

# The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS  
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**ENV  
WORKERS  
FIGHT  
SHUTDOWN**

## **A POLICY AGAINST SACKINGS**

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A POLICY AGAINST SACKINGS

In three examples last week, the workers involved as early victims of the Wilson unemployment squeeze have responded in ways which could, if they were developed, be the beginnings of a very important movement.

At Pontypool, ICI workers are proposing that they all take a 10% wage cut to enable the sacked workers to retain their jobs. At Doncaster, 1,000 members of the T.&G.W.U. voted unanimously to reject the sacking notices given to 600 of them, because of lack of consultation, and called for the workers of all three factories affected by the ICI run down to act together to frustrate the employers' plans. And in Willesden, shop stewards at the E.N.V. factory, in response to the employers' decision to close the plant have demanded the opening of the books for independent examination, to compel management to support its arguments with facts. In the latter case, the stewards warn others that American controlled managements, such as that of E.N.V., are likely to attack militant trade unionism elsewhere in Britain by threats of closure.

These three responses are signs that the British working class, strong and confident, (not cowed by generations of mass unemployment, as their fathers were) is beginning to stand up and fight back against the treatment of labour as a commodity, the costs of which can be wilfully dispensed with, when shareholders' interests demand an attack on workers' bargaining powers. The three forms are not of equal merit however. At Pontypool, the workers have shown real and admirable solidarity to those who have been sacked. But they have accepted the story that ICI 'cannot afford' to maintain the labour force at present wage levels. Surely before any worker offers to help 'his' firm out of 'difficulties', he should, as an elementary right, demand complete knowledge of the firm's accounts. Until that happens he should reject the sackings, as the Doncaster men have done. The E.N.V. example represents the best response of all then, and should be rapidly generalised wherever sackings are threatened. It is a response a whole generation away from the servile acceptance of the 'inevitable' consequences of the vicious economics of the labour market. Let the unions take note! Let them support shop stewards wherever they reject sackings and call for the opening of the books. Let them refuse the notices and refuse negotiations on who is to go. 'Last in, first out' is the rough justice of a people in retreat, acquiescing in, and even making the rules for their own immiseration. But how can sackings be rejected? The employer has the 'right' to dismiss men. In a capitalist, private ownership economy, that is of course a truism. Even so, the demands should be fought out: 30 hours work for 40 hours

pay! open the books! These should be the negotiating positions. Unions have NOT suddenly lost all their bargaining power because of the freeze: they can make their demands effective, through normal trade union industrial powers. The T&GWU in particular, should realize that NOW is the time to activate its own programme for shop steward access to the books, and to management practices. It is no good putting these constructive demands for an extension of industrial democracy into cold storage until 'after' the crisis. And the message of the men at Doncaster is of obvious importance. Act together! Workers should not fight these battles in isolated groups of a few hundred each. Here again, the large general coverage of the T & G means that policies can be co-ordinated over a wide field. The ICI behaviour in the present case is so outrageously arrogant, that the unions and the shop stewards should have no hesitation in mounting a company wide attack upon that imperial strong-hold. They should recall that it was the ICI which spawned Dr. Beeching, who so recently spoke of 'the moral decay of full employment'. The ICI's own immorality is clearly seen and felt today: the first hesitant steps by their victims to raise the banner of a higher morality must be turned into a major march around the demands made at Doncaster and at Willesden.

#### DEGREES OF FREEZE

From Railway Review 26/8/66.

'If you are a worker your pay is frozen. If you are an idle shareholder your pay is not frozen, although the increase may be held up a bit. If you run a company it is more than likely your profits will be rising. Some gestures are being made, of course. But when you are higher up on the scale you find it easier to restrain. For instance, Consolidated Trust have told shareholders that until the prices and incomes issue is clearer the previously recommended final deferred dividend of 16% - making 23% for the year - should be reduced to 12½%, making 19½% for the year, the same as last year.

The 'News of the World' too is doing very well. In the half year pre-tax dividends rose from £1,000,000 in the same six months last year to £1,350,000 for the first six months of 1966. An unchanged first interim of 7% will be paid in September and another interim will be paid before the end of the year.

The St. Martins Property Corporation also proved successful in the year ending last March. Incomes from rents rose by £764,849 to £3,560,449. The profit fell a bit due to higher taxation and interest charges. But it was still £791,154 and dividend set at 18%. Property investment went up by nearly £4M to over £57M.....

Another firm, Drake and Gorman, Scull, engineers had a wonderful year with a record profit before taxation of £430,838 - an increase of 18% over the year before. The report says that there will be a substantial rise in the profits of the Group for the current year in spite of the Selective Employment Tax, which will cost about £100,000

Payment of dividends, of course, is subject to some control like wages. But who cares if the profits are still rising, the value of shareholdings will not decline and higher dividends can be paid later. Delayed wage increases apparently are lost for ever. It doesn't seem right to us.

Despite reports received by shop stewards at E.N.V. Engineering at Willesden, London, that their workers are being black-listed in factories throughout the area, they are strengthening their organisation to fight the announced 'phased closure' of their factory. They are demanding that the employers open the books, are setting up an all union factory committee of shop stewards and shop shop committees to direct the opposition to the closure, and are organising a public meeting to raise support for their fight against unemployment. One steward has already staged a sit-in against £10 wage cuts in his shop.

Since a 13 week recognition strike in 1951 E.N.V. workers have built a powerful shop-floor organisation and shop stewards committee which has gained them the highest rates in the London engineering industry and made them the pacemakers for other workers in the industry. In August 1962 the American Eaton Combine bought E.N.V. They have also factories at Aycliffe near Darlington and in Manchester where the plant has only been open a year. When the Manchester factory was opened an attempt was made to move work from London and Aycliffe to be carried out at cheaper rates by women workers in Manchester. The work was blacked and a successful drive made to unionise the factory.

The crisis period which led up to the closure announcement began when in June Mr. John C. Townsend was appointed managing director with the responsibility of making Willesden 'a reasonably profitable Division, or, if this is not possible, of closing it down'. Three weeks after his appointment he issued a statement saying he no longer intended to negotiate with the stewards, he was calling a meeting with top AEU officials, including Sir William Carron, to discuss the 'deteriorating' profit position. At this meeting on July 4th the management presented two documents, the acceptance of which were, 'the minimum requirements essential if Willesden is to stay in business'. The first document envisaged the disbanding of the shop stewards committees and the post of convenor. This was to be done over a period of six months during which shop stewards would need passes to leave their shops, no meetings were to be held in the factory without management's permission, no notices were to be posted on boards without management scrutiny, and the convenor was to be restricted to two hours union work during working hours. The second document, 'The Interim Agreement' sought to scrap all the domestic agreements that had been made over a long period, proposed three shift working and time study and changes in payments by results rates, which the E.N.V. stewards believe would mean cuts in earnings. These proposals were in complete violation of an undertaking given at a conference called shortly after the American takeover when assurances were given that all existing agreements would be honoured.

In answer to the management's proposals a mass factory meeting decided upon sectional protest action on Wednesday 20th July. On the day before an unofficial meeting at the Employers Federation Offices the E.N.V. management agreed to full negotiating rights for shop stewards. The news was passed out next morning to all but the electrical and stores department, whose workers stayed out of the factory for two hours. The production manager refused to negotiate with the stewards for the men's return and denied knowledge of the previous day's agreement. The chairman of the shop-stewards committee, Geoff Carlsson, was locked out of the factory and threatened with dismissal after going to speak to the men. When the men returned at 10 am. they were locked out. After a

stack-driver was threatened with the sack for refusing to do storemen's work a mass meeting was called and decided to walk out for the day in protest. The following day when they arrived at the factory the workers were herded into the canteen and told by Townsend that they were there to vote there and then 'for' or 'against' his proposal of July 4th. He implied that if the vote was 'No' the factory would close. The convenor, Geoff Mitchell, advised the men not to vote and started to lead them from the canteen past the foremen who were guarding the exits. However, after convenor Mitchell had left the doors were shut and no one was to leave until the ballot papers were filled in. Some workers then opened a door and threw a ballot box down the stairs outside it. They were then allowed to leave. The management then claimed that the stewards had intimidated the men not to vote. One day after the canteen fiasco 800 workers at a mass meeting rejected the ballot unanimously.

When the workers returned from their holidays in August the management were still working on plans to smash their resistance. Provocations were carried out by the management. One shop, through the introduction of a new production line, had its rates so cut that the men had cuts of up to £10 per week in their pay. One steward locked himself in the shop until he was paid his normal wages. The other workers in the shop are now pressing for their normal rates. On Wednesday 24th August the management announce the closure. In his letter to the workers Townsend blamed the closure on the economic and commercial situation and the tightening of credit. The shop stewards immediately stated their opposition to the closure and a mass meeting was called the next day when the stewards' actions were endorsed.

The E.N.V. struggle reflects only too clearly the direction of government and employers' policy. This violent attack on shop-floor organisations and militant trade unionists is part and parcel of Wilson's policy to put British Capitalism back on its feet. The anti-union laws and the wage freeze are mainly directed at the independent workers' committees based on rank and file militancy. So too is the Commission on Trade Unions. This is because militant shop-floor unionism has been able to gain increasingly higher standards for workers. That is why it is no co-incidence that the attack on E.N.V. workers comes at this time. The E.N.V. management claim the Freeze as the cause of the closure though it is believed that they have a backlog of orders. The Eaton's Annual Report for 1965 shows an increase of 50% in output in 1965 and envisages a further expansion with new machinery which is already installed and in operation. It is quite clear that the over-riding consideration is to smash the union organisation at E.N.V. and cut wage rates. Over the last few years other workers in the area have undergone the experience of run-down and closure in their factories only to find them opened again with cheap, unorganised labour.

The future period will see the struggle being fought out at E.N.V. spreading throughout the engineering industry. Increasing numbers of workers will see the national and international significance of their struggle and through their experience be brought into a conscious struggle for a socialist alternative to Wilson's Tory policies. But this is only possible if there is a principled programme of political demands for the left to advance, and a definite strategy to fight closures and unemployment at the local level; to link up the struggles of one section of workers with another, and to build the bridge of socialist consciousness between workers in industrial struggle and the national and international political struggle that is necessary if their gains are to be protected and their aspirations to be fulfilled.

## IS THERE A PRICE FREEZE?

From Financial Times 23/8/66.

'The part of the economic squeeze which looks like giving the government its earliest trouble is the supposed freeze on prices. The impression has been allowed to grow that a prices freeze has been introduced as a quid pro quo of the wage freeze. But in fact there is no price freeze (Sic!). The section on prices in the July White Paper does not amount to anything approaching a universal standstill on prices; and unless the present misunderstandings are corrected the whole policy may run onto the rocks.

It is quite true that the White Paper speaks of 'a general standstill on prices and charges until the end of 1966'. But the qualifications -quite rightly introduced- are so many, that most businessmen will be able to find a good reason for putting up their charges. The biggest gateway is the reference to Government action 'such as increased taxation.' On the very day of the squeeze announcement, indirect taxes, except on tobacco, were put up by 10% by the use of the Register. The impact of the Selective Employment Tax is still to be felt. This will be very pervasive and will give many retailers an excuse for putting up their prices. The machinery of the 'early warning' applies primarily to manufacturers. No effective vetting is possible for price changes in hundreds of thousands of shops in all parts of the country. 'Government action' moreover has not been confined to taxes. Higher interest rates will provide a potent excuse in many cases. There are other gateways too; 'market increases' in imported material prices, seasonal changes in supply, and increased costs of components which cannot be absorbed. Many food items are excluded, although they will be kept under 'constant watch' by the Ministry of Agriculture. There is, moreover, still confusion about the exact procedure for notifying Government departments of proposed price increases. For the time being, the CBI have agreed that manufacturers should seek 'written confirmation' of price increases only up to the end of August.

After that it hopes to revert to the early warning system on the basis of a wider list of articles still to be devised. The one thing that is certain is that many prices are now going up and the man in the street is beginning to think that a bargain is being dishonoured. The Government has itself to blame for a large part of the misunderstanding for with so many exceptions and qualifications it was a mistake ever to have used the expression 'prices standstill'.

## ALLAUN SPEAKS OUT AT MANCHESTER MEETING From Financial Times

'Mr. Frank Allaun, Labour M.P. for Salford East, told 250 trade unionists at a meeting in Manchester that many of his colleagues hoped that the TUC would 'stick to its guns' and reject both the wage freeze and the attendant unemployment. He told the rally, organised by representatives of unions opposing the wages standstill that the last three months had been the worst he could remember in his 11 years parliamentary experience. 'Some people may say that we are being disloyal to the party by abstaining from voting as we have done,' said Mr. Allaun, 'but if a boat is drifting onto the rocks then true loyalty demands that you deflect it and steer it onto a safe course.!....

A meeting held in Glasgow on August 28th to protest against the Government's Incomes Policy and specifically against the wage freeze was sponsored by 11 unions:- A.S.S.E.T., D.A.T.A., N.A.L.G.O., the Scottish Area of the N.U.M., the Scottish Commercial Motormen, P.T.U., A.S.W., and the T.&G.W.U.

Speakers were Clive Jenkins, Lawrence Daly (General Secretary of the Scottish miners), and Albert Booth (M.P. for Barrow-in-Furness). Alex Kitson, General Secretary of the S.C.M.U. took the chair. The meeting was attended by about 400 people, who vigorously applauded any declaration of militant opposition to the policy. Particular emphasis was laid by the speakers on the failure of all Scottish M.P.'s with the exception of Emrys Hughes, to demonstrate their opposition to the Prices and Incomes Bill, and it seems likely that a great deal of pressure will be exerted to ensure that there are a higher number of abstentions, should the Government attempt to enforce Section 1V of the Act.

Many speakers, while praising A.S.S.E.T.'s intention of taking employers to court for breach of contract, felt that more vigorous action would be necessary in the coming months. Several practical suggestions for action were made and it seems likely that the autumn will see the emergence of strongly organised opposition to the Government's economic policy on Clydeside.

RISE IN GLASGOW UNEMPLOYED YOUTH? From Tony Southall

The Youth Employment Bureau reported that in the last month, the number of young people out of work in Glasgow rose from 1053 to 1229. The figure compares with 827 at the same time last year. Clearly the Government measures are beginning to 'bite', by discouraging employers from taking on new labour, which they may want to shed shortly.

ECONOMIST CALLS FOR TWO YEAR FREEZE From Financial Times

'Strong support for the Government's prices and incomes freeze came last night from Sir Roy Harrod in a B.B.C. Third Programme talk:-

'I myself hold that to pull us out of trouble once and for all, we need an incomes freeze for two years subject to permitting after six months, increases already negotiated before the freeze came on,' he declared. Legitimate claims in hard luck cases should also be allowed after six months. 'The incomes freeze should be above party,' Sir Roy stated. 'Those who hate the present Government have plenty of scope for attacking it in ways that will not injure the country, for instance, on the Selective Employment Tax or on steel nationalisation. But all, of whatever party should give loyal support to the prices and incomes freeze. I believe it will succeed.'

When the freeze was over, there should not be a doubling up in incomes payments to make good ground lost during the freeze period. An incomes policy would continue to be needed. Stressing the importance of the attitude of the T.U.C. to the freeze, Sir Roy said that 'a wrong vote at the T.U.C. would have a calamitous effect on foreign confidence.'

AUSTRALIAN LABOUR PARTY EXPELS M.P. FOR WILSONISM from Pommie

Within three months of a general election the Australian Labour Party has lost one of its strongest characters in the House of Representatives when Mr. Sam Benson left the party after disagreeing with its policy on Vietnam. The Labour Party would withdraw Australian forces from Vietnam: Mr. Benson would not, and he made his point of view quite clear in a speech in Parliament last week.

Recently he became a sponsor of a new "Defend Australia Committee" which includes M.P.s in the Liberal Party and Democratic Labour Party. Last month the Labour Party proscribed the committee and gave its members until yesterday to resign. Mr. Benson refused, and his expulsion from the party followed.

SHEFFIELD CALL FOR BREAK WITH U.S. WAR POLICY

The Sheffield Trades and Labour Council, representing 150,000 trade unionists and Labour Party members, has called on the Government to dissociate itself completely from United States policy in Vietnam. It has passed by a large majority a resolution from Hillsborough Constituency Labour Party which said that by dissociation the Government would "alert the world to the increasing danger inherent in the intensified bombing of the North Vietnamese populated areas."

WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL CHALLENGE

Bertrand Russell yesterday released the text of a letter to President Johnson requesting him to appear in his own defence before the international war crimes tribunal due to take place in Paris early next year.

Lord Russell said: "Within living memory only the nazis could be said to have exceeded in brutality the war waged by your Administration against the people of Vietnam.

"It is because this war is loathed by the vast majority of mankind that demands are heard throughout the world for a formal international tribunal to hear the full evidence."

AMERICA'S STAKE IN THE VIETNAM ELECTIONS. (from The Times)

The Administration is watching keenly the South Vietnam election campaign with polling day now less than a fortnight away, even though it is avoiding directing attention to what it is official policy to regard as a Vietnamese affair. The American military effort still dominates the local scene, but it is realized that much is at stake politically and psychologically for America in the outcome of the elections, not least with those persons abroad who are critical of the war.

Radio Hanoi and the clandestine Vietcong station are now prophesying that "the people will smash the elections of the United States puppet regime" ..... Marshall Ky, the South Vietnam Prime Minister, is taking the election campaign seriously, and so are most of his provincial chiefs, but the underlying reason is rather obviously that he wants an answer for the regime against the communists.



American reporters who have dutifully turned out in Saigon to "cover" the campaign have been obviously distressed by the frailty of things, the Government-organized meetings, the candidates' vague speeches, and lack of popular interest.

More than 500 candidates are running for the 117 seats in the Constituent Assembly, grouped in 52 constituencies. Communists and "neutralists" were excluded and there were in all 60 candidates rejected. There are about 60 military men, the rest being business or professional people, civil servants and provincial councillors elected in South Vietnam's local elections last year.

About half the constituencies have direct voting, and the rest proportional representation, something intended to work against the Buddhists, whose leaders have called for a boycott of the election anyway. What will emerge is admitted here to be largely guesswork - most likely, it is thought, it will be a motley assembly of individuals, local notables reflecting local and sectional interests. Group building might come as a reaction if the military candidates emerge as a Pro-Government force.

#### NLF plan election sabotage.

The Vietcong are determined to wreck next month's election in South Vietnam. The guerilla command announced in a clandestine broadcast to-day that they could not guarantee the lives of candidates or voters in the Saigon area taking part in the election. The Communists claim that the voting for the Assembly, which is to draw up a constitution, is being organised by the United States.

Intelligence sources here say that the political arm of the Vietcong had instructed guerillas to sabotage the election. The sources said the guerillas had been ordered to attack polling booths, seize ballot boxes in ambushes, seize identity and voting cards and organise demonstrations in Government controlled areas. The Liberation Radio said the guerillas would protect people who refused to vote, but added that it could not guarantee the lives of "village chiefs, hamlet chiefs, candidates, voters or anybody else" supporting the Americans and the Saigon Government.

#### FOREIGN COMPANY PROFITS DROP IN INDIA (Financial Times)

The profitability of foreign companies operating in India has been declining, but foreign-controlled rupee companies are sharing effectively in the general industrial growth and, in some cases, doing even better than Indian-owned companies, according to a special study by the Reserve Bank of India. The survey, which covered 225 branches of foreign companies, roughly 87% of this sector, revealed that the gross profits in relation to sales declined from 6.3% to 4.9% and in relation to capital employed from 9.3% to 7.7% between 1962-63 and 1963-4.....  
.....The increasing participation of foreign controlled rupee companies in India's industrial development is illustrated by the growth rates of production and sales - 13.9% and 14.5% respectively. The most impressive growth was in U.S. controlled companies - 20-22% as compared with the U.K. owned companies' 11-12%.

The Economist which piloted the call for a wage standstill, and has been a persistent advocate of American policy in Vietnam is now calling for the nationalisation of the aircraft industry. We wonder whether Mr. Wilson and his team will ~~get~~ take this piece of advice as they have followed so many other ones. It is interesting that the paper should make this call at this time and it illustrates a fact that left wingers have known for a long time: the capitalists and their conscious representatives have no hesitation in supporting nationalisation if it is in their wider interest as a class. It makes all the more relevant the calls, which are gaining wider currency in the labour movement, for nationalisation to be carried out under workers' control. No one will see the Economist advocating that!

The call was made in the major article in the Business section of the September 3rd issue entitled, "Nationalise an be Damned!". This article concluded, after reviewing the state of the industry:

"...Why the Government does not accept the logic of nationalisation in industry in this situation is difficult to explain. The industry itself would be unlikely to oppose it, although companies may put a fairly fancy price on their assets. For, apart from the monopoly aspects, a public corporation run on the lines of the Atomic Energy Authority is probably the only satisfactory way of obtaining an extensive research programme in an expensive and rapidly developing industry. There are obviously some things no British aircraft industry could touch now; ....like light aircraft - because successful production requires really big turnover and then returns are minimal.

"But there are fields that the industry obviously should work on. Some, because, like variable sweep wings, they represent a basic advance in design; some because, like vertical take-off, the expertise is here and the market is probably not big enough world-wide to make it worth the Americans' wage while to duplicate it. If the aircraft turn out to be good enough, the services should buy them, but it ought also to be a principle of first importance that the security of this country is not jeopardised in order to keep the aircraft industry happy.

"Nor, for that matter, should the commercial viability of the aircraft corporations be jeopardised. It is impossible to feel entirely at ease about the Government's decision to order British European Airways to buy British to the probable tune of £80 million in the next four or five years. But at least let this money be spent where it will do most good, and that is in developing the newest of the three British candidates, namely the BAV One Eleven, rather than the older Trident or the VC 10. A policy of developing the One Eleven as comparable American aircraft will certainly be developed, would be proper planning. Anything else will be patching, and the industry has had enough of that. But has the Government? The course is plain enough; nationalise and be damned."

#### WILLESDEN C.S.E. MEETING ON PROGRAMME FOR THE LEFT

The Willesden C.S.E. has organised a meeting to discuss "A Programme for the Left" on Wednesday, 21st September at 8.00 p.m., at the Ansom Hall, Ansom Rd., N.W. 2. (Buses 260, 266 to door, 5 minutes from Willesden Green Tube Station). The speakers will be Tony Cliff (Labour Worker) Pat Jordan (The Week) and a speaker from the E.N.V. factory. A special leaflet has been produced for the meeting, available from John Holland, 1)9, Chevening Rd., NW6.

CENTRE FOR SOCIALIST EDUCATION STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH E.N.V WORKERS SS

The Willesden Centre for Socialist Education fully supports the decision of the E.N.V. workers and shop stewards to reject the closure the E.N.V. factory announced by the management. The closure would put 1450 workers out of a job. But the Eaton's combine is glad to use the government's freeze as a pretext for closure. They make plenty of profit out of the workers in their many other factories in Europe and America, and are not interested in the lives of the workers in Willesden who rightly refuse to have their excellent shop-floor organization dismantled and their wages and conditions undermined.

Mr John C. Townsend, managing director of the Willesden factory does not face the dole queue on closure, nor do Messrs Freeson and Pavitt, the so-called socialist MPs for Willesden East and West, who voted for the government's prices and incomes bill, including the freeze provisions. These parliamentary gentlemen are in favour of the Tory method of creating unemployment, of putting capitalism back on its feet. That is how they reward the E.N.V. workers who have earnestly supported them over the years. Before they gush crocodile tears for the E.N.V. workers, let us take good note that they voted for the freeze and for unemployment which it involves while, of course, their respective four thousand pound salaries remain undisturbed.

If their minds have now been changed about the freeze then they must be expected to take immediate steps to mobilize the local Labour movement against the government's reactionary policy. They must demand that the government steps in to prevent the closure of E.N.V., taking over the factory if necessary and keeping it running, and that the books of E.N.V. management be opened to the shop stewards so that they can see the real situation for themselves.

But the E.N.V. workers can not count on these M.P.s. They must rely on their own strength if these demands are to be gained. It is the workers who produce the goods at E.N.V. factory, and they have every right to sit tight and refuse to budge from the factory at the first attempt to impose cuts or sackings. The Labour Government has made it illegal for workers to be evicted from their homes yet they now encourage the eviction of those same workers from their jobs, their very livelihood. The E.N.V. and all workers have a fundamental right to a job.

The E.N.V. workers in building a strong shop floor organization over a long period have strengthened other workers in improving their wages and conditions. It is clear that the employers regard this organization as their main target.

The Labour Movement throughout the area must declare unflinching solidarity with these workers who are in the forefront of the battle against unemployment and the wage freeze.

signed

The Willesden Centre for Socialist Education,  
c/o John Holland, 109 Chevening Road, N.W.6.

## CSE NEWS

New branches of the Centre for Socialist Education are still being formed at a steady rate.

The first meeting of the Coventry Branch will take place on Tuesday, 15th September, at 8 pm, at 9 Thirlmere Close, Hawthorne Lane, Coventry. The convenors are Pat and Jack Knight. A number of Coventry shop stewards attended the highly successful CSE seminar on workers' control, last June, when 200 trade unionists and socialists gathered to advance plans and projects for workers' control in different sectors of industry.

In Cardiff, a new branch has been set up with Jack Brooks as Secretary and Les Paul as Chairman. Les Paul is an active member of the National Executive of the Inland Revenue Staff Association, and Ray Collins, one of the founders of the movement for workers' control, at the first Nottingham Seminar, is on the committee. The address of the group is 57 Janet Strett, Splott, Cardiff.

Yet another new group is being formed in Gloucester, under the convenorship of G. Hopwood, 30 Wedgewood Drive, Longlevens, Gloucester.

The next steering committee of CSE will take place on 24th September, in London. Among projects to be discussed are a suggestion for a dictionary of the Left, and a vigorous pamphlet against the Government's foreign policy, by Konni Zilliacus, a founder member of the Centre.

## TENANTS CALL FOR RADICAL CHANGE

Tenants in the Midlands are to hold a regional conference on Sunday, September 11 at Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs., against the conception of housing "as a source of vast private profits" and for its recognition as a social service. "To mobilise public opinion in support of such a radical change of outlook," they say, "is the first task of the tenants' movement." The conference is called jointly by the National Association of Tenants and Residents and the Newcastle-under-Lyme Tenants Association; credentials from Mr. W. Richardson, 91 Denry Crescent, Bradwell Estate, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

## ROYAL COMMISSION PAPER ON SHOP STEWARDS.

The first of a series of research papers - into the role of shop stewards in industry - arranged by the Royal Commission on the Trade Unions, is now published.

Written by the Commission's research director, Mr. W. McCarthy, it is an academic collection of views from various sources into the functions of the shop stewards movement.

At the very end it describes their role as one of "political adjustment" requiring both skill and judgement. In general, the paper sees the steward as challenging both unions and employers, but has little if anything new to say on the subject.

"The Role of Shop Stewards in British Industrial Relations" is published by H.M.S.O. at 6s.6d.

Next week sees the resumption of the regular monthly Week forums in London. The first will be at: -

The Lucas Arms, 245a, Grays Inn Rd., Kings Cross (5 minutes from the tube), commencing at 8.00 on Friday, the 16th of September.

There will be a panel of delegates and others who attended the Blackpool T.U.C. conference. In view of the tremendous importance of this year's meeting of the T.U.C. this is bound to be an important and interesting meeting. All Week readers in the London area should do their best to attend and bring any other interested people.

Advertiser's Announcement

AN IMPORTANT DAY SCHOOL on Sunday, September 25th, 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

At: Danum Hotel, High St., Doncaster.

Subject: "THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY"

Speakers: Mr. Dick Kelly, M.P. Don Valley  
Mr. E.A. Roberts, Assistant General Secretary, A.E.U.

All readers of The Week will be deeply concerned at the crisis in Britain's economic planning and the recent Government measures. Many feel that the solution being offered to the economic crisis will only make things worse and seriously impair the possibility of an advance to socialism. It is essential that the widest possible discussion should take place inside the labour movement in order that the full implications of the Government's policies be understood.

We have been fortunate in securing the services of Ernie Roberts and Dick Kelly, M.P. to lead off such a discussion. Mr. Roberts and Mr. Kelly want it to be clearly understood that they speak in their personal capacity and NOT as official spokesmen of any organisation.

It is not intended that any resolutions or organisational steps should be taken at this school but that we should confine ourselves to an exchange of opinion. We hop that you will accept this as an invitation to take part in the discussion. If you will be attending please return the application slip on order to help us with the organisation of the school.

Signed: Joan Maynard

Signed Councillor Joan Maynard, Harry Newton, Tony Topham, Joe Kenyon (ex T.U.C. Education Department), Alan Kenworthy, Sam Taylor (N.U.M.), T. Sinclair (TWGU, I.C.I. Fibres Branch). N.B. Positions held by sponsors are for information only.

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Please return this form to H. Newton, 52, West Park, Selby, YORKS.

I will be present. Name.....  
Address.....  
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