

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

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## END LABOUR'S IMPERIALIST POLICY

### He's Back!

The return of the Royal Family, laden with diamonds, ostrich feathers and other "souvenirs" from the rich South African capitalists was marked by the usual flunkeyism and publicity that occurs on such occasions.

And, no doubt, the Court circles, Dowagers and ambitious socialite parasites feel happy that the Royal family is with them again, to grace their banquets and functions. But to the working class in Britain, the occasion makes about as much difference as the King's South African tour did to the over-worked and exploited native slaves of the wealthy South African capitalists.



While some millions of the working class in Britain desperately seek decent housing accommodation, the Royal Family have returned to no such worries. Indeed, one of their twenty-two residences, Buckingham Palace, has been extensively and very expensively re-decorated in their absence, at a cost of some £58,000. A sum which would be about the cost of housing sixty workers and their families in comfort.

Attlee, in a most obsequious speech of welcome home, referred to the "deep disappointment to our fellow subjects in South Africa, who for the first time in their history were able to welcome in person their King and Queen...". If the Royal visit had been called off. But it is clear that Attlee, was not thinking of the unfortunate black workers of South Africa. He was concerned with fortifying the position of British imperialism in South Africa, which is now re-

garded as a sheet anchor of imperialist interests in the whole of Africa. The visit was intended to bolster Smuts' policy of "white supremacy" and hegemony on the African continent. The truth is, that the working class of Britain have everything in common with fellow-workers like the South African natives, and nothing at all with any exploiting ruling class and its parasitic figureheads. Workers, black or white, can never enjoy the fruits of their labours while the capitalist system continues, while antiquated anachronisms like the institution of Royalty, continue to exist. But "socialist" flunkeys never offend their capitalist masters by speaking such truths!

## TEXAS CITY DISASTER

Capitalist Greed Blamed

BY EVELYN ATWOOD

U.S.A.—

The Texas City disaster snuffed out the lives of between 400 and 600 people, with many dead still unaccounted, injured 3,000 more and laid waste an entire city.

The Texas workers bore the brunt of the disaster. Their flimsy shacks were built in an arc of danger around the inflammable chemical plants and oil refineries on the water-front. Among these workers were many Mexican-American and Negro families. This sector was virtually wiped off the map.

A fire aboard the explosive-laden French freighter Grandcamp on April 16, blasted the vessel and most of its crew out of existence. This first blast set off a chain of explosions that for three days rocked the Gulf Coast, and ripped through the jerry-built industrial Texas City.

The death toll was highest among the hundreds of workers in the \$10,000,000 Monsanto Chemical plant, built at government expense during the war, which sprawled over 30 acres on Galveston Bay. No alarm was sounded in the plant when the Grandcamp fire started and none of the workers evacuated, although there was ample time to do so. The plant became a flaming shambles as its chemicals ignited. Other vessels in the Harbour exploded, including the High Flyer, also loaded with explosives.

Who is responsible for this horror? The "N.Y. World Telegram" on April 17 states: "It comes in the category of those indefinable acts of God... seemingly there is no one to blame." This is a lie. Evidence is beginning to accumulate that capitalist greed and reckless disregard for the lives and safety of the working people are behind the disaster.

City officials, dominated by the big chemical and shipping companies, permitted flagrant violations of safety laws concerning the docking of explosive-laden ships. During the war this small seaport town boomed into an industrial and shipping centre of 15,000, three times its pre-war size. Safety conditions in the narrow and crowded Houston channel, where Texas City is located, are notoriously bad. Shipowners repeatedly refused to adopt or observe needed safety measures.

CIO National Maritime Union officials point out that ammunition ships have no right to dock, but must lie out in the stream, handling

cargo via barges. Yet the Grandcamp, admittedly carrying cases of ammunition, was docked at the pier for five days, loading tons of ammonium nitrate.

William T. Butler, expert on dangerous cargo shipments and now serving on the Coast Guard Board investigating the causes of the disaster, admits that nitrate is considered dangerous cargo. Nevertheless the Coast Guard failed to order these nitrate-bearing ships out into the stream.

L. D. Boswell, foreman of a working detail of longshoremen, testified that a man on the Grandcamp yelled up to the deck from the ship's hold that he smelled something burning. Some water was sent down to help extinguish the flames. But a request for more water was denied on the ground that it would damage the cargo. This cargo, so carefully protected for the shipowners at the expense of an entire city and its population, was the dangerous ammonium nitrate, loaded in paper bags.

Chemical experts, meeting in Atlantic City, stated that ammonium nitrate explodes with about 25% more violence than TNT. It can be set off by heat or through detonation of ammonium. High stockpiles of ammonium nitrate were left at the end of the war. The government sold it cheap to investors who made big profits converting it into fertilizers. But the process of conversion is highly dangerous. The chemical experts warn that so long as this processing continues, danger of further explosions remain.

Several investigations are now under way to determine the causes for the disaster. But it can be safely predicted that the responsibility will not be placed upon the real criminals—the big corporations and shipowners who put profits ahead of human lives.

### For a Socialist Programme

"Keep Left" Offers No Alternative

THE DELEGATES TO THIS YEAR'S LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, MEETING AT MARGATE, HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF GIVING A CLEAR ALTERNATIVE LEAD TO THE PRESENT POLICY OF THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT, A POLICY WHICH UPHOLDS AND FURTHERS THE INTERESTS OF CAPITALISM AGAINST THOSE OF THE WORKING CLASS.

While certain nationalisation measures have been introduced, effective control of Britain's production and economy remains in the hands of the capitalist class. While a golden harvest of profits continues to pour into the pockets of the employers, the main burdens of shortages, of taxation, and of the production crisis continues to be borne by the working class. All this under the aegis of the Labour Government.

Almost one and a quarter million British troops continue to be stationed overseas to act as the protectors of British capitalist interests, and the colonial masses continue to be enslaved under British imperialist rule.

#### "Keep Left" No Alternative

Workers who are apprehensive about Labour's policy will study the pamphlet, "Keep Left", appropriately published by the "New Statesman", Liberal Labour weekly, which has come out with an "alternative" policy. The dozen or so Labour M.P.'s responsible for this pamphlet, notably, Crossman, Michael Foot and Ian Mikardo, modestly state, in a short introduction: "We found that we all agreed about the need for a more drastic Socialist policy if we were not to drift into disaster...". Such a statement could only be welcomed by every worker who is seeking a real socialist alternative to official Labour policy—if it were a genuine attempt to come to grips with the problems facing the working class of Britain today! But, the fact is, that the authors of "Keep Left", having no principled alternative to the present policy, are incapable of developing any concrete Socialist programme of action that would operate in the interests of the workers in Britain.

only through the establishment of the Socialist United States of Europe can the working class defeat the reactionary aims of world imperialism, and the Stalinist bureaucracy, the "solution" of the "Keep Left" authors is just another capitalist "balance of power" formula, a "Western bloc" with France and other capitalist countries of Europe, in order that Britain can play an "independent" role between the two great Powers of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. They say:

"The task of British Socialism must be, wherever possible, to save the smaller nations from this futile ideological warfare and to heal the breach between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. But we cannot do this if we ourselves have taken sides either in a Communist bloc or in an anti-Bolshevik axis. It would be a betrayal of British and European Socialism if we weakly accepted...".

#### Right Policy For Germany

"Keep Left" reiterates the official right wing policy for Germany:

"It should be possible, for instance, as a measure to prevent the revival of German militarism, to limit the reconstruction of the German steel industry and to get the extra capacity by building steel mills in the neighbouring countries to be serviced with German coal."

Thus they help to perpetuate the legend of natural German aggressiveness, and then proceed to put forward a vague idea of a "United Socialist Europe" without showing how this can be achieved without the overthrow of capitalism and a complete transformation of the economy in Germany and all the countries concerned, starting with Britain.

#### A New Imperialist Policy

...they write an... different from Morrison, that the Government could take no other course except (Continued on Page 4.)

#### Recognises Britain's Decline

One merit the pamphlet possesses is the description of the parlous plight of British capitalism and the exceedingly weak position in which it finds itself at the present time. It shows how the lust for profits on the part of the capitalists has resulted in the ruin of Britain's basic industries.

At the same time it points out the diseased state which world capitalism reached after the First World War, and the crisis of capitalism which was ushered in by the slump in 1929. Not only is the economic decline of Britain well diagnosed, but her diplomatic weakness and the shaky hold which she has on her colonies is shown. The signatories openly proclaim that on her own Britain will be hopelessly outclassed in a war against America or against Russia, the two modern titans.

#### New "Balance Of Power" Formula

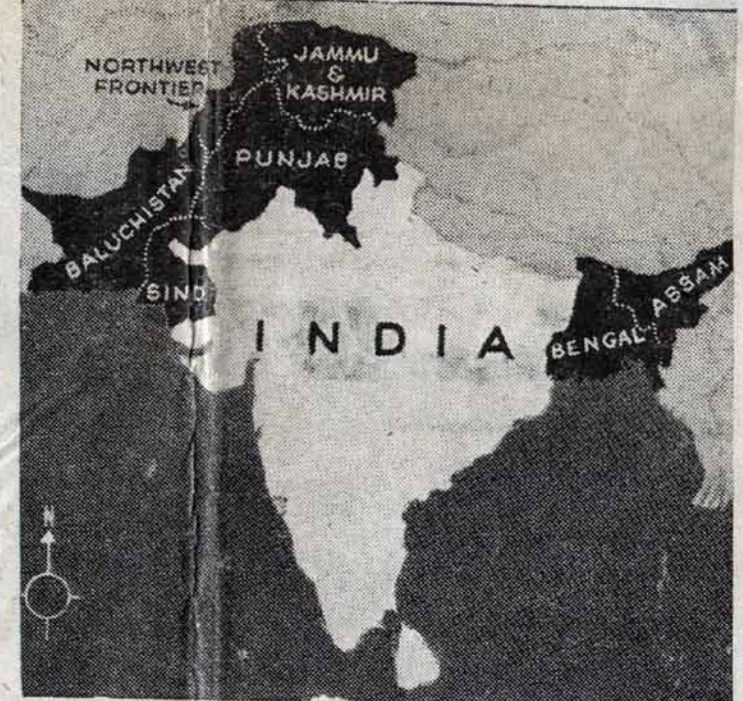
But instead of drawing the correct socialist conclusion that

### 'Hidden Hand' At Work Again

...On May 6th, Major Beamish (Conservative, Leves) asked the Minister of Labour whether he is aware that the illegal road haulage strike in January 1947, "was largely organised and encouraged by the Revolutionary Communist Party, Trotskyist and British Section of the Fourth International," and what steps he proposed to take against "illegal strikes organised for political reasons."

Mr. Isaacs replied that although the organisation mentioned might have encouraged the strike once it started, there was no evidence to show they organised it. Therefore, the question of taking steps did not arise.

Major Beamish and his kind do not seem to realise that if workers go on strike it is because they have a just grievance (even the capitalist press recognised the just grievances of the transport workers), and not because "agitators" lead them by the nose. The fact that people like Major Beamish see Trotskyists at work whenever working class militancy is forthcoming, is a tribute to the militant tradition that the Trotskyists are establishing and which is so lacking in other working class parties. We do support the Transport strike, as we will support all the struggles of the workers against the employers. Of this we are proud. R.S.



PAKISTAN, shown on the map in black, is the demand of Jinnah's Moslem League, divides India and allows the wealthy princes to maintain their states.

## Congress Leaders Consider Pakistan

By its deliberate policy of building up antagonisms and playing off Moslems against Hindus in order to "divide and rule", British imperialism tries to maintain some sort of foot-hold in India. Recent despatches from India persistently contain the report that the Congress Party is considering Pakistan as a result of the pressure of the Moslem League. The Congress Working Committee is said to be working on plans for the partition of Punjab and Bengal as separate Moslem States.

This represents a break with the traditional stand of Congress, which always opposed Pakistan as a "madman's dream." The intensity of the imperialist sponsored Moslem League's struggle against the establishment of a United India can be seen from the fact that in the past few weeks, the number of dead in the communal riots was 2,000, and most of these from the Punjab. In the North West Frontier, where the Congress represents a big majority, the Moslem League invited 150,000 Moslems to demonstrate for Pakistan before the Viceroy, who was on tour.

The meaning of Pakistan and the new turn of the Congress was made clear by a former Nationalist Moslem Minister of the Interim Government, Ali Zabeer:

"If Pakistan is conceded as appears inevitable, whether in a truncated form or otherwise, the presence of the British Government in India can be taken for granted. They will be there at the invitation of one party or the other." Because Congress acts in the interests of the basic sections of the Indian capitalists and landlords, it is incapable of developing a policy which would unify the Indian people around the banner of a United Independent India. Because of their vested interests, the Congress capitalists are not prepared to call on the people, Hindu and Moslem, to sweep away the Indian princes, who are kept in being only by the support of British imperialism. Only the working class can lead such a struggle under a revolutionary communist banner.

## Make the Rich Pay!

Currency Cases Show Luxury Living of Wealthy Parasites

BY G. NOZEDA

THE MONOTONOUS PARADE OF RICH BRITISH IDLERS PASSING THROUGH THE POLICE COURTS ON CURRENCY EVASION CHARGES BRINGS HOME THE SHARP CONTRAST BETWEEN THE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE WORKERS TODAY, AND THE LUXURY LIVING OF THESE WEALTHY PARASITES.

While the working class is exhorted to "work harder", to "spend less and save more", by capitalist employers and Labour Government alike, members of the upper classes are engaged in luxury spending on fantastic scales.

Those wealthy idlers, who have been "found out", squandered fabulous sums on gambling and high living in the favourite holiday resort of the capitalist class, the French Riviera. Money, coined from the toil and sweat of working people, flows like water in this haunt of the wealthy.

Some idea of the fantastic sums squandered by these rich holiday habitués in the Riviera is indicated by a "Daily Mail" reporter, who writes:

"Chartering of yachts at fees of anything from £500 to £5,000, all-day cocktail parties that cost £500 a time, and gaming debts that in some cases amount to £5,000 a night are some of the items that have been admitted."

And, as an example of a "fairly quiet day's spending" by one wealthy idler, the report instances:

"Hotel, £5 (one day); Car, Cannes to MonteCarlo, £10; Lunch and Dinner, four guests, £32; Gambling losses, £25; Night club, £6; total for the day, £78."

What a "hard" day's spending would amount to, is left to the imagination!

In one recent case, that of a wealthy captain and a woman friend, £8,740 was squandered in this fashion in 15 weeks. They spent, between them, almost £600 a week. At approximately twice as much as a miner earns in a year!

To-date, the reported loss to the British Treasury incurred by such currency evaders, amounts to some millions of pounds. This to some currency doggers. True, these have been evaders who were caught and fined. But a few hundred, or even a few thousand pounds, in fines, can mean little to the pockets of these luxury spenders who spend as much in one day, (a "quiet day"), as a miner receives for three months of hard work. These rich gamblers and idlers come from the same wealthy capitalist class that howls for the workers' union when their wages and bad conditions force the workers to strike action; they come from the same capitalist class

whose kept press never loses an opportunity to sneer and belittle the miners for alleged "absenteeism"; who never fail to inform the working class that they must "work harder", for the "benefit of all", but who regard it as "insolence" when the workers demand better conditions or even "go so far" as to demand, holidays with pay.

These wealthy idlers of the capitalist class consider the present capitalist "division of labour", whereby the workers produce the profits and they spend them, as right and proper, the ordained state of things! And it is to the shame of the Labour leaders, who claim to act as "socialists", as defenders of the working man's interests, that the capitalist profiteers and the idler rich have not been disabused of their belief in the right of capitalists' to profiteer. On the contrary! The Labour Government continues to place heavy taxation burdens on the backs of the working class, but takes no action against the wealthy employing class who continue to pile up profits.

The fact that their last Budget imposed a flea-bite of a profits-tax on the capitalists appears to be the Labour Government's last word in "equal sacrifice". But the working class will not tolerate this situation, whereby the main burdens of Britain's economic crisis are placed on their backs. Their own plight on their backs whilst the wealthy capitalist monopolies reap higher and higher profits, and millions are spent by rich wasters in luxury living! This situation must be changed. It can be ended only when the organised workers in Britain force the Labour Government to match their words with deeds and take action to expropriate the profits of the capitalist class as a first step in implementing a genuine socialist economic policy. The Labour trade unionists and all Labour organisations, demand that the Labour leaders place the burden where it belongs, on the backs of the capitalist class. MAKE THE RICH PAY!

## 'Daily Worker' Defends Inequalities In Russia

BY T. CLIFF

The "Daily Worker" has been publishing a series of articles attempting to explain away the great inequalities in income which exist in present day Russia. These articles reveal the nervousness of the editors lest the British workers put their finger on the touchstone of the Stalinist system—as of every system—economic inequality.

The "Daily Worker" editorial of the 8th says that of course, there exist inequalities, but "It is an 'inequality' which renders a true reward for service and a guarantee that by promoting its best citizens the Soviet Union will finally advance to Communism, which means: from each according to his abilities and to each according to his needs."

The same tune is repeated by J. R. Campbell in his article "Soviet Income" on the 9th May. He writes:

"No Socialist has ever advocated that the manager of an automobile factory should only get the same wages as the man who sweeps the workshop floor, or that a top-ranking scientist should only receive the same wages as a newspaper seller."

Nor have they advocated that a worker doing comparatively easy work in, say, the chocolate industry, should get the same amount of wages and paid holidays as a miner."

"... The harder the job, or the more difficult it is to learn, the higher must be the wage, otherwise, the Soviet citizens say, nobody would do it at all."

Certainly, if one worker works harder than another in the first stage of the new society, then he receives income according to the

labour he gives to society. This applies only because the material conditions are not yet ripe enough to give to every worker an income in accordance with his needs, independent of the quantity of labour he gives to society.

#### Wages Under Lenin

Lenin's Government could not establish absolute equality immediately after taking power. But it established a maximum limit for differences in income between different workers, and established as a principle the striving towards decreasing the differences with time. Even the capitalist experts who were employed by the Soviet Government and who lacked any loyalty towards it, even for these, there was set a limit of approximately four to one.

"In accordance with the decree issued in the Autumn of 1919, the minimum income was 1,200 roubles and the maximum was 4,800 roubles, the latter figure being the maximum for the 'specialists' as well."

N. Bucharin and E. Preobrazhensky in "A.B.C. of Communism", page 302, officially published by the Bolsheviks and the C.P. of Britain as a text book of Communism.

As regards the Government officials, Lenin wrote that the salaries must not exceed the average wage of a skilled worker. If the facts today showed that there is no absolute equality in incomes in Russia, but everyone received a wage according to his labour, then certainly the editor of the "Daily Worker" would not be able to say (Continued on page 4.)