

the week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

THE

WEEK

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

VOL. 2, No. 12
8 OCT. 1964

9d.

the week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

EDITORS—ROBIN BLACKBURN KEN COATES

54 PARK ROAD · LENTON · NOTTINGHAM Telephone 48369

VOLUME TWO NUMBER TWELVE

CONTENTS

- PAGE 1 Editorial notes: Who pays (for Toryism)?
- PAGE 2 Trade union notes: D.A.T.A. tells members to be careful about terms of employment.
London U.P.W. men fight expulsions.
Robert Willis to take part in N.U.S.
"ballot rigging" probe.
- PAGE 3 Trade union notes: Apprentices call national strike.
Banned overtime - 500 electricians sacked.
- PAGE 4 Facts against the Tories: Tory group calls for abolition of family allowances.
Building land in Birmingham rockets to £4.8.3d per square yard.
Thousands face eviction if Tories win.
- PAGE 5 Political notes: The story behind the Belfast riots.
- PAGE 6 Discussion: Socialist education.
- PAGE 7 Discussion: Socialist education (continued).
The need for a Voice of Youth.
- PAGE 8 European notes: La Gauche says "Open the books".
- PAGE 9 Third World notes: Behind the Nigerian general strike.
Mozambique journal charges pact between Ian Smith and Salazar.
- PAGE 10 U.S. notes: Mark Lane slams Warren Report.
- PAGE 11 BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS: Panther books to put Marx on the mass market.
The real Jimmy Hope.
- PAGE 12 Economic notes: £1,000,000,000 of gambling in September.
Recession expected in U.S. during 1965.

EDITORS' LETTER

There will be only one more issue before the election, and we would like that issue to contain as much material as possible to help all Labour supporters in their last-minute endeavours to beat the Tories.

We do get brickbats so readers must excuse us the luxury of quoting, from time to time, some of the bouquets we get. Thus we are pleased to read in a letter from Ernie Roberts: "...I find "The Week" quite a valuable booklet and it is well worth continuing." We think so too when we get letters like this, and we might ^{add} do the poor devil who does the collating. But he is of the opinion that is time it was printed. Seriously though, we will be announcing several development plans immediately after the election and would urge readers to give us every help.

Published by The Week, 54, Park Rd., Lenton, Nottingham.
Subscription rates on application.

WHO PAYS (FOR TORYISM)?

We have heard a lot about the price of Labour's promises from the Tories and their press. Of course Wilson has counter-attacked but we want to dwell a little on a virtually unknown cost of Toryism: that of the 1001 business fiddles, which are not even declared for tax purposes. Recently there came into our possession copies of a Property Letter which proudly proclaims across its heading, "Circulated privately to businessmen". Some quotations from this are, we think, in order. In issue number 34, which was described as "our Property Company issue", there appeared: "...the concept of the limited company is one of the most marvellous legal fictions ever imagined.." Why? because "In general tax regulations very much favour limited companies." and "Here is an interesting example of tax save...a married man..who has a gross rental income of £1,300. He will normally suffer some £390 in tax. Suppose that this income is received not by him but by a company in which he and his wife have an equal shareholding. They are both directors. The husband draws £640 a year salary, his wife £520. Expenses amount to £10. The remaining £130 gross is paid to them as dividends. The total tax suffered drops to about £165." Another example: "Say a property dealing company buys a property for £8,000 and sells it 3 years later for £12,000. The £4,000 profit will be subject to the full rate of income tax, as will the income from the rents...Now, say an investment company were to buy the same property and sell it for the same profit after 3 years. It pays no tax on the £4,000 because this cannot be distributed as dividends but must be credited to the capital account..." (our emphasis)

However, our business advisors don't confine themselves to advising their clients how to avoid paying tax. In another issue which "is devoted to money" there are some tips for would-be Clores. We read: "The best substitute for capital you haven't got is cunning. Here are three lessons in finance that prove Simon was far from simple...The first demonstrates how to get the highest return on invested capital -- and the wisdom of borrowing always. No matter how big your assets. Its based on this financial premise: "The greater the amount borrowed at fixed interest, the greater the return on personal capital invested"...Take a simple sum of £100 ..and suppose you buy property for it with a 20% return. You borrow nothing and you earn a straight £20 on your £100 capital. Now say you borrow 50% at 6% interest and therefore at a cost of £3 a year. So you've then invested 50% of your personal capital and after paying interest you receive £17. So £17 on £50 invested gives you a return of 34% - i.e., you've upped your capital return from 20% to 34%. Now consider 75% borrowed...This gives you a 62% return...(and you get tax relief on the interest)." (our emphasis) "Lastly, to rub in the point, suppose you can borrow 90%..."this leaves you with...a return of 146%! In times of rising profits and rising rents" (our emphasis) " this high gear ratio leads to greater returns..." The second tip is that of "Booster contracts" and the letter says: "This operation is thoroughly immoral. It could even constitute fraud. We don't recommend it, but it is done.." It then goes on to describe the operation - one can almost hear the clicking of tongues in cheeks. However we have quoted enough to make our point.

Thus a tiny corner is lifted of ^{the} heavy table-cloth which cloaks a myriad of fiddles. Somewhere in the Letter there was reference to a magical effect, but there is no magic. All this money comes from our work, our taxes, and our efforts. We, the ^{ordinary} people pay for Toryism and its Bingo-type economy. Labour must completely eradicate this kind of thing by mobilising the working class around the slogan of 'opening the books'.

D.A.T.A. TELLS MEMBERS TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

The Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association has warned its members to study closely their written terms of employment which have been provided by their employers to comply with the Contracts of Employment Act. The Engineering Employers' Federation recently gave its member-companies advice on providing these statements and the union wants to check any attempt by employers to give legal status to voluntary collective agreements between unions and employers. This could be done by including these agreements in the terms of employment. The union fears that if this were done it would be liable to more Rookes v. Barnard type cases.

A spokesman for the Association said on October 4th that there was no suggestion of members being instructed to reject their contracts en masse. However if a member found that the information provided by the employer included the industry's negotiating procedure he could not accept the statement. "We take the traditional British point of view that the procedure agreement is a voluntary method of settling disputes and not a legal obligation," he concluded.

from a legal correspondent.

LONDON U.P.W. MEN FIGHT EXPULSIONS

from a London reader

On September 24th the Union of Post Office Workers executive expelled Harry Jones, chairman, Dick Lawlor, secretary, Mr. M. Styles, assistant secretary and national executive member, and four other members of the London District Council Postmen's section. They were charged with unconstitutional action by calling for industrial action in connection with the proposal by the Post Office to introduce part-time labour. According to the executive industrial action ^{is the} prerogative of the executive, and although the decision to ban overtime was taken by an overwhelming majority it rendered the men liable to expulsion.

Now the postmen are hitting back at this high-handed action by two methods: firstly, a petition has been circulated demanding reinstatement. When members of London branches demonstrated outside UPW house at Clapham on Monday, October 5th, they handed in forms with over 6,000 signatures. Secondly, the action is being challenged legally. The solicitors for the seven announced that a writ had been issued against the UPW to set aside the expulsion. It is also expected that an application will be made to the High Court for an injunction restraining the union from implementing the expulsion pending a hearing of the case. Some idea of the bad feeling that has been created can be gauged from the fact that an invitation to Mr. Ron Smith, secretary of the union, to attend a social organised by the Mount Pleasant branch, has been withdrawn. At this social Ron Smith was to have received a £2,000 donation from the Mount Pleasant men to the union's fighting fund. Postmen at the West Central sorting office are reported to have demanded that the money be returned.

ROBERT WILLIS TO TAKE PART IN N.U.S. 'BALLOT RIGGING' PROBE

The TUC have announced that Robert Willis, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, has been appointed by them to take part in the 'ballot rigging' investigation in the National Union of Seamen. The committee of inquiry was due to hold its first meeting on October 6th. Its four members are all sea-going member of the NUS. (See Week Vol. 2 No. 11)

APPRENTICES CALL NATIONAL STRIKE

from an A.E.U. correspondent

On September 27th a meeting was held in Manchester which was attended by delegates, representing apprentices and junior workers' committees, from many parts of the country. They came together to form the nucleus of the Apprentices' National Committee. At this meeting a resolution calling for a national strike in support of the Apprentices' Youth Charter was passed unanimously. This resolution was sponsored by delegates from a number of divisions: Manchester, Reading, London, Portsmouth, etc. There were some twenty letters from junior workers' and apprentices' committees pledging support for strike action should it be called, also a large number of letters from big factory JWCs - for example, AEI, Churchill Machine Tools, EMV, Frances Shaws, ICT, etc., etc. These and many more pledge their support for strike action. On these grounds the date was set for a national apprentices' and junior workers' strike on November 2nd, 1964.

The charter is the official AEU Apprentice Youth Charter, and its demands include:

- (1) the following percentages of the skilled man's rate (£10.11.8d) to be paid to all apprentices: at 15 years, 60%; at 16 years, 65%; at 17, 70%; at 18, 75%; at 19, 80% and at 20, 90%. At present the rate paid varies from 22.5% plus 9/4d at 15, to 62.5% plus 28% at 20;
- (2) a 35-hour working week;
- (3) four weeks' annual paid holiday;
- (4) the payment of full wages during sickness;
- (5) full trade union negotiating rights for all young workers.

The National Apprentices' Wages and Conditions Campaign Committee has sent letters to all JWCs and other young workers' committees explaining their reasons for calling for the strike. They are asking all the JWCs:

- (1) to produce 5,000 copies of a leaflet on the strike;
- (2) to distribute these at factories and day colleges;
- (3) to contact all apprentices in the shipbuilding and engineering unions to ask their support;
- (4) to raise finance to cover the cost of the campaign.

Two more National Committee meetings have been arranged; for 18th October and the 8th of November. Both will be held in Manchester. The Committee states that it, and the trade unions concerned, will not tolerate victimisation of apprentices. The Committee is anxious to contact all in the shipbuilding and engineering industries who can help the campaign. All communications should go to: J.F. O'Shea, 81, Lofting Rd., Islington London N1.

BANNED OVERTIME - 500 ELECTRICIANS SACKED by a special correspondent

For four months electricians at the Sizewell nuclear power station site have had a claim in for a £1 site allowance. Two weeks ago because they had heard nothing from the National Joint Industrial Council they decided to ban overtime and reduce their working week to 42 hours. When they still heard nothing strike action was decided. Meetings were held at the site gates Friday afternoon (October 2nd) and the men stayed out. The management then issued an ultimatum that the men must inform them by 3.30 if they intended to return to work. After this a spokesman for the management announced that all 500 had been sacked for failing to work "properly during the past two weeks".

TORY GROUP CALLS FOR ABOLITION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCES

The October issue of Crossbow, the quarterly publication of the Bow Group, (a ginger group of Tories) contains a symposium spotlighting long-term policies for the next Tory Government. Among the suggestions are that rent control, while retained for areas where there is still a housing shortage, should be abolished where there is sufficient "decent" housing. Most startling though, is the contention that family allowances do not meet real needs and that they should have been abolished long ago in favour of an improved system of tax allowances for children of those who really need the money.

This is a real piece of Tory double-think which is in line with their general policy of robbing the poor to feed the rich. Obviously the families most in need of family allowances are those who don't pay tax at present, whilst increased tax allowances will favour the better off sections of the community.

BUILDING LAND IN BIRMINGHAM ROCKETS TO £4. 8. 3d PER SQUARE YARD

The Financial Times of October 5th carried the following item:

"Further evidence of the rising cost of land was seen at the recent auction by Cheshire Gibson and Son when it offered $9\frac{1}{2}$ acres of freehold land at Selly Oak, Birmingham, owned by Imperial Metal Industries..With the land went outline planning permission for residential development and the price obtained was £206,000 from a Midlands building group. This worked out at £2,370 per acre which is believed to be the highest price ever paid for building land in the Midland conurbation..."

This works out at no less than £4. 8. 3d per square yard, and is the direct result of the Tory policy of a free-for-all in Land. What this means in terms of putting up the prices of houses can be seen when one does a little calculation. A small room in a council house would measure 22 square yards, thus at this price the land for each room (not counting gardens, passages, etc.) would be nearly £100!

THOUSANDS FACE EVICTION IF TORIES WIN

One of the provisions of the Tory Rent Act of 1957, which is due to come into force on April 1st, 1965, will place the living accommodation of thousands in jeopardy. During the war large numbers of houses were taken over by local authorities for bombed-out families. In 1955, the Tories pushed through an act which handed back these properties to the original owners but which allowed the tenants to retain tenancy. Under the 1957 Act their security of tenure will end on April 1st, 1965, and the landlords will have the power to evict them. That the landlords will take this action in most cases is certain. Much of the property concerned, especially in London, is in areas where speculators have been rife.

Over 200 tenants who have this threat hanging over their heads have formed an association to demand rehousing and/or protection against eviction. They live in the Hyde Park ward of Paddington, and they have been active in the area. A meeting to explain the position and call for action has been announced for October 6th.

THE STORY BEHIND THE BELFAST RIOTS

by W. Barrett (Belfast)

There is a world of difference between the voting pattern of those living in Northern Ireland and those living in other parts of the United Kingdom. West Belfast is the only "marginal" seat in the Province - and voting splits two ways. Firstly, Protestant or Roman Catholic; and secondly, Unionist or Socialist.

Thus, there are (so far) 4 candidates: Unionist, Republican, Northern Ireland Labour and Republican Labour. If there are sufficient of the Protestants who wish to vote against the present Westminster Government to split the Unionist (Protestant) vote, i.e., by voting for Northern Ireland Labour, then the large R.C. population of West Belfast could vote in sufficient numbers for the well-known Republican Labour candidate to win him the seat. This fact is realised by the Unionists and the beginning of the riots stem from the action of the Rev. Ian Paisley, who is a fanatical Protestant Unionist minister, and who abuses his calling by constantly attacking the R.C. church.

In the past the Eire flag has been displayed at the Republican H.Q. shop window without these riots taking place. However, this time, with a Westminster seat plainly vulnerable, the followers of Paisley have made such a fuss that the illegal showing of the Eire flag has been challenged. The police, acting within the law, which can, unfortunately, be interpreted fairly widely, have used their powers and forcibly removed the flag. This action was the fuse to the series of riots and the effect has been to inflame the sectarian feelings of West Belfast in particular, and the voting pattern of Northern Ireland in general.

The Unionists hope that the R.C. people will split their allegiance and vote in such ^{large} numbers for the straight Republican that the Republican Labour vote will be cut. Also, that the Protestants will vote solid Unionist and that the end product will be "no change" in West Belfast.

So far as the riots are concerned, one can sympathise with the police. They normally carry arms and had to provoke the Catholic working class by acting under orders by remov^{ing} the Eire flag. . The kind of people who took part in the riots were young men, age range 16 - 25, accompanied by their girl friends or wives in some cases. Quite young children formed the crowds that started off the trouble, It was when the public houses closed and the adults appeared that the violence began in earnest, although it must be stressed that drink was not the main cause of the inflamed feelings.

In many respects, one must be thankful that the police succeeded in keeping the rival gangs of Protestants (from Shankill Rd.) and of Catholics (from Falls Rd.) from clashing. The roads mentioned run through bleak Victorian housing areas, and are parallel so that it is very difficult for the police to block all connecting streets.

It is to be hoped that the mass of the electorate of West Belfast will not be too influenced by the events of the past week, and that they will reject religious sectarian politics.

Ed. note: Our Northern ^{Ireland} correspondent is to be thanked for the prompt way he replied to a request for the above article. We hope British readers have more insight now into how 12 Tories happen to sit in Westminster.

SOCIALIST EDUCATION

by Michael Barratt Brown

The Coates-Topham memorandum on Socialist Education is a bold bid to bring under the broad umbrella of Clause Four the fragmented forces of the Labour left. Existing discussion groups and left societies 'could' be united on the practical task of preparation for industrial self-management; existing publications 'might' be placed at the service of the new umbrella organisation; the existing interest of trade unions in education 'should' be harnessed to support a new series of correspondence courses and educational syllabuses. Before examining the implications of this hopeful programme, it is necessary first to examine the assumptions of the memorandum.

The assumptions are explicit:

(1) that socialism needs a society to do for it what the Fabian Society has done for social reform. But is this a correct contrast? Has not the success of the Fabians perhaps been the preparedness of local groups and of the editors of their publications to embrace both social reform and socialism - see especially their trade union pamphlets?

(2) that the replacement of the NCLC by a centralised agency of the TUC creates the need for a specifically socialist educational body. But has socialist education in the past depended so entirely upon the the NCLC and does not the TUC's new commitment to education not create a great new opportunity for developing work within the TUC framework, which certainly should not be abandoned without trial?

(3) that the Labour Party commitment to Clause Four and "the best possible system of popular administration" is the unifying force that can rally the left to a single organisation for discussion, education and propaganda. But is not the Labour Party itself the umbrella, with Clause Four now printed rather more clearly on it, that unites people with widely varying opinions about the speed and means by which the goal of Clause Four should be approached? Any body that opposes socialism to social reform is putting forward a very definite view about speed and means rather than simply emphasising the ultimate goal.

My queries about these basic assumptions may be tested by looking at the implications of the programme put forward for the body proposed in the document. As soon as we ask which existing discussion groups could be united, which existing publications might be placed at its service, which unions' interest in education should be harnessed, we face as ever the yawning gaps that divide the left. I do not wish, however, to be wholly negative and destructive. I believe that this is a moment of great opportunity and need, and for many of the same reasons that Coates and Topham adduce for their proposals; but my aim would be more modest.

There are at least three crucial tasks that have now to be faced: the first is a new development of discussion on the general advance to socialism in the advent of a new Labour Government. I do not believe that any new organisation is required to do this. I believe that socialists should be doing it inside their labour parties. On the narrower question of socialist education there is the need for discussion among those who are concerned with trade union and working class education and some new organisation may be required for this.

continued over/

Socialist education continued/

The second is a new development of this education in the unions and the Labour Party. Here an opportunity exists for all who are interested to push the TUC central and regional officers to undertake the conference, schools, day release classes that will be concerned, not just with shop steward training, but with the general education that is necessary to equip our people for workers' self-management. The TUC scheme provides the framework; what goes into it will depend on who pushes.

The third is a new development of publications to replace Flebs and the NCLC. In this field the LRD and the Fabians have been doing excellent work; do we want a new society for this or a new publishing house? What we want are the new booklets, the new books and pamphlets and syllabuses. That there is a market for an integrated series of study guides on political, social, economic and trade union history, on economics and politics, national and international cannot be in doubt. That tasks should be shared out, titles agreed and the efforts of those engaged in this work should be coordinated is evident, but do we need a new socialist society trying desperately to unite people under the Clause Four umbrella to get this?

My conclusion is that we should try to gather together a rather wide (but not too wide so that it can't agree) Advisory Committee of Trade Union Education, that this body chooses an editorial board to find money and begin publishing the study guides and booklets, syllabuses and correspondence courses that trade unionists need to develop their capacities and understanding for the attainment of workers' self management. If further activities - discussion groups, etc., - develop from this so much the better. In the first instance, let us start with preparing the material for discussion.

THE NEED FOR A VOICE OF YOUTH

by George Eltham

One of the encouraging factors in the development of the Voice papers has been the growth of special editions - e.g., London, Nottingham, Fords, A.E.I., etc., There is an urgent case for this to be extended into the youth field. Eyebrows might be raised at the idea of yet another youth paper, but the arguments are strong. A Voice youth edition would have an inbuilt insurance against factionalism. It would be the only youth paper with direct links with the broad left. Not only would this make for the type of debate needed between elements of the left acting in a coordinated manner for agreed aims, but it would also give a link between youth and "adult" sections of the movement. The absence of such a link has been a big factor in the demise of the YS.

In the likely event of YS closure or reorganisation, the left YS papers will be badly hit. A Voice youth edition would have the protection of the Voice network in distribution, etc. Two big mistakes have been made in the past in the field of youth papers. There has not been enough concentration on youth issues, and the youth issues dealt with have been too much confined to the YS. The folly of the latter will be very apparent if the YS is closed. CMD has also been neglected lately. A youth paper should also deal more with semi-political and "social" issues. The general election will draw into politics a larger influx of young people than we have seen since the inception of the YS. This, plus the plight of the YS, makes the need for action on this idea urgent. There may be a case for basing the paper in the north. The venture would have the full support of the Voice editors. Anybody interested, contact either B. Vester, 13, Keynsham Gdns., London SE 9.; or Voice, 57, Crystal Palace Park Rd., London S.E. 26.

LA GAUCHE SAYS "OPEN UP THE BOOKS!" from Bob Gregory

The following translation is from an article in the Belgian left-wing weekly, La Gauche, which is edited by Ernest Mandel. The article, which appeared in the September 26 issue, is noteworthy for two reasons. First it shows the identity of the employers' tactics in developed Western European countries; and, secondly, it indicates how a positive resistance to an 'incomes policy' may be developed by the trade unions in these countries around the demand for the opening of the books.

"The meeting of the National Committee for Economic Expansion has had no definite outcome..It has been suggested that there was discussion around the issue of a 'wages policy', the acceptance of such a policy would only come through 'moderation' which would have for either side, an attitude close to that of the employers. Meanwhile, Citizen Spinoy" (the socialist Minister for Economic Affairs) "has developed his views...he adopted the term 'moderation' and talked of the necessity of maintaining wage increases within the confines of a rise in productivity...we have demonstrated that this thesis is not in accordance with the theoretical data and the facts of experience. It is possible to increase wages more rapidly than productivity, without provoking a rise in prices; it involves, quite simply, a redistribution of revenue in favour of labour and at the expense of capital. This is moreover, the only means of bringing about this redistribution..."

"What must be remembered above all else is that the 'share of the cake' distributed to labour has greatly diminished compared with the pre-war period. It must be strongly emphasised that the 'share of the cake' falling to labour in Belgium is the smallest of all in the countries of the Common Market and that wages continue to lag behind those of all Belgium's neighbours...."

"The whole discussion is tied up with an earlier issue that must be raised time and time again. How can one compare the incomes of labour and capital when the former is known almost down to the last penny and the exact income of the employers can never be properly ascertained? Is it necessary to recall here the weight of writings concerning tax evasion and fraud in the private sector, which were impressively quoted when the issue of fiscal reform was being discussed, but which are not mentioned at all when attempts are being made to impose a so-called 'incomes policy'? Is it necessary to recall the accountants of the large capitalist concerns who are paid to know a thousand ways of understating current income, from the accelerated devaluation of plant and stock, to the disguise of acquisitions of new plant under the general heading of 'expenses' without mentioning the phenomenon of the 'expense account civilisation'?"

"The capitalists swear against all the evidence that their profits are low and that their capital is not 'sufficiently rewarded'. That's great! They should therefore have no objection to allowing us to seek evidence to prove them wrong by consulting their books, as Victor Larock has suggested. Before the General Council of the PSB, Ernest Glinne has taken up this argument and has called for the opening up of the books. This cry must preface any discussion on a so-called 'incomes policy'. Otherwise we will be engaging in advance in a fool's bargain. If we go into negotiations with our eyes closed, because the income of labour is exactly known, we shall find that where capital is concerned..we shall only know what the employers want us to know of their income (in order that they pay as little in taxation as possible). Isn't this the reply that the trade union movement must give to the voice of the siren vamping the merits of an 'incomes policy' or of a 'social programme'? Before engaging in debate on this subject, let them open up the books of capital and let us discuss with open books, that is to say, on an equal footing!"

BEHIND THE NIGERIAN GENERAL STRIKE

from Julian Atkinson

The Financial Times of October 1 had a special 4-page insert devoted to Nigeria. Among the articles was one by Billy J. Dudley of the University College, Ibadan. This was quite remarkable for the frank way he spoke of social differentiation in the country. A few extracts from the article will show the basic reasons why Nigeria had a general strike:

".....Few countries in the world show the same degree of disparity of earned incomes as Nigeria, where the ratio between the lowest and the highest paid is as much as one one to over 400. Much of this differentiation is a heritage of Nigeria's colonial past. But independence, rather than narrowing the gap between rich and poor, has only served to enhance and to perpetuate what should be intolerable. At one end of the social scale is the mass of general and unskilled labourers - and the subsistence farmers, who..exist in penury. They live in overcrowded conditions, as many as 3 in a small room for which the rent is as much as 25% of their income, surrounded by filth and dirt and with limited medical facilities.

"At the other end of the social spectrum are the top civil servants, university lecturers, senior employees of the public corporations and the politicians. All these live in comfortable luxury and enjoy every perquisite of office, well furnished government 'quarters' at subsidised rents, motor car and childrens' allowances and frequent free trips abroad. Their children either go to expensive private schools or are educated abroad...

"Overhanging this is the threat of rapidly growing unemployment. It is said, for instance, that of the 400,000 leaving the primary schools in 1963, only 5% were absorbed into secondary schools or succeeded in finding some form of employment. It is in this context that the general strike in June must be viewed. The strike, which lasted for 13 days, resulted in a virtual paralysis of the economy and involved an estimated 800,000 workers, was directed as much to the demand for higher wages and improved social conditions as it was aimed against the unwarranted privileges enjoyed by the favoured few...

"With an additional wage burden, some firms - for instance one near Lagos manufacturing plastic products - have announced that they might have to close down if further inducements are not given by the Government. Others have had to reconsider further expansion as a direct result of the forced increases in wage costs, while a few, faced with the inability to meet the increased cost of operations, and a higher wa're bill, have been threatened with strike action. Besides ^{are} this, the threat of inflation coupled with the new found power of the unions, it is suggested, now causing private investors to regard investments in Nigeria as too high a risk..."

One might comment that the future of Nigeria, unless it goes along the socialist road, looks very bleak indeed.

MOZAMBIQUE JOURNAL CHARGES PACT BETWEEN IAN SMITH AND SALAZAR

Mozambique Revolution, the journal of the Mozambique Liberation Front, charged in its October 1st issue, that a secret agreement had been signed between the governments of Southern Rhodesia and Portugal during Ian Smith's visit to Portugal last month. A direct consequence of this has been the transferring of a large number of Portuguese troops to the Southern Rhodesian border. The paper pledged support for the Zimbabwe people's struggle.

MARK LANE SLAMS WARREN REPORT

by George Lavan

Mark Lane, Chairman of the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry and the man chosen by Lee Oswald's mother to represent her son, has issued a 28-page comment on the Warren Commission's report on the assassination of Kennedy. It is a scathing indictment of that body's composition and procedure. It contains numerous refutations of points accepted by the Commission and asserts that many important facts and questions by Lane based on them had been ignored, left unanswered or dealt with dishonestly. Here are some of the points made by Lane:

(1) "Were Oswald permitted to live to face trial, not a single member of the Commission would be permitted to serve as a juror...All seven members have an association with the government, which is in this case the prosecuting agency."

(2) "Oswald's family was denied the right to secure counsel to represent his interests before the Commission; cross-examination on behalf of the accused was dispensed with... No one representing Oswald was permitted to present an affirmative defence on his behalf, and although trials in America are open and public, this one trial...was conducted behind closed doors and the testimony marked 'top secret.'"

(3) "The Commission relied primarily on the FBI, the US Secret Service and the Dallas police for information. Representatives of those agencies sought to have witnesses alter their statements...into statements which more comfortably fit the immediate premise of those agencies that Oswald was the lone assassin."

(4) "No direct question was ever asked of Ruby in reference to his attendance at such a meeting by the Commission" (with policeman Tippit and Bernard Weissman, who had placed the anti-Kennedy advert in the Dallas paper - Lane had told the Commission he had information such a meeting occurred).

(5) The Commission did not secure the testimony of a woman who told Lane that she had witnessed Tippit's killing, that the killer was short and heavy, and that she was ordered by Dallas police not to tell anyone about what she had seen. The Commission evaded by stating that no such woman was interviewed by the FBI (not by the Dallas police as Lane said).

(6) Oswald was questioned repeatedly over a 48-hour period..yet the Commission accepts the claim that none of these agents took notes and that there were no stenographic or tape recordings. "One's credulity is strained when one contemplates agents of the FBI, Secret Service and Dallas police involved in conducting the most important investigation in the history of these agencies and failing to make a record of the answers of the defendant," Lane comments.

(7) Two witnesses claim to have seen Oswald with the package allged to have contained the death rifle. Broken down, the rifle's largest part was 34.8 inches long. One witness insisted the package was two feet long. The other shown the paper bag the Commission says the rifle was carried in, stated that the package Oswald carried "definitely wasn't that long."

(8) Oswald's palmprint allegedly found on the rifle is suspect. At 11.45 p.m., on the day of Kennedy's assassination the rifle was released to the FBI and sent to Washington. FBI agents there could find no identifiable prints on it. It was only asserted subsequently by the Dallas police that before turning the rifle over to the FBI they had found a palmprint on the understock of the rifle and "lifted it off" by a technique which left no trace.



PANTHER BOOKS TO PUT MARX ON THE MASS MARKET by Bob Gregory

Announcing a new series called London Panthers, Panther Books, previously noteworthy for such titles as "Auschwitz", point out that at present there is only one U.K. paperback publisher reaching a popular market with serious titles. In their new series are to appear modern editions of Marx and Freud, in an attempt to fill "enormous gaps in this field".

Panther recently issued a 2/6 edition of Jack London's famous classic "People of the Abyss". First published in 1903 and out of print for many years in a cheap format, this work predates Orwell's similar "Down and Out in Paris and London" by decades and is an important commentary on a period for which there is a dearth of accurate social writing. Jack London's experiences in London's East End, his factual and simple style, tell us of the real misery and poverty of life in the halcyon days of British imperialism for the working class of the metropolis. But it is not a dull book, and many of London's contemporaries turned to socialism as a result of such writings. For present readers, a renewal of conviction and a dedication to London's firm belief that "for a great deal of political machinery, which at present mismanages (the people), I see nothing else than the scrapheap" are the rewards of this valuable social document.

Panther books are published by Hamilton & Co. at 108, Brompton Rd., Knightsbridge, London SW 3.

THE REAL JEMMY HOPE

from Seamus Geraghty

On the occasion of the bi-centenary of Jemmy Hope's birth a study of his life has been published. Jemmy Hope is a neglected figure yet he was one of the greatest of the United Irishmen. A Presbyterian weaver from Antrim he helped to establish societies of United Irishmen among the workers of Dublin. He fought in the 1798 rising at the Battle of Antrim, and he organised the workers of Dublin behind Robert Emmet in 1803. He was one of Ireland's pioneer trade unionists and had to move from place to place to avoid arrest, and always had to be on guard against spies and traitors. The pamphlet, Jemmy Hope - A Man of the People, by Sean Cronin - has been published by Sceim na gCeardchumann (Trade Union Scheme), an educational, social and cultural association, which promotes a knowledge of the language and history of Ireland amongst trade unions. It can be obtained from: An Bunai, Sceim na gCeardchumann, 17, Curlew Rd., Drimnagh, Ireland, costing 1/3d post paid. It will enrich readers' knowledge of the Irish movement.

£1,000,000,000 OF GAMBLING IN SEPTEMBER

from Pat Jordan

Not so long ago it was fashionable to talk of the Bingo craze which was sweeping the country. However, even though thousands were turning up for their nightly 'eyes-down' this form of gambling is very small time indeed. For the first time we now have some indication of the amount of gambling the big time operators - on the London Stock Exchange - indulge in. The Stock Exchange revealed on October 2nd its turnover in September. This amounted to £992.3 million representing purchases and sales in 467,932 transactions. This is the first time such figures have been published. The average daily turnover for the 22 business days of the month was £45.1 million, with 21,270 transactions of an average size of £2,120.

The figures also provide a rough indication of the gross commission earned by the 270 stockbroking firms. The commission on Ordinary and fixed interest stocks could range between £2½ million and £4½ million with the actual figure probably much nearer the upper limit. In addition to this there is the commission earned on dealings in British Government stocks (which formed 59% of the turnover) - this is practically impossible to estimate because of the complexity of different rates. It is clear that a lot of people are earning a lot of loot for carrying out a purely parasitic function.

RECESSION EXPECTED IN U.S. DURING 1965

The Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc. Guide for Investors contained the following in its latest issue:

"..While forecasters are virtually unanimous in taking an optimistic view of the short-term prospects of the economy, many anticipate a slowdown or a mild recession sometime in 1965. Their case rests on a number of considerations;

" A year from now, the tax-cut stimulus will have largely spent itself; furthermore, the reduced withholding rates are inadequate for all but the lower income brackets, and many taxpayers next April will owe a sizable lump-sum payment - possibly as much as 2 billion dollars.

" Capital spending in 1965, expected to be at or close to a peak, will make little or no contribution to further production gains; new capacity, which up to now has kept one step ahead of gains in output, will be coming on stream next year at a rapid rate, with consequent pressure on prices and profit margins.

" Profits and profit margins are further threatened by an apparent slowing in the rate of productivity increase, by intensified pressure for higher wages (even without an inflationary wage settlement in the auto industry), and by other cost increases. For example, industrial materials prices rose 9% between July 1963 and July 1964.

"New housing starts apparently reached a cyclical peak last fall; total new construction may have reached its peak this spring.

" Three years of record or near-record sales of autos and other durable goods have lifted consumer debt into new high ground, and installment repayments are now taking 14% of after-tax income; many analysts consider a slowdown in debt expansion overdue.

" Federal spending will provide little or no further lift to the economy.."

A recession in the U.S. will add considerably to the economic difficulties facing which ever party wins the election in Britain.