

THE
BULLETIN

An Information Service
for
Socialists

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LETTER TO READERS.

We apologise to readers for, owing to technical difficulties, this week's abbreviated issue. However, next week's Bulletin will consist of 10 pages to make up for this.

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'GANGRENE' IN THE SOUTHERN STATES

Events in Dallas have drawn attention to the methods the Southern cops use. The treatment meted out to Peace Walkers by the Georgian Police, as reported in the November 25th Militant reminds one of the vilest tortures used by the French paratroopers against the Algerians.

Militant reports: "White and Negro members of the Quebec-Washington-Guatanamo Peace Walk were tortured Nov. 9th by police in Georgia. The 23 walkers, sponsored by the Committee for Nonviolent Action, include 3 Negro men, 14 White men and 6 white women, including 70 year old Pearl Ewald of Washington who is recuperating from a heart attack suffered immediately after her release from the Griffin jail. Purpose of the walk is to help ease tension between the U.S. and Cuba by presenting a nonviolent alternative to the continuing Cuban crisis. The pacifist marchers also carried banners calling for racial integration.

Difficulties began when the marchers tried to hand leaflets to Negroes in a park in Griffin Georgia. Negroes were ordered out of the area. When the marchers attempted to enter a Negro district adjacent to the park, the police attempted to stop the group by arresting the leader Bradford Lyttle. A policeman then apprehended Jack Shapiro, 20, a Detroit student, and told him he was under arrest. Shapiro sat down refusing to co-operate with an order to walk to the police car. The officer yelled to a member of the Georgia Bureau (G.B.I.), waiting in a parked car: "Bring the electric prod over here." (An electric prod is a device capable of giving a powerful electric shock which produces localized sensations of extreme pain and burning and involuntary muscle spasms in humans) The G.B.I. agent ordered Shapiro to rise. When the youth continued to sit, the agent applied the prod first to Shapiro's chest and stomach and then his genitals. The student rolled over to protect himself, giving the agent an opportunity to prod the base of his spine. Several agents then carried him to the car and threw in him. A policeman grabbed walker Kit Havice, 23, a medical student and ordered her into a police bus. She refused and sat down. The officer said to another "Get the prod over her" Two officers picked her up and were carrying her to a bus when the G.B.I. agent who had tortured Shapiro ran over with the cattle prod and began applying the electric current to Miss Havice's legs and thigh. She was shoved into the bus. Most of the walkers in the bus refused to leave under their own power and underwent the same treatment as before. Alan Nyysola, 20, a student was thrown from the bus. As he lay on the sidewalk, the G.B.I. agent prodded him on the face and legs. Another officer held him while the agent shocked him in the groin. The student tried to roll over to escape the prod but the agent continued to alternate between applying the prod to his genitals and head. Nyysola pulled his sweater over his head in self-protection, exposing his back to the prod. Finally the agent left the student in order to work on 17 year old Tom Rodd, a Pittsburgh student. He applied the prod to every sensitive part of Rodd's body.

Miss Snyder was dragged into the jail reception room. Several minutes later, the G.B.I. agent entered and applied the cattle prod next to her eye, raising black welt.

Police then ordered the pacifists to walk to their cells. Most of them refused to on the grounds that their arrest was unjust. Michele Gloor, 20, a Chicago student was the first to be so ordered. She refused. A policeman with a cattle prod burned her repeatedly on the necks and legs in full view of the other walkers, the sheriff and several policeman and women. Several walkers cried out in horror at the pain Miss Gloor was enduring. Their appeals to the policeman had an effect. He apparently could no longer continue tormenting the girl and finally stopped. Another policeman grabbed the prod saying "Heck, Ill use it" Eventually he tired too of using it, and with the first policeman carried the girl up the stairs to the cells. During the entire episode, tears streamed down the faces of two policemen standing by the door, but they said and did nothing. The authorities had no desire to keep the the Marchers in jail. The marchers were adamant in their demand to be allowed to distribute the leaflets and when the authorities released them they returned to the spot of arrest and carried out all the activities they had planned.

UNITY ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW YEAR

from a special correspondent

The following programme has been announced by Unity:

Saturday, February 22nd. 3. p.m. Unity National meeting.
8. p.m. Meeting or social function for delegates. (suggestions wanted)

Sunday, February 23rd 10.30-4.30 Voice Day School.
Subject: Political and economic problems facing a Labour Government.

Both these meetings will be in London. The Saturday meeting is intended primarily for trade unionists and active workers away from London.

The Sunday meeting will be of particular interest to Parliamentary candidates. Credentials and confirmation of final details will be sent to all who apply to attend. Applications should be sent to: UNITY, 21 Drayton Gardens, London S.W. 10.

ANOTHER UNION AFFILIATES TO M.C.F.

The Association of Scientific Workers, membership 14,256, has affiliated to the M.C.F. This brings the number of trade unions affiliated to that body up to 20.

£440 MILLION SPENT BY GOVERNMENT HELPING PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN 1962-63

No less than £440 millions was spent by the Government in 1962-63 in assisting private enterprise according to an article in the Barclays Bank Review for November. The review says that with the growing emphasis in all circles on the desirability of some measure of economic planning, it seems unlikely that participation of the Government in the private sector will decline.

Of the £440 million, agricultural subsidies accounted for four-fifths, but a wide range of industries, including forestry, shipbuilding and textiles received Government help. It seems more than possible that the authorities will play an increasing part in the affairs of private industry. Provided that assistance does not become interference, and providing that it does ^{not} amount merely to prolonging the life of a dying industry, the Review suggests that this need not be a bad thing.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES LOAN DEBT UP BY £560 MILLIONS from Financial Times

Local authority loan debt at the end of the 1962-63 financial year amounted to about £8,200 millions, or more than £560 million over the figure at the end of the the previous financial year. Temporary borrowing, however, increased by only £25 m. By far the most important type of borrowing outstanding at the end of 1962-63 was that from the Public Works Loan Board and the Northern Ireland Government Loans Fund. This amounted to just over £3,000 million, or 38% of the total.

However, this type of borrowing declined slightly during the year and the increase in loan debt was mainly in borrowing by way of other mortgages, which increased by nearly £400 millions to £2,140 millions (26% of the total. Borrowing by way of stock increases increased by about £125 millions in 1962-63 and at the end of the year was £952 millions (12% of the total loan debt).

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the 1963 survey of local authority borrowing is the section on temporary borrowing (loans of up to 12 months' duration). A White Paper was recently published recommending limitation of short-term borrowing, because it was thought that local authorities' temporary borrowing has been increasing at a dangerously high rate. The survey shows that this trend has been arrested. The amount of loan debt financed by temporary borrowing increased by only about £25 million during the year and at the end of the year amounted to 15% of the total.

HURRICANE RELIEF FUND SET UP IN PADDINGTON from a London correspondent
In Paddington (North London), a Cuban Hurricane Relief Fund has been formed through the initiative of Illydd Harrington, a Labour member of the Paddington Borough Council and Parliamentary candidate for a Wembley constituency. Robert Golding is acting secretary of the fund. He is an active member of the North Paddington Young Socialists.

STRUGGLE IN HAMPSTEAD OVER TORY DEVELOPMENT PLAN from a London correspondent
After a bitter battle on Hampstead Borough Council, the Tory majority forced through a £30 million new town project for the development of 57 acres of railway land bounded by Finchley Road, Lymington Road, West End Lane, and Broadhurst Gardens. The decision by 26 votes to 15 was carried, as the Tories prepared the way for the Covent Garden Property Company to take over this valuable land for property development, mainly in luxury building.

The Central Hampstead Tenants' and Freeholders' Association have resisted the proposal and it may very well lead to the slicing of the large Tory majority held by Henry Brooke, M.P. for Hampstead. In a rather heated debate on the Council, Jack Cooper, the Borough's Parliamentary candidate, pointed out that property prices and rents in the Hampstead area are now as much as 15 times higher than six years ago. The reference back of the General Purposes Committee's rejection of Stoke Newington Borough Council's letter opposing the Rent Act was defeated 27 votes to 16.

WANDSWORTH LABOUR COUNCILLOR HAS WHIP WITHDRAWN from a London correspondent
Brian Bastin, of Wandsworth Borough Council and member of the committee of the London Cooperative Society, has had the whip withdrawn from him for opposing the party line on the development of Wandsworth Stadium.

He opposed the development of this area on the grounds that there was a comprehensive scheme for redevelopment in the Borough. His fight will continue inside the party with the support of some members of the LCC.

500 MARCH AGAINST APARTHEID from a London correspondent

On Sunday, November 24th, a march of about 500 organised by the MCF took place. It started from the Embankment, and ended with a public meeting at St. Pancras Town Hall. Amongst the speakers were Fenner Brockway, Anthony Greenwood, Donald Soper and David Kerr. A leaflet "No Compromise by Labour Leaders on Immigration Bill" received wide response.

ERNEST MANDEL SPEAKS AT HOUSE OF COMMONS from a London correspondent

An interested audience heard Ernest Mandel, editor of "La Gauche", speak in the Committee Room of Westminster Hall on Monday 25th, on "Socialism and the Common Market." Stephen Swingle was in the chair and in the audience were a number of left wing M.P.s. such as Neil Carmichael and Frank Allaun. Barbara Castle apologised for being unable to attend.

SOUTH EAST LONDON SOCIALISTS ACTIVE IN HUGO BLANCO CAMPAIGN

An Eltham (London) correspondent has reported the following activities in the defences campaign for Hugo Blanco. The correspondent has himself written to Peruvian Embassy on the matter and has received no response. The Eltham Well National Co-operative Guild and Greenwich Young Socialists both passed resolutions on the matter. The one from the Guild was reported in the press and passed on the P.C. of the Royal Arsenal Co-op. The Greenwich Y.S. resolution went to the Greenwich Constituency Labour Party, which passed it and forwarded it to Transport House. Both the Royal Arsenal Co-op. and the Greenwich C.L.P. received answers from the International Department of Transport house which claimed that Blanco had been offered his freedom in exchange for a pledge not to try to overthrow the government. Blanco refused to give the undertaking according to the report. More action is planned.

THE THIRD CONGRESS OF THE DANISH SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY

The latest issue of Scandinavian Bulletin has a report of the 3rd. Congress of the Socialist Peoples Party of Denmark. The following article is based upon the report. Ed. note.

The anti-militarist socialist party, the Socialist Peoples Party (SF) held its 3rd congress at the beginning of October. The party was founded in 1959 mainly as a result of a split from the Communist Party. Nine of the eleven members of parliament this party has are former members of the Communist Party, which has no members of Parliament. The membership of the SF and its voters are a mixed bag, covering pacifists, left wing socialists, anti-militarists, Trotskyists, disappointed liberals, etc. The party has until now been united mainly around a consistent policy of disarmament, with the demand for withdrawal from NATO, and around the chairman of the party, Axel Larsen, who broke from the C.P. in 1958. He had been chairman of the C.P. for 28 years, and took the initiative to form the SF.

Prior to the congress a serious discussion took place on the first programme of the SF in the party paper SF. In addition organisational and personal questions were thoroughly debated. The internationally well-known socialist Kaj Moltke, who can be considered the only consistent socialist in the party's parliamentary group, has been involved in a sharp discussion with Axel Larsen and others about the question of an eventual collaboration with the Social Democrat Party. The debate was so sharp just prior to the congress that it looked as though Moltke was going to resign the party.

The youth organisation of the party, Socialistisk Ungdoms Forum (SUF), is also far to the left of the party chairman and the majority of the leadership. The political report of the national convention of the SUF, which took place on the 31st of August and the 1st of September, contained severe criticisms of Axel Larsen and the majority of the leadership. Despite this fact it was adopted unanimously. The SJF's national convention was attended by fraternal delegates from Yugoslavia, Norway and Western Germany (SDS) and also adopted unanimously a declaration of solidarity with the policies of the Norwegian SF during the government crisis in Norway. (see previous Bulletin article).

The SF congress of 4/6 October was attended by guests from Yugoslavia, Norway and Sweden. It also had a message of greetings from the Nenni Socialist Party of Italy. The chairman had to admit that "there is agreement no longer in the party about our main policies." However the congress did not result in any split in the SF, but it was evident that Axel Larsen is no longer the dominant figure he had been before. Several speakers were very critical of him and his political report received 77 votes out of 98. He was in a minority on several issues. After the coming elections it is probable that there will be a SF/Social Democratic Party majority in Parliament, and Axel Larsen proposed a statement which argued for a close collaboration with the Social Democratic Party. The latter stands for NATO, the Common Market and has long ago, even in theory, thrown away socialist principles. His proposal was defeated and a more radical one adopted.

The party programme, which had already been fully discussed in the local branches before the congress, was radicalised and even if this programme does not meet the requirements of consistent socialists it is a good point of departure for a future socialist policy in Denmark. Congress improved the original day-to-day programme somewhat, for instance, it took a stand against any attack on the workers right to strike. The statutes of the SF were also made more democratic, for instance, it was decided that there must be only 5 MPs in the party leadership. In the election for posts in the party the left vote was higher than at the last congress. After the Congress, the bourgeois press was unanimous that the SF had moved to the left even if this was not completely reflected in elections, etc.

VICTIMISATION OF TWO WEST GERMAN WOMEN

We have received from a West German correspondent details of a nasty case of victimisation of two women. The correspondent has asked our assistance in getting protests sent to:

The Minister of Justice of Lower Saxony,
West Germany.

The facts of the case are that two women, Mrs. Elfreide Kautz of Hanover, and Mrs. Gertrud Schroter of Celle, were sentenced to one year in Prison, loss of civil rights for five years and the possibility of perpetual police supervision after release. Their sentence was completed in early March, 1963, but they are still detained. Both are seriously ill. Normally in Germany prisoners are freed after two thirds has been served, if their conduct has been satisfactory. This has been denied in this case. The reason given is that their conduct was not good enough - they spoke politically at their trial.

The charges against them were given as: continued membership of the forbidden C.P. of Germany (KPD), promotion of an unconstitutional organisation as leaders, subversive intelligence service and activities as agents. Actually they have done nothing except to collaborate with the Zentrale Arbeitsgemeinschaft (Central Society) for holidays for poor children in the Federal Republic, and also at workers' holiday camps in East Germany. These holiday camps were organised because there had been invitations from the East Germans, and special trains were made available by the State railways of the Federal Republic (Bundesbahn).

Mrs Schroter and Mrs Kautz helped to organise these camps up to July, 1961, when the Central Society was banned. After this they did not continue this work, which makes their punishment retrospective and totally unjustifiable. All they did after the ban was imposed was to pay back the money which had already been paid. The only contacts these women had in East Germany was with people concerned with the holiday service for children and with the representatives of the factories issuing invitations. It is, therefore, utter nonsense to accuse them of illegal membership of the C.P., promotion of an unconstitutional organisation, etc. etc. Their appeal against sentence was turned down.

There has been a demonstration outside the Palace of Justice at Hanover in protest against the continued detention of the two women. Police arrived and arrested 14 of the 50 demonstrators. Signatures of protest have been collected in various parts of Germany and some in France as well. A petition form sent to Nottingham University was filled up.

Ed. Note: We shall be organising a petition on this case in the very near future - when certain questions of fact have clarified. Our West German correspondent says that protests from other countries are possibly the only way forward now.

ARMY SERVICE FOR ASTURIAS MINERS

from a T.U. correspondent

The Times of November 25th reported: Madrid, Nov. 24th. Military service for miners is decreed in a law published here. Hitherto miners were exempt. The measure is interpreted as a step to tighten control over the Asturias coalminers, whose stoppages and go-slow protests in the past two years have slowed down production and caused serious unrest.

WEST GERMAN MILITARY EXPENDITURE UP 920 MILLION MARKS

The West German Government adopted on November 19th a record budget for 1964. Total expenditure is 60,300 million marks (approx. £5,427 millions) of which military expenditure, including maintenance of occupation troops, etc., amounts to 22,400 million marks (approx. £2,016 millions) or 37%

DUSTAMENTE GOVERNMENT TO PHOTOGRAPH AND FINGERPRINT ALL VOTERS

More details have become available of the plan by the Jamaican Labour Party to fingerprint the people of Jamaica which was previously reported in the Bulletin.

The Unemployed Workers Council, a militant organisation founded in March, 1962, has denounced the fingerprinting and photographing scheme as the latest example of direct interference by the American imperialists in the political affairs of Jamaica. The government of Jamaica announced that all voters must be fingerprinted and photographed in order to exercise their voting rights. Jamaica became independent in April, 1962. Since then the government has been in the hands of the so-called Jamaican Labour Party, headed by Sir Alexander Bustamante. The Bustamante government, ruling now without British arms to back it up, has instituted the plan to 'mug' all voters as a means of controlling the country's political life.

The \$400,000 contract for the technical side of the job went to an American company, the Shoup Corporation. The Unemployed Workers Council has alleged that the Central Intelligence Agency, well skilled in such matters, will be working with the American firm and that the information thus gathered will find its way into the U.S. embassy's files. This to be used to intervene in Jamaican politics against those who oppose the increasing American domination of the country. Since independence, Jamaica's ties with the U.S. have grown closer. The Jamaican representative has voted with the U.S. on all important questions in the UNO. Jamaica has not established diplomatic relations with Cuba, its closest neighbour; and the U.S. has shipped over \$1 million in arms to the Bustamante regime.

The Unemployed Workers Council which declares itself to be in the tradition of Marcus Garvey and the African freedom movement as well as being pro-socialist, compared the scheme to South Africa's passport system and described the dangers inherent in it. "The various youth, workers, peasants and revolutionary groupings dedicated to the struggle against oppression, will now be brought under close scrutiny and their patriotic activities suppressed from time to time.

"Progressive and militant workers employed in Government services and big companies, will be easily framed to get rid of them from their employment. Political victimisation and discrimination would become ruthless. Civil rights would be seriously curtailed and thousands more would be added to the list of those who are denied passports for various reasons.

"Above all, an atmosphere of insecurity against our conscience as free-men would prevail and the adverse psychology to bow to the authority of the oppressors would be encouraged." The UWC called for an all-out boycott of the finger-printing-photographing scheme. Calling on all citizens to defend their rights, they pointed out that a majority boycott would scotch the whole scheme.

PEASANTS ATTACKED IN PERU

Peasants of the Comunidad de Ongoy, a town of 12,000 inhabitants, who took over ancestral lands occupied by landlords, were attacked on October 24th by armed bands operating under police protection. According to information just received by a Paris correspondent, 30 men, women and children were killed by the armed bands which were in the pay of landlords. Lima newspapers accused "Trotskyists" of being in the leadership of the peasant movement. Two of the leaders, Maximo Molina, head of the Comunidad, and Antonio Cartolin, president of the Peasant Federation of Ayacucho were taken to Arequipa for a military trial. During a debate in parliament on the attack, supporters of the peasants and the imprisoned leaders demonstrated in the galleries. A mass meeting in Lima demanded the release of the prisoners and punishment of the bands that attacked the peasants.

.....For reasons of domestic political diplomacy, men of more conservative attitudes had been kept or installed in the actual offices of economic execution; the sharp young radicals had whirred out their ideas in the White House in some isolation, with President Kennedy acting as the connecting wheel to keep things moving. He could act as 'governor' in this fashion because he was able and willing to come to grips with the argument and grasp the technical issues; because he recognised the need for a shrewd balance between the best of established banking and financial opinion and the straining ideas of the modernists which he was disposed to share; and because he fully saw the limits set to the pace of movement by the obligation to protect the dollar and not to upset the stability of world currencies, by the requirements of America's own aid and defence policies, and by economic prejudices of Congress.....

The policy consisted of a moderately successful reflation of demand; a remarkably successful direct assault against cost inflation (controversial though last year's steel showdown proved to be); and, however, uncertainly, the beginning of perhaps the first intellectual approach yet to a balance of payments problem - without either unnecessarily deflating an economy, or devaluing an exchange rate, or defaulting on aid and military commitments overseas. Now the connecting wheel which kept things moving, and in balance, has gone. The risk now is that the central engine for a progressive policy could become too stationary again.

This hazard impinges on three fields. First, the recovery in American industrial production is already nearly three years old. That recovery might, in the normal course of the trade cycle, soon be expected to lose some of its momentum. President Kennedy belonged to the generation and school who would have wished to move swiftly, but in his case safely too, to restimulate demand. It has to be seen whether President Johnson would be similarly spurred, and anyway the threat of a slowdown, which is not in sight yet, may well not arise during his period of office. If it does, outsiders can only hope that a post-Kennedy administration will be seized of the fact of how quickly even a temporary limp in the American economy must become a major source of political as well as economic weakness to the whole free world.

Secondly, President Kennedy was in advance of his own Treasury ministers in recognising the need for improvement in the whole system of international payments, through a radical reform of the International Monetary Fund. He had himself declared that "one of the reasons that new sources of international liquidity may well be needed is that, as we close our payments gap, we will cut down our provision of dollars to the rest of the world." The contingent risk is that the new administration might be even keener than the old on cutting America's balance of payments gap, perhaps by blunter methods - and without at the same time seeing the that large measures to increase world liquidity will then become quite vital.

A third major danger, already existing before President Kennedy was killed, is that the drive towards freer world trade may slow down, and that next year's round of tariff negotiations in Gatt (a round which still bear President Kennedy's name) may decelerate into virtual ineffectiveness. Here again the implication for Britain is that it ought itself to take bold initiatives in an effort to maintain the impetus towards more liberal international trading for which President Kennedy would have stood..... The aching gap which has been blasted in the economic government of the free world could be a gap in innovating unorthodoxy.....

ALLIANCE FOR 'PROGRESS'?

based on Militant article

The Alliance for Progress was formed in 1961 with the aims of furthering democracy and political stability in the Latin American countries. At its 2nd Annual Review Meeting in November it became evident that the Alliance had succeeded in creating neither political nor economic stability, and was, in fact, a complete failure, as only Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay out of the 19 constituent countries were described as stable by the N.Y. Times recently, and 5 governments have been overthrown since its formation.

Behind this failure lies the myth of U.S. aid to under-developed countries. This does not exist, but has been, in fact, vastly to the advantage of private investors, who have long since turned away to more profitable markets, thus defeating the hopes of the Alliance that they would invest equally with U.S. Government funds. Between 1950 and 1955, 2 billion dollars were invested, 3½ billion were made, and thus 1½ billion were taken back to the U.S. In 1959 alone 775 million were made, but only 200 million were re-invested. In the last 7 years Latin America has lost \$2,679,000,000.

At the moment these countries are facing the problems of severe inflation (in Brazil the cost of living has risen 100% this year) and rising population, while the Alliance's economic drive to increase per capita income by 2½% per annum has been a dismal failure. Latin America was much better off before it became the recipient of U.S. 'aid' (in reality this is largely in the form of commercial loans), because now, when the time for repayment comes, drastic measures have to be taken to avoid bankruptcy. In Argentina and Peru this situation has led to attempts to take over the U.S. owned oil industry.

It becomes increasingly obvious that the only way to stabilize the economies of the Latin American countries is to make them independent of high-priced imported manufactured goods, by developing their own industries, instead of having to sell their native raw materials at the disadvantageous prices that the industrial countries will pay.

INDIAN PLANNING FAILURE.

from the Financial Times 27/11/63

India's third 5 year plan is likely to fall short of almost every target when it ends in 1966, judging from an official report by the Planning Commission published in New Delhi on Nov. 26th. The report, a mid-term appraisal of the plan, has been placed before Parliament. It said the country's planned rate of economic development in the past two years had fallen off seriously.

It put the blame mainly on set-backs to agriculture caused by two bad harvests, but also referred to "the new burdens and responsibilities" borne since last year's border clash with China. The 200 page report showed that the annual rate of increase in the national income over the past two years had been only 2.7%, -½ the expected rise. This had been cancelled out by the population increase, which was also estimated at 2.5%, and may be as high as 2.7%.

Industrial production increased by only 8%, against a planned average rise of 11%, although some individual industries had registered high expansion rates.

The report said food production had dropped over 2m. tons last year, but prospects for this year's crop seemed good. However, figures given in the report showed that the price index has risen 8% in the last nine months, with the bulk of the increase in the price of food, particularly rice and sugar.