

Expelled ETU president slams right wing

FOULKES: I FIGHT BACK

EDITORIAL

Global Assassins

THE most terrifying thing about the explosion of Kennedy's 'rainbow bomb' is not that its effect is unknown but that men who wield such tremendous power were prepared to take the risk.

Many scientists had warned the US government that nuclear explosions at such high altitudes might cause long-term—if not permanent—changes in the Van Allen radiation belt. Few of them would claim to be able to predict just what this would lead to.

Despite world-wide protest, the State Department still went ahead. They wanted to find out whether it would be possible to detect or destroy a rocket by means of such an explosion, or to disrupt enemy radar systems so as to enable an American rocket to reach its target.

The global assassins—the protagonists of the 'New Frontier' of nuclear genocide—were eminently successful. They punched a massive hole in the Van Allen belt and turned night into day, and made millions of people in the Pacific region agonisingly aware of the potentiality of nuclear destruction.

As this explosion took place, a conference was beginning in Moscow. The World Congress for Disarmament and Peace, attended by delegates from many countries, has already sent its protests to Washington.

But however good the intentions of the participants, congresses of this kind are quite inadequate. The hydrogen bomb and the ballistic missile are part of a dying social system. The ruling class, in defending the interests of imperialism, is clearly capable of taking decisions which can lead to the destruction of humanity.

Kennedy's megaton space bomb should blow away any illusions that peace can be achieved by agreements between the powers. Logical explanation and discussion are quite irrelevant where people like Kennedy and Macmillan are concerned.

CNDers must draw the lessons from Monday's explosion. Petitions calling on the imperialist governments to take action cannot stop men like this.

Only a movement involving working-class action and a fight to end capitalism can stop the threat of nuclear destruction which capitalism has produced.



Ben Khedda's new programme:

Death to Moslems

by Michael Banda

WHILE talks between the two rival bourgeois factions in the FLN have broken down, the war against the Left wing in the national movement continues with redoubled vigour.

According to recent news broadcasts, any Moslems found assaulting a European in Oran will be shot on sight. Dozens of extreme nationalists have been arrested in the working-class district of Oran.

The attacks against ALN leaders also continue. On this question Ben Bella, in a recent interview, stated explicitly that 'In my view the ALN constitutes the surest guarantee of the Algerian Revolution and I think that there must be seen in the measures taken against its general staff the wish to liquidate the ALN itself. It is a political act of the most serious importance.

'It must not be forgotten that there are still French troops in Algeria, that half a million French soldiers occupy our territory, and that the OAS, though weakened, still exists.'

At the same time Ben Bella also made explicit his acceptance of Evian. 'I gave my approval to the Evian agreements. I followed the negotiations while still in prison... I will further tell you that I gave a mandate

● p. 3, col. 5

STATEMENT BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE NEWSLETTER

THE editorial in the 'Daily Worker' of July 9 deplors the expulsion of Frank Foulkes, president of the Electrical Trades Union, from membership of the union as 'a disgraceful decision'. It goes on to quote his record as a trade unionist, which is certainly much better than most of his ex-colleagues in the trade union movement. But for the 'Daily Worker' to base its case on that alone is to evade the real issue.

What are the political reasons why the Communist Party has lost control of the ETU? What are the reasons which drove Frank Haxell and others to engage in activities which are now admitted by the Communist Party to have taken place?

Mr. Peter Kerrigan, the industrial organizer of the party, has a department at his disposal for constantly checking the work of Communist Party members in the trade unions. Either these people were asleep for a number of years, or they were aware of what was going on.

We believe they were aware and are now looking for scapegoats like the unfortunate Frazer, Wolff and O'Neill.

A real investigation into the party's activity in the ETU would reveal that, because of the reformist nature of Stalinist policy, which arises directly from the policy of 'peaceful co-existence' with the employers, the party leadership lost ground in the union.

Instead of correcting the serious political errors which were the cause of this, the leadership of the ETU was driven into a position which led inevitably to the courts.

The Communist Party Congress will meet at Easter 1963. All trade union members of the party must demand a strict accounting, free from scapegoats, for the reasons why the party has lost its position in the ETU.

Newsletter Exclusive

'THE decision of the Executive Council to expel me from the union is a savage blow against the ETU and can only result in weakening it still further. I intend to fight against this expulsion in every way that I am able.'

This was Frank Foulkes' immediate reaction, in a personal interview given to THE NEWSLETTER, a few hours after his expulsion from the Electrical Trades Union by the right-wing dominated Executive Council last Sunday.

Frank Foulkes has been a member of the ETU for 47 years, 26 years as a full-time official, 17 as General President. The vote to expel him from the union was taken after four hours' discussion at the union's headquarters at Hayes Court. Most of this time was taken by Mr. Foulkes in presenting his statement which answered the charges brought by the Right wing against him, a statement which reiterated his innocence in relation to the recent charges of ballot-rigging heard in the High Court.

'But let us be under no illusions,' Frank Foulkes said, in his interview with THE NEWSLETTER. 'The decision today was not taken because of the declaration of the High Court last year but because I am a communist and because of the things for which I have consistently fought in the union.'

DISSERVICE

'In expelling me the EC has done a great disservice to the membership by removing the experience and ability as a negotiator which I have been able to gain out of 26 years' service to the members of the union as a full-time official. I am confident that the vast majority of the members will come forward in support of me and the things for which I stand.'

'The EC is, of course, well aware of this. That is why they have insisted on expelling me under Rule 38, the rule for disciplining ordinary members of the union, instead of Rule 12. Under Rule 12, which applies to officers of the union, I would have been able to immediately circulate my case to every individual member and a ballot of the membership would then decide on the expulsion.'

'If I were able to go to the members in this way I am sure they would reject this reactionary decision. They have got rid of me because they are afraid of my influence in the union and the Labour movement generally.'

SADISTS

'I have called the EC members who took this decision sadists. That may seem a harsh thing to say. It is not said out of any personal animosity towards them, but because of what they are doing to our union. Like all sadists they are humourless—the hallmark of frightened men.'

'They are now working at top speed, holding special sessions of the executive in order to make the union safe for their policies. They cannot allow my appeal to come for-

ward to the members in the next few months. They cannot allow me to be present at the special rules revision conference in September.

'I have been asked by the press if the EC can prevent my expulsion being brought up at this special conference. Let us have no illusions. This executive is capable of doing anything it likes. Look at their record over the past few months.'

'Nominations for delegates to the Labour Party conference and the Trades Union Congress resulted in an overwhelming support for left-wingers like Jack Hendy and Sam Goldberg. Action was immediately taken by the executive to avert defeat for the right-wing candidates by suspending these candidates.'

'For the first time in the history of the union, the delegation has been arbitrarily chosen by the EC and will doubtless fight for right-wing policies at the Labour Party annual conference and at the TUC.'

NO RIGHT

'Take the case of the annual policy conference. This year, members will not have the right to discuss the policy of the union at a time when important decisions face the Labour movement. In its place, a special rules revision conference is to be held at which branches will not have the right to move resolutions or amendments to rule unless these are first accepted by the EC. These resolutions are first to be sifted by an appointed representative of the EC.'

'The intention in my case is to proceed under Rule 38 in order to prevent my case coming before the membership before I am due to retire in March 1964. I am nevertheless determined to fight back. It is not a question of Frank Foulkes or his job as president. The union is being weakened as an organisation for

● p. 2, col. 1

6-PAGE NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK

The Newsletter on July 21 will publish the full statement of Frank Foulkes which he made to the Executive Council before he was expelled.

This statement is of great interest to all trade unionists and we urge them to order extra copies of the paper for sale and distribution in trade union branches and on the job.

Youth paper hits back

Keep Left, the Young Socialist paper banned by the National Executive of the Labour Party at the end of May, has continued publication this week with the appearance of the July issue. *Keep Left* states in clear and uncompromising terms that it intends to fight in the Labour Party and trades union movement to have the ban lifted.

The editor, 23-year-old Roger Protz, who has been expelled from the Labour Party, says in a front-page article that the paper has been banned for supporting the Scarborough conference decisions and for fighting for socialist policies by people who call the paper undemocratic and factionalist—the very people who ignored the Scarborough decisions and tried to remove Clause 4 from the constitution.

The paper reports that Mr. Protz had written to the NEC to request the right of appeal against his expulsion, but press reports this week indicate that the executive are unlikely to grant his request. The Right wing have taken further steps to weaken the militant Young Socialist movement. Four members of the elected National Committee have been suspended pending further investigations into their activities. Three of these were supporters of *Keep Left*, whilst the fourth supports another independent youth paper, *Young Guard*.

It has been suggested that he has been suspended as well in order to guarantee a right-wing majority on the committee, which met for the first time since the Easter conference of the movement last week-end.

It is understood that the seven members of the committee still allowed to participate were told by a Labour Party official that unless they accepted the NEC's proscription of *Keep Left* the youth movement would be disbanded.

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

SWP and SLL Resolutions

WE are publishing extracts from a report on a resolution carried by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers' Party (USA), which appeared in *The Militant* on Monday, July 2, together with a resolution adopted by the Fourth National Conference of the Socialist Labour League, June 1962. These two statements should serve to explain the positions of the two movements in relation to the discussion which is now taking place on the reorganisation of the Fourth International.

Extract from 'The Militant', July 2, 1962

'A resolution, based on positions taken at the last convention of the Socialist Workers' Party (published in the summer 1961 issue of *International Socialist Review*), was submitted by the majority of the Political Committee to the National Committee. This resolution stressed the consequences of an interdependent process—the great upsurge in the colonial world, the tendency of the Soviet people to restore proletarian democracy, and the struggles of the workers in the imperialist centres for security and a better standard of living.

'These movements have given rise to fresh political currents, some of considerable scope and of leftward direction, above all in the colonial world at the moment.

'The Cuban Revolution in particular, having opened the socialist revolution in the Western Hemisphere, was singled out as exceptionally meaningful.

'In the light of the encouraging vista, the majority resolution expressed the fraternal opinion that an extra effort was now needed to unify the world Trotskyist movement which has remained split into two main factions for some nine years. Unification is feasible in view of substantial agreement on the major political issues of the day. Differences that do remain are largely of an organisational nature and should not block reconstitution of a united movement so long as goodwill prevails.

'The resolution asked the two groupings in the Fourth International headed by the International Secretariat and the International Committee to let history be the final judge of who

was right in the dispute of 1953-54 and to hold over for later discussion such questions as might still be related to those differences.'

Resolution adopted by the Fourth Annual Conference of the Socialist Labour League, June 1962

This conference of the Socialist Labour League supports the call of the International Committee of the Fourth International for a conference early in 1963 of all affiliated sections. The discussion before and during this conference is the essential precondition for the reconstruction of the Fourth International.

Without political clarification of the problems facing the international working class and the Marxist movement and without a thoroughgoing analysis of the experience of the International since 1940, there can be no rebuilding of the Fourth International. Any attempt to unify and organise the forces at present claiming to be Trotskyist without such a discussion would be a backward step. It could lead only to a setting aside of the most important questions and consequently the failure of the revolutionary movement to face up to its political responsibilities.

The first task in the process of political clarification is to expose the revisionism which produced the 1953 split, and which has since then led the International Secretariat further along the path of opportunism and liquidationism.

Since the death of Trotsky, the great weakness of the Fourth International has been its failure to develop theory. Where this happens, the Marxist movement is in danger of adaptation to the ideas of other classes. Marxist phrases and formulae are used

to justify such adaptation, but they are the opposite of Marxism.

Pabloism, with its theories of 'war-revolution', 'centuries of degenerated workers' states', capitulation to the Stalinist bureaucracy, subordination to the bourgeois-nationalist leaders in the colonial countries is precisely such a tendency. Our movement can only take a big step forward when the lessons of the split and the source of Pablo's revisionism, are fully grasped by the movement.

The next stage in the international discussion must therefore be a definitive clarification of the political reasons for the split of 1953, a settling of accounts with the revisionist currents which have developed in the past within the Marxist movement.

In order to facilitate this discussion, the Socialist Labour League will take part in the sub-committee of the International Committee and International Secretariat proposed in the IC's letter of February 1962. We believe that if this committee can make the necessary technical arrangements for exchange of written discussion documents, then the various sections throughout the world can be drawn into the necessary process of political clarification. In this discussion our aim will be to make the necessary analysis and exposure of revisionism, and to clarify the forces who will rebuild the Fourth International.

At the same time, the Socialist Labour League will co-operate in proposals for limited joint practical campaigns on such questions as 'Aid for Cuba' and the reopening of the Trotsky case and the publication of Trotsky's works in Russia, as proposed in the letter of the IC.

Cuba meeting broken up by Police

Newsletter Reporter

RUSHCROFT ROAD is a recognised place for public meetings in Brixton, South London, yet in recent months the police have closed down meetings organised there by the Young Socialists, YCND and the Trades Council.

When the South London Aid for Cuba Committee decided to hold a street meeting last Sunday, a member of the Committee phoned the police to inform them that they intended using Rushcroft Road. She was told that it would not be possible 'as the National Union of Fascists meets there on Saturday afternoons'.

Determined to hold their meeting, and knowing that legally no one can book a site in advance, the Committee went to Rushcroft Road and started up. After about 10 minutes the fascists arrived. Furious at the competition, they began hurling abuse at Committee members and supporters.

Police Arrived

With two loudspeakers going at once and a crowd beginning to form, it was not long before a policeman arrived on the scene, followed by two inspectors. 'I'm closing both meetings down,' one of them said.

Turning to the driver of the car carrying the loudspeaker equipment, he added, 'And if you don't get this car out of here immediately I'll have you for parking.' The Committee moved on to another site where they were able to draw a large and sympathetic crowd.

The events of last Saturday are important. The papers were full of the scenes in Trafalgar Square when the police protected a National Socialist meeting, but there must be many other places like Brixton where, without any publicity or public protest, they close down left-wing meetings and reserve places for the fascists.

It is obvious that we cannot expect the police to protect minority groups or the Labour movement from fascist attack. The working class must organise now to defend itself.

FOULKES FIGHTS

Cont. from page 1

protecting the conditions of the members.

'I am confident this decision can be reversed. I was not prepared to accept the pension and retirement which the executive offered me some time ago. I knew I was risking my future, but I am prepared to leave this in the hands of the membership, many of whom know me personally and have trusted me to negotiate their living standards for many years.'

THE 'TRIAL'

IT IS understood that when the item to take action against Frank Foulkes was reached on the agenda at the executive meeting, the right-wing members made no attempt to remove him from the chair. According to reports, Mr. Foulkes then requested that he be allowed to

have his secretary present to take a verbatim report of the meeting so that he would have this in his possession to make whatever statements were necessary and to prepare his case should he wish to appeal. This request was turned down following the objection of L. Tuck (London EC member).

An objection by Mr. Foulkes to four members of the 'jury', F. Chapple (London), L. Tuck (London), T. Breakell (Merseyside) and E. Hadley (Sheffield), because they had shown by statements in the past that they were biased against him, was also rejected.

After Mr. Foulkes had presented his case, Blair moved and Breakell seconded that 'the charge be proved'. This was carried. Hadley then moved that Foulkes be expelled from the union, Tuck seconded, and the resolution was

carried 7 votes to 4.

The four voting against were H. West (Manchester), J. McKernon (Belfast), F. Sharman (Northampton) and J. O'Neill (Bristol).

As chairman, Frank Foulkes then ruled the motion out of order on the grounds that the wrong rule was being applied. It is reliably reported that Chapple angrily reminded Foulkes that 'only the Executive Council has any authority here. You have none.'

This would appear to contradict the very charge upon which he was being expelled—that he failed to use his authority as president in checking the administration of the ballot.

The expulsion of Frank Foulkes has now almost completed the immediate objective of Byrne, Cannon and Chapple to remove all communists and left-wingers from the leadership of the union. Three other members were also disciplined over the week-end. Bro. James

Feathers (Liverpool) was barred from holding office for three years and Ronald Sell (London) for five years. The last action of the EC on Sunday night was to expel Pat O'Neill (London).

To the Right wing, 'democracy' will reign in the union when they have succeeded in suppressing all opposition.

Any confusion which may have existed amongst rank and file ETU members because of repeated claims that the present EC is not anti-communist or Right wing should now be dispelled.

The rank and file can no longer remain disunited or undecided on the ETU. The maximum unity can and must be built to restore Frank Foulkes as president.

A campaign must be mobilised immediately to secure the support of the 70 branches required under Rule 38 to ensure that his appeal is circulated. The judges of this appeal must be the members of the union through a ballot vote, and not a special sub-committee appointed by the executive.

This campaign to defeat the right-wing executive council will be part of the struggle in Britain to remove the Tories and prepare to resist the attacks of the monopolies.

Such a campaign must be linked to the fight against Gaitskell in the Labour Party. The union must demand the extension of nationalisation, as the focal point of the struggle for better wages and conditions.

Such demands will form an integral part of the drive for a democratic union, free of bans and proscriptions and right-wing domination.

OH DEAR!

THE success of the American 'Telstar' space satellite has led to statements that it will soon be possible to receive American television programmes in Britain for 24 hours a day!

ALGERIA — situation unchanged

No gains for workers and peasants

By Tom Kemp

EVEN while the chorus of praise for the FLN and Algerian independence was still welling up from all manner of 'Lefts', from liberals to Stalinists, events were showing that life does not at all conform to the wishes of such people. The agreements made with part of the OAS were closely followed by the split between Ben Bella and Ben Khedda and clear signs that part of the National Liberation Army was not prepared to accept the latter's leadership.

The reaction to this on the part of the supporters of the Evian agreement has been revealing. Some have seen merely a struggle for power between leaders, some of whom want to go a little faster than others. Others, of whom, not surprisingly, Fenner Brockway is one, reveal a fear of a radicalisation of the Algerian movement and come out openly for Ben Khedda, whom they believe to be more moderate and responsible.

On all sides the cry goes up for reconciliation, to make possible a smooth operation of independence in accordance with the Evian agreement.

When rifts appear in a nationalist movement we should expect to find that they have social roots. The leadership of this movement in Algeria is drawn from a narrow section of the population which it is correct to describe as 'petty-bourgeois'. That is to say, its social basis lies in those spheres of professional and trading activity which were left open to Algerians under colonial conditions.

★

Although leadership inevitably came mainly from this section, the great mass of the Algerian people are poor peasants and plebeians. It was their irrefragable demand for land and bread which was the motive force of the Algerian revolution, and still is. The leadership, propelled forward by these energies, at the same time sought to control them.

The aims of the leaders diverge from those of the masses. The realism, for which they are praised by 'friends' like Mr. Brockway, consists of substituting the aims of the social stratum to which they belong for those of the masses. These aims can be satisfied by agreement with imperialism, if not within the confines of the old imperialist relations.

CORRECTIONS

IN the article on Maurice Thorez in last week's Newsletter an error occurred in the extract from his speech in 1961 to the Central Committee of Ivry. 'He (Trotsky) opposed the militarisation of the Soviet trade unions' should have read: 'He proposed the militarisation . . .'

IN the article concerning Mr. Frank Foulkes and the ETU the statement appeared: 'Meanwhile Byrne, Chapple and Carron took further steps this week to consolidate their control over the union.' This should have read: ' . . . Byrne, Chapple and Cannon . . .'

The essence of this agreement is not to carry through the social measures, involving inroads into property rights. Without such weapons the claims of the peasants and workers cannot be met.

Such a task involves them in a web of contradictions. It produces inevitable divisions and hesitations in its own ranks. These divisions, and the precarious nature of the social balance, makes for single-party, strong-man rule in which, when the decisions are taken, the dissenters, if they are not liquidated, find themselves in prison.

★

The situation in the Algerian movement can only be understood against such a background. The Liberation Army, recruited from the peasants, oppressed and impoverished by colonial rule, is very different from the suave politicians, trained in the school of Tunis, Cairo and Rabat and more at home in the United Nations than in the villages.

The peasantry is thus pushed towards a radical course: in some places they have taken over estates, or have tried to do so. Some leaders, without altering their fundamental conceptions, have shown themselves responsive to this pressure. The uneasiness and open schism in the leadership of the FLN reflects the need for agrarian revolution.

At the same time, as the armed struggle developed, more and more former collaborators of French colonialism—landowners and big bourgeois—came over to the FLN. In the course of becoming a 'national' party it has tended to become not more radical but more conservative, with the weight shifted towards consolidating a bourgeois state, for which the French administration, at Rocher Noir, had been carefully preparing the way.

★

Now that 'independence' has been achieved it can be seen more and more clearly that as far as the FLN leadership was concerned talk of 'revolution' was nothing but a sham intended to conceal the sell-out which it was preparing.

It is now necessary for Ben Khedda to bring the dissidents in the National Liberation Army to heel and find a compromise—if that can be done—with the Ben Bella tendency. This difference remains one of tactics, for the moment.

Among the army, however, there are obviously illusions about the possibility of carrying out some kind of a peasant revolution. Such an attempt would be doomed to failure, however, not only without the support of the towns, but also without the support of the French working class. For all the independence now proclaimed, the



'The Algerians bled for seven and a half years and got at the end not a victory that measured up to their sacrifices, but a compromise.'

'metropolis' for Algeria remains French capitalism.

The deliberate evasion of these facts by the Stalinist press is a model of its kind. Not content with claiming the Evian agreement as 'an historic victory for the Algerian people, the democratic forces of France led by the French Communist Party and the whole camp of peace and democracy' ('International Affairs', Moscow, June 1962) it asserts that the Algerian Communist Party, by its policy, 'has made a great contribution to the development and strengthening of the liberation movement in Africa'. ('The African Communist', April-May 1962).

The hollowness of these claims is shown by another article, this time by Abdelkader El Ouahrani in 'World Marxist Review' (June 1962). Presumably unconscious of what his comrades had written elsewhere, he poses the question of why the struggle of the Algerian people lasted seven and a half years.

The answer which he gives is twofold: 'Primarily because France possessed modern means of warfare: planes, tanks, artillery and warships. The Algerian patriots lacked these weapons. Secondly, because France was supported by the aggressive NATO bloc . . . There

can be no doubt that if the French colonialists had not had these weapons, the Algerian people would have saved the lives of hundreds and thousands of their sons.

What about the French and Algerian Communist Parties, not to speak of 'the democratic forces of France'? Ouahrani does not speak of them, and for good reason. He is trying to show that the best way to struggle against imperialism is to 'force' it to disarm, 'so that peace and freedom may triumph everywhere and for all time'. Such an assignment precludes bringing in the role of the working class or any mention of real struggle.

★

But, throughout the course of the Algerian national struggle, the policy of the Communist Parties has been along these lines. That is why the Algerians had to bleed for seven and a half years and at the end of it get not a victory that measured up to their sacrifices, but a compromise.

The French and Algerian Communist Parties, despite the devotion of many militants, have an unequalled record of betrayal.

THE Tories are now endeavouring to create favourable conditions for their re-election.

It is not going to be easy for them this time to wave the magic wand of cheap money to stimulate production, increased consumer spending and all the appearances of a prosperous society. Surplus capacity means that heavy capital investment will not be undertaken by big business, and one of the ingredients necessary for buoyant trading conditions is a high degree of investment.

Big business embarked on large capital programmes at the time of the last boom period generated by the government's pre-election fiscal policies. It will be considerably more cautious in the future, faced as it is with falling profit margins and the fact that investors are unwilling to get their fingers burnt.

In any case the government has already relaxed controls with a view to stimulating trade. Bank rate reductions, decreases in the banks' special deposit obligations and a reduction in hire purchase deposits from 20 per cent to 10 per cent over a wide range of consumer goods, have already been introduced but there is no sign of an increase in retail trade.

The government will have to think of other measures that they hope will increase their popularity at the polls. Their difficulty is that they cannot fail to upset one

Death to Moslems

Cont. from page 1

written to President Ben Khedda to vote in favour of the agreements when the National Council of the Algerian Revolution met in extraordinary session to examine the drafts of the Evian agreements.

Implicit in the Evian agreements, however, are the punitive actions against the Left and the agreement with the OAS!

Some of these measures will shock even the most credulous supporters of the FLN—and, perhaps, amaze its most severe critics. The French Federation of the Algerian Communist Party, for example, has protested against the re-arrest and imprisonment of Auguste Chatain, an ALN fighter who was sentenced to 20 years' hard labour by a French military tribunal.

In April he was released but was re-imprisoned by the Provisional Executive for non-payment of fines imposed by the French tribunal! At the same time that he was re-imprisoned, OAS prisoners and murderers were being reprieved!

Many other militants still remain in prison despite the appeals of the Algerian Communist Party to Ben Khedda to release these freedom fighters and also to stop the intimidation of party members during the referendum campaign.

The most scandalous case so far is the arrest of Djemila Bouhired and Zohra Drif on June 26 by FLN officers. The officers—faced by an indignant public—were later forced to release these two well-known militants of the Algiers underground.

An international campaign was waged on Djemila's behalf in 1958 to release her from the parachutist torturers in Algiers.

More than 200 militants of the ALN have been arrested and are being kept incommunicado.

British Labour cannot and must not allow these flagrantly anti-communist and anti-labour measures to go unanswered. It must demand of the GPR and Provisional Executive that all these political prisoners be released immediately.

City Slants by colin chance

section of big business, but this would be part of the cost of running a successful election campaign.

Whilst the government obviously does not intend to legislate against monopolies it has decided that resale price maintenance is expendable. The Tories believe that their brand image would be improved if they appeared to be on the side of 'cheap prices' even though they antagonise some

£ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £

Priceless policy

£ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £

manufacturers and the small shop-keeper in the process.

The most blatant attack on resale price maintenance has been carried out by supermarkets and discount stores, resulting in court decisions unfavourable to them.

Whilst manufacturers of consumer durables such as refrigerators, washing machines, television sets, etc., have seen advantages in resale price maintenance in boom times, they are now often only too glad to use the cut price stores as outlets for their goods.

They do not, however, give them their usual well-known brand names but are identical goods sold under special names.

In this way they have the best of both worlds. They have taken advantage of a retail outlet for their surplus production but have preserved the dignity of the brand image—and their basic price structure.

The smaller retailer, however, has been under no illusion as to his ever-decreasing ability to survive.

The abolition of RSM would not only affect the consumer durables. Clothes, footwear, food-stuffs, groceries, beer and tobacco would also be affected.

Where manufacturing industries maintain a monopolistic position, as in the brewery and tobacco industries, their profits will not unduly suffer, and a cut-price war will simply result in a number of bankruptcies and smaller profit margins.

In textiles and similar industries one can expect a large number of mergers, so that price domination is in the hands of the manufacturers. On the retail side only supermarkets and large multiples will survive. The day of the small trader has ended.



Redundancy threats grow for aircraft workers

from Our Coventry Correspondent

THE prospect of mass redundancy at the Whitworth-Gloster Aircraft factory, Coventry (as reported in THE NEWSLETTER of April 28), now becomes a grim reality. The management have given notice that they intend to lay off between 3,000 and 4,000 workers by July 1963. The lay off starts immediately.

The real crime at the factory has been committed by the shop stewards' executive body, the Joint Negotiating Committee. They have refused to lead any fight against the threatened redundancy, despite the fact that they have had ample warning of the coming lay off in the form of the general trend in the aircraft industry, together with the statement by the company in early April on the weak position of the Coventry factories.

Instead of organising the workers to fight to maintain their present standards, the JNC have actively worked with the management to undermine the energy of the men they represent.

Defeat

They were able to bring about a defeat of the policy which was outlined in THE NEWSLETTER three months ago by assuring the stewards that there would be no redundancies during 1962. By planning to lobby Parliament they were able to prevent a call for a more positive approach.

They have ridden rough-shod over the many motions that have been put before them calling for a policy to resist redundancy and institute work-sharing. Only a week before the management issued their redundancy figures, the stewards were saying that the workers would be all right in 1962 and that the most important issue was to meet the Minister of Aviation.

Now that the figures have been announced, the JNC have accepted redundancy on the basis that it is impossible to fight as there is no more work scheduled to come into the factory in the foreseeable future.

There is no excuse for the JNC's lack of effort to organise the workers inside WGA; shortly after the first rumours of the lay-offs, the management tried to cut wages on the Argosy production line. Instead of a firm line from the JNC, individual stewards were left to fight the cuts on their own.

At that stage the management did not press their attempts to cut wages, realising that they

would be in a much stronger position later.

The small group of militants inside the factory, who have been fighting for a more positive line, now believe that the management will institute the first lay-offs by registered post during the works' annual holidays, which start this month.

Angry

WGA employees are becoming very angry with both the management and the stewards for what they consider to be active co-operation in working against their interests.

At the annual general meeting of the Hawker-Siddeley group a month ago, the chairman said that no further Hawker cutbacks were foreseen and that they hoped to sell a further 100 Argosy freighters, which represents about 4 years' work. He thanked the employees for their hard work.

It was also announced that net profit after tax was £4,717,325 and dividends were to be increased. Sales were £320 million and the order book stood at £350 million.

The workers at WGA want more than thanks—they want work and they seem prepared to fight for it. At meetings last Friday the shop floor demonstrated their willingness to tackle the management, but the stewards seemed determined to hold back.

Showdown

But the new militant forces may be able to break out and engage the management in a show-down. The convenor himself was unable to get his own section, the tool-room, to accept redundancy; the men decided instead upon a policy of work-sharing and short-time working.

Reports from other sections, as well as other factories in the area, show that more and more workers are opposing the policies of the stewards and calling for a clear-cut fight with the management.

They are part of the growing force that must break out of the trap which has been sprung around them. A new leadership is waiting and willing to lead the workers. If they can gain control by ousting the present stewards, the whole question of the run-down of the aircraft industry could be completely changed.

Railwaymen hit back at Beeching

Call for protest strike

by REG PERRY

THE fight against Dr. Beeching's plans for British Railways sharpened last week-end when delegates representing 40,000 railwaymen in the North-East called for a national token protest strike.

The 147 delegates representing railwaymen from four district councils, covering Newcastle, Darlington, Leeds, Hull, York and the West Riding were very critical of the official NUR campaign to fight the closures, which was launched by Sidney Greene, the General Secretary, a fortnight ago.

One delegate insisted that if the executive council of the NUR fails to take notice of their strike call, they should 'go it alone and call for support from other areas. It is impossible to fight Beeching with one hand tied behind your back'.

More and more delegates demanded an end to compensation payments and the interest rates now going to the private money lenders, who had put up the millions to pay for the compensation to ex-railway shareholders.

These payments are one of the biggest burdens which the railways are forced to carry.

AXEING

The plans of Beeching and the Tories involve the axeing of over one-third of the track and stations of British Railways and the sacking of more than 150,000 workers.

This call by railwaymen in the North-East is a convincing sign of the anger and frustration which is felt both against Beeching and the Tories and against the measures proposed by Sidney Greene.

It has, however, its own serious limitations. The plans of the Tories for the railways cannot be fought in isolation by railway workers.

As long as the major industries in Britain remain in private hands, the nationalised railways will be governed by the plans of big business. The huge monopolies require a cheap efficient transport service. The demands of smaller enterprises and the private passenger will be com-



Greene: rank and file angry

pletely ignored, in order that the rate of profit of these industrial giants is maintained.

It becomes urgent that railwaymen, road transport workers and busmen build an alliance of transport workers to resist the attacks the Tories are now making upon them.

REMOVE

The fight against Beeching's plans for the railways is a fight to remove the Tories and replace them with a Labour government which will extend nationalisation to the major industries and immediately stop the interest payments to the financiers.

But that requires also a fight against the present leadership of the Labour Party, who through its spokesman, Gunter, supports the Beeching plan and ditches the take-over of major industries like ICI.

It is for this reason that the call for strike action must be linked with the fight of those in the Labour Party against the present leadership so that a Labour government could renounce the Beeching plan and organise the railways in an integrated socialist economy.

Following in Carron's footsteps

SHACKLED by the capitulation of the engineering trades union leaders last week, who accepted a 3 per cent pay increase for their members, the shipbuilding section of the Confederation met the employers on Tuesday, dutifully asked for 7 per cent and 'reluctantly' agreed on 3.

This settlement will give unskilled workers an increase of 5s. a week, intermediate grades 5s. 6d. and skilled workers 6s.

The claim for a 40-hour week was decisively rejected by the employers on the grounds that it would 'inevitably increase costs'.

This miserable increase comes at a time when more than 20,000 workers are unemployed in the industry and are beginning to feel the full effects of the employers' drive to cut back on conditions and build a pool of unemployment.

The despicable action of the engineering leaders, who in accepting a 3 per cent rise last week, set the pattern for the claims of hundreds of thousands of workers, can now be clearly understood.

A determined fight on the part of all unions in the Confederation will be necessary if the employers' plans are to be defeated.

ETU leaders sell-out Liverpool strike

Newsletter Reporter

CONSTRUCTION workers at the new Ford site at Halewood, Liverpool, went on strike on Tuesday, July 3, in support of six AEU members who were sacked for alleged lack of productivity.

These members formed the basis of the shop committee who had been in the forefront of the fight for better wages and conditions.

The all-sites stewards' committee believes that this was one of the many attacks against trades union organisation on the site, and that Fords are directly responsible for the situation.

At a mass meeting on Friday, July 6, it was decided to send two delegates to Fords, Dagenham for support.

Following this meeting, two well-known officials of the ETU, Messrs. J. Feathers and C. Bibby, called a separate meeting for their own members.

After two and a half hours, on their recommendation and by a vote of 98 to 91, the electricians decided to return to work on Monday.

The explanation given for this decision was that if the AEU asked for support officially, it would be a different matter.

It was through this development that the site meeting reconvened on behalf of the stewards' committee and reluctantly recommended a return to work on Tuesday.

CLERKS GO-SLOW AT BMC

CLERICAL workers at the British Motor Corporation works at Cowley, Oxford, started an unofficial go-slow on Wednesday. A meeting of more than 200 clerks decided on this action because demands for a substantial wage increase had not been met, although an increase for manual workers has been agreed.

Local CAWU secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearce, told the clerks to maintain normal work. 'Your union does not recognise this meeting,' he told them. He said that a meeting had been held with the management but it had failed to reach any agreement about a wage increase.

This Paper is your Weapon

IN the fight for socialism, The Newsletter is playing a vital role. Do you get it regularly? Don't leave it to the chance encounter, fill in this form and send it to:

Subscription Department, The Newsletter, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

7s. for 12 issues, or £1 8s. per year

Name

Address

Registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper
Published by The Newsletter,
186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4
Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), r.o.
180 Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4