

THE

Week

A news analysis for socialists 9d.

THE WEEK

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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THE PROFESSIONAL WORKERS LOOK AT THE ROOKES V BARNARD CASE

We are very glad that the National Federation of Professional Workers, at their conference last weekend, approved the motion which had been placed before them by DATA, the draughtsmen's union. It said: "the whole field of collective bargaining will be prejudiced by fears of legal actions involving substantial damages and legal costs against shop and office representatives and full-time officials." The mover, Jim Mortimer, very rightly stressed the damaging implications of the Rookes V. Barnard judgement, of which we have frequently written in these pages. 'Almost any strike runs the danger of being declared unlawful', he said. In these circumstances it is essential to restore at least the measure of protection which was accorded unions by the 1906 Act, which formerly underpinned trade union freedoms. The Draughtsmen are carrying on a fierce battle against the ill-effects of the Lords' decision on this matter. It is extremely important that all other unions should come to their aid.

TORY GOVERNMENT IMPOTENCE SHOWN BY BUDGET

The Tory Budget scarcely warrants an analysis. One of the most biting comments was made by Professor Paish, as the news of the Chancellor's proposals came through, when he said that the increase in taxation was less than the normal budget errors. In fact this effort of Maudling is scarcely a Budget in the traditional British sense. Why should this be? Why in face of all the warnings by experts both high and low, that something had to be done to stop expansion getting out of hand did Maudling labour to bring forth less than the normal Budget error? We believe that the explanation is to be found in the crisis of policy which is blighting the Tory party. When one's ranks are deeply split, when no one man really commands much authority, it is impossible to act decisively. But this merely means that there will be a day of reckoning when the balance sheet will be presented to the British economy - both the Tories and Wilson are right when they say Britain needs modernising, but the Tory Budget will hardly help that process.

Whether the reckoning comes before or after the election remains to be seen. The point for socialists is that the whole situation demonstrates, more than ever before, the necessity of a socialist solution to Britain's problems - economic and social. As things stand now the long overdue modernisation of Britain is impossible without real planning and without the unstinting collaboration of the working class - in other words without the real application of Clause four. Social ownership with democratic control at all levels represents the only way forward - that is the real lesson of the Budget.

THE LAOS COUP

As we go to press it appears that efforts are being made to establish a coalition Government in Laos without representation of the Pathet Laos. Such a move, which appears to have been the real aim of the coup, is fraught with dangers to world peace. The left-wing forces will not take this step lying down and it appears a resumption of the civil war is very likely. The U.S. Government is pledged to stop the spread of Communism in this area (that is, bolster up all the reactionary regimes) and may intervene. We in this country should: (1) make it impossible for the Tories to drag Britain into some mad venture under SEATO auspices; and (2) insist that the Labour Government will actively support efforts to bring about national liberation and social change in these countries.



Trade union week

MORE SUPPORT FOR WALLPAPER SHOP GIRLS' STRIKE

More than 9,000 signatures have been collected to the petition demanding trade union recognition at the Decorwall shops in Coventry. The signatures have been collected mostly by the pickets who have kept up their picketing throughout the four weeks since the strike started. The TUC Midlands Advisory Committee have issued a press statement deprecating the attitude of the owners of the shop - Wall Paper Manufacturers Ltd. The committee called upon all trade unionists to boycott the shops.

Richard Crossman, M.P. for Coventry East, has informed the girls' union that he has been in contact with Mr. Godber, Minister of Labour to arrange a discussion with him on the matter. Messages of support should be sent to Mrs. Audrey Wise, 26, Gregory Avenue, Coventry, who will supply any information required about the dispute.

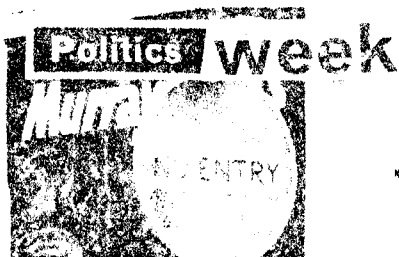
GENERAL AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS WORRIED BY AUTOMATION

The agenda for the annual conference in June of Britain's third largest union, the 800,000 strong National Union of General and Municipal Workers, reflects fear of the possible consequences of automation. Sutton Oak branch refers to the spread of shift working due to automation and proposes a special committee to investigate "the difficulties that shift workers will meet in an affluent society."

Glasgow and Northwich branches suggest that a shorter working week would ease the problems caused by automation. There is also a resolution on the extension of engineering three-shift working. Clydebank refers to its effect on the workers' social and family life, and says that "the social services and amenities must be brought into line with these changing conditions", and that the present agreement on three-shift payment must be revised.

NATIONAL CHAMBER OF TRADE CONFERENCE HITS AT T.U. DISCOUNTS

The fact that many trade unions operate a discount system for members has aroused the wrath of Mr. James Parkes, President of the National Chamber of Trade. In his presidential address to the Chamber's annual conference at Eastbourne, he said delegates would be "astounded" if they knew the extent of such trading. He referred to the widespread cut-price facilities for people wanting cheap T.V. sets, electrical goods, and even cars. He claimed that some unions used the schemes to attract new members. Finally on this subject he affirmed, "The system is diametrically opposed to the true spirit of trade unionism, and the sooner we tackle the system with resolution and vigour, the better." The Chamber speaks for 450,000 retailers and its membership includes 39 national trade associations.



LIFE'S BETTER WITH THE CONSERVATIVES

YOUNG SOCIALISTS GAIN REPRESENTATION

by Pat Jordan

As a result of the efforts of two Young Socialist branches in Nottingham, the Constitution of the Nottingham City Labour Party has been amended to allow Young Socialist representation both on the GMC and the Executive. Two resolutions on the subject appeared on the agenda: one which called for a representative from each of the four branches to the GMC and one to the Executive; and another which called for 2 representatives to the GMC and one to the Executive. The first originated from South Nottingham Y.S. which won South Nottingham CLP's approval for the proposition. The second also called for four representatives when originally formulated by the Central Nottingham Y.S., but on going to its CLP was amended. However when the constitutional position was explained by the Regional Organiser to the AGM, the Central Nottingham CLP delegates withdrew their resolution. Thus the original demand for 4 delegates was passed unanimously.

Many City and Borough parties have already changed their constitution to allow Y.S. representation, but where this hasn't already been done the local Y.S. branch would be well-advised to follow the Nottingham example. City and Borough Labour Parties, tend for a variety of reasons to have a much greater trade union participation than C.L.P.s. Thus the Y.S. will find participation in these bodies helpful in integrating themselves into the movement.

The AGM of the Nottingham City Labour Party was also of interest to Week readers insofar as one of the co-editors of the journal, Ken Coates was elected President for the coming year.

A LETTER FROM THE LABOUR CND COMMITTEE'S SECRETARY

Thankyou for the copies of "The Week" and for your favourable editorial comment on the Labour Party CND Committee.

The extract published by your paper on page 14 of issue number 13 is not in fact taken from a policy statement but from a fund raising letter circulated by Len Youle, who is the committee's treasurer.

We are not in this statement concerned with the type of government preferred in any particular country, but with the increased danger of nuclear war if nuclear weapons spread to an increasing number of countries.

It is difficult to see how a policy preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons could hinder nations engaged in a struggle for internal reform.

I am pleased to learn that you are prepared to publish material from the committee and I will write to you again after our next committee meeting..."

WIGAN COUNCIL HOUSE TENANTS PROTEST

by R. Challinor

More than 3,000 angry Council house tenants besieged Wigan Town Hall, blocking all roads in the vicinity and delaying the start of this month's council meeting. The organisers of the demonstration, like everybody else, were taken by surprise -- they expected a few hundred at the most. Instead they found themselves surrounded by a noisy crowd, chanting slogans and carrying banners saying such things as "No Tory policies from a Labour Council", "Nationalise the main building industries", "Down with the Tories and rent increases." Most demonstrators were housewives -- blunt, angry and forthright.

Inside the Town Hall, a deputation from the tenants was meeting councillors. "I'm not concerned about the tenants," said one alderman. "But they put you in," a member of the deputation replied. Another prominent Council member refused to go out and meet the tenants. "It would be murder," he said. Wigan is not renowned for having the most enterprising, imaginative or left-wing Labour-controlled council in Britain. With the number of Conservatives in the town being only slightly greater than the local camel population, many people consider Labour councillors have had it too easy, too long.

A lot of the tenants used to live in the grim hovels described by George Orwell in his Road to Wigan Pier. Then, they paid a few shillings a week rent; now, in council houses on the outskirts of town, they pay higher rates, higher rents, higher bus fares. This represents a real drop in their disposal income, and very considerable hardship in some cases.

The Sunday Times (April 12) reports that, with the County Council elections, 33,119,590 people live in Labour-controlled local authorities. This is 62.1% of the population of Britain. Obviously the Conservative Government can only hope to continue its monetary policy, the real cause of high rates and rents, so long as it has the cooperation of Labour councils. Only a few councils would have to stick out for the whole Tory policy to come tumbling down. Is it possible to popularise Poplar -- the George Lansbury example? In my opinion, the least that can be expected from a Labour Council is that it should allow its housing revenue account to go into the "red" till the autumn, when, with the return of a Labour Government, interest rates for housing should be much lower than at present. To adopt this policy would be sound from the business as well as socialist angle.

TORY M.P. IN MARGINAL SEAT ENTERTAINS THE PRESS

Last Friday, April 17th, at 7.30 p.m., a dinner was held at the Black Boy Hotel, Nottingham. It was a private affair. Nothing was spared: thick steaks were served and the wine flowed generously into thirsty throats. The host was Mr. Peter Tapsell, the distinctly marginal M.P. for West Nottingham. He was entertaining the local press, at not inconsiderable cost. We understand that no improper suggestions were made, and that the whole thing passed off smoothly, politely, in an atmosphere of cordial gentility. Naturally, there is nothing unethical about marginal Tory M.P.s dining with the press. Of course no one would suggest for a moment that journalists can be influenced by a thick steak or a bottle of wine. It is even possible that in some constituencies candidates of other colours throw posh dinners for the press in order not to influence them. But we are old-fashioned enough to think that the whole thing stinks.

ON TRIAL FOR THEIR LIVES

The Africa Bureau have produced the text of a statement by Mary Benson before the 'Special Committee on the policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa' as a pamphlet. We have extracted some of the more revealing passages but would recommend all our readers to get hold of this pamphlet and to help to get it distributed. It can be obtained from the Africa Bureau, 65, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1.

"An eminent lawyer from Britain, John Arnold Q.C., recently visited South Africa on behalf of the International Commission of Jurists to observe the trial of Nelson Mandela and others - the "Rivonia" Trial. Mr. Arnold told how these men are regarded as heroes in South Africa and he asked, what is the good of a fair trial, if under the bestial and brutal Act of Parliament which provides the framework of the trial, there is ^{no} practical possibility but conviction? He concluded: "The danger is that these men will hang, and hang they must not."

"Nelson Mandela is on trial for his life. Yet he - a member of the royal family of the Tembu people - might easily have been one of those chiefs who are puppets of the Government, with a steady income, a shiny motorcar, and sycophantic followers. Or he might simply have remained a lawyer content to function within the framework of apartheid, living comfortably in a middle-class home, and finding an outlet for humiliation in sport or jazz or religion.

"Walter Sisulu...knows probably better than any other leader in South Africa just what it means to be a "native"...While only a boy of 16, brought up traditionally in the Transkei, he had to leave school to take on family responsibilities. He had a variety of the lowly jobs which by law are the only ones most Africans can hold. He was a miner, then a kitchen boy when in spare moments in his white employer's kitchen, he tried to supplement his meagre education by studying an English grammar. His first political lesson came in Johannesburg where, having picked up a smattering of trade union ideas and working in a bakery at £2 a week, he led a strike, was quickly outwitted by the boss, and sacked. He was first imprisoned as a result of protesting when a white ticket-collector on a train bullied an African child; the ticket-collector assaulted Sisulu, who fought back, and was arrested.

"Two Europeans and an Indian are also accused in the Rivonia trial. Lionel Rusty Bernstein is one of South Africa's best known architects, and inventor of mathematical instruments...He joined the Communist Party after becoming disillusioned with ^{the} Labour Party, which was concerned only with white workers...He is typical of the small group of Europeans who because of their beliefs have suffered prejudice to their careers, increasing social isolation, and - above all - regular restriction and imprisonment... Ahmed Kathrada...has been persistently active, imprisoned, restricted, persecuted, but has carried on with a total dedication, ever since as a schoolboy he went to prison

"According to the South African Foundation, the average dividend in South Africa is 12.6% compared with 6.6% in Western Europe; while American companies are averaging profits of about 27% on capital invested in South Africa...And if anyone...doubts whether the boycotts have had any effect, they should read what it meant to the prisoners..when they heard that dockers in Trinidad had refused to handle South African goods..."

WORKERS CONTROL SCHOOL LOOKS LIKE BEING BIG SUCCESS

The workers' control school which is being held in Nottingham this coming week end looks like being a big success. Attendance will be very good both from the point of view of numbers and in the quality of the people participating.

Attendance will be national; among the towns represented will be: Ashstead, Baslow, Batley, Beckenham, Birmingham, Burnley, Cambridge, Chesterfield, Coalville, Glasgow, Hull, Ilford, Ilkeston, Leeds, Leicester, London, Loughborough, Manchester, Northampton, North Weald, Nottingham, Ollerton, Orpington, Oxford, Penarth, Wigan and Wymondham.

Most of the important unions will be represented, among them: the AEU, Agricultural Workers, ASSET, CAWU, the ETU, the Fire Brigades Union, the Foundry Workers, the General and Municipal Workers, Metal Mechanics, the National Union of Journalists, National Union of Mineworkers, the National Union of Railwaymen, the National Union of Teachers, Public Employees, the TGWU, the Transport Salaried Staff Association, and USDAW.

The school will be remarkable for the number of editors who will attend: Anarchy, International Socialism, International Socialist Journal, Labour's Northern Voice, Labour Worker, New Left Review, Trade Union Affairs, Tribune, Voice of the Unions, and The Week will be represented.

A number of noteworthy figures in the labour movement and academic world have signified their intention of coming: Ernie Roberts, Assistant General Secretary of the AEU; Dave Lambert of the Foundry Workers Union; Bert Wynn of the Mineworkers Union; Peter Elderfield, secretary of the Midlands Housing Association; Chris Arthur, chairman of NALSO; Michael Barratt-Brown, author; Thomas Bottomore, sociologist and author; David Steele, chairman of the Young Fabians; George Irvin, International Secretary of NALSO; and many others.

It appears that up to 100 people will participate. There are a few problems however. Many people have only verbally (and sometimes only indirectly) signified that they are coming - it is very urgent that they confirm their intention of attending especially if they require accomodation. Another appeal is for assistance on the accomodation front. Anything up to 70 people will have to be accomodated, so will anyone in the Nottingham area who can help, even if they are not themselves attending the school, please telephone Rod Kreizman, T.N. Nottingham 89765, at their earliest convenience.

NOTTINGHAM ANTI-APARTHEID SHOWS ITS FACE

from Mrs. Whawell

Although not very long formed, the Nottingham Anti-Apartheid group showed its face with a vengeance at a rally organised by the Nottingham Co-op Political Committee of Saturday, April 18th. Several hundred people turned up to hear George Brown and Lord Peddie. They had to go through a cordon of Anti-Apartheid supporters who asked them to sign a petition for the release of political prisoners in South Africa. More than 300 of them (including George Brown himself) signed the petition, and well over 100 bought copies of Anti-Apartheid News. This wasn't bad for a first effort despite the lack of co-operation (to say the least) in certain circles.

The Situation in the Italian Communist Party . by Aldo Miglioli

The most significant opposition to Khrushchov's and Suslov's call for a conference of the international communist movement has come from the Italian Communist Party. Whilst making it clear that he is more Khrushchovian than Khrushchov, Togliatti has made it equally clear that he does not want a world conference to excommunicate the Chinese, nor does he think it a good idea for the Russians to call one, and that if they do, in no case will the PCI vote out the Chinese (although they would be glad to reiterate their hostility to the Chinese theses). It is no secret that massive pressure has been put on Togliatti to change his position and he has frequently been reminded that the defection of the PCI would deal an incomparably heavier blow to the conference than other possible defections (Rumania and perhaps Yugoslavia). Togliatti's independence is, it must be admitted, the logical result of the PCI's position in Italy and the internal situation within the party. On the one hand, the PCI is heavily committed to the Italian road to socialism, i.e. peaceful means, democracy (even going so far as to renounce the seizure of power with less than 51% of the votes) that it would be in great danger of losing its present gains inside Italy (which are to a large extent based on its rightist policy). On the other hand, a corollary of the first point, a very large section of the working class base of the party by no means agree with the Togliatti position as regards the Italian road to socialism, and is attracted by many of the Chinese positions, or at least unwilling to cut themselves off from the Chinese revolution; Togliatti has displayed immense skill in keeping together his vast and heterogeneous party, using international polycentrism as a sop to his own dissidents, whilst at the same time refusing any kind of democratisation within the party. If he manages to resist Soviet pressure, Togliatti will probably be able to hold his party together, although he is seriously menaced on the left by the new socialist party, the PSIUP (hence his frantic and blatant interventions to try to prevent the split in the PSI), but he can do no more than conceal or arbitrate the simmering internal differences, accentuated by the heavy imbalance of representation in the leadership, where the right has until very recently virtually monopolised the key positions (Amendola, Pajetta, Alicata); the only vigorous left-wing figure represented in the top party leadership is Pietro Ingrao, whom Togliatti periodically allows to speak in order to calm down his left-wing. It is no secret to anyone in Italy inside or outside the PCI that the situation is highly explosive and is bound to explode on the death of Togliatti, who is a sick man, as none of the other leaders has sufficient power or authority to hold the party together, (excluding the possibility of the PCI becoming an inter-classist party like the Christian Democrats). In this situation it is only logical for Ingrao to try to bid for left support in order to have the necessary mass base to defeat the right-wing party bureaucracy in the inevitable power struggle. The present economic situation in Italy, where the so-called centre-left government is trying to impose a pay pause until 1967 under the guise of combatting inflation, presents the trade unions with an excellent opportunity for more vigorous mobilisation of the working class; the great difficulty is to try to exercise direct pressure on the administration (which represents a stable majority in the country) at a time when the employers are unworried by industrial strikes owing to over-production in many sectors; however the Italian working class has never been uninventive in the past in situations like this. If the workers' rights cannot be defended by strikes maybe other methods will have to be found.

S.S. ACTIVE IN WEST GERMANY from Mrs. Dale

With great concern and growing anxiety people in all parts of Europe are watching the elaborate preparations of the provincial associations (Landsmannschaften) for their meeting this year. The members of these associations - well known for their ardent support of the THIRD REICH and its policy - are busily engaged in canvassing support for the meeting.... Before Whitsun they hope to organise a "major political rally" in Frankfurt or Nuremberg. At the beginning of May a gathering under the slogan POMMERANIA DAY is to be held in Cologne, followed by a National Meeting of the West Prussians a month later in Dortmund. For each of these meetings they intend to get together thousands of people from the several provinces.. Invitations to speak at the meetings have gone out to Federal and Provincial Ministers and other politicians.

Meetings on a smaller scale are taking place every weekend. Recently at a Sudeten German Association's meeting, the chairman, no less a person than the Bonn Minister of Transport, Dr. Seeborn, stated that the occupation of the Sudetenland by Hitler's troops should be regarded as an example for their emulation. The cost of these meetings present no problem to the organisers, as the Federal Government as well as the Provincial Governments are generously providing Financial help.

The S.S., whose name is closely linked with the most outrageous crimes against humanity, is canvassing quite openly to gether support for their forthcoming meetings. That these meetings are not held by the S.S. to indulge in harmless talks, is clear to all who observed the developments in the Federal Republic. Last year's S.S. meeting, which was to be held in Hameln, and which a memorial for the S.S. murderers was to have been erected was only withdrawn because of a world-wide protest.

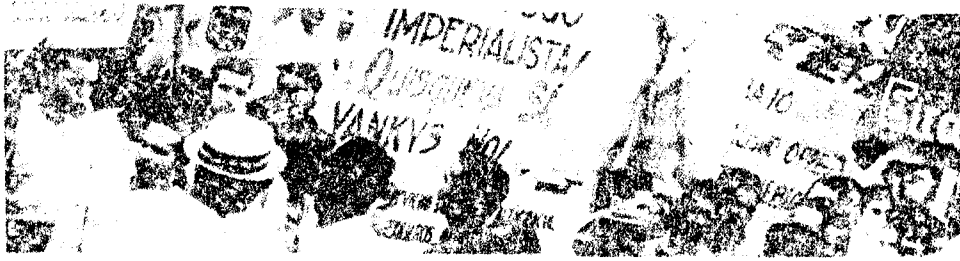
A Government, which bestowed recently a high decoration for "Services to the country", on the former S.S. Sturm anfuhrer, Dr. Ing. Butefisch - a war criminal sentenced to 6 year's prison at the Nuremberg trial - cannot be expected to take action against the activities of the S.S. Only after strong protests by the former victims of Nazi persecution (V.V.N.) did the West German Government withdraw the decoration from Dr. Butefisch.

My committee appeals to all decent people to protest to the West German Chancellor, Dr. Erhard, Palace Schaumburg, Bonn, and demand immediate action to prevent all S.S. meetings in future.

Ed. Note: Mrs. Dale is secretary of the Defence Committee for Victims of Nazi Persecution and ^{will} supply material on political persecution in West Germany to anyone interested.

TORY M.P. EULOGISES SALAZAR REGIME

Many readers will have seen the letter from Patrick Wall, M.P. for Haltemprice, in last Sunday's Observer, in which he violently opposed any boycott of South Africa. This gentleman is, it seems, a champion of unsavoury causes. The Economist of April 11, published a letter from him on the subject of Angola. According to Mr. Wall, "Angola is one of the few countries in Africa where race doesn't matter. Great strides are being made in agricultur(e)...education....." Portugal has a policy of "complete non-racialism" and is making "genuine attempts to raise the standard of living." Mr. Wall finishes his epistle by asking "Surely there is something to be said for a slow transfer of power....."



THIRD WORLD WEEK

A VIEW ON THE BRAZILIAN COUP

from Quintin Hoare

An article by Sergio de Santis in this week's Mondo Nuovo (the organ of the new Italian left socialist party PSIUP) offers an interesting analysis of the events which led up to the right-wing coup in Brazil against Goulart's government and to the subsequent savage repression of left-wing forces. The most original points the author makes concern Goulart's ambiguous policy towards the armed forces, the inadequacy of the tactics of the left during the crisis, and the role of the United States in the matter.

De Santis stresses the fatal contradiction between the two poles of Goulart's policy towards the armed forces- on the one hand his attempt to replace reactionary senior officers by younger 'Nasserite' officers, and on the other his encouragement of the politicisation and radicalisation of NCOs and other ranks; on the one hand an attempt to gain control from the top, and on the other hand an attempt to gain control from below. The episode which served as a pretext for the rebel generals to make their bid for power brutally exposed this contradiction. 1540 sailors mutinied in protest against the arrest of 40 of their comrades for carrying on left-wing propaganda activities. Their action was assured of success by Goulart's backing. The Admiral of the Fleet resigned, and the sailors received an absolute pardon. But it is hardly surprising that the 'Nasserite' officers were finally frightened off by these developments and so backed the rebels rather than Goulart when it came to the crunch.

In contrast to the current press version which suggests that Goulart simply abandoned his left-wing allies to their fate when trouble threatened, De Santis points out the utter failure of the left-wing forces to respond with any determination to the coup. Instead of coming out on to the streets the workers were sent home on strike- an ineffectual and pointless gesture in the circumstances.

Finally De Santis suggests briefly the role played by the United States in encouraging a reactionary coup on the part of the armed forces. The State Department afterwards hastened to assure the world that the US had nothing at all to do with the events which happened in Brazil. But it was only a few weeks since Johnson had promised US aid to any Latin-American country 'whose freedom was threatened by forces from outside the continent' (this of course means Cuba, the inevitable justification for any right-wing coup), and only a few days since the enunciation of the so-called Mann doctrine, according to which the US will no longer break off relations with any regime born from a military coup d'etat. And the coup was followed with suspicious speed by a message of congratulation from President Johnson, promising considerable aid in the near future. To put it simply, Washington could not conceal its delight.



THE THIRD WORLD REVOLUTION

CASTRO -ON REVOLUTIONARY LEGALITY

There has recently been an important trial in Cuba which concerned a former member of the PSP (Cuban C.P.) who was accused of betraying people to the Batista police. Such were the implications of this trial, that most of the important members of the Cuban Government gave evidence. Castro spoke for no less than four hours. His speech was noteworthy for his remarks on socialist legality. We will comment on this trial when we have more information on its outcome, but for the time being we will quote his concluding remarks: Castro said the revolution must avoid the "law of Saturn" (a Roman god who swallowed his own children). He said this would be one of the revolution's most difficult problems and would take a great deal of discipline.

"We must concentrate on creating this tradition," he said, "that no one shall abuse power, that no one shall be abused by power, and that revolutionaries will always be secure...that always, always, justice be exercised, and that never, never will it have to be said that one single revolutionary was unjustly injured, that one single innocent person was shot, that one single child of the revolution was devoured."

MOUNTING U.S. CASUALTIES IN VIETNAM

The New York Times of April 13 reports that the rate of casualties among the 15,000 U.S. servicemen in South Vietnam is running at more than double the level it reached in 1963. "Official figures show that, on average, three U.S. military men have been killed, wounded or listed missing every day since the beginning of the war...The bulk of the casualties, however, occur among the U.S. airmen who fly most of the aircraft of the Vietnamese airforce, and among pilots and crews of U.S. helicopters that carry Vietnam troops into battle or serve as airborne gun and rocket platforms." U.S. military H.Q.s are apparently becoming increasingly alarmed at the success of the liberation forces in destroying these helicopters which they had vainly thought could win them the war despite the lack of popular support. About one-third of South Vietnam's territory is now within the liberated areas and the 'Vietcong' shadow government operates postal services, newspapers, education schemes and a radio. Its attacks on the Government held areas are becoming increasingly daring; recently it captured the important provincial town of Kienhong, 130 miles south west of Saigon.

Setbacks in Vietnam pose a difficult problem to the U.S. authorities in the United States itself: witness the following report from the New York Herald Tribune on the so-called mobilisation plan of General Khanh: "Khanh's bold-sounding proposal for 'national mobilisation' so far has produced no results except confusion among Government officials and panic among Saigon's nonmobilised youth.." The paper adds the idea originated in Washington so as to gain the support of the U.S. people for the more expenditure in South Vietnam.

OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES WRANGLE

from Julian Atkinson

The Oil and Gas Journal recently carried an article on the differences among OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries). It ran:

"Whether internal differences with OPEC are serious enough to indicate a major rift remains to be seen, but they certainly getting a lot of attention. The latest round of OPEC talks with operating oil companies broke down in Geneva last month when the OPEC team said that the companies' offer on expending royalties wasn't good enough. Almost immediately speculators began to speculate. It goes something like this:

Iran wants to settle for the companies' offer. Iraq wants to adopt a hard line and is trying to persuade OPEC members to take some unilateral action. Other OPEC members are somewhere between.

"All the talk about a serious schism prompted Dr. Barczarz, an Iraqi and OPEC's new secretary general, to issue an official denial, Dr. Barczarz insisted that, "there may be slight differences of opinion on details, but there is no question of real disagreement." That statement was made just before Radio Bagdad quoted the Iraqi oil minister, A.A. Watari, as blaming western governments for the refusal of operating oil companies to raise oil prices. About the same time, Indonesia's No. 2 man, Chaerul Saleh, said in Djarkata that the companies are deliberately creating disunity in OPEC to benefit Iran....."

HOW MANY CAPITALISTS ARE THERE IN BRITAIN? by James Wilcox

The concentration of wealth in Britain is a well-known fact: 1% of the population, according the Oxford Institute of Statistics, owns 43% of the nation's wealth, while 2% owns 60% of its wealth, and 5% owns 75%. Share ownership is, of course, even more concentrated - only 4% of the population own any shares at all. A recent estimate by Professor G.S. Wheatcroft in The Statist (April 10th), adds some details to this picture. The estimate gives the numbers of people in Britain who own more than £25,000 and the total value of their wealth:

<u>NUMBER OF PEOPLE</u>	<u>RANGE OF WEALTH</u>	<u>TOTAL VALUE</u>
190,000	£25-50,000	£4,500,000,000
75,000	£50-100,000	£2,500,000,000
26,000	£100-200,000	£3,300,000,000
9,000	over £200,000	£3,200,000,000

£428,000 PROFIT ON £1,070 OUTLAY by Brian Simister

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