

The Week

SCOTTISH NATION- ALISM

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
Vol 8 No 19 November 9th 1967

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by election blues

westminster pinks

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A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SCOTLAND
Vol. 8 No. 20 November 1977

by election plans

Westminster links

At Glasgow House, Parliament House, Edinburgh, the new members of the party

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BY-ELECTION BLUES - WESTMINSTER PINKS

The lesson of the by-elections in Gorton, Hamilton and Leicester is clear: if someone poisons the whisky in the House of Commons we could have a Tory Government next year. Hardly a Labour seat in the country is now safe from the Tories or the nationalists. The 1931 debacle could be mild compared with what faces Labour unless the present trend is decisively reversed. One would have thought that such a situation would have really led to the left-wing revolt the newspapers speculate about. On the contrary, we find that our left M.P.s support, "with utmost reluctance", the Government's economic policies.

The key thing is how to mobilise rank and file opposition to the Government. Unless this is done there is no possibility of reversing the relationship of forces inside the Labour Party. The present trend is for the left to leave the party, this can only be reversed if militants are convinced that someone is putting up a real fight inside the party. Voting, even "with utmost reluctance", for the Government on the very issue which has disaffected most of its supporters is exactly the wrong way to wage a fight. Putting a hard line might break the ranks of the present parliamentary left, but would this be a bad thing? Wouldn't it be better to have a smaller number of M.P.s who want to fight than a motley alliance? How many of the former lefts are holding jobs in the Government? How many times was it necessary in the past to twist and turn to maintain unity with them? Yet in the end, they made their choice.

But it is neither fair nor helpful to heap all the blame on to the left M.P.'s. They are just a few dozen people, trapped in the most sophisticated device for sapping socialist consciousness in the world. The trouble is that the views they hold, the methods they use, also prevail in the multi-million strong labour movement. Moreover, they can justifiably argue that William Warbey proved that a lone figure in the House of Commons, making the most heroic gestures, could not materially alter the situation. The main force opposing the Government just now is to be found in the trade union movement. It is a force which can and should fight the Government. Instead of urging their members to "go back to work so that negotiations can begin", leaders of unions which supposedly oppose the Government's economic policy should encourage every rank and file activity.

A mood is prevailing in the British labour movement: struggles are beginning, and people are groping towards organisation and a political understanding of how to organise the left. There are tens of thousands willing to go into action around a militant programme. Let our left M.P.'s give a lead, let them call for a united front of all those who want to fight Wilson on Vietnam and the wage freeze, let them demand from the trade union leaders that they, in turn, fight. If a stand like this were made, our left M.P.'s would be surprised at the response. They would not be alone. In one form or another, the people of this country are going to put Wilson and his Cabinet into the political dustbin soon. Let us all make sure that what follows is a move to the left. It is up to the left, at all levels, to give a fighting lead now. Tomorrow might be too late.

Every section of the left will be enthused by the election of Hugh Scanlon to replace Sir William Carron as chairman of the one and a quarter million strong A.E.U. The election represents a big switch in the second biggest union in Britain, a union which, moreover, is centred on the most strategic and growing industries. The election victory for the left will encourage other militant candidates, stimulate militant action by engineers (both official and unofficial) and help to bring about a drastic re-alignment within the Labour Party and T.U.C. The left can look forward hopefully to having a majority in the A.E.U. itself (there will be an election next year to replace Hugh Scanlon on the executive committee), and at next year's T.U.C. and Labour Party conference.

The most important thing is that the voting showed a real shift by the rank and file in the union's most hotly contested election. The fact that more people voted in the election than in any other on record speaks for itself. Moreover, the victory was so decisive that it does not appear that the right wing is going to try to challenge through procedural measures. Of great importance, too, is the fact that the voting figures put paid once and for all to the rumours about the way supporters of Reg Birch had voted. Those of us who work with supporters of Reg Birch are now vindicated in our belief that Reg Birch's vote would to to Scanlon.

But the struggle is not over in the A.E.U. because of this result. Many militants trade unionists have been elected before to such posts and the results have not been very encouraging. Hugh Scanlon would be the first to agree that what he needs, if he is to carry out his election policy, is an organised and very militant left in the A.E.U. This is the only way that he can be helped to resist the remendous right-wing pressures which will be put on him. In fact we can say that the most important aspect to this election is that it helps the process of building such a left. Having people in high positions in the trade union movement is, of course, no substitute for a clearly defined and organised left. This has wider implications, too: the decisive thing is not whether the left has a majority or not, but what policies are pursued. It is perfectly possible to envisage an arithmetical left majority at next year's T.U.C. and Labour Party conference - but what policies would it pursue? Those of us who attended the Scarborough Labour Party conference will remember the scene when Frank Cousins stood on his feet applauding Mr. Wilson. This incident, in itself of little importance, was symbolic of behaviour of most of the left at Scarborough. Unless the left fights for clearly alternative policies, we will be served up with a left variety of wilsonism. Left leaders, like Cousins, cannot create such left policy themselves. It is necessary to have an organised left to do that. Hugh Scanlon is a different kettle of fish insofar as he has come to power on the crest of a wave of rank and file militancy.

The election of Hugh Scanlon can be symbolic of a new relationship of forces in the British labour movement. The necessary pre-requisites are there: movement by the rank and file, the elements of an organisation and the beginnings of an alternative policy. We should make sure that his potentiality is turned into reality. In particular, Engineering Voice must be given every assistance to become a mass, national paper for all engineering trade unionists. It should be helped to elaborate a completely alternative policy from that of the right wing in the engineering industry: a policy based upon militant struggle against the wage freeze "opening the books", defence of trade union rights, workers control of hiring and firing, and nationalisation, under workers control, of the industry. If we can do this we will have turned Hugh Scanlon's election into a turning point for the British labour movement.

WILSON'S TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION.

The total number of employees in all index of production industries in the week ended September 16th were presented by the Ministry of Labour recently. Their estimate for production industries was 8,266,000 males and 2,840,000 females. "The overall total in these production industries was about 4,000 lower in September than in August, there was a decrease of about 10,000 males and an increase of about 6,000 females during the month". Said the ministry. In manufacturing industries only there were 5,838,000 males and 2,667,000 females for the same month, and according to the report, "Between August and September the total employment in manufacturing industries remained virtually unchanged." The estimated number of employees in manufacturing industries was 427,000 lower (249,000 males, 179,000 females) in September than in September 1966. "Over this period there was an overall decrease of 393,000 in total employment in manufacturing industries. There were decreases of 86,000 in engineering and electrical goods, 47,000 in vehicles, 36,000 in metal manufacture, 42,000 in other metal using industries, 69,000 in textiles and 49,000 in the clothing and footwear group". There were also decreases of 12,000 in construction and 23,000 in coal-mining. The ministry also added that in the week ended September 16th, the estimated number working overtime in establishments with 11 or more employees in manufacturing industries was 1,866,000 (35% of all operatives) each working about 8½ hours overtime on average. This was 149,000 more than in the middle of August. The aggregate number of hours overtime worked in the September week was 1,232,000 hours more than in the August week. The ministry estimated 84,000 (1.5% of all operatives) were on short time in these establishments, each losing 12½ hours on average -- 7,500 more than at the middle of August.

ISRAELIS PLANNING TO SETTLE IN ARAB TERRITORY

2,000 acres of land now being cultivated by Arabs on the western bank of the Jordan are shortly to be taken over by members of a new Kibbutz settlement that has already been established in this area. The settlement is at Kefar Etzion in the Hebron hills, ten miles south of Tel-Aviv. Forty young Orthodox Israelis established their Kibbutz along semi-military lines last month. In a reply to a question about what would happen to the Arabs, the Secretary said "I don't know. Our Government is seeing to that." These settlers will undoubtedly "make deserts bloom" at the expense of course of the Arabs, whose land they have stolen. Further evidence of the Israeli Government's plans for 'Zinnising' Arab territory can be seen in Levi Eshkol's talk of 'Greater Israel'. Also the Government controlled Radio Israel now no longer refers to the "west bank" area; it speaks of "Yehuda" and Samaria, thus implying an independence or divorce from Jordan.

THAILAND DEAL WITH UNCLE SAM: TROOPS IN VIETNAM EXCHANGED FOR MILITARY AID.

According to a statement from the Thai minister of the interior, General Praphas Charusthien, Thailand will send 10,000 troops to South Vietnam after the US gives Thailand more military aid. For a long time the Thailand government has played an important role of complicity in the Vietnam war. It has helped US aggression by furnishing the US air force with air bases. The biggest bombers have been using these bases recently for raids all over Vietnam, but so far Thailand has not sent any troops into Vietnam.

WILSON TO ARM SOUTH AFRICA?

The following piece is a collection of excerpts from an article in the Financial Times -- The government is approaching a decision on the highly controversial issue of whether it should resume supplying arms to South Africa, which have been banned for the last three years in accordance with a United Nations security Council resolution. Pretoria's request for arms is understood to have been under active consideration in Whitehall for some time, but the cabinet was plainly reluctant to give an immediate reply - particularly when it was seeking South Africa's cooperation to bring pressure on Mr Ian Smith to settle the Rhodesian crisis (our emphasis). -- Mr Thompson, the commonwealth secretary, who is on his way to Salisbury, had lunch in Pretoria with Dr Hilgard Muller, South Africa's foreign minister. Mr Thompson will arrive in Salisbury on Wednesday. He will probably have talks with Mr Smith, although at the moment White-Hall has little hope of them bearing fruit.

British ministers are sharply divided about the response to South Africa's interest in purchasing British military equipment, believed to be primarily warships and air-craft -- possibly the naval "Buccaneer".

It is believed that a few weeks ago Mr James Callaghan, the Chancellor for the the Exchequer, and Mr George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, were enclined to favour a modification of the arms embargo. Their argument is reported to have been that the equipment South Africa wanted was not the sort that it could use against its own Black African population, or against Africans in Rhodesia or elsewhere. (our emphasis) Meanwhile a South African arms order would help Britain's exports and its difficult balance of payments position, as well as encouraging South African cooperation in the search for a settlement with Mr Smith.

But it is believed that opposition to the Government is growing. A powerful group of ministers believes that a modification of the arms embargo would not only enrage many Labour MPs who are vigorously opposed to South Africa's apartheid system (the Labour party is pledged to oppose apartheid), but would antagonise the African and Asian states. The issue of modifying the embargo is believed to have been discussed when Dr Muller had talks with Mr Brown and the Prime Minister in London last month. Since then South Africa has been increasing its pressure. Recently Mr Piefer Botha, the South African defence minister accused Britain of failing to keep her military commitments to South Africa. He also hinted that future use of the Simonstown naval base - provided for when the Royal Navy withdrew earlier this year - might be denied to Britain as a result. Because Britain was not adhering to her military commitments, said Mr Botha, it was essential that South Africa's planning should allow for equipment from other sources. Last April the French government agreed to supply South Africa with three submarines at a cost of £12 million. Since then it is believed that South African arms buyers, who since 1964 had been by-passing Britain on their European visits, have had discussions in London.

NOTTINGHAM TRIBUTE MEETING TO CHE GUEVARA

from Martin Turner

About 50 people attended a meeting in tribute to Che Guevara in Nottingham on Friday night. The meeting which was organised by the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and the centre for Socialist Education was Chaired by Councillor Peter Price. Ken Coates who addressed the meeting spoke of the unique example of "Che" as a world revolutionary for after having played a major role in one revolution, then left to try to forge other revolutions. As Castro has said: "Che fell defending the interests, defending the cause of the exploited and oppressed peoples of this continent"

A constant source of encouragement is the growing sections of young workers and students in Britain are becoming familiar with and are adopting the ideas of Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and Frantz Fanon, and are holding up the achievements of the Cuban revolution as an attainable example for all oppressed peoples of the world.

"We're bocht and sold for English gold,
Sic' a parcel o' rogues in a Nation "

BURNS.

The result of the Hamilton By-election, should cause concern, but not dismay for Socialist. The election of a Scottish National Party M.P. and the defeat of a good, Trade Unionist, Labour candidate is a blow to the labour movement, but a much more positive event than the mass abstentions which beat Labour at Walthamstow. In a large part the vote at Hamilton was a protest, a letting off stea, at the betrayal of the hopes with which workers put the Labour Government into power. But it cannot be denied or ignored that it also represents a growth of support for Scottish independence.

The idea of independence has been knocking around Scotland for some years, but it is only since the Labour Government's inability to solve the greivances of unemployent, bad housing etc. that the S.N.P. has made spectacular advances, and it has made them by gaining the support of workers. The result at Hamilton was foreshadowed by the Municipal by-election in Glasgow's famous Gorbals, where the Nationalist slices heavily into Labours majority. It is vital that the Left takes a clear stand on the issue of Scottish independence. I believe it should be one of sympathy, if not outright support. The principle, that the Scottish, Welsh and Irish peoples should have the right to separat on from Britain has a long tradition in the Labour movement, stretching from the Chartists, through James Connolly and John McLean, to the early period of the I.L.P. We should re-assert this tradition, in fact, had it not been buried and forgotten, the initiative would not have gone to the S.N.P. However, since it does have the initiative we should examine its nature.

Formed out of a number of the small Nationalist groups which developed during the fifties, it is essentially a political rag-bag. Its hodge-podge programme, and emotional campaigning reflect the jumble of opinions, and basic political naivty of its members. But it does contain a growing number of workers and young people and its energetic activities reflect their desire for a radical solution to the problems of the Scottish people. Little of this radicalism finds its way into the Party's policies, but as the members develope political experience and maturity they will question the opportunist line of their middle-class leaders of late the party has soft pedalled on the demand for independence. The main plank in the Party's platform is for an independent Scotland, within the Commonwealth and loyal to the Crown. But in the Folk Clubs the young Nationalists sing: "We'll mak' our land Republican! In a Scottish breakaway."

Whether this radicalism can be developed in a constructive way depends on the attitude Socialists take towards and the relationships they develope with these sections of the Nationalists. For this reason a discussion in The Week would be valuable. Whatever happens politics in Scotland promise to be a lively affair for some time to come.

This is the text of a letter received on October 13th by the Chairman of Cambridge University Labour Club, from Transport House:

Dear Mr. Pritchard,

A few weeks ago you wrote to me concerning the Cambridge University Labour Club and Labour Party recognition. The NEC has decided that recognition and assistance be given in future to only one student organisation in any one educational establishment..

In accordance with this decision, recognition and assistance as regards Cambridge University will only be given to the Democratic Labour Club.

yours sincerely, H.R. Underhill.

In terms of the situation in Cambridge, what Uncle Reg is saying is that CULC has had its long-established links with the Labour Party broken off. A club with close on 900 members last term has been ejected, and in its place the NEC is recognising a small right-wing breakaway group, the DLC. In fact, the key figures on the Labour Club right who formed the DLC contained among themselves the leading organisers of the unsuccessful Transport House alternative to NALSO.

The context in which this latest act must be seen is clear. The Labour Club in the last two years had been too critical of the Wilson Government, and so hatchet-man Underhill was once again given the job of rooting out dissent. The attack on the whole democratic basis of the Labour Party continues: this is just one more example of what it does, and will, involve. In the largest and most militant demonstration that Cambridge has seen for a long time, Wilson was shown last week just what students thought of him. But this is not enough. Everywhere actions such as those reflected in the letter above must be resisted. Democracy must be reasserted by constituencies, trade unions and students. John Palmer, Nottingham, NALSO, and now Cambridge. Next year Uncle Reg will disaffiliate Party Conference.

THE KEN COATES DEFENCE FUND by Geoff Coggan

The Ken Coates Defence Fund, which was launched just before the Party Conference to facilitate his legal fight against the Labour Party, has already reached three figures. His fight for reinstatement is, of course, the latest stage in the Nottingham witch hunt which involved not only his expulsion but also the barring from office of three members of the City Party Executive. As readers of The Week will know, the three members won their own battle for reinstatement when the NEC conceded their case, settled out of court and agreed to pay their £300 legal costs.

The costs of that action give some idea of the difficulties faced by any individual who is forced to seek justice by such means, and it is of course scandalous that members of an avowedly democratic party are faced with this choice. The Coates case is not unique, and the importance of his fight is that it will be of direct help to others who are feeling the hot breath of Sara Barker and her coven of Regional Organisers. With other cases, such as the one mentioned in the article above, it has already led to a growing awareness of the situation in the constituencies.

On the same day last week, Fred Lee M.P., the newly appointed Minister for Northern Region Affairs, and Sir Paul Chambers, Chairman of I.C.I., spoke on the same topic of private enterprise. Except for Mr. Lee's display of sensitivity over the use of the word "profits", much of their speeches could have been interchangeable. Said Mr. Lee, "I sometimes wish that the word 'profits' could be dropped from our language, since it stirs up so many emotions which might usefully have been forgotten long ago."

Mr. Lee did not exactly specify a word which would be less emotive, but the gist of his speech to the Chemical Industries Association suggests that he thinks the phrase "The National Interest" will sufficiently sugar the pill. He looked to private industry to produce the greater part of the increased national wealth that is needed. The making of profits was incidental to this, and "should be the conscious goal of everyone in industry, whether he was on the shop floor or sitting at the chairman's desk."

Sir Paul Chambers, in a similar vein, spoke of the need to operate "vigorous expanding and enterprising businesses for the benefit not only of the owners and of the employers but of the national economy as a whole." Within a national economy which gives to 2 per cent of the population well over half of the nation's wealth, it is hardly surprising that Sir Paul says that private industry's major need is merely "to be left alone."

It is no longer surprising, though none the less scandalous, that the Labour Government should speak with the same voice as the chairman of one of the "commanding heights of the economy." If ever there was a clearly ordained candidate for nationalisation, it is the chemical industry. Instead, Clause Four is interpreted as meaning national investment in service industries of which the major beneficiaries are the giant private monopolies.

OIL INDUSTRY PROFITS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST WAR by a special correspondent

Recently published Company reports for the third quarter of 1967 show that United States petroleum companies were able to convert last summer's Suez "crisis" into one of the most profitable experiences in industry over the same period. A dozen of the largest international oil companies have so far reported. Of these, only one has failed to lift its net profits above the levels for last year's corresponding period, when most of the companies recorded record earnings for any quarter throughout their history.

All the firms concerned had appealed for Government aid last summer to enable them to "bridge the crisis", but all the higher earnings have been registered without any help from Washington.

COATES DEFENCE FUND Continued from previous page

It is highly indicative of this new awareness that twenty Constituency Labour Parties have already officially donated money to enable the NEC's action to be challenged in the High Court. Other support has come from Trade Union Executives and Branches, Members of Parliament, and many individual Party members. Many have stipulated that, under no account, must their donations be used to offset the NEC's reckless expenditure in the event of Coates winning his case with costs. The Fund will be administered with this in mind.

RALPH SCHOENMAN CHALLENGES US AUTHORITIES from a special correspondent

The latest news of Ralph Schoenman, who was expelled from Bolivia for his attempted intervention in the trial of Regis Debray, is that he is intending to contest at every level, the actions of the US government in holding him against his wishes.

His New York lawyer is reported to have stated that there were "unusual and disturbing features" about the manner in which he had been transferred from La Paz to Miami. American consulate officials in La Paz had seized his passport and issued him with a travel document valid only for the flight from La Paz. This temporary document was apparently taken from him on his arrival in Miami. He is now in New York, pending a Law suit in the Federal Court of Washington, which will seek to ask the State Department to grant a travel document to enable him to return to his London home and work.

AID THE VICTIMS OF REPRESSION IN PERU announcement.....

The committee for Solidarity with the Victims of Repression in Peru are holding a jumble sale on Saturday, 2nd December at 2.30 p.m., at the Methodist Church, Lancaster Road, off Ladbroke Grove, London W.10.

All the proceeds will go to the families of Latin American political prisoners. The Week readers who can offer any books, clothes, furniture, works of art, antiques etc., should ring 01-743-5791. Arrangements will be made to collect any jumble available in the LOWEGH AREA.

We understand that the Committee has already received some really attractive Children's books in new condition with good bindings and beautifully illustrated, suitable for ages from 8 to 14 years. These are available at prices from 7/6 to 10/- each. Here again all proceeds will go to political prisoners.

* * * * * INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY AND WORKERS' CONTROL CONFERENCE * * * * *
* sponsored by the RUISLIP CO-OPERATIVE PARTY *
* at the CAVENDISH PAVILION, FIELD END ROAD, EASTCOTE, RUISLIP. *
* SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th 1967. 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. *
* speakers: ERIC HEEFER M.P. *
* SID BIDWELL M.P. *
* REG TAYLOR, secretary: Ruislip CLP. *
* PAT JORDAN, The Week *
* Delegate fee : 2s. Od. (including tea) *
* Supported by C.L.P.s, T.U. branches, etc. *
* * * * * ALL LABOUR MOVEMENT GROUPS WELCOMED * * * * *

POLICE REVENGE FOR GROSVENOR SQUARE

- Roland Muldoon

I doubt if many readers of The Week don't already know whose side the police are on, even a few liberals must be shaken by their recent spate of activities. Their persistent frustration of left wing activities (recent victims being the Maoist in Hyde Park), and their indulgent persecution of black people is now coupled with a campaign to jail militant anti-Vietnam war demonstrators.

On November 6 at Marlborough Street Court two anti-war demonstrators were sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for assaulting police officers. The first, Paul Trehela, a past victim of South African police brutality, was accused of biting a policeman on the wrist in the vicinity of Oxford Street. The defending lawyer carved up police evidence and showed so many discrepancies in the case that the public in the court had it not been such a serious matter would have fallen about laughing, especially when the police witness said that the defendant had stated; "I am above the Law and will find my salvation in Chairman Mao". When the defendant's lawyer said "a Marxist Leninist wouldn't say anything so stupid as that," this was completely ignored. Credence was given only to statements by the police which (contradicting doctors evidence) said that the policeman with a fractured wrist caused by the bite, carried the defendant to the black maria after he had been thrown to the ground and been beaten up by the defendant. All of this had happened to the police officer in front of a police cordon. I shall leave the reader to draw his own conclusions.

Another case, to which I was witness, claimed that Toni Pinschof was charged with breaking a policeman's ankle. Although he pleaded guilty to resisting arrest he denied striking the policeman. Even the policeman apparently claimed in court that Pinschof punched him in the chest (here again the reader can draw his own conclusions). My evidence was that I saw Pinschof quietly leaving Grosvenor Square gardens when he was pounced on by four policemen, including an inspector, who, when making this random arrest shouted "We've got you, you vicious little animal" and dragged him across the park, during which he lost his glasses. I approached the scene (with as much middle-class effect that I could summon) and suggested the reason for Pinschof's struggle was because of his attack and his loss of sight. They dragged him off and I stayed looking for his glasses. Telling this to the court I was accused of not telling the truth. A photograph was then shown to me which showed Pinschof trying to escape from his assailants. When I said that this photograph had obviously been taken after Pinschof's assault by the law, Police Magistrate Robey implied he was only interested in the policeman's claim of a broken ankle and with the protection of the police. It was obvious that my evidence was of no use to him because it would give grounds to Pinschof's statement that the police had assaulted him. He is now waiting to be sent to detention centre for 3 months. So, once again we learn that our struggle in solidarity with the Vietnamese is at one with the struggle against the establishment of our own society.

Ed. The VSC has already registered a protest against these vicious sentences to Roy Jenkins the Home Secretary. It is obvious that these protests will carry more weight coming from individuals. Anyone wishing to register a protest should write to: Roy Jenkins, M.P. House of Commons, London S.W.1.

PROTEST MOVEMENT ADVANCES WITH V.S.C. from David Robinson.

Last week sixty of the most active supporters of the October 22 demonstration met in London to discuss the future activities of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. The militancy of the anti-Wilson demonstration at Cambridge on the previous Saturday was a very encouraging sign of the way in which local groups of activists are translating the lessons of Grosvenor Square into action. Representatives of the American Stop-IT Committee, the Australians and New Zealanders Against the War in Vietnam, and the L.S.E. Socialist Society were at the meeting and plans were agreed for similar small, but very militant, demonstrations to take place whenever Wilson or Brown visit a University or when a leading member of the U.S., Australian or New Zealand government visits Britain. We are in close contact with the American movement and if possible will organise another major demonstration in the new year in co-operation with the international Vietnam protest movement. In the meantime it is essential that pressure be kept up on the governments of those countries involved in Vietnam and the special nature of the British government's complicity must be made very clear. A research team has been set up to look into all aspects, both government and commercial, of British complicity. All those who can help with this research in anyway should contact David Slaney, 19 College Cross, LONDON, W.1. Already the pressure on the British government is forcing them into admissions which would have been hotly denied even a few months ago. In The Times on November 7 the following statement from Mr. Healey appeared in the Parliamentary report.

"Mr. Dickens (Lewisham West, Labour) asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many United States and South Vietnamese troops and policemen had been trained at the British Jungle Warfare School, Johore, Malaya, since 1964, and the cost to the British taxpayer.

Mr. Healey, in a written reply, stated that, excluding those currently in training, the numbers since January 1, 1964 were 240 United States troops and 1,035 South Vietnamese troops. The numbers currently in training were respectively 48 and 45. The cost to British taxpayers was £132,364 for the South Vietnamese troops. No United States or South Vietnamese policemen had undergone training at the Jungle Warfare school. No training in physical torture was given."

A very good response has been received to the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign's fund-raising appeal but far more money will have to be raised if the campaign is to establish its own office and continue to expand its activities. We need 100 serious supporters of V.S.C. to give us £1 a month by bankers' order and our existence will be assured. We also need a large number of voluntary workers - offers of help to: V.S.C., 49 Rivington St., LONDON, E.C.2. Telephone 739 6951.

A concert will be held on Friday, December 22 to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the foundation of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. As well as being a celebration of this important milestone in the Vietnamese people's struggle for freedom we hope to raise enough money from this event to ensure the success of a major demonstration early in the new year. Preliminary details are on the opposite page.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Mass Rally by Mineworkers.

Over 3,500 members of the National Union of Mineworkers from all parts of Britain took part in a meeting at Central Hall, Westminster, on November 7. The militant mood of the miners was set by national secretary, Will Paynter. He warned the government that the loyalty and support of the miners are rapidly reaching breaking point. The government coal demand figure of about 155m. tons in 1970 would mean displacing 135,000 men and closing down 173 pits. The prospect of a 120m. ton output in 1975 was nothing short of catastrophic. He said that this would create colossal social problems in the coal-mining communities which it was not in the power of the government to solve in the short time available. It is essential that pits be kept open and men kept in work until the planned new industrial estates are functioning. About 80 M.P.s attended the demonstration and Mr. Paynter said the battle would be taken into the House of Commons.

Miss Jennie Lee, chairman of the Labour Party, was constantly interrupted during her speech and there were shouts when she said she thought the present industrial revolution could be carried out with the utmost consideration for the working men and their families. The meeting carried a resolution calling for a period of stability and said the government must provide a suitable climate of confidence by underwriting the industry at about its present level, ensure that maximum use was made of coal, assume the total social cost of concentration and suspend payment of the Coal Board's remaining liabilities. The government should also ensure that oil, natural gas and nuclear power would replace imported rather than indigenous fuels.

Vauxhall Workers Attack National Executive.

After the national executive of the National Union of Vehicle Builders refused to accept the election of Mr. Leary, chief negotiator in the recent dispute, as secretary of the Luton district committee local members threatened to tear up their union cards. Arthur Leary was dismissed by the executive from his job as east Midlands area organizer on October 9. Two days later he was appointed Luton district secretary of the union and played a prominent part in representing NUVB members at the Vauxhall negotiations.

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT
OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

Celebration concert, December 22 - 7.30pm - 11.30pm.

Seymour Hall, near Baker St., 12 hours of entertainment in 4.

Adrian Mitchell, Cartoon Archetypical Slogan Theatre, Ginger Johnson and his African Drummers, Films, Folk Singers, Pop Groups, Light Shows, Licensed Bar, etc.
Tickets 10/- each from V.S.C. Concert, 49 Rivington St., London, E.C.2.

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

"WORKERS' CONTROL"

The Report of the 5th National Conference held at Coventry, June, 1967
Published by Centre for Socialist Education. Edited by Tony Topham.

162 pages price 10/-

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