial Equality national convention it was agreed that the words "multiracial" be removed from the description of its membership. Floyd McKissick, national director, said this "didn't exclude any white people from CORE." When the convention adjourned McKissick said he considered CORE "an effective revolutionary movement" and "the common front for all black people to unite in." He repeated an earlier statement that the civil rights movement was "dead" and a "black revolution" had emerged. The effective role for white people was to "understand the racism that exists and understand how it affects black people in their thinking towards white people. McKissick said the organisation wanted white people "to have an effective role in helping black people accomplish black power."

SCIENTISTS' APPEAL FOR VIETNAM

From:

J.D. BERNAL, F.R.S. (U.K.) LORD BOYD-ORR, F.R.S., nobel laureate (U.K.) H. GRUNDFEST (U.S.A.)
D.M. CROWFOOT HODGKIN, O.M., F.R.S., nobel laureate (U.K.) A. KASTLER, nobel laureate (France)
A.M. LWOFF, For.Mem.R.S., nobel laureate (France) A.I. OPARIN, Mem.Acad.Sci. (U.S.S.R.)
L. PAULING, For.Mem.R.S., nobel laureate (U.S.A.) C.F. POWELL, F.R.S., nobel laureate (U.K.)
EARL RUSSELL, O.M., F.R.S., nobel laureate (U.K.) R.L.M. SYNGE, F.R.S., nobel laureate (U.K.)
A. SZENT-GYÖRGYI, nobel laureate (U.S.A.) S. HUSAIN ZAHEER (India)

c/o W.F.S.W.,
40 GOODGE STREET,
LONDON, W.1, U.K.

27th June 1967

Dear Colleague,

In spite of the wide opposition of a very large section of world public opinion, the war in Vietnam continues to escalate. The advanced technology of a great industrial nation is being employed in the systematic destruction of the meagre resources of a poor developing country.

In reponse to an enquiry concerning the most effective way in which scientists outside Vietnam could help scientific laboratories in universities, institutions and schools to continue to function, the Association for the Dissemination of Science and Technology of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam recently sent the World Federation of Scientific Workers a list of scientific apparatus urgently needed. This list contains a large number of items of obvious importance for the continued functioning of their laboratories.

In addition, an appeal has been launched by a group of French colleagues for money to buy books for the library of the University of Hanoi.

In order to help our Vietnamese colleagues and to demonstrate our feeling about the continued American bombing of North Vietnam, we have decided to donate *one day's salary* to a fund in support of these two appeals.

We are inviting scientists all over the world to join us in this action. The money thus donated should be sent to: Dr W. A. Wooster, Treasurer, at the above address. Cheques should be endorsed "Vietnam Appeal Account".

The intention is that of the money received half should be used to purchase the equipment requested by our Vietnamese colleagues. We are assured that such equipment can be transported to Hanoi without difficulty. The other half will be transmitted to the appeal fund of our French colleagues to provide books for the library of the University of Hanoi.

In view of the urgency of the need, we ask you to respond quickly to this appeal.

Yours sincerely,

J.D. BERNAL
BOYD-ORR

H. GRUNDFEST

D.M. CROWFOOT HODGKIN

A. KASTLER

A.M. LWOFF

A.I. OPARIN

L. PAULING

C.F. POWELL

RUSSELL

R.L.M. SYNGE

A. SZENT-GYÖRGYI
S. HUSAIN ZAHEER