

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
Vol. 5, No. 22, 2nd June, 1966

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**Seamen's Battle
Sharpens**

**The Expulsion
of
Ken Coates**

**SOLIDARITY
WITH
VIETNAM**

54 Park Road, Lenton, Nottingham

Subscription: £2 per annum and pro rata

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24 Park Road, London, W.14

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SOLIDARITY WITH VIETNAM

As young Vietnamese patriots set fire to themselves as a desperate protest against American puppet rule, President Johnson cautions us: Acts of desperation in Vietnam, he says, "should not obscure the progress" being made towards constitutional government. How sick! The only real progress the American invaders of Vietnam are making towards any kind of government of the charnel-house they have created, is progress in systematic slaughter. Still greater military build-up, still more Hitlerian bombardments, still further killing: this is the real promise of President Johnson to the martyred people of Vietnam. The smell of girls burning has now become a normal accompaniment to the waving of olive branches, and talk about 'negotiations'. As Death claims more and more of Vietnam as his own kingdom, so Hypocrisy expands to fill all the cavities in Western politicians in which conscience used to linger.

For this reason it is right to welcome, with the warmest enthusiasm, the Conference which meets at the Mahatma Ghandi Hall this week end, to discuss a programme of activities in solidarity with the people of Vietnam. Although its personnel are denied access to the television, radio and press, they are the spokesmen of the real Britain. Their reactions will be remembered as the honourable ones, when the historians come to discuss the abstract question of the causes of the moral collapse which has come to be associated with the name of Wilson. The fact that hundreds of British socialists stood up to be counted on the other side may yet prove to be a decisive one for the future of the Labour Movement.

SEAMEN STAND FAST

As the Government leans harder and harder on the seamen, it become imperative for the unions to rally closer to their side. True, the seamen have trump cards which have yet to be played. They can call for aid from the dockworkers, and they have the blockbusting weapon of the International Transport Workers' Federation, which can lock British ships in ports from Sidney up to Bergen. But in the meantime they need help. Local officers of the NUS should be surrounded by offers of help. Let every factory take its collection today, and send the proceeds direct to the seamen in their Branch offices, or to Maritime House in Clapham. This is a vital week for the strike. Do not let one seaman feel the pinch in this strike!

THE NOTTINGHAM PURGES

The Nottingham Purge is now quite clearly more than a local storm. The Aldermen of Nottingham would never have dared to strike at the City Party without powerful backing from Transport House. Now Labour's NEC have nodded through the brutal recommendations of Sara Barker's tribunal, without laying a single charge or judgement before their victims. This can only mean that the views which Ken Coates and his friends were expressing, of an intransigent opposition to George Brown's Trade Union Castration Bill, and solidarity with the people of Vietnam, have alarmed the Party leaders. This purge must arouse vigorous and determined protest. At the same time, resolutions on the vital issues involved must be flooded through to the Brighton Conference agenda. This battle is not over. It is hardly yet begun!

THE SEAMEN'S BATTLE SHARPENS

Scottish Miners Aid Seamen's Fight: In its issue of May 27th 'The Seaman' wrote "A feeling of elation radiated around the NUS office in Glasgow when a cheque for £1,000 was received from the Scottish mineworkers. As in the past, the industry which has produced such stalwarts as Nye Bevan, Will Paynter and Abe Moffatt, has come to the aid of their brothers who are struggling for a decent life with adequate wages. Mindful of their own fights for the rights of mankind, the Mineworkers of Britain are always in the forefront of workers' struggles anywhere in the world. The Seamen's fight is no exception to their rule: 'Your fight is our fight - we shoulder our arms and stand solidly with you.' With workers' solidarity like this how can we lose?"

NUS Rally in Trafalgar Square: Sunday, June 5, at 3 pm. is the time fixed for a Mass Meeting of seamen and supporting trade unionists in London's Trafalgar Square. District Secretary Jack Gray, who is convening the meeting, hopes to welcome union representatives from other ports.

West Indian Solidarity: Down in the Bristol Channel everything is one hundred per cent plus. On the banana boats belonging to the Geest Line not only have the NUS catering crew members come ashore to support the strike: The deck and engine room crews from the Windward Islands, mindful of international solidarity of seamen, have refused to sail without their English shipmates. They organised a whip round on board, and sent £26. 10. Od. to the local strike fund.

Support for Strike Fund: Help has come from Young Socialist and Young Communist Branches, University Socialist Societies, Labour Parties and Trade Union Branches.

After listening to speakers from the NUS, workers at the Rolls-Royce Factory at Millington, Glasgow promised to support the seamen and agreed to have a whip round to aid strike funds.

Students from the London School of Economics collected over £6 for the dispute fund. They passed a resolution deploring the action the government has taken over the seamen's stand.

In Nottingham a hurriedly called meeting, convened by Ken Coates, was addressed by three seamen from Hull - Peter Bell, Tim Barlow and Tom Whittleton. The meeting was chaired by Professor E.A. Thompson and was attended by Norman Dodsworth from the Nottingham Trades Council, Councillor Peter Price of Nottingham City Council, and by trades union representatives many of whom must have broken private arrangements to attend the meeting at the very short notice necessitated by the visitors' engagements elsewhere. A snap collection raised £16. 18. Od. for the strike funds, and there was a ready response by local shop stewards to Ken Coates' appeal for collections to be made at factories in the area. The mood on all sides was one of 'What can we do to help?'

All donations and messages of support should be sent to the following address:

National Union of Seamen, Maritime House, Old Town, Clapham, London, S.W.4.

This 136 page booklet by Tony Cliff and Colin Barker, published by London Industrial Shop Stewards' Defence Committee, provides a wealth of background material on the underlying purpose of the present drive for 'Incomes Policies' i.e. the drive to render capitalist economies stable and competitive, without the need to revert to classical deflation and unemployment. The authors have assembled an impressive array of information on profits, prices, taxation, the Balance of Payments, military expenditure abroad and capital export strains, etc. The factual material is made readily assimilable by careful presentation and the avoidance of economists' jargon. Effective opposition to the current myths and pseudo-arguments which defend the incomes policy can be greatly strengthened by a reading of these sections. Chapter 7, on Shop Stewards and unofficial strikes, is also a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the shop floor situation, as is the Chapter on Anti-Union Legislation.

The treatment of the Labour Movement, and of the socialist politics which should arise from opposition to the incomes policy, is much less satisfactory. The analysis of Trade Union "bureaucracy" is over-simplified and sociologically unsound. Of course much of what is said concerning the TUC leadership is correct, but there is a strong tendency to sweep up the whole structure of trade unions from branch level to executives into the single category of state-integrated bureaucrats. According to their approach, the transformation of the NUS executive from its 1960 position to that of today, would have been impossible. The consciousness of the labour movement at all levels is a much more complicated affair than the authors allow for. Without specifically calling for it, the implication of much of the pamphlet's final section is that the shop stewards must break away from the "dead weight of bureaucracy" and form an alternative to trade unions. This is defeatist and self-defeating counsel. Alongside their failure to distinguish different strands and pressures within the labour movement, there is an accompanying simplicity in their characterisation of "reforms": All reforms, according to their thesis, are "reforms from above" - snares to trap the true militants. No inkling of the potential importance of the build-up of demands for anti-capitalist reforms, from below, working through a politically conscious shop stewards' movement, and concentrating pressure into a positive socialist programme, is to be found in these pages.

In essence, the comment in Reg Birch's introduction to the booklet sums up the reservations expressed here. He writes: "I do not accept that the extension of shop stewards' organisations, their increase in numbers, will automatically lead (my emphasis - T.T.) to the development of a Socialist Movement. There needs to be politics - working class politics. This is not a question of being militant on economic demands within a factory or place of work alone, or of taking one's politics from the policies or utterances of the 'politicians', whether of left or right, but of the development of political aims by the working class, and of insisting that it is not a case of our supporting or adopting the 'policies' of political parties, but of their supporting the aims and aspirations of the working class."

This review is necessarily short and incomplete; more thorough treatment is necessary to illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of the Cliff/Barker approach, and it is hoped to arrange for a longer review to appear shortly. Meanwhile it would be valuable if the shop stewards' seminar at the Workers' Control conference next month were to take up some of these themes.

(Copies of the booklet are available at 2/6d each, plus 6d postage on orders of 6 copies or less, from C. Davison, 83 Greyhounds Road, London, N.17.)

BERTRAND RUSSELL CONDEMNS EXPULSION OF KEN COATES

On the day following the announcement of the NEC's confirmation of the expulsion of Ken Coates, the following Press statement was issued by Lord Russell:

"The Labour Party Executive's confirmation of the expulsion from the Party of Mr. Ken Coates is far more than an example of vicious intolerance. Under the presidency of Mr. Coates, who is known to me personally, the Labour Party in Nottingham became a vital political force, instead of a vehicle for conservative ideas or the dissemination of cliches passed down from Transport House.

"The Party in Nottingham gave a series of leads to the country in attacking evrything from slums at home to exploitation and murder abroad. In short, the Labour Party in Nottingham, in its vitality, its political honesty and its sense of radical purpose showed its national leaders a model which could attract and mobilise the vast number of socialists who, at present, have no political home. The Labour Party leadership took fright at such a possibility and, through a series of sordid intrigues, have made an example of Mr. Coates, whose views on American war crimes in Vietnam are those of all decent socialists.

"This is a witch-hunt. We may now expect the axe to fall on others who dare to challenge Tory rule under Harold Wilson. I urge all socialists to stop the rot at Transport House before this becomes a full scale purge."

Bertrand Russell: 26 May, 1966.

REVULSION IN NOTTINGHAM AT N.E.C.'s ACTION : WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR PROTEST

The mood in Nottingham, except amongst the most committed reactionaries, is one of revulsion at the level of intolerance to which the N.E.C. has descended. Already, within days of the N.E.C. decision, nearly 80 members of the Labour Party in Nottingham have signed the following protest, to be sent in the form of an Open Letter to Len Williams, the Party Secretary. The breadth of the support, ranging across the whole spectrum of the Labour Party, is impressive:

"We, the undermentioned members of the Labour Party, are deeply concerned about the findings of the N.E.C.'s investigation into the affairs of the Nottingham Labour Party, which we believe are profoundly unjust. Before any more damage is done to the Labour Party in Nottingham we strongly urge the N.E.C. to reconsider its decision, which is clearly at variance with current feeling within the Nottingham Party.

"The recent defection of ex-Councillor Caughtry, whose removal from the panel of municipal candidates by the Executive Committee of the City Labour Party led the leaders of the Labour Group to retaliate by plotting the expulsion of Ken Coates, has proved the correctness of the E.C.'s original decision. The basis for the expulsion of Ken Coates now stands exposed as worthless.

"Three further members of the Nottingham Party - Councillor Peter Price, Bob Gregory and Geoff Coggan - have been barred for 3 years from acting as delegates to the General Management Committees of their respective parties. We regard this as a most sinister development and a direct interference with the rights of wards, unions and affiliated societies to nominate and elect

from amongst their own members.

"Within the past few weeks Councillor Price has been elected Vice-President of his constituency party, and, only the day before the N.E.C. announcement, Mr. Coggan was elected as West Nottingham's representative on the Executive Committee of the Young Socialists. In the recent Municipal Elections Councillor Price's victory in one of the city's marginal wards not only proved the solid basis of his own support, but also ensured Labour's continued control of the City Council.

"All these expressions of confidence have been made in the full knowledge of the events of the past six months and the actions and attitudes of the persons concerned. It is obvious to us that the N.E.C.'s long delayed findings are now thoroughly out of step with the mood in Nottingham, where there has been a growing realisation on all sides at the injustice which was perpetrated last November."

(+ Councillor Caughtry was removed from the Nottingham Party's panel of possible municipal candidates because he was persistently unpunctual. He initiated the witch-hunt against Ken Coates by starting a major press campaign. At the enquiry into the affairs of the City Labour Party, Alderman Eric Foster, leader of the Labour Group on the Council, admitted that Caughtry had sought his protection in February 1965, fearing that he would soon be removed from the panel. Foster had, he confessed, been involved in discussions with Cattermole, the East Midlands Regional Organiser of the Party, about how to save Caughtry from the local party's anger. Cattermole had advised caution. "Let them remove you, and I will get you reinstated", he is alleged to have promised at a secret meeting in the Council House.

In the event, Caughtry rewarded Cattermole's solicitude rather strangely, by publicly announcing that he was lending his wife and his car to help the Tory candidate in this year's municipal elections.)

SARA IN WONDERLAND

Miss Sara Barker is being pressed by all four victims of the NEC's purge in Nottingham to explain upon what grounds action has been taken against them. No reasons at all have been offered by Miss Barker, who simply sent out notes to all those who have been 'disciplined', announcing their sentences.

"Let the Jury consider their verdict", the King said for about the twentieth time that day.

'No, no', said the Queen. 'Sentence first, verdict afterwards.'

'Stuff and nonsense', said Alice loudly - 'the idea of having the sentence first!'

'Hold your tongue', said the Queen, turning purple.

'I won't', said Alice.

'Off with her head!' shouted the Queen at the top of her voice.

..... Nobody moved."

On second thoughts our heading is wrong. It is the four who have been expelled who stand in Alice's shoes, and Sara who adopts the role of the Red Queen. Either way it is extremely doubtful that the Labour Movement will allow a farce like the so-called Nottingham Tribunal to pass unchallenged.

The conference on Workers' Control, which has been called by the Centre for Socialist Education for June 25th and 26th in Nottingham, is already beginning to secure an excellent press. Last week the Socialist Leader devoted space to a call for support, and previously Tribune and Peace News had carried articles about it.

This week a giant blast comes from Voice of the Unions, which is among the sponsors of the Conference. Half the paper is given over to publicity and discussion about the seminar. The by-now-famous centre-page spread of the Voice, by Walter Kendall, is entirely concerned about the Conference. This makes an excellent poster for display in factories and offices, and it is hoped that this itself will greatly extend the publicity for the seminar.

"Voice of the Unions as a paper stands up for the working class and stands up for socialism. We are working class because we believe that capitalism is wasteful, inefficient, undemocratic, bloody-minded, based on privilege, inequality and cheats the worker of all that is rightfully his. We are for both working class, for socialism and against capitalism because we believe in human freedom and brotherhood and know that capitalism is an enemy of all these things. That is why we are also for WORKERS' CONTROL. Socialism is for us because it means a great expansion in human freedom. We do not believe that there are two kinds of socialism in one of which the workers rule, in the other of which they are enslaved. One might as well argue "that there are two brands of freedom, one in which you are free, the other in which you are in jail."

British railwaymen, British coal miners, British power station workers, British co-operative employees, all work in state or socially-owned industries. Yet all agree that the master-servant relationship the wage slavery system remains. Twentieth century experience of giant private monopolies, of vast state trusts, whether in Britain, or for that matter in the U.S.S.R., shows beyond doubt that whilst planning may resolve economic contradictions, it may also leave the subject status of the worker quite unchanged. As Stalin's usurpation showed, vast state power may actually enslave the worker, instead of granting him greater liberty. State ownership, state planning, we support both. Yet they are not enough. WORKERS' CONTROL IS ALSO NECESSARY..."

After setting out a programme for action under the Labour Government, the article concludes:

"The Nottingham Conference should be the workshop of our ideas, the foundry in which will be forged the plans for workers' control which could make Britain a true Workers' Republic, its industry socially owned, and socially planned, with its work places, an example to the world, planned and managed by the workers themselves."

Enrolments are still flooding in faster than offers of accommodation in Nottingham, both of which should be rushed to Geoff Coggan, 47 Brindley Rd., Bilborough, Nottingham, Tel: 281364.

REDBOURNE STEEL TO ATTEND CONFERENCE.

The Redbourne Steel Works delegates' committee, from Scunthorpe, are to be represented at the Nottingham Seminar on June 25th. Other steelmen have been invited from Sheffield and South Wales.

"When, in our annual report to you in March, we referred to the rising costs of distribution 'extending fairly rapidly', we certainly did not have in mind the unjust, ill-conceived Selective Employment Tax which the Government have now imposed and which, in a full year, could cost the Society £360,000 per annum, or the equivalent of 2³/₄d in the £ on our total sales. This comes on top of a succession of mounting costs, National Insurance, rates, loss of investment allowances, over which we have little or no control, and there is nothing to indicate the present trend will not continue...

Firstly, we are very concerned with the effect on retail prices. Every endeavour will be made to keep prices down, but the manufacturers' prices continue to rise, unfortunately, and our ability to do so will depend upon a high rate of sales increase, and efforts to trim operating costs. Otherwise the tax will affect profitability. Secondly, we are concerned with the effect of the Tax on our ability to attract sufficient staff to maintain a good standard of service to customers. In the past six years, the staff complement has been reduced by 700, equal to 8%. Part-time staff increased by over 700. Staff reduction has come about mainly through development of supermarkets, self-service and self-selection, and mechanisation in productive plants and offices, and the closing of small uneconomic units. Total wages paid in the same period have increased by 25%. One of the many injustices brought about by the tax is that we shall have to make a payment of 12/6d for part-time women and 25/- for part-time men, the same as for full-time staff. This is hardly likely to encourage the use of part-timers. There is not much we can do to effect more staff rationalisation and in any case the loss of investment allowances will not encourage the mechanisation of warehouses, etc. Perhaps the Chancellor would like to see all delivery services abolished and housewives forced to collect all milk and bread from shops. At present each one of our dairy rounds delivers an average of 500 pints of milk each day to 475 customers. Payment of S.E.T. in respect of these staff means, in effect, that we shall be subsidising manufacturers of toy balloons and candy floss! ...it will cost the Government £750,000 to operate, and add to all firms' administrative costs, without achieving anything to remedy the fundamental defects of the country's economy, and so directly or indirectly, the consumers will pay."

The following resolution and amendment will be considered by the Royal Arsenal Cooperative Society at its June meeting:

Resolution: "It is considered that the Selective Employment Tax will be inimical to the best interests of this Society".

Amendment: "Delete all after the word 'that' in line one and substitute 'Britain's economic problems can only be solved in a society in which the people have control over the means of production, distribution and exchange and that Cooperation is one of the methods by which this will be secured. This meeting calls upon all Committees of the Society to press the Government by all means at their disposal to recognise the essential difference between Cooperation and Capitalism by exempting the Movement from the Selective Employment Tax and restoring to it the capital investment allowances, thereby acknowledging the essential social role of the Cooperative Movement".

VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE LOOKS LIKE BEING A BIG SUCCESS

Now only a few days away, the Vietnam Solidarity Conference shows every sign of being well-attended and bringing together a wide range of people. Delegates will be coming from as far afield as Edinburgh and Lancaster in the north, and Exeter and Bristol in the West. Each post brings many applications for credentials from a variety of organisations. Among those received in the last few days are from Edinburgh ASLEF, Corby YCND (which pledges full support for the campaign), Woking Constituency Labour Party, Haringay Council for Peace in Vietnam, St. Mary's (Twickenham) Socialist Society, Hackney Labour Party; Derby Indian Workers' Association; Birmingham University Socialist Union; Southall Indian Workers' Association; Lewisham Trades Council; Hammersmith North Constituency Labour Party; Lancaster University Socialist Union. Observers are coming from Switzerland and Holland, Wood Green Constituency Labour Party and the Bristol Sponsors for Peace in Vietnam.

More people are writing about proposals to start branches of the Campaign after the conference; groups will be established in Cambridge, Fife, Croydon and many other places. The conference is doing a pioneering job: nobody in recent years has attempted to set up a movement in this country based upon solidarity with a people engaged in the struggle against imperialism. There are, naturally, differing opinions as to how best this should be done. These questions will be debated seriously at the Conference. The debates will be around draft resolutions of which several are in the course of technical production.

Highlights of the discussions will be the statement by Bertrand Russell on his reasons for supporting the campaign, a report by Ralph Schoenman on his visit to Vietnam (which will introduce the proposal to have an International War Crimes Commission) and the debate on winning the Labour Movement for the principles of the campaign (among the speakers in this section will be Ken Coates, whose expulsion from the Labour Party was not unconnected with his opposition to Wilson's support for America).

Intending delegates who have not written or filled in forms should do so immediately. If they need accommodation they should telephone in. If any reader, regardless of whether they are attending the conference or not, can help with accommodation they should get in touch straight away. Ring FRO 3138. If there is no reply, try WHI 3200 or BIS 9845.

DEUTSCHER SPEAKS IN AMERICA

Isaac Deutscher, the distinguished historian and biographer of Stalin and Trotsky, recently spoke at a rally of 1,500 people in Manhattan on May 23rd. This rally was organised by the Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade, and speakers also included I.F. Stone and A.J. Muste. Assailing liberal apologists for capitalism who argue we are living under a "new" capitalism that has solved the old problems of cyclical crises and unemployment, he showed how the "successes" of the "new" capitalism are based on the horrible wars it wages. However, he declared ironically, Johnson is proving a teacher of Marxism and is educating many people against the revisionists of Marx. Johnson's policies, he said, are exploding the notion of a "peaceful transition" from capitalism to socialism. He closed with a stirring tribute to the U.S. anti-war movement, declaring its emergence a momentous development in U.S. and world history and a source of great optimism for the future.

AN AMERICAN WITH TIME TO THINK

Below is part of a statement given to Ralph Schoenman by an American soldier, Lieutenant-Commander Coffee, after he had been shot down and taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese, on February 3rd.

"I received a broken arm from the ejection point. I got medical attention quickly...I got the best attention possible. They made it as comfortable as they could. They bandaged me. Within a couple of hours I was given a meal of hot rice... The two small boats which had rescued me were full of people. When the boats arrived the cover jets came and strafed the boats carrying me. The American jets made six strafing passes before I was able to get to the beach. No mistreatment occurred at any time. The strafing of our planes had no effect on their attitude towards me. I was amazed...It became apparent to me that this was their policy...

That night I was taken to another place... I was fed, my bandages were changed...The man in charge said that the people were deeply angry, as the bombings were still going on...but I encountered no hostility, anywhere. ...We stopped at the driver's house and spent a long time with his family. ...I was told to lie down on the driver's bed. I slept on the bed next to his small son. The next morning I arrived at the new place, which appeared to be the centre of provincial administration. I began to realise that this area had been bombed continually and without stop since the beginning. That is over a year...And yet they showed no hostility to me. I was disturbed.

They questioned me. I had to admit that my government had not declared war against Vietnam and that legally I had no right to be considered as a prisoner of war. I was told that I was a criminal and that the crimes which I had committed against ordinary villagers were such that would entitle them to try me and shoot me...I wholeheartedly accept their designation as a criminal...Anyone who could speak English or French asked me: "Why are you here? Why have you come to Vietnam?" I couldn't answer them...Throughout this time I was given medication...

In prison they have questioned me and they have tried to explain their view of the true issues of the Vietnamese war and the feelings of the Vietnamese people...they have given me a great amount of literature. I received this with complete scepticism and suspiciousness...I have to say that I am unable to refute the logic of the whole story...I believe now I know, for the first time, who we are really fighting in South Vietnam. ...The pathetic thing is that you can't call it political indoctrination. I could have found out the same damn thing at home, in the library, on my own. If only I had taken the time...I was willing to take part in this war for the usual, rather vague reasons of protecting our democratic way of life, honouring our agreements with our allies and resisting communism. ...I have seen enough to know that none of this applies here. My contemporaries and I are all guilty of the same thing: of not making the effort to find out what it is really all about...

I considered the anti-war demonstrations intolerable. I couldn't understand what they were stirred up about...I never thought about what they were doing. ...We have no right here...I think I understand now how we became involved. ...But what they (the Vietnamese) want is the reunification of their country, and they are the same people. Reunification is part of their national purpose...If we escalate further it will result in drawing other countries including China. The devastation and sacrifice of life will be appalling."

In an article headed 'Factories Which Produce Solely For Export' the Kingston correspondent of the Financial Times talked about the 'new approach' which foreign businessmen and investors are now taking to manufacturing in Jamaica. Since 1957, some 30 industries, employing nearly 5,000 workers have been set up to produce exclusively for export mainly to the U.S.A. Half of these have gone into operation since 1961 to produce a wide variety of goods, ranging from hair accessories to electronic computer cards. With the exception of two Canadian and one or two Jamaican firms the export manufacturing operations are all American owned.

Low wages are a big incentive. The all island average is estimated to be between 1/9 and 2/6 an hour. Manufacturers can draw from an almost limitless unemployed labour pool (18% to 25% of the labour force). The Kingston correspondent of the Financial Times says that 'A private poll among representative employers showed that most agree that with proper training Jamaicans become efficient workers.' Other incentives are tax holidays, duty free import of raw material and machinery, proximity to the U.S. market and the provision of land and erection of factory buildings by the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation. The Kingston correspondent writes, 'Most of the firms produce goods that are competitive for price in the U.S. Sixteen of the companies, all American, manufacture textiles. Incentives, plus low wages - probably below 2/6 an hour (These firms do not reveal their wage scales, allow them to cover the cost of raw materials imported from Hong Kong, Korea, Japan and even the U.S. itself, transportation, import duties on the finished product, and still make a profit.'

It is small wonder that this correspondent concludes his article by saying 'And there is evidence that more and more are becoming interested to judge by the number of enquiries received in the U.S. and Canadian offices of the J.I.D.C. There are also strong rumours that U.S. firms operating in Puerto Rico, faced with expiring tax holidays and rising wages, are looking to Jamaica.'

APPEAL COMMITTEE TO HELP SPANISH INTELLECTUALS by a Special Correspondent

On the 9th March last, there was held at Sarria in the suburbs of Barcelona a Constituent Assembly of the Democratic Union of Students of the University of Barcelona. The meeting, which was attended by upwards of 500 students, some 35 university teachers, and by representatives of the International Confederation of Students, and the National Union of Students of the United States of America, was the result of many efforts by the Spanish students to obtain permission to organise a free students' union of their own.

A month after the Sarria meeting it was announced in the Spanish Press that fines, ranging from 25,000 to 200,000 pesetas, were being imposed on many of the professional people who had taken part in it, and whose names had been taken when the police forcibly entered the monastery where the meeting had been held. Amongst those fined are several young university teachers whose inability to pay would result, under Spanish law, in the confiscation of their property. Sponsors of the Appeal include R.B. Tate, Professor of Spanish, Nottingham; John Berger, Art Critic and Novelist; Bob Edwards MP; Iris Murdoch, Novelist, and Konnie Zilliacus MP. Cheques/P.O. should be sent to A.C.H.S.I., c/o Frishman Slycer Associates, 49 Goodge Street, W.I.

Five suspects in the shotgun slayings of two union leaders in San Francisco were rounded up in the second week of May. The police announced they were seeking the "triggerman" in the double assassination. The two murdered union officials were Dow Wilson, recording secretary of Painters Union Local No. 4 of San Francisco and Lloyd Green, financial secretary of Haywood Painters Local No. 1178. Wilson was gunned down near the San Francisco Labour Temple on April 5th, and Green was murdered gangland-style at his union office on May 7th. Wilson had led a vigorous fight within the International Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, AFL-CIO, on behalf of union democracy, local autonomy and union control of the spray gun and roller. Green was a supporter of Wilson in his battle against union bureaucracy. Wilson's death came at a time when he was seeking to extend his fight throughout the country. In March 1966 he announced his candidacy for vice-president of the International. Although he didn't expect to win, he wanted to use the campaign as a platform to oppose the policies of the present leadership. Wilson had helped merge San Francisco's two painters' locals despite objections from the International. Painters Local No 4 is now considered the largest painters' union in North America, and also the most democratic and most militant.

In the summer of 1965, Wilson led a successful five-week strike, which won the best painters' union contract in the country. He paved the way for negroes to gain entrance into the union, and helped break the colour line in maintenance work. He had defeated a move at the union's national convention to strengthen the International's control at the local level by making business agents appointive rather than elective. Since the murders, the International has kept a stony silence to the point of not even sending condolences to the locals of the murdered men. Tension in the labour movement has been growing. The carpenters' local has added \$10,000 to the \$10,000 reserved by Local 4 as a reward for information leading to the arrest of the killers. The Building Trades Council also gave \$10,000. Morris Evenson, who has taken on Wilson's job as recording secretary, announced that the per capita tax of Local 4 would be withheld from the International as a protest against the failure of the International to send condolences.

Of the five suspects arrested, two were employer-members of the board of trustees of the Painters Union Local No. 487 welfare fund in Sacramento. Another one, Carl Black, was the auditor of the fund. The fund had been under federal investigation for two months before the murders. The government had ordered the trustees to have an independent audit made of the fund. Black was entrusted with the task. However, he requested and got a 60-day delay in the audit because he was "busy".

GREEK WORKERS ON STRIKE

Greek metal workers held a 24-hour nationwide strike on May 26th for wage increases, shorter working day and improved working conditions. Meanwhile, a strike by railway workers in Athens and other big cities entered its third day.

ITALIAN WORKERS CONTINUE STRUGGLE- Italian newspaper and newsagency workers went on another 24-hour strike last week to press their demand for the renewal and improvement of their collective agreement. As a result, all Italian dailies had to suspend publication and all news agencies ceased broadcasting.