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B/OSL FILE

WILSON CREEPS IN

Right wing policy loses Labour votes

By The Editor

Friday,

It looks as if Wilson has crept past the General Election winning post with a narrow majority. All things considered, the Tory Party, which represents wealth power and privilege has, unfortunately, done remarkably well.

This is especially so, because more than any other government since the war, the Tories have discredited themselves. Scandal after scandal, swindle after swindle, courts of enquiry after courts of enquiry, the Tory Party staggered towards this General Election in a way that no other political party has done in the history of Britain.

A simple question which will be asked by millions of Labour voters is—why did not the Labour Party do better?

Submission

The right wing have witch-hunted, brow-beaten and cajoled all their left opponents such as Anthony Greenwood into complete submission to Harold Wilson. Only the Young Socialists fought a principled fight throughout the whole election.

Yet all the crawling and cringing achieved nothing so far as the right wing of the Labour Party was concerned. They are going to become a government with perhaps the shakiest of majorities since the war. But this is not the end of the story.

How do you explain Smethwick and the defeat of a man who was to be the Foreign



ANTHONY GREENWOOD one of the 'left' in the Labour Party brow-beaten, cajoled and witch-hunted into submission by the right wing.

If you try to look like the Tories politically, then you play the Tory game and if you play the Tory game politically then you will be defeated, since only the Tories can carry out their policy.

Distasteful

In every area where there was a racial problem, the Labour vote went down. We have no sympathy for Gordon Walker. If there ever was a distasteful right-winger, then it is he. This is not the whole story.

If we take the impending economic crisis, the narrowness of Labour's majority in Parliament and the lessons of Smethwick together, then we have a real picture of the enormous dangers that face the working-class movement in Britain today.

Right from the beginning of the campaign, The Newsletter stressed that Labour's support for the Tory Immigration Act was treachery. We were right.

Now we say that the results of the election lead us steadily along the road to a showdown with the monopolists and the fascist racials who stand in the wings.

The era of Labour Party reformism has come to an abrupt end so far as the future of the working class is concerned. That is the meaning of the General Election.



GEORGE BROWN—faithful follower and certain second-in-command to Wilson.

Secretary in a Labour government, Mr. Gordon Walker? Harold Wilson and his cronies thought they were doing splendidly when they joined with the Tories in defending the Tory Immigration Act.

Defeat

By doing this they strengthened every fascist and racist in the country. That is what happened in Smethwick when Gordon Walker was defeated.

Definitely lined up for seats in Wilson's Cabinet are—left to right: JAMES CALLAGHAN (possible Chancellor of the Exchequer), RAY GUNTER, and DENIS HEALEY (possible Minister of Defence)



Possible Minister of Labour

SPECIAL TOUGH POLICE SQUAD FORMED

by Robert James

It is no accident that the 'Daily Express' announced, just one day before the election, that Scotland Yard has formed a 100-strong squad of London's youngest and fittest policemen to combat, among other things, 'teenage riots'.

Today, British youth are politically more active than anywhere else in the world.

They understand the crisis which capitalism is imposing on the world working class and, through the Young Socialists, are fighting for policies to smash the Tories, the bosses and their friends in the labour movement.

CONTEMPT

They recognise these people as enemies willing to use the police to throw them out of Tory election meetings, or even Labour Party rooms.

At the election campaign meetings, such as the one held in Doncaster by Harold MacMillan on Monday, youth have expressed their complete contempt for the 13-year-old (now archaic) promises of the Tories. At the same time they have shown their disgust of the 'New (capitalist) Britain' envisaged by Harold Wilson.

This is a real fighting force: a force which has been denounced by Tories and Labour alike who have banded around words like 'democracy'.

'DEMOCRACY'

Youth have had a taste of this 'democracy' from both parties.

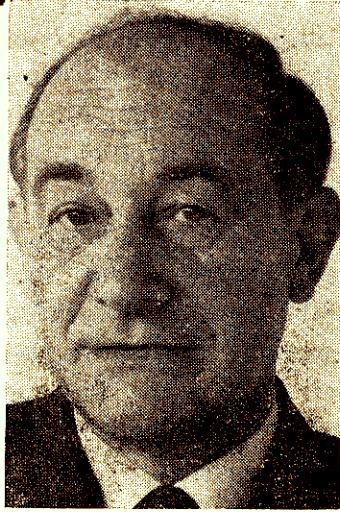
Thirteen years of Tory rule makes a farce of such a word.

So does the action of right-wing Labourites in calling the police to viciously clear Young Socialist lobbyists from outside a Labour Party NEC meeting earlier this year.

But socialist youth will not be deterred. They will continue to fight for socialism, no matter what the odds.

The news about the 'tough squad' in Wednesday's 'Daily Express' must have been a welcome sight to Wilson, whose intervention in the tube strike this week demonstrated, once again, how tough he intends to be against young and old workers, in order to run Britain for the bosses.

Patrick Gordon Walker turned out to be Labour's most startling loser. He lost his seat in Smethwick, where, only a day before the Election, he said he was in favour of immigration control. However, Wilson still intimated Walker will be Britain's next Foreign Minister.



Socialist Labour League Meeting AFTER THE ELECTION WHAT NEXT?

A failing economy is the guide

WORKERS will vote Labour with one hand tied behind their backs. The task of socialists is to free the right hand to finish with the Tories, not just for one Election, but for ever, said Cliff Slaughter, a leading member of the Socialist Labour League, at a pre-election meeting in London last Sunday.

Slaughter told a 300-strong audience that a Labour government would be elected following the longest period of Tory rule, in spite of Wilson's failure to bring down the Tories over many issues.

Both parties claimed to represent the nation. 'But there are only two nations—the bosses and the working class. We start from the needs of the working class and not the nation. Workers in this country have more in common with workers in every other country, in peace and war,' he said.

The swing from the Tories was



Speakers at SLL meeting—l. to r.: Healy, Banda, Slaughter, Kerrigan

due mainly to the hopes of young workers and their wives for better housing, education for their children and an improved standard of living.

In spite of prosperity talk they bore the brunt of speed-up and super-exploitation in the factories.

The workers were also being asked to carry the present economic crisis on their backs. 'The bills become due now—in the first few days after the Election. That is why Wilson talks of the 100 days and disciplining the trade unions,' he commented.

Earlier this year the SLL had said that to cover up the crisis, the Tories had been borrowing from foreign banks.

The economic crisis, Slaughter

said, was the real issue behind the Election. Neither party had made an analysis of the crisis. Home had said in January that 'not too much attention' should be paid to the balance of payments deficit. The crisis was seasonal, he had said, but the same figure of £98,000,000, had been announced in June!

Five weeks ago Wilson had said there was no crisis. Then, on television two weeks ago, George Brown said Britain was facing the biggest crisis ever. Three days later, Wilson said the same. 'There was an agreement that the economic crisis should not be brought into the election,' commented Slaughter. Wilson had deceived the people because both parties were worried about the flight of the pound and capital invested in Britain. Wilson knew the severity of the crisis and the action he would have to take.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Election campaign, said Slaughter, was the 'dynamic introduction' of youth.

This youth had expressed how bitter a fight for socialism would be and what kind of fight it would be. As none of the parties had anything to offer youth and favoured police repression, this youth was not turning to the old

(Cont. p. 3, col. 5)

£ to be devalued?

IN the last two weeks of the Election campaign, the financial and economic crisis rapidly overtaking British capitalism grew too big to hide. Maudling had been trying to cover up the dangerous position of the economy. Wilson, who did his best to help him, gave up the attempt a fortnight ago.

The recent disastrous figures have been followed by the revelation that the gold reserves were propped up last month by borrowing from foreign banks. The amounts involved have not been made public, but it is estimated that about £50,000,000 must have been drawn.

Since these were all short-term loans, they can only postpone the problem to early next year, when the repayments are due.

FIERCE COMPETITION

Britain's exports have been running into fiercer competition, even in the recent period of expansion of world trade. Import bills have been swollen by importers fearing controls which the Labour government might impose.

The so-called 'invisible' earnings—banking, insurance, shipping—have been dwindling. Against profits on overseas investment must be set the growing drain of profit on foreign investment in Britain, mainly American.

For the past 18 months, the strength of the pound has been kept up only by an increase in

By JOHN CRAWFORD

the sterling holdings of Commonwealth countries. In fact, the bulk of this increase was the Australian holding. Due to changes in world prices, this inflow is about to dry up.

The government will have to take immediate steps to prevent an outflow from British banks as foreigners rush to take their money out of the country.

To give them confidence in the pound sterling, interest rates must be raised and government expenditure cut. To run British capitalism today means making an all-out attack on the working class, as industrial expansion is held back and the much talked of 4 per cent growth rate thrown out of the Treasury window.

But will these measures be sufficient to stave off economic trouble? It is quite possible that the devaluation of sterling will be put on the agenda of the new government.

This would mean that while British exports would cost less in foreign currency, prices at home would soar. A big slice would be hacked off the value of every wage packet.

It would also imply jettisoning the traditional role of the City of London as a commercial and banking centre.

No attention should be paid to vehement denials of the possibility of devaluation. These are the standard prelude to such a move—only a few hours before the pound was devalued in 1949, Sir Stafford

Cripps, Labour's very christian chancellor was proclaiming his innocence of any intention of this kind.

Speaking of possible restriction on industrial expansion, which the financial position implies, 'The Sunday Times' economic correspondent wrote: 'If this is true, nothing that is being said in this election makes sense!'

How right he was, especially in relation to Wilson's campaign. While Wilson prated about the great new scientific future and Brown burred on about lower interest rates, the economic crisis rendered every word they uttered absolute nonsense.

So long as they refuse to take any action which might disturb the rights of the profiteers, they will be forced to deal with the crisis prepared for them by the Tories by attacking the working class.

New edition of Trotskyist journal

BRITISH Trotskyists will be glad to know that the Revolutionary Lanka Sama Samaja Party has succeeded in bringing out a Tamil edition of its Sinhalese paper 'Samasamajaya'. This emphasises the combined struggle of the Tamil and Sinhalese workers against the common enemy—capitalism and its imperialist backers.

We wish our co-thinkers in Ceylon every success in this new journalistic venture.

