

THE

Week

**A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS**

VOL. I. No. 23.  
4th JUNE, 1964

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VOL. I, NO. 12  
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# THE WEEK

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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THE NEW LEFT - A PHOENIX RISES IN TIME ?

The political commentators of the established and respectable press have for some time, now, been expressing the view that the New Left has disappeared. We have even heard some men of the hard, if thick-headed, left, singing chirpy little dirges at what they seemed to imagine was a funeral. Like Mark Twain, the New Left has already had the pleasure of reading a number of its own obituary notices in the newspapers.

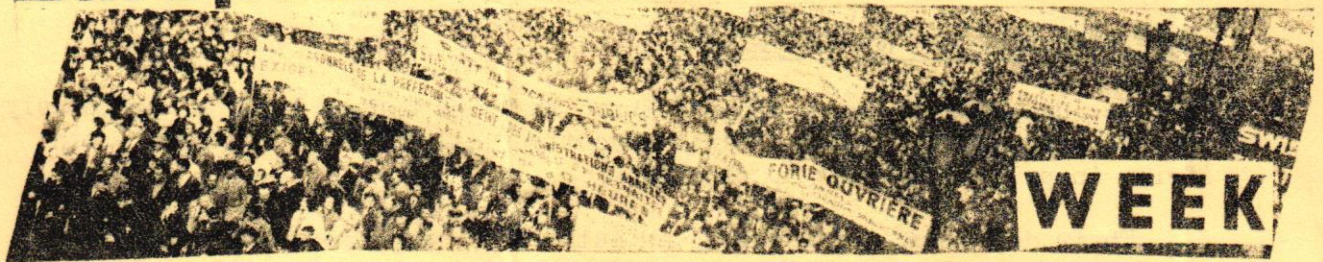
Of course, those who trouble to read such journals as NEW LEFT REVIEW will be very well aware that it is quite vitally alive. Those again, who follow the publishers' lists and see the number of New Left titles that are piling up, can scarcely ignore the contribution to socialist thought and documentation which they represent. But it does remain true that until very recently the New Left has been noticeably more fertile in the field of abstract analysis and argument than it has in that of practical prescriptions for action. An encouraging change is beginning to make itself apparent here, both in the pages of NLR itself, and now in the most recent symposium of the New Left: THE SOCIALIST REGISTER, edited by Ralph Miliband and John Saville, published by the Merlin Press.

The new REGISTER will be an annual and will produce a survey of the important developments in socialist thought as well as accounts of the socialist movement in action, year by year. The first number is full of exciting material. It includes valuable contributions by Isaac Deutscher, Royden Harrison, Donald Hodges and many others. But many people will feel that its most important contributions hinge on the recommendations which its authors make for action.

In a useful essay on 'Labour Policy and the Labour Left', Miliband and Saville discuss the crucial problem of organising the Left. They draw a balance sheet of the failure of such bodies as the Socialist League and Victory for Socialism, and discuss the formation of Left pressure groups, for limited purposes, as an alternative. They also appeal for the formation of a socialist educational body, to assist not only in making new socialists, but in developing old ones.

One such pressure group, already partly formed is that for Workers' Control. Those who participated in the VOICE seminar held in Nottingham on this matter could with great profit, study the articles by Michael Barratt Brown - Nationalisation in Britain - and Ernest Mandel - The Economics of Neo-Capitalism - both of which appear in this same volume. Barratt Brown provides a documented account of the shortcomings of official Labour's approach to industrial democracy in the nationalised industries. Mandel shows in a very clear way how the necessary answer to any campaign for an incomes policy is the demand for Workers' Control. No capitalist promoted policy, he says, can effectively tackle the problem of profits: but everybody knows the wages bill. The Trade Union answer it follows is to counterpose to the pressure for incomes policy, an equivalent pressure for Workers' Control, which would require workers' access to the employers' books. A pressure group which developed around such a question as this could with sufficient effort and insight, become a focus for the whole left-wing movement.

# European



## CRISIS LOOMS IN ITALY

By Brian Simister.

The substance of a letter addressed earlier this month by the Italian Treasury Minister, Sr. Colombo, to the Prime Minister gives an alarming picture of Italy's economic situation. In his letter Colombo draws the attention of Sr. Moro to measures, the adoption of which he considers vital and undelayable if the threat of economic collapse is to be avoided. The extent of the crisis is described in another part of his letter. He states that at the present rate, the deficit in the balance of payments by the end of the year, will amount to 1,700m, two thirds of Italy's gold and currency reserves. He expects the increase in Italy's gross national product for the whole of 1964 to amount to 4%, against an increase of the public's spendable income of not less than 16%.

Colombo feels that the burden of stabilising the economic situation cannot be left almost exclusively, as has been the case so far, to the credit squeeze. He wants a further limitation of public spending, increases in the prices of a number of public services, increased taxation, and predictably enough, a wage pause. He is also in favour of future wage increases, when they do occur, of being paid in part into a new investment fund, rather than going straight into wage packets. On May 29th, the Financial Times said:- "It is thought (in Italy) that only the trade unions can save Sr. Moro's cabinet and the centre left experiment. If they were to agree to collaborate with the government in stabilising the economic situation by accepting a wage pause the government would have a new lease of life. Their willingness to do so, and even their ability to impose a wage pause on their adherents is open to doubt. Of the three main labour organisations, two- the Christian Democrat C.I.S.I. and the Social Democrat U.I.L.- have indicated that they might be willing to help the government. But the vital attitude is that of the C.G.I.L. which is the largest of the three. The C.G.I.L. is supported by the Communist and Socialist parties but is really controlled by the Communists".

The left in Italy thus faces a heavy responsibility. They can allow Moro's government to solve their crisis at the expense of the standards of living of the working class. Or they can launch an all out offensive against any wage pause, and advocate the introduction of nationalisation and socialist planning as the only just solution to the crisis. Let us hope that they make the most of their opportunity.

AUSTRALIAN DOCKERS' BOYCOTT MOVE

On June 1st a mass meeting of three thousand Sydney dockers unanimously supported a move to impose a total boycott of all cargo to and from South Africa in protest against apartheid.

Their decision, taken during an authorised stoppage which paralysed the Sydney waterfront, will be put before the Australian Council of Trade Unions for approval. If the A.C.T.U. - due to meet on July 6th - agrees with the Sydney dockers, it has power to close all Australian ports to South African imports and exports.

90 AN HOUR SIGN FREEDOM PETITION

Southampton Anti-Apartheid movement supporters have collected 1,350 signatures to a petition for the release of political prisoners in South Africa, and over £16 for the Defence and Aid fund. The city's trade contacts led to greater knowledge of the situation in the apartheid state, and people in a local park signed at the rate of 90 an hour.

AND IN BIRMINGHAM.....

The Anti-Apartheid committee organised pickets outside Marks and Spencer, Littlewoods, and the Co-op in the High Street on Saturday, calling for a boycott on all South African goods.

ALGERIA'S OFFICIAL OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID

The Algerian National Assembly unanimously adopted a law prohibiting all commercial relations with Portugal and South Africa on June 1st.

MORE STUDENT BOYCOTTS

Following the lead given recently by Aberdeen University, Westhill Teachers' Training College, Selly Oak, at a students' meeting voted to ban all South African goods for use within the College.

The external affairs committee of Reading University Students' Union has followed up the recent Union condemnation of apartheid by compiling a comprehensive list of blacklisted goods, which has been printed for the reference of students. It includes brands of cigarettes and tobacco, tinned fruits and vegetables, jams, wines, and canned meat and fish.

Details from this list will appear in the next issue of The Week.

ANOTHER RESOLUTION CONDEMNING APARTHEID

The National Association of Theatrical and Cinema employees passed a resolution at its annual conference in Hastings on May 29th, condemning the Verwoerd government for its oppression of opponents of apartheid, and demanding the release of all political prisoners and others restricted for opposing apartheid.



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## YOUNG FABIANS ESTABLISH RESEARCH PROJECTS.

The Young Fabians have recently launched a series of research projects to provide vital information upon which socialist policies may be based. Any local groups of Young Socialists who can help are asked to write to the YOUNG FABIAN GROUP at 11 Dartmouth Street London SW1. The main areas of enquiry are set out below.

### 1. Shortage of Local Authority Staff.

One of the most serious limitations on future Labour Governments will be the shortage of skilled staff in various key sectors. If it is possible to gain some idea of the fields in which these staff shortages will be most serious then it may be possible to avert them. The Labour Party has already had a specialist Study Group working on Teacher Supply as this is one of the most obvious places where deficiencies exist. It has also had another working on the building industry and the supply of trained personnel in that industry.

The Labour Party is committed to a large programme of improvement of old houses. This will not only involve building workers but public health inspectors and a range of people with other skills. The Land Commission will make possible large new schemes of comprehensive development on the lines suggested by Buchanan. How many local authorities have the range of skills in their own departments to take on or even supervise such schemes? These questions can only be answered after discussion with those working in local authorities. It is this on which the Labour Party Research Department would very much value the help of Young Socialists.

### 2. General Practice.

Very little up-to-date information exists on the state of general practices in this country, or about services like health visitors and midwives, etc., who should be closely linked with the family doctor. We know deficiencies exist in this field but to present the full picture and convince people of the need for these changes, examples are needed of these deficiencies in these areas. For instance, how many doctors in your area practiced in group practice premises? How many have appointment schemes, and are these effective? Only a local study can provide this information.

### 3. Apprenticeships.

We know very little about apprenticeships and even less about young workers' attitudes to them. There are a number of basic questions which should be tackled, however. Young people who want a skilled training should be able to get one. Are there sufficient opportunities in your area? Does the kind of training in the various firms and trades match up to expectations and personal needs? It would be useful to have a fairly open survey of this subject with each group choosing a certain trade or trades and occupations and simply describing the existing situation.

### 4. Youth Unemployment.

There are signs that the proportion of young people to others may be increasing. Automation and fast technical changes have new symptoms and one of these is more youth unemployment. We need to know much more about what is happening to young people in their attempts to find work before prescribing exact remedies. Visits should be made to Labour Exchanges to obtain details of the job attempts and job mobility of young workers.



Hull Fish "Bobbers" Strike.

from an Industrial Correspondent

On Monday, May 11th, Hull Fish docks were brought to a complete standstill by an unofficial strike of the bobbers- the men who are employed (by Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association) to discharge trawlers.

Starting at 2a.m., the bobbers work in the damp atmosphere of the 'fish room', or in the open exposed to all weathers. They wear rubber leggings and overalls, and these, (as well as the rest of the clothing, and the hands) become wet and slimy from handling the fish. At present they must take home all their working clothes, and have no washing room facilities at all. They are able to wash under a cold water tap at the side of the fish market!

The men have been demanding a drying room and proper washing facilities for the last five years, and eventually decided that they could wait no longer. A branch meeting (N.U.G.M.W.) in February demanded that unless a new start were made upon drying room facilities within three months a mass dock meeting should be called to initiate strike action. The employers refused to be tied down to a time limit, arguing that tenders had to be studied. The mass meeting on May 11th resolved, unanimously, "that if it started to rain during working there should be a complete stoppage....". As it was raining at the time, all the men walked off the dock and returned home!

With no warning of the strike, employers and fish-merchants were unable (in spite of ordering out trawler crews, just home after a three week fishing trip, and the use of clerks, fish-buyers and trawler owners) to discharge more than three ships, instead of the usual twelve, and this took nine hours, instead of the normal four. Fish prices soared, and few merchants obtained supplies. Such a demonstration, i.e. a full stoppage, of the bobbers' strength had not occurred for more than 20 years. And the "Fishing Vessel Owners" gave a definite date by which tenders would be accepted, promising that work would start on the drying room in early June.

The strike brought to a head the long-standing sense of grievance and discontent felt toward the employers' arrogance in this industry. Behind the immediate issue which caused this strike, other anxieties are generating a much improved attendance at branch meetings. These include: 1) The fear of redundancy, which is threatened by a new type of 'freezing vessel'. 2) The exclusion of the fish docks from coverage under 'Factory Acts'. 3) The incidence of bronchitis- it is estimated that over 60% of the bobbers suffer from the disease, and a petition is being prepared demanding an enquiry by the Ministry of Health into the connection between bronchitis and the conditions of the job. 4) Loss of earnings- average take-home pay is £80 down compared with last year.

ROGER PROTZ TO SPEAK AT NALSO/NEW LEFT SCHOOL

The former editor of "Keep Left" a paper of the Young Socialists, is to speak at the school organised by NALSO and New Left Review, to be held at Sevenoaks, Kent, on September 12th-18th.

CENTRAL NOTTINGHAM Y.S. CONDEMN WAR IN ADEN.

At its meeting of 20th May, the Central Nottingham YS condemned Harold Wilson's support of the Tory policies in Aden. The resolution was sent to the NEC and, with alterations, to the National Committee of the YS.

## THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLARIS.

Mary Klopper.

Plans for the Faslane demonstration near Glasgow on Saturday 27th June are gathering momentum. The main organisational task has been given over to the Youth CND and progress reports coming in are impressive. The main need now is for marchers. CND supporters are asked to move their local branches into supporting the demonstration. Individuals who wish to participate may write to the Secretary of the CND in Scotland, Mrs. Hannah Roberts, "Ashacre", Dalry, Ayrshire, Scotland who is acting as a clearing house for information concerning the demonstration. Steps have also been taken to ensure that the campaign against nuclear bases will continue after the Faslane demonstration.

On July 4th there is to be a demonstration at the United States Navy Communications base at Edzell in Angus. The US Navy has so far refused to confirm or deny strong suggestions that this base is for use in connection with nuclear missiles sited locally; hence the demonstration. Other projected activities include the preparation of leaflets in four languages to be distributed at the Edinburgh Festival this summer. Between August 6th and 9th there will be demonstrations in memory of the dead of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## DEMONSTRATION AGAINST BRITISH OPPRESSION IN ADEN.

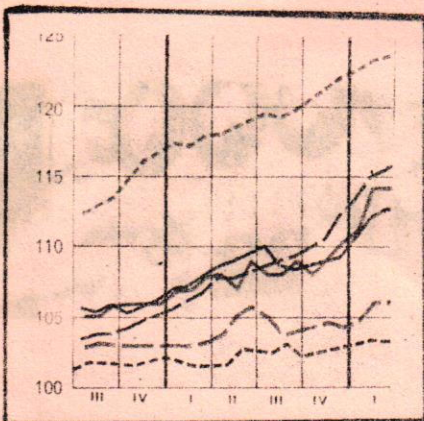
Many of our London readers will no doubt be willing to join the demonstration organised for next Saturday, June 6th by the West London Young Socialists. We hope that this demonstration against the whole of the Tory policy of 'back to Palmerston' in the Middle East will not be restricted to West London Young Socialists, nor for that matter to Young Socialists, but that all socialists who can possibly attend from London and its environs will be in Whitehall at the Foreign Office next Saturday, at 3 p.m.

## EAST LONDON CND SUPPORTERS AGAINST POLARIS.

East Ham and West Ham and Barking CND Groups have hired a 50 seater coach to transport demonstrators to Glasgow for next month's Polaris demonstration at Faslane. Arrangements to date are for passengers to be picked up at the following points: Barking Magistrate's Court, 6.30 pm., East Ham Town Hall, 6.40 pm. and Stratford Town Hall at 6.50 pm. Supporters from the East End of London and South Essex should contact: Pat Allen, 35 Northfield Road, East Ham, London E6.

## STUART HALL CALLS FOR "FUNCTIONAL DIVISION" OF CND.

In the first of a series of three meetings called to consider the position of the CND movement, Stuart Hall addressing the Nottingham branch called for a "functional division" between the trends in the movement. He said that at the time of the Scarborough victory: "CND should have had a clearer attitude to the question of the Labour Party leadership. CND should have recognised the 'overlap' of issues and is now suffering from its previous past in this respect." Much discussion at the meeting centred on the ways in which unilateralists in the Labour Party can organise the propagation of their views effectively. Subsequent meetings in this same series are to be addressed by Alan Shuttleworth and John Rex.



# ECONOMIC OUTLOOK — THE WEEK

## U.S. ATTITUDE TO WORLD TRADE BODY. From Financial Times May 29th.

The U.S. will not participate in any international trade commission to deal with the problem of developing countries that encroaches on fields now controlled by private enterprise, and on which the West does not have a collective veto. This was made clear in Geneva by high U.S. sources at the United Nations World Trade and Development Conference.

## U.S. SPURS CAMPAIGN TO ATTRACT FOREIGN EQUITY INVESTMENT From Financial Information Service May 21st.

A subtle but slickly planned campaign to spur more foreign investment in American industry is now being conducted throughout the free world and is being aided by many of the largest companies in the United States. Object of the drive, which was created by a committee of the more knowledgeable insiders in the U.S. financial community, is to improve the U.S. balance of payments position. The major part of the program calls for the listing of U.S. securities abroad in order to facilitate their purchase by overseas investors. The campaign calls for publication of company reports in several languages, when being distributed to shareholders. Already, 200 companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange have listed their shares abroad. Among them are Eastman Kodak, International Business Machines, General Motors and Standard Oil (New Jersey).

## LIMIT ROLE OF U.S. BANKS IN CANADA Financial Information Service.

American banks should be allowed to maintain branches in Canada but they should never be allowed to gain control of any of the chartered banks now operating in that country! This was one of the major recommendations of the Canadian Royal Commission on Banking and Finance which recently reported to the Canadian Parliament after a two year study of monetary conditions in Canada... At present, First National City Bank of New York holds a 10% interest in Mercantile Bank of Canada. This is a special situation since the bank is wholly foreign owned already. Citibank bought its share off a Dutch bank and reportedly has an option on the rest.

## E.E.C. LOAN TO ITALY DENIED From Financial Times, May 29th.

A high official of the Italian mission to the E.E.C. categorically denied press reports that the E.E.C. was about to grant a big loan to Italy. He said Italy had only recently received a large loan from the U.S. and would not ask for another after such a short time.

# THE WEEK.. THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION



## WORRIES FOR OIL INVESTORS

The Oil and Gas Journal of May 4th contained the following: "Taxaco's Chairman, Augustus C. Long, is understandably a little annoyed at the legal theorists, some of them in our own government, who make bland assertions that 'it is right for a government to take over private property if this is done for a public purpose, and is followed by prompt and adequate compensation'. Long's company has felt this type of government bite in Cuba and Ceylon in recent years, and he scoffs at theory. 'There is no such thing as adequate compensation for a going concern' he says. His company hasn't received any compensation from either Ceylon or Cuba, and that is hardly fair by anyone's standards. 'I challenge anyone to show me a single case where foreign owned property was seized and such compensation was paid, whether in Mexico, Ceylon or in any country' he says."

On the 11th of May, the Oil and Gas Journal had further statements on the harshness of the times:- "The F.L.N. has published a draft political plan that comes out of its recent meeting in Algiers. One paragraph deals with oil and it's enough to make any company involved in Algerian oil operations, or even interested in them, pause just a bit. It reads:- 'Nationalisation is a long term objective. In the present conditions the priority given to the utilisation of mineral and energy resources in order to meet the country's needs will to a large extent determine its economic development. It is mainly in this sector that joint ventures in which the state has a majority holding can ensure the development of technical skills, and create favourable conditions for an eventual take over."

## INCREASING NEED FOR VERSATILE SKILLED WORKERS

From United Pattern  
Workers Journal. April.

The change over, particularly marked at Douglas Aircraft Co., from the construction of aircraft, to the production of missiles and space systems has increased the demand for engineers and technicians, as against riveters performing a single, repetitive job all day. The striking nature of the change can be seen from the following table, which compares the labour needs of Douglas for building D.C.6's in 1960, with their needs in 1963 for the Saturn project.

	1960	1963
Manufacturing workers	69.3%	41.0%
Tooling workers	18.0%	17.5%
Engineers and technicians	11.7%	50.7%

These few figures show what importance technical workers will hold in the future, with regard to trade union organisation.

Statement OF THE MAY SECOND MOVEMENT.

"Every American boy killed in South Vietnam is unjustifiably killed and the blood is on the hands of the U.S. government." So spoke Senator Wayne Morse in Congress on April 29 1964, and we agree. The U.S. war in Vietnam is a hopeless campaign of oppression against an 'enemy' which consists of virtually the entire South Vietnamese population. No wonder all the United States armed 'advisers', helicopters, napalm bombs, and chemicals cannot win. It is generally recognised that the U.S. must either pull out of Vietnam or commit us to a full scale military (Korea style) effort which could create a world holocaust. If the U.S. pulls out of Vietnam the war will end overnight. The people of Vietnam will then be free to decide what form of government they want for themselves- neutralism, socialism or whatever. The 1954 Geneva Agreement on Indo China provided for such a popular plebiscite but this agreement has been flagrantly violated by the various U.S. supported tyrants of South Vietnam.

The first and most important purpose of the May Second Movement shall be to bring about the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. Until The U.S. withdraws its troops, we will join with the growing world wide opposition to this U.S. war, through campaigns of mass action demonstrating to the U.S. government and the world that a significant part of the American people DO NOT support it. American youth have nothing to gain from fighting in Vietnam, whatever aspirations U.S. policy makers might have. Many of us have refused to fight in this war and we will encourage others to do the same.

The May Second Movement has already learned how the government reacts when its policies are threatened. On May 2nd, as part of our campaign, we showed a special film made by the Viet Cong on campuses and in communities throughout New York and other parts of the country. One copy of our film was seized by federal agents, without a warrant, as it was being shown to a neighbourhood political group on Manhattans West side. In another incident, police agents raided our temporary head quarters in a New York hotel and pressured the management into evicting us. No better example of governmental connivance with the press can be shown than the press blackout of the May 2nd demonstrations and march... This intimidation only increases the need for the May Second Movement... American students have played an important role <sup>in opposing</sup> pro war policies of past administrations - and we are standing for this generation. We are convinced that with determination, unity and militant action we can bring an end to all U.S. war policies.

The May Second Movement Will:

1. Organise mass action on campuses around the country to stop the U.S. war in Vietnam. We will conduct sit ins, picket lines, demonstrations, boycotts, petition campaigns, school strikes, political questionnaires and other activities demanding an end to McNamara's war. We will demonstrate off campus as well as on campus when it will be effective.

2. Circulate a statement for young men of draft age calling on them to refuse to fight in Vietnam. This statement has already been circulated by a group of young men associated with the May Second Committee with great success and we consider it a positive move against the American war in Vietnam.

3. Concentrate, but not limit, our activities to opposing the U.S. war in Vietnam. We recognise that from every brink of war, wherever it is located, we can topple into the same nuclear grave. We will oppose U.S. aggressive policies wherever a war danger arises. A particular case in point are the illegal and provocative United States spy-flights over Cuba.

4. Investigate, expose, and oppose the cause and causers of wars, both cold and hot... Past movements have all too often reduced their opposition to war to simple opposition without explanation. This, like opposition to sin, is hardly the basis for a mass movement. We intend to stir the dirty laundry no matter to whom it belongs.

5. Include all honest political ideologies within the movement. We will not red bait. The use of red baiting in the past has destroyed peace organisations and we will not be associated with such tactics.

6. Above all, criticize and act to change pro war policies of American governments. As citizens we are ashamed of the extent to which our country's government is responsible for world tensions, most glaringly exemplified in the unjustifiable war in Vietnam. Our primary responsibility as principled Americans is to oppose our government on its wrong policies, and to work to change them, or to change the government itself if need be.

7. We must make the issue of American involvement in Vietnam a political campaign issue. We intend to urge all the candidates for political office into taking a stand for withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam.

Organization :- A national provisional executive committee to include representatives from all areas around the country where groups are active, and provision for including new groups when they form. This committee shall have authority to issue policy statements based upon majority vote. All local chapters shall have complete autonomy to initiate actions or join with others in actions, so long as they function within the policies of the May Second Movement. A national newspaper will be published in September, and a Christmas convention will be held.

Action:- We propose that May Second Movements be started immediately on as many campuses as possible and that on June 4th these campus committees demonstrate on their individual campuses against the U.S. war in Vietnam. We also propose that the chapters near and surrounding the national political convention sites be mob lized so that effective demonstrations can take place during the conventions. Again local initiative is essential and we can only hope that some dramatic gesture will be made at the conventions against McNamara's War.



# THIRD WORLD WEEK

## THIRD WORLD NOTES

### EAST AFRICAN CLAMOUR (Extracted from 'Panafrika') -- from Mary Klopfer

"Dissatisfaction with the slow progress towards East African Federation and a strong impetus for action was given in Nairobi recently when 10 representatives of the Tanganyika National Union (consisting of all TANU MPs) flew to Nairobi for an emergency conference with 10 representatives of the majority Kenya Party's similar Parliamentary Group. The Conference sent firm and precisely worded resolutions to the leaders of each of the governments of East Africa asking:

- 1) for a further meeting of the leaders before May 20th in order to promulgate a decision of the countries to federate.
- 2) a recognition that if necessary the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar should federate with Kenya- leaving the door open for Uganda if she were not ready to federate now.
- 3) A hint that a public challenge in the Kenya Parliament might follow failure to take some dramatic step forward before the budget debate in June.

The leaders responded: Nyerere with a clear commitment to immediate federation, Obote of Uganda was "unwilling for Uganda to be pushed into federation", and Kenyatta said nothing. The MPs insisted that their urgency was based on popular demand and that they were fulfilling their responsibilities to their electors by bringing pressure to bear in their own governments to take the plunge NOW and work out details later through the national assemblies or a specially elected body.

### BRITISH PULL OUT - ZANZIBARIS CARRY ON

The Zanzibar port and two steamships are now run and wholly managed by Zanzibaris. All British civil servants were ordered to leave by April, with the exception of doctors, port officials, officers and engineers, but it would seem that the sudden resignation of the remaining nine was done to bring about disruption.

Vice-President Amani Karume said: 'The colonialists had hoped to paralyse shipping in Zanzibar, but they did not succeed. Our steamers are operating as nicely as usual with local people, and we are quite capable. We have daily seen the evil and deceit of the colonialists: recently they used to deceive us that we were not able to rule by ourselves. But the people have seen that there is nothing we cannot do, and we are well able to manage for ever our own affairs.'

## NOTTINGHAM'S NEW PLAYHOUSE.

From its earliest days on the drawing board, Nottingham's £370,000 Playhouse has been the centre of political controversy in the City. Opposed by the Tories whose predecessors opposed the provision of public libraries, finally decided upon by the casting vote of a Labour Mayor who was accused of usurping his position to squander the City's rates, the controversy still exists although the Playhouse has been an obvious success, playing nightly to 90% capacity audiences. On the night of the opening there was a punch-up in the Council House between members of the Staff and Corporation officials; the latest round in the battle occurred on May 14th when members of the Staff displayed a notice board in the theatre foyer entitled: "Facts about the Playhouse":

"The Playhouse was financed from the profits accrued by the Municipal Gas Undertaking before it was nationalised. It cost £370,000. It was leased to the Nottingham Theatre Trust Ltd. for a period of 21 years. The annual rent payable to the City is £26,000 or £500 per week. The City gives back to the Trust £13,000 each year. This £13,000 also comes from the Gas Fund. It does not come from the rates. In effect the Trust is paying the City £13,000 a year; the City gives the Trust nothing. At the end of 21 years the Trust will have fully replenished the Gas Fund's loan with normal interest. The Playhouse will, however, remain the property of the City and have been maintained at no cost to the City. Though the City gives the Playhouse nothing, the County gives £7,500 a year from the rates. The British taxpayer gives the Playhouse £17,000 a year from the Arts Council. The City of Nottingham Corporation does not support the Playhouse which is a credit to and an amenity of the City.....The biggest single item in the Playhouse budget is the rent."

It should be clear from the above that the Playhouse staff believe that there has been a plot afoot to kid the rate-payers that they are footing the bill. Why was it left to the Playhouse Company to do all the explaining? If the present happy state of affairs as regards attendance does not maintain itself, then there will be a clear case for calling on the corporation to lower the rent and treating the Playhouse to the same considerations that operate in the case of Libraries, Art Galleries and Parks.

## FEEDING THE SHARKS.

Over a ten-year period (1953-62), London's bus operations made a profit of £29.6 millions. At least, this was the figure of surplus of receipts over expenditure including depreciation for the period. When the ten year period is analysed more closely one sees that there was also an increase in gross revenue during this period of 22%, and an increase of expenditure of 13%. This amounted to an increase in net surplus of 755%. All this being so, where then is the catch? It lies of course in the "tributes" that London Transport has to pay out of its operating surplus, as follows: Bondholders and Moneylenders: £5,501,200 per annum. Government Fuel Oil Tax: £4,500,000. Government License Charges: £1,000,000. Annual Surplus 'required': £4,000,000. Put to a different use, this total of £15,001,200 could result in a £4 per week increase to all drivers and conductors; putting back the 4d bus fare to 3d.; meet the wages cost of 5,000 extra staff; provide 1,000 extra buses per year. (with acknowledgements to 'PLATFORM')