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THE  
**BULLETIN**

In four weeks time we will have completed the first 6 months of the new style Bulletin. Most subscribers have paid 12/6 rather than 2/-, so it will convenient at first weeks a number of new correspondents and we receive such work far more material than we can use. However, to increase the size would mean increasing the price. It has been suggested that we increase the number of pages before taking such a step, which would increase the cost of advertising by 50%, we would like the opinions of our readers, so please if you have strong opinion on the question, either for or against, please write us and let us know.

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 for  
*Socialists*

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Letter to Readers

In four weeks time we will have completed the first 6 months of the new style Bulletin. Most subscribers have paid 12/6 rather than 25/-, so it will be convenient at that point to reexamine the price, etc. We have had, in recent weeks, a number of new correspondents and we receive each week far more material than we can use. However, to increase the size would mean increasing the price. It has been suggested that we increase the number of pages to 12 and the price to 6d. Before taking such a step, which would increase the cost of subscribing by 30%, we would like the opinions of our readers. So please if you have any strong opinion on the question, either for or against, please write us and let us know.

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1597 THE PUTNEY AFFAIR The witch hunt is not dead. Although since Wilson was elected party leader there has been a shift away from the methods of Gaitskell's regime, the decision by the N.E.C. to investigate the Putney party and its relationship with C.N.D. show how strong the right wing apparatus men still are. They don't have things all their own way, of course, as the defeat of their proposition to withhold endorsement of Hugh Jenkins demonstrates. In fact the endorsement of a number of left wingers who would have never got by in Gaitskell's day is an illustration of a changed position.

The history of the affair is interesting. The GMC of Putney C.L.P. took, on the 27th of March, two decisions which enraged the local right wing. By 21 votes to 13 it decided to take part as a party in the Aldermaston march, and, secondly, by 23 votes to 11 it authorised the local Young Socialists (producers of the attractive Putney Left) to carry constituency banners on the march. Next month the right wing were furthered angered, when at its selection conference (postponed from January by order from Transport House) it adopted Hugh Jenkins as prospective Parliamentary candidate by 34 votes to 23. It did this against the right wing nominee, Tom Smith, mayor of Greenwich and official NUGMW nominee for the Deptford by-election. Hugh Jenkins is a well known left winger, London County Councillor, founder of Victory for Socialism and an active unilateralist.

Up till the period just after the 1959 general election the right wing ruled the roost in Putney. Its Parliamentary candidate at that time became treasurer of the campaign for Democratic Socialism. The left took over after a sharp struggle and today only four out of the 14 Labour Councillors and Aldermen for Putney are not C.N.D. supporters. The fight has assumed a sharp form recently, with local expulsions of right wingers (and national reinstatements) plus the resignation of several right wingers from the party. That was the background when the 23 hard core right wingers complained to Transport House about the decision to take part in Aldermaston.

On receiving the complaint Sarah Barker, national agent, leapt at the opportunity to forbid the party to take part officially in the Aldermaston march. The Putney officers rejected her interpretation of the rules and the party took part. It must be noted though, that its banner only appeared on the last day of the march along with many other C.L.P. ones. The Organisational Sub-committee, the instrument of the witch hunt, thereupon called for the investigation of the party and for the delay of the endorsement of Hugh Jenkins until this investigation had taken place. This was done against the opposition of Tony Greenwood, Dick Crossman and W.H. Rathbone. On going to the N.E.C. the decision to investigate Putney was carried but Hugh Jenkins was endorsed by a 4 vote majority.

Wilson and his supporters are in a dilemma - they have tried to build up the myth of the party being united behind its new leader. They have had considerable success in persuading some left wingers to soft pedal their criticisms of party policy. They do not, therefore, relish prospects of a new row over democracy within the party. On the other hand they are prepared to have a show down with the extreme right and the apparatus men. The left must take this fight very seriously - the atmosphere of unity must be utilised by showing that it is the right who are disrupting unity - defeat just prior to an election could have serious long term consequences.

WOULD NOT USE STRIKE WEAPON UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES - Y.B.S.A. CHAIRMAN

When Mr. T.W.F. Old, Chairman of the Yorkshire Bank Staff Association, was questioned at a Ministry of Labour court of inquiry, by Elwyn Jones Q.C. for the National Union of Bank Employees, he agreed that his association would not contemplate the use of the strike weapon in any circumstance. The inquiry is being conducted by Lord Cameron, who was appointed by the Ministry of Labour to inquire into the complaint by the N.U.B.E. to the Freedom of Association Committee of the I.L.O. that it was prevented from exercising its proper functions as a trade union because of the existence of staff associations in the banks.

CONSTRUCTIONAL ENGINEERING UNION CHAIRMAN FOR UNION AMALGAMATION

Trade Unionists had everything to gain from the streamlining and reorganising of the TUC, said the president of the C.E.U., Mr. Joseph Farey, at the union's conference which opened at Rothesay this week. He said the need for amalgamation was greater than ever, if the smaller unions were going to survive. They could not fight as small independent units, using the finances needed to combat the modern industrialists and financial consortia, with their monopoly of wireless, television and control of the national press.

EMPLOYERS DISAPPOINTED WITH T.U.C. ATTITUDE TOWARDS UNIONS REFORM

In its latest issue the British Employers' Confederation Bulletin has an article which considers the T.U.C. report on Swedish unions. It finds it regrettable that the T.U.C. has decided against a policy of "one industry - one union," and expresses disappointment that the publication of the report "was accompanied by the news that the general purposes committee of the T.U.C. had decided that one union for each industry could not be the basis for the reformation of the British trade union movement. It would seem that although the committee recognised that a process of gradually building up joint working arrangements, federations, and where possible amalgamations, was slow and unsatisfactory, they considered that the great upheaval involved was too high a price to pay for the more general introduction of industrial unionism.

The bulletin goes on to say that it would like to see, as the typical pattern in an individual industry, "a single employers' federation covering the great majority of firms in that industry and negotiating with a single industrial union with the great majority of workers in membership."

BANK EMPLOYEES CALL FOR FIVE DAY, 35 HOUR WEEK

The National Union of Bank Employees at its annual meeting at Bournemouth on May 21st unanimously approved a resolution reaffirming support for the immediate introduction of a 35-hour, five-day, banking week with complete closures on Saturdays. The resolution, which also declared opposition to any extension of existing bank opening hours during the week days, was proposed on behalf of the executive by Mr. Lief Mills, assistant general secretary.

Mr. Mills said that the five-day week was a fundamental matter and the union must do all in its power to achieve it before the next annual meeting.

WORK SHARING VICTORY AT BOILERMAKERS CONFERENCE

Despite opposition from the executive, a motion viewing with grave concern "the continuing decline in the full use of production units" and suggesting that work sharing should be operated instead of payoffs, and overtime regulation by district committees, was passed by a large vote at the Boilermakers' Society at Largs, May 22nd. Mr. A. Nisbet (Cambuslang) pointed out that the employers were using redundancy to get rid of militant trade unionists. The resolution also called for a shorter working week without loss of pay.

Nearly 230,000 welfare recipients, most of them children, are on the edge of starvation in this Midwest metropolis, while the state legislature wrangles over new restrictions in the public aid laws. Failure to appropriate needed emergency funds has held up relief checks since the first week of May and left thousands of families helpless in the face of eviction and utility-termination notices. Spectres of the Great Depression hovered over Chicago as urgent appeals for food donations went out via radio, TV, church pulpits and welfare organisations. When the results proved pitifully inadequate government food surpluses of dried beans, corn meal, flour, butter, lard, dried milk and canned hash were requisitioned for allotment at hastily designated distribution centres to families with children.

However, unbelievable official bungling led to chaos of scandalous proportions as thousands of recipients milled about anxiously for many hours in front of closed distribution centres. The Mayor ordered extra trucks, but forgot to get drivers. Trucks were despatched to the wrong warehouses, chased in all directions by relief recipients sent to load them.

As limited quantities of some food items finally became available, families were required to accept a whole month's supply of whatever came in. Some stations doled out only bags of flour and corn meal while others distributed butter, lard and dried beans. No baby food was available for the thousands of infants on the relief rolls. Special recipes required to prepare difficult to cook foods never arrived. Violence flared intermittently as frustrated and humiliated throngs of food-seekers, most of them Negro, grew resentful and difficult. Meanwhile, the Democratic working majority in the Illinois House of Representatives, as well as Democratic Governor Kerner, have capitulated at every stage of the debate which has held the legislature deadlocked for more than two months. The Republican majority in the state Senate, demanding that ceilings be set on the amount of relief payments, has withheld approval of the emergency fund required by the Illinois Public Aid Commission (IPAC). These ceilings would, in the case of large families, push their budget below 11 cents per meal per family member.

When Arnold Maromont, a Democratic industrialist, newly chosen as IPAC chairman, accused the Republicans of 'racism' and 'Hitlerism' they promptly withdrew their senate confirmation of his appointment. The Democrats gave their tacit consent by abstaining on the vote.

Meanwhile, the victims of poverty in Chicago, one of the world's richest cities, remain ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed. One silver-haired social worker, surveying the crowds of hungry men, women and children, burst out with tears in his eyes "This is just like the 1930's."

Reactions varied among people directly affected. A 38 year old Negro, who was formerly an unskilled construction labourer until a back injury forced him out of this line of work, said grimly "My children are going to eat. I'll see to that- even if I have to go to gaol for it". A man in his fifties, thrown on the human scrap heap after years of work in the stockyards, and now living alone in a one room flat in the Negro ghetto, will have exhausted his meagre groceries by next week. Ineligible for surplus food because he has no children, he said: "There's probably some things in the garbage cans in the alley I can pick up".

**1600** A representative of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) has as a result of discussions with a number of leading trade unionists announced the setting up of a permanent "SACTU FUND" in London - so that British trade unionists can make regular donations to assist the work of SACTU. Mr. Bob Edwards, M.P., will be the treasurer of the fund, and all monies will be transferred to SACTU through him. The circular announcing the launching of the fund says that all cheques should be made out to him at: 374, Grays Inn Rd., London W.C. 1.

The South African Congress of Trades Unions is the only non-racial co-ordinating body of trade unions in South Africa. It has 55 affiliated trade unions representing 55,000 workers mostly non-white. Although it is apparent from the figures that there are only a small number of organised workers, this is due to fear of victimisation, which can mean much more than just losing a job. However, SACTU influences very large numbers of unorganised workers.

Strikes are illegal in South Africa but they do take place and SACTU has a very heavy expenditure in litigation. Trade unionism in South Africa is subject to all kinds of restrictions. For instance, before an African can obtain a job he must produce a pass, he must live in the correct area and should he lose his job he stands the risk of being sent back to the Reserves. Recently, the Government has used the method of restricting T.U. leaders to certain areas. This is usually done when a T.U. leader has become established. In recent months the Government has forced SACTU's general secretary and president to resign.

SACTU is now in desperate financial straits. The organisers which it employs are paid £25 per month - below poverty data. There are only four organisers to 400,000 Africans in the mining industry. It should have at least 10 organisers for the one million farmworkers, yet they can only afford three. Trade unions in Johannesburg share one typewriter and one duplicator between them. In a big country like South Africa travel is very expensive. To meet this SACTU needs 12 scooters (4 each for Johannesburg and Durban, 2 each for Cape Town and Port Elizabeth) as well as one jeep.

#### ECUADORIAN WORKERS MOVEMENT IN FERMENT

The tenth national congress of the Ecuadorian Textile Workers' Federation closed recently in Riobamba, capital of Chimborazo province. Stressing the contradictions between U.S. monopoly capital and the Ecuadorian textile industry, the congress denounced the U.S. manoeuvres to eliminate Ecuadorian industries and worked out a plan of action to defend both the industries and trade union rights.

The congress expressed full support for the workers of the San Antonio textile mill in Guayaquil, still persisting in their protracted strike. It declared that if the management of the mill closed it, seeking to break the trade union and throwing workers out of jobs, the Ecuadorian textile workers would go on a nation-wide strike.

Demonstrations and rallies have been held by the workers of the San Antonio textile mill in the past five days in protest against the persecution of the workers by the management.

Strikes are being held by the workers of other trades. In Guayaquil the strike of the workers of Ecuador flour mill ended in victory after more than a two months struggle. The workers forced the management to reinstate some trade union leaders and to increase wages and holidays.

Teachers of national and municipal schools throughout the country have gone on strike demanding payment of half-a-month over due salaries. The strike at the Nueva Oriental Macaroni and biscuit factory continues, in support of demands for wage increases and trade union rights.

"The Angolan National Liberation Army now occupies one-sixth of the Angolan territory including nearly all the areas bordering the Congo and Northern Rhodesia."

This was stated by Johnny Eduardo, Head of the Permanent Mission of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola in Algiers, in an interview with radio-television Algeria which was published by the paper "The People" on March 26th. He said "The military situation in Angola is very encouraging. Military operations have expanded in scope daily and a number of strategic points have been reoccupied by our military units after fierce fighting."

He revealed that the Angolan NLA was planning to expand its military operations throughout Angola, occupy more strategic points and open new fronts. The Angolan NLA had under its revolutionary colours more than 30,000 armed personnel, he said. Nearly 8,000 guerillas in the areas bordering the Congo were undergoing extensive training.

Angola's internal situation had greatly improved, he said. In spite of the intensified threats and cruel suppression by the Portuguese colonialists, the entire Angolan people were united as one. This was demonstrated particularly by the peasants, an invincible force of the Angolan people's revolution, he stressed.

He told the radio-television about Algerian support for the Angolan people

#### ALGERIAN PAPER LAUNCHES IVORY COAST PETITION.

The Algerian paper, 'Revolution Africaine' (Obtainable from 374, Grays Inn Rd., London, W.C.1. price- 5/-) has printed a petition for clemency for the thirteen men condemned to death in the Ivory Coast after a secret trial. It invited all its readers to sign the petition, cut it out, and send it to the President of the Ivory Coast. The petition is as follows: "To President Houphouet-Boigny, Government Palace, Abidjan, Ivory Coast:

Mr. President,

We are writing to you to ask for a pardon for our thirteen African brothers condemned to death by your special tribunal sitting in secret. We are doing this because we are for the defence of fundamental freedoms in Africa, for freedom of expression, of opinion, of association and assembly, and the right to a fair trial.

We are doing it because we believe that it is impossible for you to take part in the meeting of African heads of state at Addis Ababa and to work there for the unity and freedom of Africa so long as you have not renounced the idea of killing militant Africans in your prisons....."

#### TWENTY BRITISH POLICE KILLED BY NORTH KALIMANTAN GUERRILLAS. From Hsinhua.

North Kalimantan freedom fighters killed at least twenty British police constables in a recent successful attack on Sebedu in Sarawak, according to a report quoting a report from N. Kalimantan. Some 120 fully armed North Kalimantan guerillas took part in the attack, the report said. This was the second attack on British police posts at Tebedu. During the earlier attack North Kalimantan troops killed one colonial policeman, wounded two others and captured large quantities of British weapons.

**1602** The 'New Statesman' of 24th May printed a report of an interview given by Togliatti to K.S. Karol. Some of his statements are the clearest expression of his 'revisionism' we have yet seen. We produce herewith some of the more important:

"The communists must do everything in their power to extend and strengthen this unity in every country. For its part the CPI is ready to face and discuss the problems of reconstituting a fully united working class movement with the leaders of other political tendencies. This must be based upon a clear programme of democratic struggle for socialism. Western Europe, freed from its present fascist, authoritarian and conservative regimes, and with its working class united with all democratic forces, would recover its leading role and would have a decisive part to play in inaugurating an era of peace throughout the world and in accelerating the renewal of the entire social structure."

"We have already said during the election campaign that we regard the freedom of artistic creation to be very important and that in this field our ideas are quite different to those of the Soviet comrades. We don't understand the recent criticism in Moscow levelled against such intellectuals as Nekrassov, Vozniessenski and Yevtushenko. We would have been very happy if Yevtushenko had been able to come to Italy in March as planned. The problem of artistic freedom seems to us so important that we want to have a full discussion of it during the forthcoming international communist meetings. We have already, by way of opening this discussion, published several articles on this subject."

"When the Chinese comrades decided to create agricultural communes, this was a complete innovation. We studied this subject very carefully but we always felt that it was not for us, but for the Chinese comrades, to decide whether it was a good idea or not. In the same way we feel that the Chinese comrades should not interfere to judge or to condemn some of our own political initiatives, lines of policy or slogans."

U.S.S.R. AND INDIA SIGN AID AGREEMENT. Hsinhua reported the following without comment:

The U.S.S.R. and India signed two protocols for aid to India in New Delhi according to a Tass report from Delhi.

One protocol stipulates the expansion of Indian oil refineries at Barauni (Bihar) and Koyali (Gujarat) which were established under Soviet economic and technical assistance. After the expansion, the yearly output of crude oil of each of the two refineries would be increased from two to three million tons. The other protocol provides for establishment of a second precision instrument plant in Pudussi (Kerala) with Soviet assistance.

The two protocols were signed by Ramonov, economic counsellor of the Soviet embassy in India and Raiyan, Secretary of the Indian Finance Ministry.

The I.I.S. also reported the news of the 25th. It said: "Total Soviet assistance extended to India since independence amounts to rupees 3,840 million. This assistance covers all crucial sectors of India's economy— power, steel, oil, coal, heavy engineering, precision instruments and drugs." According to a Tass report on the 25th, Soviet experts had designed a heavy power equipment plant which would produce steam turbines and hydraulic turbines. The site of the plant would be near Hardwar City in Uttar Pradesh.



Top prominence in all Peking papers was given to the joint statement of the Communist Party of China and the Communist Party of New Zealand signed on May 26th by Teng Hsiao-Ping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese C.P., and V.G. Wilcox, General Secretary of the New Zealand C.P. Liu Shao-Chi and Chou En-Lai, vice-chairmen of the Central Committee of the Chinese C.P., were present at the signing ceremony.

All papers carry on their front pages the text of the joint statement in which both parties declare that they completely agree in their stand and views on the important questions now confronting the international communist movement, and reaffirm their loyalty to the Moscow declaration and Moscow statement. Both parties maintain that at the present time, revisionism is the main danger in the international communist movement. The statement stresses that the task of all Marxist-Leninists is to unite more closely and defeat the onslaught of modern revisionism and to wage an uncompromising struggle against Yugoslav revisionists. Both parties stress the necessity of convening a meeting of representatives of all the communist and workers' parties in the world in order to resolve the present ideological differences in the international communist movement. Both parties hope that the forthcoming talks between the Chinese C.P. and the C.P. of the Soviet Union will contribute to the convening of this meeting and that the proposed talks between the New Zealand C.P. and the Soviet C.P. will be helpful to a convening of a meeting of fraternal parties. Both parties emphasise that the common desire of all Marxist-Leninists and all progressive people is to have a genuine unity based on principle and oppose a sham unity which discards Marxism-Leninism and the Moscow Declaration and statement.

#### INDONESIAN C.P. ON 'NATIONAL UNITY.'

As has been pointed out in the 'Bulletin' before, the Indonesian C.P. is a firm supporter of the Chinese C.P. and a fierce critic of Yugoslav 'revisionism'. However, the following extract from an editorial in Harian Rakjat, the party's paper, May 23rd, indicates that the Indonesian C.P. has nothing to learn from the Yugoslavs in the way of 'revisionism'.

"The Indonesian C.P. has established the base of a worker-peasant alliance and formed the broadest possible and the most solid national united front with other patriotic and democratic political parties and all sections of people, because the national united front is the most effective weapon for eliminating imperialism and feudalism and for completing national revolution- it paves the way for Indonesia to advance towards socialism.

"To strengthen the national unity of the revolution, the Indonesian C.P. holds that the five principles which form the foundation of the state are a correct weapon and an effective tool for unity, and that they should be carried out faithfully and not be used to obstruct unity and sow seeds of disruption. The party will always work for the unity of the people and oppose disruption, and will work at all times for the splendid prospect of the Indonesian people- the prospect of an end to the exploitation of man by man. In its present activities it will concentrate its efforts on national co-operation with Nasakom as its core, on the thorough realisation of the political manifesto, and on the change of Indonesia's social system."

A London T.U. correspondent has drawn our attention to the following report which appeared in the Times.

"Japan's leading industrial employers seem to have lost patience with the annual rounds of wages <sup>increases</sup> which in recent years have been granted almost without demur. At the same time, under a new policy announced at the end of April, the Federation of Employers' Associations has put forward proposals for improving labour relations within a modernised system of employment.

This year's spring offensive - the weapon with which the trade unions back up their annual wage claims - was not a great success. The two main union federations put in claims for increases ranging from 3,000 yen to 6,000 yen (£3 to £6) a month, in addition to the annual increases that are granted semi-automatically on the basis of length of service. They finally had to accept an average increase of 2,300 yen (£2.6s), including the normal annual increase. This barely covers last year's rise in the cost of living.

The partial failure of this year's campaign may in the long run prove to be a blessing for the unions. The spring offensive has in recent years become a remarkably inoffensive affair, and this year's few empty gestures were even less effective than usual. It has for a long time been clear that the unions would have to find a new strategy if they were to become a real force.

....Union leaders are beginning to turn their attention to such questions as union organisation, minimum wages, and the right to strike; and their failure to gain adequate wage increases this year may well force them to give priority to these objectives. At the moment Japanese trade unions lack some of the fundamental rights essential for any infant labour movement, and they still have to fight battles that British labour fought in the nineteenth century.

The first reactions to the employers' latest proposals were mixed. Mr. A. Iwai, the secretary-general of Sohyo, said that the employers were trying to revive old-fashioned control. Zenro, Sohyo's less militant rival, said that it was not to be deceived by mere talk.

....On the political front a crucial debate over the nature of organised labour will soon come to a head. The International Labour Organisation has repeatedly urged Japan to ratify I.L.O. Convention 87, which guarantees freedom of association. The unions are also demanding ratification of Convention 105, which prohibits forced labour.

The Government is at last making a serious effort to push ratification through the Diet, but it is using the debate as an opportunity to make a package deal involving five controversial labour Bills. Organised labour is already hamstrung by legislation introduced under American occupation... If the new Bills are accepted, the unions will be weakened still further. The Government wants, among other things: (1) Prohibition of the check-off system for the collection of union dues; (2) Prohibition of full-time union work by employees; (3) Tighter conditions for union registration; (4) A ban on union membership for Government employees in administrative posts; (5) Transference of control over Government employees to the Prime Minister's office; (6) Restriction of issues subject <sup>to</sup> collective bargaining.

These restrictions would hit Sohyo hard. The existing restrictions on Government employees, particularly teachers, have made them thoroughly recalcitrant and it is here that Sohyo's potential strength lies. Sohyo believes that its position would become almost impregnable if Government employees had the right to strike..... Sohyo and Zenro declared their demands independently, in accordance with their respective long-term aims of a European wage level and a doubling of wages in 7 years. Zenro more or less withdrew from the battle before it had begun and even Sohyo had to cancel a number of project strikes.

With this blunt spearhead the unions never had a chance. The employers had declared in advance that they intended to take a tougher attitude this year (and supported their case with a detailed analysis; but it is well known that the employers are primarily motivated by a feeling that labour-management relations have to be (modified)..in preparation for..competition that will come with trade liberalisation