

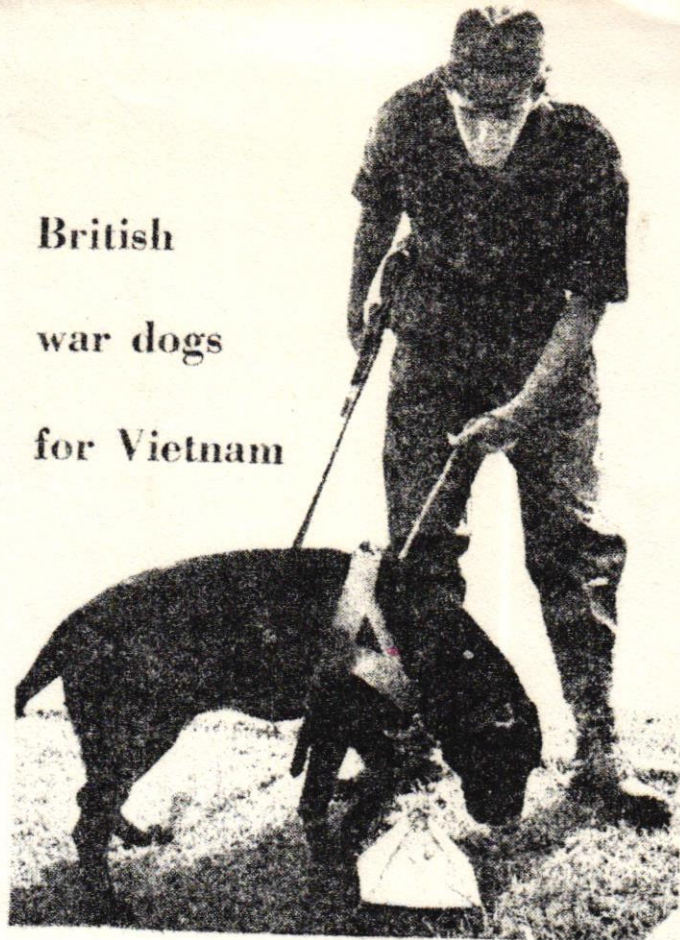
The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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Vol. 7. No. 2. Jan. 12th 1967

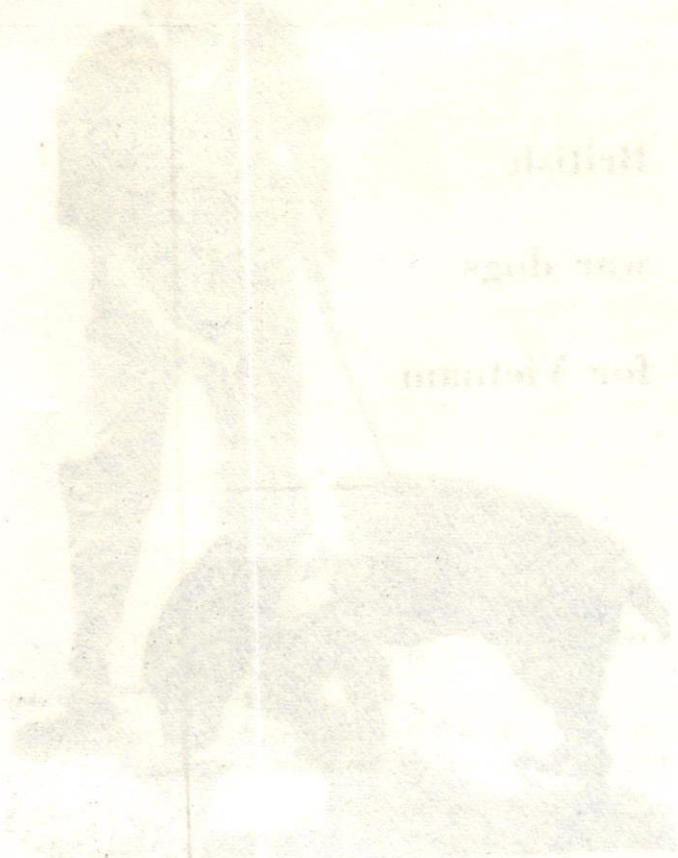
British
war dogs
for Vietnam



**TRADE UNIONS
MUST FIGHT
WAGE FREEZE**

8 Roland Gardens, London, S.W.7.

Subscription: £2 per annum and pro rata



British
war dogs
for Britain

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TRADE UNIONS

MUST FIGHT

WAGE FREEZE

Page	1	Editorial notes.	Page	2	Union notes.
"	3	More union notes.	"	4	War Crimes' secretary detained.
"	5	Social workers' militancy.	"	6	Political notes.
"	7	Inequality in incomes.	"	8	Vietnam notes.
"	9	U.S. political corruption.	"	10	Hugo Blanco.
"	11	Hugo Blanco continued.	"	12	Protest demonstration.

THE TRADE UNIONS MUST FIGHT

This week Mr. Gunter is making a determined effort to get the busmen and railmen to call off their threats of action against the wage freeze. The Cabinet is aware that once a struggle against the wage freeze commences it may get out of control. In particular they are arraid of having to give concessions which would spur other sections of workers into militant activity. They are, therefore, desperate to stop any large scale show-down. On the other hand, they cannot afford to grant any concessions to head off either the busmen's one day strikes or the footplatenen's work-to-rule because this would also undermine the incomes policy. Obviously they will look for a way to get off the hook which does not involve giving real concessions. To this end they will use every pressure and blandishment they can muster to get the union leaders to delay or call off their militant action. The union leaders should neither yield to pressure nor be fooled by talk of the national interest, etc. They should ponder the experience of the railwaymen who did call off their strike, and then were rewarded by the Government going abck on every promise it made.

On the contrary, this Government which split from top to bottom on the question of a permanent incomes policy, is hardly likely to risk a real show down. A firm stand combined with a call for unity and efforts to mobilise the rank and file could bring results. The choice before the unions is clear: fight now and smash the wage freeze, or carry on prevaricating and face the risk of permanent Government interference with union rights. The movement should offer every support to the busmen and footplatenen, assure them of a united struggle and instruct all M.P.s (especially the union-sponsored ones) to oppse the Government.

AMERICAN ACTION REPUDIATES BROWN

The action of the Johnson administration in ordering its planes not to bomb Hanoi is a direct repudiation of Brown's statement in the House of Commons, denying that the Americans were bombing civilian targets. It highlights his lying and the whole hypocrtical and immoral position of the British Government. Brown is a disgrace to Labour, he should be forced to resign - those who speaking of his obvious sincerity are making a big error of judgement. But Brown's resignation would be meaningless unless it was accompanied by a complete change in the Government's Vietnam policy. The U.S. action in stopping the bombing proves another point too: it pays to protest, it can bring results. We should feel encouraged to protest all the more.

PLEASE HELP PLEASE HELP

It appears that certain records of subscription (those from A. to M. surnames) Have gone astray in the post. Will anyone in this range, who has not recently re-subscribed please get in touch with us and let us know when they actually subscribed. It will help us a great deal.

BOOK THIS DATE: This issue contains an important article on Hugo Blanco. We are sponsoring a protest meeting in the Caxton Hall on January 26th on this issue. Please note the date and tell all interested. Details next week.

SOGAT MAKES IPC STRIKE OFFICIAL

from a printing correspondent

Mr. Briginshaw's union, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, has made the strike by 200 workers at the International Publishing Corporation subsidiary, George Rose (Printers) of Thornton Heath, official. The union has taken this step because the firm, which publishes The Statist and a number of trade publications, has dismissed two former apprentices for whom work is not available. In a statement, the firm threatened that unless the strikers went back protective notices would be issued and that "it might not be possible to sustain production and employment." The strike, if continued with, would bring the factory to a halt "in a matter of days."

ANOTHER STRIKE AT FAIRFIELDS

from a Scottish reader

Fairfield's which has been described as an experiment designed to pioneer a new type of industrial relations, is having more trouble with unofficial strikes. On January 10, fifty crane drivers walked out in support of their demand for increased wages. The men are expected to return to work soon. In November, Iain Stewart, chairman of the company, which jointly sponsored by Government, trade union and private finance, threatened that strike action could destroy the future of the yard. However, he made little of the crane drivers' strike, describing it as not very serious.

Ever since the new set-up took over, the management has stressed that it would only give wage increases in return for higher productivity. The boilermakers won a productivity payment last summer and the other trades are getting impatient with delays which are holding up their increases. A meeting on January 10 instead of dealing with money discussed "productivity", and this enraged the crane drivers, who went on strike.

This is the second token strike by cranemen for a productivity increase - the first was last summer when the boilermakers got their payment. If the workers at Fairfields don't get something soon, the cranemen's action could snowball. It has been demonstrated that despite the existence of trade union money in the firm workers still have to treat the management in exactly the same way as they would a private concern.

PRESSED STEEL MANAGEMENT TRIES TO IMPOSE NEW WAGE SCHEME

A plan which is supposed to "modernise and simplify" the wage structure covering the 4,000 car body workers at Pressed Steel Fisher, Cowley, is running into difficulty because of the resistance of the AEU. The employers hope that the AEU will be persuaded to co-operate in operating the scheme which has been drawn up by the management consultant firm, Urwick, Orr and Partners. Because the AEU is refusing to back the scheme the TGWU and ETU have also withdrawn their support.

The decision not to co-operate was taken by the union's Oxford district committee, despite the advice of the AEU divisional organiser, Mr. Roger Horner, who is in favour of co-operating. The company has offered the services of a consultant to explain job evaluation techniques to the district committee - which must be the ultimate in the attempts to get even militant trade union organisations to co-operate in the increasing exploitation of workers in large factories.

Despite the fact that the unions have turned down the Engineering Employers' Federation white collar scheme (see previous issues of The Week) the employers are to go ahead with this scheme. Last week the leaders of the staff unions rejected the scheme for the third time, but the employers said they would not take no for an answer. The Federation's management board will consider the issue at its next meeting on January 26. The unions would be happy to negotiate minimum scales for staff workers in engineering, but they dislike the employers' plan for standard rates of pay because it would mean that they could not negotiate pay increases with individual employers. The Federation, on the other hand, is determined to stop the white collar unions from, as they put it, playing off one employer against another. It also wants to establish a system whereby all companies would pay their staff the same amount. They are using the argument that if this is not done the Government will step in "to stop the upward drift of engineering employees salaries."

This dispute is interesting in a number of respects: it shows the subtle use by the employers of the Government's incomes policy to try and impose conditions which would have been unthinkable in the past. It is an indication of the complete "proletarianisation" of the staff employees too. It is good that the unions are resisting these efforts, union members should ensure that their leaders do not change their minds.

GLASGOW C.W.S. STRIKE SPREADS from a special correspondent

Some 80 maintenance engineers and motor mechanics have joined the 11-week-old strike of 50 maintenance engineers at the Shieldhall workshops. The strike, which is official, is in protest against a rationalisation scheme which involves seven redundancies. The AEU instructed them to take this step after efforts to obtain the seven men's reinstatement were unsuccessful. The dispute, which has been referred to the Ministry of Labour, is an example of wings of the movement fighting each other instead of being united. Too often does the Co-operative movement treat its employees in the same manner as private industry. This attitude does them no good and makes it very difficult to get the broader movement to defend the co-ops when there are under attack (e.g., the way the Selective Employment Tax operates.)

GORDON NORRIS GETS A SEAT ON MARITIME BOARD from Geordie

Gordon Norris, who was denounced by Wilson during the seamen's strike as one of the band of plotters, has been elected to an important position by members of the union. He is to sit as an engine-room representative on Tyne and Weir district of the National Maritime Board. The appointment, made by the South Shields branch of the National Union of Seamen, is a final rebuttal of Wilson's McCarthyite charges. Three people were appointed by the branch at its meeting on January 10, and one of the others had also been named by the Prime Minister: James Slater.

It is noteworthy that the press, so quick to take up the Prime Minister's witch-hunting allegations, ignores incidents like these which demonstrate rank and file trade unionists' support for militants.

RALPH SCHOENMAN ARRESTED IN PARIS.

from Geoff Coggan *

Last night, at about 11 p.m. Ralph Schoenman, Secretary General of the International War Crimes Tribunal, was abducted by the French Authorities while on his way from the Hotel to the Restaurant at Orly Airport, Paris. With five colleagues he was in Paris en route for Phnom Penh and Hanoi as a member of the second investigating team collecting evidence for the Tribunal.

At first, his colleagues suspected nothing, thinking that he must have been called to the telephone, but they later discovered the police in the act of searching the luggage in his hotel bedroom, on the pretext of searching for his passport. This action is astonishing, as Mr. Schoenman had entered France regularly and without the slightest trouble, showing his passport both at the airport entry point (passport control) and also at any hotel where he has registered. The police refused to answer any questions as to his whereabouts. No-one was allowed to see him, or even to speak to him by telephone. The serious situation was immediately made known to Maitre Gisele Halimi and Laurent Schwartz in Paris and Bertrand Russell in Wales. Protests and enquiries by these three throughout the night produced similar lack of co-operation. Maitre Halimi, as Ralph Schoenman's lawyer, took her enquiries to top level in the Ministry of the Interior, but without results. Ralph Schoenman was kept for a whole night incommunicado.

This abduction of an American citizen, who was in France for one night on his way to Cambodia, and who holds the position of Secretary General of the International War Crimes Tribunal, is particularly hard to explain in the light of the declared foreign policy of the French Government. We protest vigorously and appeal to the French people to make every effort to redress this illegal action, and to continue to support the International War Crimes Tribunal.

At the Press Conference held at the Orly Airport at 9 o'clock this morning, Representatives of the Tribunal in Paris were informed by the Police de l'Air that Ralph Schoenman had been "forbidden" entry to France as the result of a request originating from London, perhaps from an American source." It was stated that the action of the police was "only in response to a particular request and did not represent any formal decision by the French authorities." They added that Ralph Schoenman would be allowed to continue on his scheduled trip to Cambodia. And he left on the Air France flight to Phnom Penh at 11 a.m. this morning.

The second team will be investigating border violations in Cambodia, and interviewing victims and witnesses of civilian bombardment from the liberated zones of South Vietnam. The members of the team, which is expected to stay in Asia for 3 or 4 weeks, are Ralph Schoenman, Lawrence Daly, General Secretary of the Scottish Union of Mineworkers; Dr. Behar, doctor of medicine from France; Carol Brightman, editor of Viet Report and a student of chemical warfare, United States; Tariq Ali, former president of the Oxford Union, from Pakistan; Dr. Gustavo Tolentino, a Dominican citizen from Toronto, where he is a physician specialising in radiology. He is a member of the New Democratic Party (Canada's Labour Party).

* Geoff Coggan is Press Officer of the International War Crimes Tribunal.

SOCIAL WORKERS ADVISED TO BE "MORE MILITANT" from a special correspondent

The January 5th issue of New Society contained a very interesting article "Satisfaction in Social Work" by John Haines of Nottingham University. In this paper, John Haines analyses what happens to social workers after they have completed their training. He examines at some length what motivates social workers and notes the attitude of various Government publications on this question. He emphasises that "a critical examination of social work practice may provide some clues to its current difficulties." Although it is difficult to get exact figures, a study done by Sylvia Watson, published by the journal Social Worker, indicated that in the child care service the wastage rate is high. More than 160 child care officers were lost to the profession in the year 1963-64. Furthermore, these losses consist in part of new entrants to the service. In fact, Mr. Haines says, "the impression, then, is that quite a large number of people who go into the career in social work, usually with a strong motivation for it, are no longer to be found in their original post after even as few as two or three years."

Mr. Haines then goes ^{on} to examine what is wrong. He notes the various factors which destroy the social workers original idealism: lack of planning, an image of social work "divorced from reality", competition from "fieldwork replacements", the sheer volume of work, etc. However, he concludes this section by noting that "working conditions are bad. Hours are too long, with little organised compensation for late evening work. In some places a social worker is made to feel guilty if she takes a couple of hours off in the daytime to go to the hairdresser or to do some shopping." "The net result is a vicious circle whereby "the manpower shortage increases the burden on the workers, which in turn tends to aggravate the lack of staff."

John Haines' conclusion is that "Social workers should not be afraid to demand more for themselves, using their experience and knowledge as evidence to convince the general public of their case...." He wants the profession to be united: "the fragmentation in social work resulting from piecemeal development" has made it difficult for the social workers to "speak with a united voice."

His passing shot provides a backing for the campaign against the starving of the welfare services in this country: "In comparison with the vast national expenditure on such requirements as defence or education, the cost of the improvements in the social work services would be minimal. What is needed is adequate pressure from social workers and their leaders in order to provoke government and local authorities into action...." This has a familiar ring to those of us who have seen the effects of the Government operating a completely wrong order of priorities in expenditure and effort. It is good that a spokesman for this profession should put forward the idea that social workers should fight for their rights. In the past, governments have exploited the idealism and illusions of such sections of the community to exploit them and use them for ameliorative activities. As the social workers become more class conscious and go on to organise, the old pattern of do-gooders will disappear forever. Instead the social workers will be powerful allies for all those who seek to use the lessons of the obvious hypocrisy of this and other governments to explain the need for a complete social change in this country.

National Coal Board drops "cheap gas" scheme

Further evidence of the rundown being planned by the National Coal Board (see Ken Tarbuck's article in last week's edition) is given by the announcement of the abandonment of a £1 million experiment to produce gas from low grade coal at Manvers Main colliery, Yorkshire. The experiment was started in 1961 when coal was the only source of gas. Subsequently, the manufacture of gas from the waste products of petroleum, the import of liquid methane and the discovery of gas in the North Sea have provided overwhelming competition. The end of this experiment means the end of the Coal Board's attempts to compete in this field and will inevitably lead to an overall reduction in the demand for coal.

Pioneering work in heart surgery threatened by lack of funds

One of the consequences of Wilson's clamp down on public spending is a reduction in spending on matters literally of "life and death."

After seven years of support from the Nuffield Foundation, the unit at Hammersmith Hospital which has been doing essential research work on the transplantation of organs and the development of artificial valves for the heart, applied for further support from the University Grants Committee. This has not been forthcoming. Professor Welbourn, director of the department of surgery, states in the hospital's annual report that unless further funds become available the unit's work will stop.

Big anti-freeze rally to be held in Glasgow

Frank Allaun and Harry Nicholas top the bill of speakers at a mass rally in opposition to the Incomes Policy which is to be held in Glasgow's 1,400-seat Concert Hall on Sunday, 15th January, at 2.30 p.m. The rally is sponsored by 10 trade unions including the TGWU, Scottish NUM, NALGO, ASSET and DATA.

TORIES FALL OUT

from a Glasgow reader

The split in Glasgow's Tory forces deepened last week when several Progressive (the name under which the Conservatives have generally fought elections in Glasgow) Councillors indicated that they would like to contest the Parliamentary by-election in Pollok, thus splitting the right-wing vote in retaliation for the Conservative Party's recent declaration that they would put forward candidates in the 1968 Glasgow municipal elections. This confusing situation has developed from the Central Office of the Tory Party deciding to put the Glasgow Progressives in their place. Politically, there is no real difference between the two groupings but relations are very strained indeed.

After the losses in the 1966 General Election, the Tory Party Central Office decided to put local groupings - both those directly Conservative and those who posture under a variety of other labels - in their place. The Tory chiefs decided, probably correctly, that the choice of Parliamentary candidates by these associations and the generally cliquish atmosphere prevailing in them did damage to the party's national interests. Whilst the Glasgow affair has some local peculiarities it fits into this pattern. However, if the threat is carried out it could cost the Tories a much-needed victory.

The current issue of Lloyds Bank Review contains an article by R.J. Nicholson, "The Distribution of Personal Income," which provides some useful information refuting the supposed trend to equality in incomes. The author is interested in trends and therefore considers unimportant such deficiencies of national income estimates as the confusion of individual and family incomes, and the failing to take into account undistributed profits and tax avoidance (which would throw doubt on the value of any comparisons between income groups at one point in time.)

Between 1949 and 1957, it is suggested, there was a general levelling out of pre-tax incomes. Whereas between 1959 and 1963 all incomes increased by a roughly similar percentage - between 25 and 27%. In addition the analysis shows the nature of the 1949-57 "levelling out" was really a redistribution from the extremes to the middle income groups - e.g., the bottom 30% of incomes receivers find that their share has declined by 24% by 1959, whilst the top 10% income bracket's share declines by only 12%. After 1957 there are no significant changes in the distribution of pre-tax incomes.

What of the great leveller of progressive taxation? The tables show that whereas after tax incomes have been tending more towards equality this is true only of those up to £2,000 - the upper income brackets were paying proportionately less tax in 1962/3 than they had been in 1956/7.

The most significant explanation given of the end of the equalitarian trend in income lies in the differing rates of growth of different types of personal incomes. Salaries grow twice as fast as wages between 1957-63, and the latter rate of increase was exceeded also by that of professional persons. More startling is the 72% increase in the income from rent, dividends and interest - as against the 29% increase in wages - more than a reversal of the relative increase in these types of personal incomes in the 1949-57 period.

ADVERTISERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST REVIEW - January-February issue now available

Includes: - In defence of Black power by George Breitman. An answer to some opponents of Black Power. Breitman is the editor of Malcolm X Speaks, and he has written extensively on Black Nationalism.

Programme of Polish Opposition by Jacek Kuron and Karol Modzewski. A translation of part of the Open Letter which caused its authors' current imprisonment in Poland. The full text is due for publication in New York. This part, chapter 10 of the document, outlines a programme of working class opposition to the entrenched bureaucracy.

Yugoslavia at the Crossroads. A first hand account of political and economic forces which are shaking Tito's regime. The article is based on notes of recent visitors to Yugoslavia and it includes an almost verbatim report of a programme for revolutionary change.

Monopoly Capital by Ernest Mandel. A lengthy review of the controversial Baran and Sweezy book on contemporary capitalism.

I.S.R. is available from Pioneer Book Service, 8, Toynbee St. London E.1. price 2/6d, plus 6d postage. Year's subscription is 15/6 for 6 issues.

MORE DESERT FROM SAIGON FORCES

In spite of increased penalties imposed by the Saigon government, the 1966 total of deserters from the Saigon forces looks like running higher than in 1965. According to the January 9th issue of U.S. News and World Report, military sources in Saigon admit that no less than 109,000 have deserted during the first eleven months of the year. This compares with a twelve month's total of 113,000 for 1965. Yet last spring the government introduced penalties ranging up to death for desertion, at the same time as they decreed an October 1st amnesty deadline. The response to the latter provision was negligible.

The same article reports U.S. military spokesmen as being extremely worried that the desertions will rise even higher when South Vietnamese troops take over responsibility for securing rural areas in the "pacification" programme. Says one such source: "The temptations will be greater, the motives greater for troops kept away from their families for long periods of time."

KY CRUSHES BUDDHIST MOVEMENT

The New York Vietnam News Service published in December a letter from a westerner who had recently returned to Hue, in South Vietnam, the scene of the main Buddhist opposition to Marshal Ky in spring 1966. The letter describes the ruthless suppression of Buddhist resistance by the Saigon government: "I am back in Hue Everything has changed. The Buddhist organisations have been dismantled, worse than by Diem, but more skilfully. The big leaders like Huan, Quyen, Le Tuyen have all been released after three months in prison. But the students and labour union leaders are doing slave labour in state plantations as coolies, have been tortured or have escaped to the NLF. It is said that Tuong - the philosopher you knew - has been killed by the police, but it is impossible to know exactly. Ton That Ky, formerly an anti-communist, went over to the NLF zone. The political life is completely paralysed, or gone underground. It gets worse every day. The military situation has turned strongly in favour of the Viet Cong. Not even the road to Phu Bai (the airfield) is safe. Only when you are in the field can you imagine the extent to which the American press has become brainwashed."

INVESTORS CASH IN ON VIETNAM

Pick's World Currency Report, an annual study of market fluctuations in currencies, securities and commodities, states that strategic goods constituted the best investments of 1966. Because of the Vietnam war, strategic goods such as Liberty ships and tankers provided the best return for investors for the first time since the Korean War. Within twelve months the price of a Liberty ship rose from \$225,000 to \$450,000, while the price of nickel, an important strategic metal, rose by more than 135 per cent during the same period.

END BRITISH COMPLICITY

IN VIETNAM

Join us this Saturday in demonstrating against the hypocritical support being given by the British Government to American aggression in North and South Vietnam. We call upon the British Government to dissociate itself completely from American action and to withdraw British troops guarding U.S. air bases in Thailand, U.K training of South Vietnamese puppet troops in Malaysia and complete withdrawal of all British support for the United States in their brutal war being waged against the Vietnamese people.

March with us to the Foreign Office, Saturday, January 14th.
Assemble on Victoria Embankment (opposite Charing Cross Station) at 2 p.m. Bring your own banners or carry ours.

Will you please help us by personally telephoning or otherwise contacting at least six people about the demonstration.

Making sure that no organisation is left uninformed about the demonstration.

Definitely coming yourself - with your friends.

REMEMBER! Malcolm Caldwell, who is one of our speakers returned from Hanoi only last Monday. Be sure to turn up to hear what he has to say about the atrocities being committed with the full support of the British Government.

Other speakers include:

David Horowitz.

Author of "Free World Colossus" and other works.

Bill Jones -

Assistant Secretary TGWU.

Ernie Roberts -

Assistant General Secretary of AEU.

(each speaking in his personal capacity).

John Palmer -

well known Labour militant.

Terry Lacey -

Young Liberal.

The meeting is being held at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, at 3.30 p.m.

VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN.

11a, Wormwood St,
E.C.2. 588 1924.

union ranks, Hugo Blanco looms over the whole South.

"This is the straight truth, without falsification, of what this man, who is prisoner today in Arequipa, means to the peasants.....'We owe him everything,' say the peasants.....'He is our chief,' they say. And in every peasant's home there is an empty bed. It is the one waiting for the leader when he was going around the region organising or when he was passing during the night...fleeing from the police....No other name exercises greater fervour among the men in striped panchos who speak the euphonious Quecha. The shadow of Hugo Blanco was present at all the interviews I conducted in the South.

"I am not exaggerating: the unity of the agrarian movement that has no limits....which can just as well turn peaceful and co-operative as explode in blood and gunfire, has, nevertheless, a name that unites the people of the mountains and the valleys, of the hacienda and the community - Hugo Blanco....The peasant hasn't forgotten and he is waiting. The persecution, the anaemia and troubles suffered by Hugo Blanco have converted him, perhaps more than his political theories, into a man whom the South will not forget.

Hugo Blanco was an agricultural student at the University of La Plata in Argentina. He gave up a promising career to devote himself to the cause of the workers and peasants of his native Peru. As a worker in a meat packing factory at Beriseso he learned at first hand how the workers lived. He became one of the leaders of the Partido Socialista de la Revolucion Nacional, the predecessor of the present Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores. He was one of the organisers of the demonstrations that greeted Richard Nixon on his ill-fated vice-presidential tour of South America in 1958. He then became deeply involved in the peasant movement in the Cuzco area. Quechua, the language spoken by Peruvian peasants since the time of the Incas, was his native tongue. He speaks the language of the peasants in more senses than one.

The peasants among whom he worked live a miserable existence. Out of 9 million hectares of arable land and natural pastures, 3% of the owners possess 83% of the farm area, and 97% of the owners possess 17% of the remaining area. There was no real progress towards agrarian reform and the peasants, organised in unions, under the inspiration of Hugo Blanco and his group, oppose the tenant system, demanding direct ownership of the land. They live in very bad conditions, with a daily intake of less than 1,200 calories, a diet similar to that of a concentration camp. They face virtually the highest infantile mortality rate in the world, and smallpox, tuberculosis, whooping cough and dysentery are endemic. Three million peasants live on the margin of society with a maximum wage of 8 soles (about 2/d) a day.

Because he organised these peasants to resist these conditions and to fight for a better life, Hugo Blanco now stands the risk of losing his life. Hugo Blanco is a Trotskyist but this fact does not interest the peasant much. The peasant brushes these things aside, he knows Blanco only as a leader, one who understands that for the peasant there is only "Land or Death." Up to now there has been only death. Thanks to Hugo Blanco's efforts to organise the peasants, there is now hope of land. This man must not become the victim of Peruvian reaction. British Labour must raise its powerful voice in his defence.

Act now! Save Hugo Blanco!

Published by The Week, 8, Roland Gardens, London S.W. 7.

Editorial note: we have had requests for a fuller statement about the Hugo Blanco case. Mr. Van Gelderen kindly agreed to write this article for us.

On September 8th, 1966, Hugo Blanco, the outstanding leader of the Peruvian peasants, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment, to be spent in the grim island fortress of El Frenton. The defence appealed against the savage sentence, passed by a military tribunal in Tacna. This appeal is now before the Supreme Council of Military Justice (Consejo de Justicia Militar) - a body consisting of army officers, which was to review the Tacna court record between November 7 and 12, and then consider its verdict. The date for this was not pronounced.

The prosecution is demanding the death penalty for Hugo Blanco, alleging that he was guilty of "premediated murder" (homicidio calificado). At the time of the Tacna trial, the prosecuting attorney did not dare to demand Hugo Blanco's death, because of the wide-spread international interest in the case. Now there is a very real danger that the Belaunde Government will take the opportunity of the appeal to rid themselves of a dangerous political enemy. Under a revised military code, enacted last year during a McCarthy-type witch-hunt, there can be no appeal against a decision handed down by the Supreme Council. Only vigorous international activity can now prevent sentence of death being passed. Student organisations in Peru, and sectors of the labour movement are doing what they can on a national scale, but they have to campaign within the context of a witch-hunt atmosphere. In addition, the defence is seriously hampered by lack of funds.

The National Executive of the Frente de Izquierda Revolucionario (Left Revolutionary Front), the organisation headed by Hugo Blanco, has appealed for demonstrations of international solidarity. Protests against the new threat to his life and demands for an immediate amnesty should be cabled to CONSEJO SUPREMO DE JUSTICIA, LIMA, PERU. Similar cables should be sent to Presidente Fernando Belaunde Terry, Lima Peru, and to the Peruvian Em bassy, 26, Sloan St., London S.W. 1., and copies airmailed to Hugo Blanco's attorney, Mr. Alfredo Battilana, Av. Nicola se Pierola, 966; @fficina 215, Lima, Peru.

Hugo Blanco occupies a unique position in the Peruvian peasant movement. This emerges clearly from a comprehensive report of the situation in the Cuzco valley by Hugo Neira, former correspondent of the Lima Expresso. This report, put out under the title: Cuzco; Tierra Y Muerta (Cuzco; Land or Death), published in Lima in 1964. It covers a period of six to nine months after the arrest of Hugo Blanco. Despite this Hugo Blanco, whose name appears almost everywhere on the walls of the houses in Cuzco, and is even painted on Inca ruins, to the astonishment of American tourists, dominates the scene everywhere as the main inspirer, the genuine leader of the revolutionary peasant movement. The Indians acclaim him in their meetings/^{and} are waiting for him to resume his place. In the Cuzco prison, prisoners told a journalist who was questioning them: "He is our leader, he is the leader of the peasants." Extracts from the report read:

"Fought by the right, his image distorted by prestige due to erroneous reports about him being a guerilla fighter, injured by the silence, if not sabotage, of the traditional, bureaucratic groups of communism, extolled by the FIR, feared and hated by the unorganized Vanaconas (Indians bound to personal service to the Landlords and the hacendados, admired by the

EXPENSE ACCOUNT CONGRESSMEN from a Washington correspondent

Representative Adam Clayton Powell of New York, stripped of his chairmanship of the Education and Labour Committee of the United States Congress, has accused his Democrat colleagues of "racial prejudice". Without in any way condoning the Harlem Representative's self-admitted freeloading, one must admit that there is a certain logic in his charge, to the extent that his accusers are displaying double standards in their attitude to him.

Powell, whose boast is that he can do anything a white man can do - and better, has probably upset some of his colleagues, not so much because of his actions, but because of the very open manner in which they were carried out - a manner which forced a public examination in areas which many would have preferred left unexplored. The disclosures of rewards for public service are likely to prove embarrassing to say the least.

A congressman is paid \$30,000 a year, plus several expense accounts - parts of which he can keep for himself if he does not spend them. He is also entitled to charge rent for an office in his home district. One Democrat from Indiana rented himself the front porch of his own home as an office in 1959. Records for the following year showed that six Congressmen stopped at Hawaii on their way home from the Antarctic. Their hotel bill at the Royal Hawaiian showed \$190 in charges under "bar". In each case the word "food" had been inked in. On other trips to Hawaii and New York, the word "Mrs" was marked out on hotel bills so that the full cost could be recovered as official personal expenses.

Most intriguing are the 1959 records relating to Representative Wayne L. Hayes, a Democrat from Ohio, who was the chief investigator of Powell. Hayes was then the chairman of a House delegation to a NATO Conference, during which period he charged no fewer than 47 plane trips between his home and Washington. The staff he selected to accompany him to Europe on the SS United States included two of his office employees and the managing editor of a newspaper in his home town.

A Democrat Representative from Texas, Omar Burleson, chairman of the Administrative Committee which supervises House spending (!) drew \$12 per day for 84 out of 88 days during the 1959 recess, investigating election and other matters in his home district. His charged workdays included Thanksgiving and Christmas.

GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN ATTACKS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

from a special correspondent

Republican Governor Reagan, who took office on January 1st, has quickly bared his reactionary teeth by planning to cut the University of California's annual budget by 10 per cent. His plan to seek a \$400 annual tuition fee at the now tuitionless University has been attacked by the University President at Berkeley, Clark Kerr, who said: "The cost of university education is already high. If it is increased it will set back the American dream of equality of opportunity, which most of all means equal opportunity for education."