

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
Vol. 9 No. 2 January 10th 1968

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Nottingham:
another
workers'
control
conference

THE LEFT

SHOULD BACK

SOCIALISM!

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THE LEFT SHOULD BACK SOCIALISM

At the time of writing the alternative programme which left M.P.s have been working on for some time has not been published. Neither has a definite decision been announced about prescription charges. The newspapers are full of stories that Jennie is to resign because the decision to impose the charges has been taken. One malicious report in the Evening Standard of January 10 suggested that Mr. Wilson wants Jennie Lee to resign because this would prove his seriousness to the foreign bankers. Clearly we are on the eve of big events. The Government is now backing the phoney scheme to persuade workers to work longer hours without more pay. On the other hand Britain's two biggest unions have rejected Government attempts to interfere with their wage claims - the AEU also specifically rejecting the "I'm backing Britain" campaign.

The left has to do two main things in this situation: firstly, it must avoid at all costs being involved in drawing up a rival capitalist solution to the present economic crisis; and secondly, it must seek to bring about a state of affairs in which the might of the millions of individual members of the trade unions and Labour Party is brought into play. The experience of being caught out by calling for devaluation should not be forgotten: today everyone knows that devaluation every day is causing a higher and higher cost of living. The demand for socialist measures must be inserted into the great discussion which is sure to follow on from the announcement of Government cuts. A chance to mobilise a fight against the Government presents itself over busmen's case. Gunter's arrogant threat to use the Price and Incomes legislation against the TGWU over the municipal busmen's pay award should be met head on. Members of the TGWU should call upon their union executive to organise a national fight on this issue. The rest of the movement must denounce Gunter's threats and pledge solidarity with the TGWU.

A programme for the left needs two essential ingredients: firstly the participation of the largest number of rank and file members; and secondly, it must be conceived in struggle. The programme drawn up by the left M.P.s should be a basis for discussion rather than a finished programme. During the course of the year, at union conferences, at the forthcoming conference of the Campaign for a Democratic Party, at the workers control conference in Nottingham, and at specially convened conferences a programmatic alternative to Wilsonism must be thrashed out. This programme should then be presented for adoption by the TUC conference and the Labour Party.

Whatever form the inevitable struggle between the busmen and the Government takes (we hope it will be in the form of a national stoppage but that is a matter for the TGWU militants to struggle for) the left must organise effective solidarity action. Committees of support should be organised in all major towns and every left organisation and journal should champion the busmen's case. It is to be hoped that this leads to the first major mass action against Wilson's anti-working class policies since the seamen's strike.

(N.B.: this article is based upon material in a Lockout Committee press release. Full details of the rally are given in an advert on page 12.)

The settlement between the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers and the management of CBR Jersey Mills, Brighton, continues to provoke widespread indignation throughout the labour movement. Protests at the behaviour of the union leadership have been flowing in from union branches and trades councils all over the country. The Brighton Trades Council, which speaks of "shabby, squalid settlement", regards the agreement which left the victimised trade unionists at CBR without jobs, as one "which destroys the whole basis of trade unionism." The Sussex Federation of Trades Councils passed unanimously a resolution calling for an investigation of the settlement by the General Council of the TUC, while the president of the Sussex University Students' Union saw the agreement as "nothing more nor less than a sell-out."

Despite the termination of support by the union, money is still coming in; the Association of FOCs sent £97. 3. Od, and the Odhams Process Chapel at Watford continues to hold weekly collections. The widespread support for the CBR men is shown by the fact that the Lockout Committee press release is able to quote the reactions of a number of journals within the labour movement including Tribune, Solidarity, The Week, etc., all critical of the union leaders. New Left Review is quoted as follows: "The news is..not altogether unexpected for any of us; the union bureaucracy is divorced from the shop-floor, deliberately so, since the existence of a bureaucracy supposes the existence of interests - its own - to defend."

A Brighton worker is quoted: "As a trade unionist I was disgusted at the betrayal the CBR picket has experienced by the shady deal with the CBR management. It is at times like these that trade unionists realise that even in their own organisations there exist such reactionary villains."

The situation now at CBR is that the 13 men still locked out - having repudiated the settlement - are now forced to recognise that the union is no longer trying to secure their re-instatement. Picketing has continued, and there have been allegations of assaults upon the pickets being made by some of the "scabs." It is likely that the workers and their supporters will raise the issue at the next meeting of shareholders, having bought shares for the purpose. Also the campaign for trade unionism at CBR may be revived in the future since local workers recognise the danger of having a shop like CBR in the area. The Lockout Committee has been touring the Midlands seeking the support of other hosiery workers and they ask: "We also wish to have the names and addresses of any NUHKW members, collectors or committee members, so that we can get in touch with them." (Any Week reader who can help should send the information to CBR Lockout Committee, 7, Sillwood Place, Brighton.)

The Lockout Committee continues: "We particularly wish our point of view to be stated at the Whitsun conference of the NUHKW. Only district Committee members are delegates to the conference. Unless one of the committee members is prepared to learn from us what has been happening the truth will not come out at the conference. We would also like a resolution regarding the dispute to be proposed before 21st February, 1968. We are also concerned to make the NUHKW more democratic at the 1968 Rules Revision Conference...."

Militant demonstrations are being planned in many countries to commemorate the first mass demonstration in South Vietnam against American involvement in the Vietnam war. This took place on March 19th., 1950, when thousands of students took to the streets in protest against the presence of an American warship in Saigon harbour and against the increasing support by the U.S. for the French in their fight against Vietnamese nationalism. A call has come from the Vietnamese for an International expression of solidarity with them in their struggle during the week of March 17th - 24th. Already in Britain the Stop-It Committee is planning a number of local actions during the week in cooperation with local V.S.C. branches and meetings have been called in Glasgow and in London to form Ad Hoc Committees to organise mass rallies. In London it is planned that meeting in Trafalgar Square and a march to the U.S. Embassy should be held on Sunday, March 24th. as the culmination of a week of militant activity.

The main slogans will be "Solidarity with the Vietnamese People Against American Aggression," and "Vietnam, End British Complicity," but those taking part will be free to march under their own banners and slogans. The Ad Hoc Committee will be organised along similar lines to the one which organised the successful October 22 demonstration and will remain open to any organisation supporting its programme. The committee is setting up small groups to plan the various aspects of organisation and publicity; posters, leaflets, speakers, stickers, organisation of local meetings to gather support, etc. It is estimated that the total cost of organising this demonstration will be around £300; this includes the cost of printing 25,000 stickers and leaflets and 5,000 posters, plus postage and stationery, press advertising, banners etc. but does not include any office expenses or wages. The Vietnam Solidarity Campaign is giving all the money raised at the concert on December 22nd., £150, towards March 24th., However, if we are to make this even more effective than October 22nd. then we must double the numbers involved - 20,000 people should be our aim. This means that it is essential we receive donations from other organisations and individuals taking part. We now have the experience of organising a mass demonstration and what we now need is the means to put this experience into action.

Donations should be sent to; March 24th Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee, c/o Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, 49 Rivington St., LONDON, E.C.2.

Over the last two months V.S.C. has proved its will to continue as an independent organisation and has raised sufficient money to the March 24th mobilisation. The future of the campaign after March depends on us proving our relevance by our militant action. In this way we will receive the support needed to ensure our future existence.

Groups planning local activity during March 17th - 24th or who will be bringing coaches down to London should contact me at the above address for help with leaflets, stickers, speakers at local meetings etc. We will be organising work parties to make banners and flags and to arrange for the distribution of leaflets, stickers and posters. At present this will be at 49 Rivington St. every Thursday from 6.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.

Following an open letter sent to the Mayor of Brent in September last, on behalf of the Brent Federation of Council Tenants' Associations, there appeared in the local press, a statement issued by the Housing Chairman, Alderman Philip Hartley, to the effect that no rents or rates would be increased in the immediate future. There followed certain criticisms of the letter and allegations that it contained many inaccuracies and misapprehensions. Whilst welcoming his assurance about rents and rates, we were concerned to be informed about the charges, of inaccuracies, i etc. Our attempt to obtain such information from the Town Clerk was met with a reply full of evasions. We were informed that the correspondence was to be referred to Alderman Hartley for his attention. A letter from the Housing Chairman contained a statement to the effect that our letter was written under the assumption that rents would be increased in Brent, and that our criticism of the "rebate scheme" was inaccurate. This was followed by an invitation to meet him and other interested members of the Housing Committee.

My organisation decided to avail ourselves of the opportunity and arranged for the meeting to take place at Brent Town Hall, 11th December, at 8.00 p.m. 12 delegates were elected to form our delegation. On the evening of the meeting we gathered together at the Town Hall, in a room allocated for this purpose. Sharply at eight o'clock there appeared Alderman Hartley and his committee clerk. After the meeting had been in progress for some time two other interested Councillors, Mrs. Lousie Dunbar and James Goudie, came in. No doubt the most vocal elements responsible for the unjustified accusations made in the press thought discretion was the better part of valour and found reasons for being conspicuous by their absence.

The poor attendance by the Housing Committee members, is to be deplored in the circumstances after the press publicity given to their unsubstantiated charges. Asked in view of the 8% bank rate imposed alongside devaluation, whether his public statement on rents and rates still held good, Alderman Hartley replied that this was so, and should rents be increased he would probably resign. It was pointed out that the councils are big borrowers and almost all their major projects were financed by loans on which interest is paid. Would this not mean that putting up interest rates means putting up the cost of essential jobs? Further, the councils are big buyers of commodities, and will not the extra burden of increased costs of goods and services be another burden on the rates? Is it not a fact that the housing account will have to face extra costs and would this mean that any deficit would have to be met from the general rate fund? Alderman Hartley did not disagree about the consequences of devaluation.

Arising from the Government's economic measures do the council leaders expect the Government to order a cut in spending? If cuts are to be made could we be told what schemes are likely to be halted? Would housing schemes go ahead? We were told that it was not possible to specify where the cuts would be made at that juncture, but he thought housing schemes would not be effected. Questioned whether the Finance Committee had yet evaluated the full effect on the borough of the increased bank rate alongside devaluation, he replied that this had not yet been calculated. We told him that in the neighbouring Camden, this had been put at about £200,000 in a full year. The Housing Chairman's attention was drawn to a memoranda from the Borough Treasurers' Incomes & Expenditure Account for 1966/7 in which he had included in incomings to finance expenditure a sum of £400,540, this being the rates payments of tenants. It was pointed out that these rates are the payments of tenants for the services they receive from the council. They have nothing to do with them being tenants. Thus ^{the} figures should have shown housing accounts excluding rates. And the the proportion of loan to running costs should be 31% running costs, 69 Interest & Loan Repayment. Not

as his figures show: 26% running costs as against 58% Loan and Interest Repayment.

After two and half hours of hard-hitting questions and proposals put forward by delegates, Alderman Hartley promised to reply in writing with the information asked in many of the questions raised, and which was not available at the time of the meeting.

In conclusion it was apparent that no case could be made by the Housing Chairman to substantiate the many inaccuracies with which the open letter had been charged with via the press. When asked if the council would assume the duty and responsibility for leading a public campaign to force the Government to increase its assistance to council housing costs, to end the vast sums being made out of interest rates paid by councils, and to use their powers to curb those of the District Auditor, he was not willing to advocate such a course of action. We reminded Mr. Hartley of the Prime Minister's recent statement that the Government will not hesitate to act if local authorities impose intolerable rent burdens on council tenants. We pointed out that if the Prime Minister meant what he said he will hesitate no longer in using the powers the Government has to reduce the rates of interest. In our view the certain fall in the standard of living at a time of wage restraint, short-time working and rising unemployment, makes rents increases indefensible.

+ This article was delayed because of the Christmas holidays.

HOUSE BUILDING BILL TO GO UP £40 MILLION by a building correspondent

According to a recent survey by the industry, increased costs are likely to add at least £40 million to Britain's housebuilding bill this year. Recent increases include 7½% on copper fittings and 10% on aluminium products. Timber costs are expected to go up by anything up to 20% during the course of the year, and the industry is seriously concerned about the effect of recent road haulage measures (including the Transport Bill). Some building industry sources have forecast that devaluation will put up costs by at 3-4% by the middle of the year. It is very difficult to make exact estimates of how these changes will affect particular projects but the following forecast of the effects of recent increases was made recently in a technical journal:

INCREASE EXPECTED ON A HOUSE NOW COSTING £7,000:

Dearer Timber	£50	Copper	£25-£30
Imported heating units	£10	Electrical equipment	£20
Sanitary ware	£5	Plaster board	£5
Ironmongery	£5-£10	Sundries	£25-£30
Bricks	£25	Recent pay rise	£10

These figures are interesting, they reveal that despite all the talk of wages being responsible for increases in costs in fact other things are more important. Thus the recent (and last) cost of living bonus to builders adds only the same to cost of a building as the increase - caused by devaluation - in the cost of heating units. Many other factors listed above are also principally due to Government policy, e.g, dearer timber. The Tenants and building workers should unite for a change in Government policy so that increased wages and cheaper housing are possible.

"...nearly all 'democratic socialists' ", according to Philip Toynbee in the New Statesman (Jan. 6), are democrats before they are socialists. From this he goes on to develop the theme that it would be "silly to go on thinking in terms of a 'socialist Britain' (or to go on talking about 'socialist policies' as a possible choice for the present government."

A leftist government, according to this democratic socialist thinker may, with good luck, sneak into power in Britain about once every 20 years. It should make the best use of the 5 years it is in office. It must, of course, abandon all hope of 'murdering the capitalist beast, but (should) try to humanise him to such an extent that he...will become aware of his own hideousness and undergo...voluntary course of plastic surgery."

There is, one must admit, at least a basis of truth in Mr. Toynbee's premis. Most of those who call themselves democratic socialists share his pessimism about the possibility of socialism. They go further than that -- they make the word 'socialism' mean what they want it to mean. In their looking-glass world anti-trade union legislation; savage cuts in the social services; political and military alliances with the world's most powerful capitalist power and support for imperialist wars of aggression are all identified with 'socialism'. Thus a 'democratic socialist' Minister of Labour can assure the Institute of Directors that he is contemplating legislation which will curb the workers' right to strike, revealing to all the world that in the last analysis your 'democratic socialist' is not only not a socialist but is also not a democrat. For the right to strike -- whether official or unofficial -- is, surely, one of the fundamental tenets of democracy.

Democracy is a word with many meanings. Classical Greece is often described as the birthplace of democracy but it was democracy only for the slaveowners. The United States, despite the grandiose promise of the Declaration of Independence ("All men under God, are born free and equal"), supported chattel slavery until late in the last century and today the black descendants of those slaves still fight and die for that promised equality. The British "Mother of Parliaments", ruled for years, despotically, over the slave colonial empire with, sometimes a 'democratic socialist' government in temporary charge of the state machinery of oppression.

To most 'democratic socialists' democracy means the right to cast a vote every so often in local or parliamentary elections. Once elected there is nothing to stop a government from passing legislation directly contradictory to the programme on which it went to the country. The present crisis through which Britain is passing has demonstrated, once and for all, that it is not the electorate which determines Government policy. It is big business at home and abroad which tells the Government, whether 'democratic socialist' or Tory, what to do. This is not democracy but a mockery of democracy.

If space permitted this theme could be developed. The organs of mass communication are in the hands of the same people who control the economic life of the country. Workers produce the nation's wealth but have no voice in its distribution. Women still have to battle for full social and economic emancipation. Immigrants and their descendants are treated as a source of cheap labour and as second-class citizens.

Cont. --

SOCIALISM AND DEMOCRACY (cont.)

Socialists want to extend democracy and not restrict it. They want to give real power to the people through workers' control of the economic as well as the political life of the country. They want legislatures subject to the will of those who elected them and the right to recall representatives who fail to carry out the wishes of the electors. When Philip Toynbee and those who share his views understand this they will know that genuine socialism and genuine democracy are inseparable and that socialist will never abandon their fight for socialism for a few pitiful reforms over twenty years.

DATA AND THE ANTI-VIETNAM WAR CAMPAIGN from a Trade Union Correspondent

The Executive Committee of D.A.T.A., the draughtsmen's and technicians' union, has circulated all branches drawing attention to the resolutions passed at the 1967 T.U.C. and Labour Party Conferences, and asking them to press for implementation of these resolutions in all political and union organisations to which D.A.T.A. is affiliated. The D.A.T.A. delegate moved the successful motion on Vietnam at the Trades Union Congress.

The No. 16 District Committee of the union (West London) already attempts to go beyond the scope of the two "disassociate Britain" motions. In a resolution to the E.C. of D.A.T.A. it calls on the E.C. to do all in its power to get the British trade union movement to express its opposition to this war by holding a national one day stoppage.

LONDON YOUNG COMMUNIST GET "TOE PARTY LINE" WARNING from John Clapton

At the first meeting of the new London District Committee of the Y.C.L. a number of severe warnings were issued. First Peter Ackerman, giving the report of the District Congress warned that branches should cease support for and connection with the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. He further demanded that branches should cease to support and propagandise the philosophy of "black power." Both these issues caused major storms at the London District Congress.

After this, Trevor Hyett, until recently editor of Challenge and now full-timer for the Y.C.L., warned of a dangerous new development. It appeared that branches have taken to producing their own journals which are actually discussing international and home affairs, not to mention Y.C.L. policy! This said Hyett, was not the role of branch journals, which should confine themselves to local issues. Y.C.L.ers wishing to have discussion articles published should send them to the bi-monthly Y.C.L. journal, Cogito. All articles submitted would receive "every consideration."

DOES SACKING EQUAL BACKING?

from a North West Reader

According to Vickers bosses it appears that sacking workers is Backing Britain. When 200 members of the AEU, who work on the Polaris submarine *Repulse*, were informed that 60 of them were redundant they promptly banned overtime. Notices were served on the first 20 men on January 7th and the workers rejected a plan by the company to cut down the number of dismissals by introducing an extra shift, rightly being very suspicious of this proposal. A spokesman for Vickers, the men's employers then issued a statement which said: "Their attitude is hardly one of backing Britain." This incident confirms the growing feeling among active trade unionists that the "I'm backing Britain" campaign is just a device to whip up anti-trade union feeling.

SIXTH WORKERS' CONTROL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN NOTTINGHAM from Pat Jordan

The sixth national conference on industrial democracy is to be held in Nottingham on Saturday and Sunday the 30th and 31st of March. A number of leading trade unionists have already agreed to participate. They include: Hugh Scanlon of the AEU, Ernie Roberts of the AEU and Lawrence Daly of the NUM. The chair will be taken by Bill Jones vice-chairman of the TGWU and a member of the General Council of the TUC. Ian Mikardo, MP, who is a member of the executive committee of the Labour Party will be present. Other speakers will include Michael Barratt-Brown and Royden Harrison.

During the conference there will be special seminars on the problems of such industries as mines, docks, aircraft, chemicals, steel, motors, engineering, public transport and public services. There will also be a seminar on education. These seminars will include both leading authorities on the industry concerned and active trade unionists who work in them.

Delegates will receive all the papers of the conference, together with a book containing a full report of last year's conference in Coventry. The delegation fee will be 10/6 per head. It will be extremely useful to the organisers if these fees are sent off as soon as possible as this will assist in the general planning of the conference.

Although there will be a limited amount of hospitality available with supporters of the conference in Nottingham, most delegates will have^{to} either make their own arrangements or be accommodated in one of the Halls of Residence at the University. The latter will cost £2.12.6 for the period of the conference but this includes all main meals and sleeping accommodation. Should anyone be unable to meet the cost of their board they should write privately to the organisers at their earliest convenience so that they have priority in the allocation of hospitality. Those who would like to book a place at the University should send a £1 deposit in addition to the delegation fee.

The conference will be held in the University and a social will be arranged at a pub in the city during the Saturday evening. Delegates will receive copies of the preliminary agenda and other details as soon as they have registered. The organisers would like to have suggestions for further seminars.

It is hoped to make travel arrangements which reduce the cost of going to Nottingham. The Week will publish details of these as soon as they become available. Already it is known that at least one van and several cars are going from London.

Applications, further information, requests should go to: Mrs. Margaret Price, 54, Park Rd., Lenton, Nottingham. The conference is sponsored by the Centre for Socialist Education in association with Voice of the Unions and Labour's Voice.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS: The Radical Student Alliance is holding a two-day conference, January 13th and 14th at the New Theatre, London School of Economics, Houghton St., London W.C. 2. Among the topics to be discussed will be Student Power, Student Representation, Finance, Students and their role in Society, International Student Affairs, Vietnam and South Africa. Interested people should telephone the LSE for the exact time the conference commences. All students are welcome.

ADVERTISERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Socialist Review

Contents of the January-February issue

1. The Case for an Independent Black Political Party: The controversy over the concept of Black Power has sharply posed the question in America of political strategy and tactics in the struggle for Afro-American control over the basic instrument in the fight for power: the political party. This document draws the lessons of the recent eruptions in the black communities and projects a course of action designed to maximize the political potential and striking power of the Afro-American minority.
2. American Politics and the 1968 Election: The war in Vietnam has placed its stamp upon every aspect of American political life and looms as the key question in the 1968 presidential election. A basic analysis of the economic, political and social problems that have shattered the Lyndon Johnson consensus and have given rise to the movement of political dissent and incipient radicalization.
3. Imperialist Dynamics and the War in Vietnam: A report to the recent Socialist Workers Party convention by Joseph Hansen, editor of World Outlook, on the mounting crisis of the world capitalist order and the role played by the American imperialist dynamic in exacerbating the contradictions of a decaying social system.
4. Evolution of the American Antiwar Movement: An historical review of the development of the antiwar movement in the United States and its internal dynamic.

3/6 plus 6d post.

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A new pamphlet just off the presses.....

An Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory

by Ernest Mandel

Mandel has a world-wide reputation as a Marxist economist. This is one of the best and most lucid expositions of Marxist economics to appear in English for many years. Originally published in French, it is based upon a series of lectures given to the Paris Federation of the United Socialist Party. Now available in this country for the first time.

8/6

Write to Pioneer Book Service
8, Toynbee Street,
London, E.1.

TILES' BOSS GETS £1760 PER WEEK

The following report appeared in the Sunday Telegraph of 7/1/68.

"The biggest pay packet ever to be revealed by a British company chairman is that belonging to Mr. Owen Arthur Aisher, 67, head of Marley Tile building products group. His salary last year was £91,722, or more than £1760 a week. The pay of Marley directors is published for the first time in the company's annual report, which reached shareholders this week-end. Mr. Aisher's pay in 1966 was £75,595. The previous highest salaries disclosed by companies have been in the £50,000 range.

SCOTS MINERS' M.P. SUPPORTS SPOCK

On January 7, Mr. T. Dalyell, Labour M.P. for West Lothian, sent a telegram of support to Dr. Benjamin Spock, the American "baby" professor, who faces charges over his opposition to the Vietnam war. The telegram to Dr. Spock, who is professor of paediatrics at Rochester University New York, said: "Every best wish. Support you, your wife and struggle." Mr. Dalyell is sponsored by the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, whose general secretary, Lawrence Daly, has a fine record on Vietnam, including being a member of the International War Crimes Tribunal.

ALBERT FINNEY TO PLAY CHE GUEVARA IN FILM

According to press reports, Albert Finney, 31, the British actor, is to play the role of Che Guevara in the film about the Cuban guerrilla leader, which is planned by Tony Richardson, the film producer. Mr. Richardson and Alan Sillitoe, who will write the screenplay, have gone to Cuba (where they are attending the Cultural Conference) Argentina, and Bolivia to research the film.

TEXTILE MILL CLOSURE ANNOUNCED AS WILSON VISITS NORTH WEST

Tulleth Spinning Mill at Preston, which has had more than £1,250,000 spent on modernisation in recent years, is to close. This announcement was made during the course of Wilson's visit to the North West, and it is not thought that it is a co-incidence. 500 workers are to lose their jobs. The rundown in the labour force will start with the laying off of the night and evening shifts on February 9-10. The rest will be phased out over a period of weeks as orders are completed. A notice posted in the mill yesterday said the shutdown was the result of "the disruptive effect on trade of the huge volumes of imports and the unhelpful attitude of the present Government." Jack Furness, the company's managing director, said: "We had hoped for better things from this Government. This situation is deplorable." A report on trading conditions in the textile industry, published in Manchester on January 8th. shows that the majority of firms in cotton textiles, clothing and allied trades suffered major setbacks during 1967. The net earnings, after tax, of 155 companies controlling more than 500 mills and textile factories amounted to £61m. compared with £75,250,000 in 1966.

COVENTRY PAPER REFUSES TENANTS' ADVERT

A quarter-page advert, headed "Withold the rent increase!" submitted by the secretary of the Coventry tenants' federation has been refused by the advertising manager of the Coventry Evening Telegraph. Apart from the advert heading, the message thanked the tenants who had "refused to pay the vicious 50 per cent rent increase" in the first week it came into operation. It continues: "Their action, along with that of thousands of Walsall and Sheffield tenants, shows the determination of council tenants to win the just fight against extortionate rents and is an example to all other tenants not yet withholding the increase. Having secured an excellent response to our campaign in the first week of the increases, we now all on other tenants for their support. Already more Coventry tenants are refusing to pay the increase than did so in Walsall in the corresponding week of their massive struggle. No threat of the council will divert the tenants' movement from the pursuit of its aim; the complete withdrawal of the rent increases." The message is then signed by leaders from eight different tenants' associations throughout the city. Mr. Jim Suddick, chairman of the tenants' federation, said that a formal complaint to the Press Council would be made.

MILITANT BARMAIDS IN GRIMSBY

The following item appeared in the January issue of Humberside Voice: "One hundred and thirty Grimsby barmaids have joined the Transport and General Workers' Union. Their aim is to have a shop steward barmaid in every pub. Most of these women are working for a meagre 3s.5d. an hour, whereas most barmen in the area are earning 4s.6d. an hour. The women complained bitterly that the barmen refuse to do anything but serve drinks. They, on the other hand, have to clean shelves, scrub tables and wash walls as well as serve drinks. The barmaids are pressing for an immediate increase in wages. They do at least seem to have the support of their customers. One landlord threatened to sack any barmaid that joined a union, but changed his mind when customers said they would walk out if he did. Grimsby's unionised barmaids also won their Christmas Day holiday.

MORE SUPPORT FOR MANCHESTER VIETNAM CONFERENCE

The Manchester and Salford Labour Parties have agreed to add their names to the list sponsoring the North-West regional conference on Vietnam to be held in Manchester on February 18. It now has the backing of the most powerful sections of the North-West Labour movement, including the Lancashire and Cheshire Federation of Trades Councils and Transport and General Workers' Union regional committee. Individual sponsors now total over 200 and among the speakers will be A.E.U. president Mr. Hugh Scanlon, Ald. Sir Robert Thomas, leader of the Manchester City Labour Party, and Labour M.P. Mr. Stan Orme.

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT - -

Che Guevara's famous essay, "Socialism and Man" has now been reprinted as a booklet, and is available from: 8 Toynbee Street, London, E.1
Price: sixpence per copy, plus 3d for postage.

SOME BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS FOR THE NEW YEAR

In the future The Week plans to carry information on new publications which may be of value to socialists. Some items included here are of general interest even though they may have been available for some time; others are either new or not widely available.

On Vietnam and World Revolution by Che Guevara. This is the famous message to the Tricontinental Conference and first published nine months ago. 1/9 plus 3d post.

Land or Death — Hugo Blanco and the Peasant Struggle in Peru. This is a new pamphlet on the imprisoned peasant union leader. The background to Blanco's life is sketched in to give an idea of his tactics in organizing the peasants against the military repression. Blanco is now serving 25 years in jail. 2/- plus 3d post.

Notes on Socialism and Man by Che Guevara. This is one of the murdered revolutionary leader's most popular essays. 6d plus 3d post.

"History Will Absolve Me" by Fidel Castro. This is the now historic speech delivered by Castro in one of Batista's courts. 8/6 plus 6d post.

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