

# The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS  
Vol. 6, No. 2/3, 28th July, 1966

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**Stuart  
supports  
Australian  
Build-up in  
Vietnam**

# **FIGHT THE BANKERS BUDGET**

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6p

## BUDGET BANKERS FIGHT THE

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A Resignation and a Non-Resignation

Sharply following on Mr. Cousin's very proper decision to rejoin the ranks and quit the Wilson team, we got the crisis measures. Nothing could more firmly underline Mr. Cousin's charge that the bankers are determining the government's priorities. A wage-freeze, coupled with severe attacks upon the spending power of the workers, amounts to a serious cut in living standards.

Mr. George Brown, whose non-resignation was the phoney scoop of the season, is reported as saying "It was not unknown for doctors to get heated about diagnosis and prescription .... one thing that doctors and politicians had in common was that when diagnosis was made and prescription prescribed, they had to see that the patient got better." The patient which George Brown is worried about is British Capitalism, and his unrewarding argument with Mr. Callaghan is about which whizz-fizz powders to inject into the flatulent beast, and how much of which soggy limbs to plaster up. The diagnosis is wrong: the cure absurd. The Labour Government has a clear task to begin on the painless euthanasia of capitalism, starting with anti-capitalist structural reforms, extending nationalisation and encouraging the development of workers' control, liquidising imperial commitments and, if necessary, scuttling the pound as an international currency. The fact that Messrs. Brown and Wilson could have a thumping great row about diagnosis, recommend opposite prescriptions, and then, after publicly breaking up, reunite "to see that the patient gets better" can only seem to intensify the feeling that these physicians are quacks, for whom an amputation is as good as a pep pill, provided it keeps the patient quiet.

More significant than George Brown's much publicised non-resignation was the news that Mr. Richard Pryke, the young fabian economist who had just joined Mr. Balogh's Cabinet office as a research assistant, felt compelled to resign because the Government had seriously underestimated the degree of unemployment which would result from the cuts. He forecast up to a million on the dole by the end of next year, in conditions of a recession in which there would be no new jobs to absorb them. This view has also been expressed by the Confederation of British Industries: "The net result could be that when the Selective Employment Tax begins to pinch, the economy will not just 'stop' but 'pancake' and have the greatest difficulty in picking itself off the floor again."

Perhaps the critics are a little pessimistic, but the plain fact remains that the intention of Wilson's team is to squeeze the economy into promoting unemployment. The misguided aim of reviving a sick capitalism has once again possessed a Labour Government, to the point where again it has agreed to attacks on its own people. The results will be rising discontent, disillusionment, enervation and apathy among the workers, unless the Left can meet the challenge by uniting to hammer out a broad alternative policy, based on the need to advance beyond capitalism, and to harness the tremendous creative potential of the working class movement to the task of building a socialist society.

"Once again the screeching of brakes, the scorching of tyres, jolt and jerk. Bank Rate at 7% is almost the highest in our peacetime history. Have we not learnt by experience? .... We face an immediate run on Sterling. The economy is so weak that last year we avoided disaster only by borrowing on a vast scale from the International Monetary Fund .... and by .... attracting 'hot' money here by high and costly interest rates. Of course, the immediate effects of doing this were predictable. Once the Chancellor made clear to the speculators that Sterling would not be devalued, once he buttressed his scanty reserves by massive borrowing, it was obvious that the 'bears' would run to cover and the immediate crisis would be solved for a time. ....

"But, of course, he had to satisfy the international banking community by harmful restrictions and by masochistic and irrelevant cuts in our standard of living, because he believes that international speculators are impressed only by actions which, in the long term, harm the economy. It is quite obvious that the 7% Bank Rate, apart from its harmful effects on our internal structure, adds tens of millions of pounds to our annual outgoings on invisible accounts through the increased charges paid across the exchange. .... In so far as the tax measures and the Bank Rate have their intended effect on the mass production industries, such as motor cars, the effect of course will be to raise unit costs and to make us less competitive."

"All we have had from the Chancellor is the same dreary old succession of measures. .... First, the increase in Bank Rate. .... It is bound to discourage expansion, because of the price it puts on obtaining the credit with which to do it. It is bound to increase, some day, our long term problem, because the 'hot' money which it attracts will go home again some day. When .... it does, we shall therefore be faced with a more serious problem than we are faced with now. It is bound to increase our payments across the exchanges, and that is one of our problems at the moment. ....

"We then get the so-called regulator. This is the newer name for an old device. What does it do? It increases the prices of essential and non-essentials alike, and its incidence falls proportionately more heavily on the essentials than on luxuries .... (and) more heavily on old-age pensioners, on those with large families, and on those with small fixed incomes, who spend a high proportion of their incomes on these things. ....

"It does not deter the members of my union from buying, but it does drive them to ask for more wages to finance the purchase. If Rt.Hon. Gentlemen think that if one of my union members has to fork out 30s in extra tax on an article costing £70, he will write it down in a little book and spend 30s less on something else, they have got it all wrong. That is not how it works. If the Government puts this kind of marginal increase on everything he buys, what they will have done will be to produce an invaluable aid to all those making claims for higher wages. As a trade union official, I can assure them that that is exactly what we shall have to contend with, and pass it on to them. ....

"To cap all that, the Government has produced the wage freeze. There is no worse way of getting a worker expansion-minded than talking to him about holding back his wages. The moment he is conditioned to understanding that his wages are being held back - if one succeeds - so he will also be thinking in terms of holding back production. There is no way into the one without the other."

( † On the July 1961 "Selwyn Lloyd" Crisis)

It is clear that a real outbreak of brutality is taking place in British politics at the present time. Wilson's with-hunting and use of secret police and informers to smear seamen is only a start. Now we learn that Wilson "was having a private talk with right-wing trade union leader Sir William Carron to consider how to prevent the Communists getting their grip on his even more important AEU". This is what Nora Beloff wrote in the Observer on July 3rd. She says that Wilson's meeting with Carron took place on Wednesday June 29th, only one day after the smear on the seamen. And only the same week it was announced that an ultra-right wing "engineering-group" has set up an office in London with the explicit aim of denouncing left-wing trade unionists in engineering. This group is not just simply anti-communist. Along with Carron it denounces "Engineering Voice". The BBC's Radio Newsreel programme gave Sir William the unchallenged freedom of the air to spread his smears. Nobody on the Left was invited to reply. Similarly the "Sunday Times" allowed Carron considerable space to attack "Communists - Trotskyist - Leftist clique (July 3rd)

Ultra-right wing smear journals (of dubious finances) such as Iris and Common Cause attack any militant trade unionists. The Economic League, with big business backing, is trying to build up its right wing campaign inside the trade union movement. Nationally the League was given space on the BBC's Panorama to spread unnuenos about Humberside Voice and The Week, etc. Again, the BBC had no-one present in the studio to attack the League for what it is. And so the atmosphere is being built up; the BBC again have dug out that man Mr. Crawley, who makes part of his living from his anti communist activities. He was given a few minutes of unopposed McCarthyism on the BBC's World at One. More recently the Observer showed its true colours and the limitations of its liberalism by suggesting that if only newspapers were privileged to say what they want, as Wilson is in the House of Commons, then lots more names could be named. (Plot behind the Strike', June 26th). And the Guardian's reports are of such a right-wing kind (especially June 25) that Wilson approvingly refers to them in his smearing attacks: "an article in the Guardian last Saturday, indicated the pressures to which any moderate member (of NUS) might be subjected in his strike committee ....."

But looming up as the most brutal of all in the growing attack on the trade union and labour movement is the Prices and Incomes Bill. The Implications of this Bill have been clearly stated in a piece in the Observer, July 3, page 3: workers will be fined if they fail to give notice of wage claims; if they don't they'll be put in jail. As the Hull seamen's pamphlet "Not Wanted on Voyage" stated "the unholy alliance of Labour Government, Tory opposition, Press **shipowners and international bankers** is both frightening and politically very revealing...."

Socialists must step up their campaign in the Labour and trade union movement with organisation worthy of the struggle. We need to organise ourselves into a movement which commits itself in the cause of socialism to a level of propogandising, educating and demonstrating activity unknown in British Politics.

General Unless all appearances should prove very deceptive, the government's efforts to keep themselves in good odour with the international bankers are likely to provoke a first-class crisis in Scotland. Although it would not be possible to predict at this stage the overall effect of the regional development plan, the squeeze and the further drastic measures to come are certain to act as a powerful disincentive to any further location of industry in a region which, due to the lop-sidedness of industrial development in Britain, has an unequal fight at the best of times to attract it.

In the first quarter of the year the rate of increase in industrial output dropped by half, and without question this fall is going to accelerate. Already some of the more marginal industries are in serious trouble. The result of last year's improved profitability in the fishing industry has been the slashing of its government subsidy by approximately 10%. Sales of whisky have fallen by 9%, and in agriculture the Scottish pig herd has been declining for months, so much so in fact, that the bacon curing industry will be unable to support the percentage of the home market allocated to it. As might be expected, the building materials industry has been hit hard, one company in the last week having been forced to liquidate one of its subsidiaries. It would be very surprising if social spending fails to suffer. The problems with housing have been indicated, and any cut in government grants in this direction can be readily imagined. The Lyceum redevelopment scheme in Edinburgh, with ambitious plans for new theatres and concert halls has already been wrecked by soaring costs. On top of all this, a universal upward revaluation of property in Scotland for rating purposes will make its significant contribution to the increased cost of living. A gloomy future of further unemployment, rising costs all round, and mutilated social services seems in the offing.

Deflation A more intense dosage of deflation and unemployment than elsewhere in the country is the prospect offered to Scotland by the current government proposals. The regional development plan is down the drain for a start and the general effects are likely to be devastating. James Jack, General Secretary of the Scottish TUC, felt confident that Scotland was in a better position than 5 years ago to stand up to these kinds of measures, but he lost no time in pointing out that with a higher proportion of unemployment already, Scotland was certain to be correspondingly worse hit by moves to increase it further.

Nor is this all. The level of wages in Scotland is generally less than that prevailing in the south. A wage-freeze, if successful, will of course make it impossible to correct this position in any way, and the increased prices resulting from higher purchase tax, more stringent hire purchase conditions and bigger postal charges will be felt more severely in Scottish incomes. Prices are likely to rise further still in any case through increased petrol taxes combined with the higher proportion of transport costs on Scottish prices. On top of this the inadequate transport system is threatened with additional curbs in road building. Much of the potential value of the new Tay Road Bridge is going to be lost, it has been recognised lately, because no suitable road is planned to link it with the Forth Road Bridge. The extra taxes on whisky and beer strike at two industries of key importance to Scotland.

The new National Institute of Advanced Technology is likely to be held up. It must be remembered that all this has to be taken in connection with the new Selective Employment Tax, which will have particularly harsh effects here

due to the importance of service industries in the local economy, particularly outside the central belt, in the Highlands and borders. Then again, any hope of a solution to the desperate housing problem recedes further with every blow to the building industry.

The most succinct summing-up came, surprisingly, from the Scottish Tory parliamentary group. Referring to 'redeployment' and 'shake-out', their statement claimed that, "...in Scotland there was no scope for redployment, and the effect would be to shake still more people right out of Scotland..."

Scottish TUC Summer School The Scottish TUC has been holding its Summer School at St. Andrews. As envisaged by Mr. James Jack in his address to the approximately 60 trade unionists attending, the limits of advance for the labour movement appeared to be that of the government would take action to "increase the participation" of workpeople in board decisions, "perhaps not tomorrow, but some day". He also took it upon himself, contrary to official policy, to defend the Prices and Incomes Bill, appearing to accept that unions ought to be prevented from pressing claims during the standstill period.

At a later session it was made clear that wages at Fairfields shipyard were "lagging behind increases in productivity". This, it was stated by Prof. K. Alexander, was necessary for the firm's survival. He estimated that the disparity would be corrected in two years' time.

#### ACTIVITY IN SCOTLAND AGAINST THE PRICES AND INCOMES BILL

from the July edition of DATA Journal.

Following the decision of the Executive Committee in requesting joint action by the five unions in opposing anti-trade union legislation a joint committee of DATA, ASSET and AScW was set up in Scotland. As a first step it issued letters to all General Election candidates giving our views on the proposed Incomes Bill.

At the same time all branches were requested to join in action on the same basis and to seek interviews with candidates. Successful resolutions were carried in the Glasgow Trades Council, in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, with useful publicity being given. A public meeting was arranged in Aberdeen during the Scottish TUC, where DATA was joined by the T&GWU and Scottish miners. The speakers were R. Macdonald (T&GWU), Lawrence Daly (NUM), Clive Jenkins (ASSET), J. Shaw (DATA), with A. Day (AScW) in the chair. The meeting was attended by 110 persons, mostly Congress delegates, and a resolution opposing legislation was passed almost unanimously.

#### FIREMEN OPPOSE INCOMES LEGISLATION

The July 'Firefighter', journal of the Fire Brigades Union, carries the following editorial against George Brown's anti-union Bill. "The Government has now published the controversial Prices and Incomes Bill in which penalties are proposed for workers and trade unions failing to comply with early warning or for taking action in support of a claim after it has been referred to a statutory prices and incomes board. Mr. Cousins resigned from the Government over the terms of this Bill. Annual Conference at Morecambe two months ago carried a resolution on the incomes policy, the final sentence of which declared 'Conference opposes all forms of restrictive legislation on wage negotiations.' It is argued that there is nothing sinister in the proposed legislation. Our view is that there are already more than enough delaying devices open to employers without the Government providing them with any more."

THE LABOUR PARTY'S DOCKS REPORT by Tony Topham

Labour Party Report of the Port Transport Study Group.

(obtainable from the Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, S.W.1., price 1/6d.)

Publication of the Labour Party Report on the Nationalisation of the docks industry last month marks another step in the long drawn-out struggle between Devlinisation and Socialisation for this vital industry.

The study group included Ian Mikardo, Jack Jones, John Hughes and Peter Shore, and was set up by the Executive in December last year. Their report has been produced and published "against the clock", and was clearly a belated response to the realization that an unambiguous drive by the Government in the Devlin direction would produce a major industrial explosion in dock-land. Unfortunately, the publication of the Report is not in itself an unambiguous guarantee that the Government has abandoned its attachment to Devlin. The Docks and Harbour Bill is still around, with its proposals to introduce the licensing system for the strengthening of the big employers of dock labour. The Labour Party Report correctly states that "such a plan could not hope to win the confidence of the men". The Amendments to the Dock Labour Board scheme are still around too, the Government has not abandoned its hope that it can legislate for Devlin whilst teasing us with promises of ultimate nationalisation. Even if the Government were wholly sincere in its intentions and the equivocation, double-talking, and delays in publication to which this Study-Group Report has been subject leaves acres of room for doubts - the programme of "rationalise, then nationalise" is one that should be challenged on principle. First, it means that by the time nationalisation is introduced, the private employers will have greatly strengthened their position, thus making their future role in the public industry more powerful, and increasing their pressures for anti-socialist compensation terms. Second, the history of the railways and of coal particularly the outmanoeuvring to which Lloyd George subjected the workers in those industries after the 1st world war, suggests that there is a strong possibility that rationalisation will be treated as a substitute for nationalisation, and that delays can take the sting out of the worker's profound objections to Devlin. "Not so much a programme, more a way of life" might be an appropriate description of the methods of Lloyd George-Wilson, and when we take the signature tune's words "it's all been done before", we get even closer to an apprehension of what might well be the ultimate destiny of this Study Group's Report. Before any consideration of the content of the Report, therefore, it is absolutely vital to sound the most solemn warning against any complacency. After all, this Government is not exactly noted for its record in keeping promises!

## The Labour Party's Docks Report /continued

The Report is good reading where it is dealing with the hopeless present structure of ownership and control in the industry. It is sound too in expressing fundamental criticisms of the Devlin approach to the industry. It is cool, logical, and final in proposing nationalisation as the only acceptable measure for the industry. It is clear too that "without a substantial element of workers' participation, no scheme can hope to succeed. "It is the approach to this latter question which is most crucial for the development of socialism in this country,

The Report's Recommendations provide for the National Port Authority, to plan the whole industry, and for Regional Port Authorities to take over the assets of existing authorities, incorporating all the ports of the country. At the N.P.A. level they recommend that Board members should be appointed by the Minister with a proviso that some members should represent organised labour in the industry, "on similar lines to N.D.L.B. practice". At Regional level they propose to cut out the representatives of various interests who appear on the present authorities, and to have smaller, working Boards, substantially full-time. Some would be appointed by the Minister after consultation with the N.P.A., "and a smaller but significant number will be nominated by the recognised trade unions" - these would include dockworkers selected by methods similar to the local D.L.B.s.

There are several serious reservations about all this. First there is no demand that Ministerial appointments should be inhibited to prevent the emergence of "business men's syndicalism". It is a pity that the influence of one member of the Group, John Hughes, who has done so much to demonstrate that nationalised industries have become dominated by private interests and are operated for them, did not prevail in this matter. A simple requirement, such as we proposed in the "Anti-Devlin Report", that Ministerial appointments should be subject to a workers' veto where private interest could be proved, would have filled the need here. Second, the method of appointment of workers' representatives, their numbers and proportion to the whole of the Boards, and the question of their accountability to their members, are all left distressingly vague. Surely it is axiomatic that socialists should not propose measures which contain any likelihood of the separation of workers' representatives from their fellow workers. Such steps can lead to their being held responsible for rationalisation decisions, which may well work to the detriment of workers' interests. The correct solution at these national and regional levels is surely for workers to demand and obtain rights of supervision, rights of access to accounts and proceedings, without being saddled with "responsibæe" but minority roles.

The final proposal they make is for Group Operating Committees at dock level. These would be the principal operating agencies and

The Labour Party's Docks Report /continued

apart from the full-time salaried Dock Manager and his principal officers should be elected workers' committees, with the elections conducted by the trade unions in the same way as are shop steward elections. They would have authority in the stevedoring operations "pay and productivity" matters of local significance, disciplinary matters, safety, training, welfare, and selection of supervisors. Some of this is very good, but much of the significance of this recommendation is destroyed by the objections already expressed about higher level controls. There is no provision for these port level committees to have any access to or control over, the higher level Boards, and particularly over the trade unionists on those Boards. Most dangerous of all is the inclusion of "pay and productivity" questions as a responsibility of an operating agency of workers' representatives. One of the elementary agreements which has been reached in recent discussion on workers' control is that collective bargaining functions should be carried out by the trade unions: that workers' councils should probe separately into areas of control.

All these criticisms are concerned with precise matters of constitution: this is necessary, for it is in precision of aim and purpose that we will find the constitutional borderlings between workers' participation and workers' control. This does not imply that at this stage we should be demanding legislative enactment of full socialist self-management. That would be utopian: that is for a socialist society. What is required is the delineation of areas in which unfettered, free, independent democratic powers can be exerted by workers' committees, and other areas where powers of supervision and access can be developed.

Finally, what on earth is this Group thinking of in writing "that the best talent from the existing stevedoring companies and the comparable sections of the shipping companies(!!) will be attracted into a new-looking industry such as we have proposed."

In summary: the Report is firm and clear about nationalisation. It rejects Devlinisation completely. The Government must be pressed by the Labour Party, by the Unions, and the militants in the industry to scrap its Devlin plans, and stand by the Group Recommendations to nationalise. On workers' control, the Report goes far beyond anything we have had from a semi-official document for generations. But after all that has been written and said in recent years, after all the pressure that the dockers themselves have shown against the present set-up, the Report is disappointing. Business men's syndicalism is given too much scope, and the workers' role is surrounded with dangers and limitations. It could have been so much better.

The Australian Labour Party has been considerably embarrassed by Michael Stewart's action in adding Britain's signature to the SEATO communique backing Mr. Holt's decision to step up Australian military aid to South Vietnam. Liberal and Country Party candidates are certain to make full use of it during the forthcoming Federal Elections, which the Labour Party has already said will be fought on the double issues of Vietnam and conscription. The Australian press has commented on the fact that the British support represents "an important political gain for the Prime Minister, Mr. Holt."

Meanwhile, Labour leader Mr. Calwell has described the recent bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong as "desperate actions, and dangerous exercises in brinksmanship." Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, Dr. Cairns was also outspoken in his condemnation of the bombing. "If war follows this type of escalation, it will not be because of North Vietnam or China, but because of American aggression."

#### SEAMEN TO BACK KEN COATES ?

Following the appeal of 38 MPs for support for the reference back of the Labour Party's NEC Report on its disciplinary invasion of the Nottingham Labour Party, numerous organisations have rallied around. Foremost among the groups which are demanding the reinstatement of Ken Coates and the lifting of the ban on the other Nottingham comrades' right to hold office are a number of leading members of the National Union of Seamen.

A number of Labour Parties are demanding that Miss Sara Barker divulge her 'verdict' on this case, and insisting on the reference back at Conference of the NEC Report on the matter. A Nottingham ETU branch has invited Ken Coates to put his side of the case, after receiving a totally unsatisfactory response from Miss Barker to its enquiries. Queens University Labour Group, Belfast, has asked Ken Coates to become a patron of their club, as a gesture of "support for his stand against the NEC bureaucracy."

Some MPs who did not sign the letter in Tribune are none the less concerned about the matter. A letter from Brian Walden, the young Birmingham member who is by no means a man of the left, reads "I find that I never did send a letter ... in regard to your expulsion from the Labour Party. I am against it, not because I agree with your views, but because I dislike expulsions."

#### THIS WEEK'S 'WEEK'

With this issue of The Week we are distributing copies of the Report on the Nottingham Workers' Control Conference. These are issued without charge to all regular subscribers of The Week, and to accredited Conference delegates. Additional copies are available from 'The Week' office, at 2/6d post free, and copies are also available of the 38 page Bulletin of Preliminary Papers which provides the full text of the papers submitted to the Conference. This Bulletin, which supplements the present Report, is also available at 2/6d post free.

We apologise for the fact that the work involved in producing these reports, especially with the staffing difficulties during the holiday period, has necessitated delaying the commencement of our fortnightly summer schedule until this issue.

NORTH SEA GAS BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE by Dai Francis (South Wales Area NUM)

When the Fuel Policy White Paper was published last October, the union and a large number of Labour Members of Parliament warned the government that "it was not in the national interest to accept the growth of the use of oil, as this would place a tremendous strain on the country's balance of payment." Last year, we imported five million pounds worth of oil, over half of which was in competition with our own indigenous fuel "coal". It takes practically the whole export production of the motor industry to pay for this. The new Minister of Power hopes that natural gas from the North Sea and Yorkshire will reduce the oil imports and natural gas from overseas, and the Ministry's experts are now studying the problem.

There is also a storm brewing over the price of our natural gas - the difference between the oil prospectors and the Gas Council is being brought into the open. A few days ago the chairman of the Gas Council stated that "unless the North Sea gas was produced cheaply, a large amount might stay at the bottom of the sea, and that some people might even hope that it may stay there." It is rumoured that the private oil companies prospecting in the North Sea are unwilling to produce supplies unless they have a high price. By agreement with the government, British Petroleum obtained a price of 5d per therm, and it is claimed that this is three times more than they should have received.

The valuable gas resources belong to the British people. They should never have been leased out to the oil interests. The government should agree to the demand of some Labour members of Parliament to take under public control this valuable national asset. Production of oil and gas, from whatever region of the country, should be for the use of the people and not for profit. While this wrangling goes on between the oil companies, the Gas Council and the government, very little attention is given and no heed taken of the drift of manpower from the coal industry. Through fear that there is no future in the industry, manpower has taken a dramatic slide in the last 12 months. On May 8, 1965, the manpower figures for the British coalfield were 472,696, and on May 7, this year, it was 431,186. During this period over 8,000 men left the South Wales coalfield and this drift continues. In the south western division alone, there has been a reduction of 2,035 since March 31 to June 4 this year.

If the present trend continues, manpower in the British coalfield will fall to 250,000 in 1970. Such consequences would be disastrous for the country. The full needs required in the National Plan would not be met. Already this year coal output is short by 8,500,000 tons, 170 millions against a requirement of 178,500,000.

If oil is to fill this gap, it would further aggravate our balance of payments problem. It is not expected that natural gas will be made available to assist our fuel needs for at least another two years, and a fuel crisis is now imminent and neither the union nor the board can do very much about it. It requires action by the government now. It must accept the proposals put forward by the union. Only in this way can we stave off what could be a very critical time for the nation.

LEFT WING ACTIVITY IN SHEFFIELD from Chris Otley

Recent weeks have seen a flurry of Left-Wing activity in the Sheffield area. At the University socialist students demanded and secured a special Union General Meeting on June 1st, and their attempt to get the meeting to send a message of support to the seamen was only narrowly defeated - on a constitutional point. A joint staff/student committee collected nearly £60 for the NUS Strike Fund, and organised a meeting at which Sam Holmes, a Hull seaman, addressed an audience of 90. Sheffield CSE invited Nick Howard, an ex-seaman, to put the seamen's case at a meeting arranged for June 29.

Other activity centered around Vietnam, with a demonstration on June 25, and a Teach-in, organised by University Students, on June 28. The Teach-in ran continuously from 5 to 11 pm and attracted a maximum audience of 100, drawn from both the university and the city. Speakers included Professor Tom Kaiser of the Sheffield Peace in Vietnam Committee and Jack Woddis of the CP National Executive.

Finally, a re-invigorated Sheffield CND joined with the University CND and the YCND in distributing leaflets at daily showings of the "War Game".

LABOUR GROUPS AGAIN by a Bristol correspondent

It is interesting to see that 'Humberside Voice' is calling for an annual Labour Party policy conference in Hull. Bristol Borough Labour Party and the Labour Group on the Council have been holding a joint policy conference for a number of years. It has now fallen into some disrepute and Wards and affiliated organisations are beginning to send in resolutions calling for the implementation of resolutions passed in previous years.

The discussion on such a resolution at the last meeting of the Borough Labour Party was most revealing. Alderman Jenkins, a leading member of the Labour Group, admitted openly that the leadership regarded the conference mainly as providing the opportunity for delegates to "let their hair down and blow off steam." But the prize remark of the evening went to the councillor who said he never thought you could sit down and think out policy - policy just happened !

Hull socialists must make sure that their proposed policy conference is a properly constituted part of the Borough Party organisation, and does not become just a "blowing off steam" conference.

HACKNEY REJECTS INCOMES POLICY AND DEMANDS WORKERS' CONTROL

"We deplore the attitude of the Labour Government towards the wage-earning community; we reject Mr. Wilson's Prices and Incomes Policy as being impractical and contravening the fundamental principle of the ... freedom of the individual. The proposed Selective Employment Tax is regressive and contains unreasonable discrimination between services and manufacturers.

"The Parliamentary ... Party is urged to press for workers' control in all nationalised industries; the election of management by workers at every level in the public sector; and the formation of works councils."

(Resolution from Hackney Central Liberal Association !)

