

50 M.P.s ATTEND COLONIAL DEBATE

BY R. RALPH

The Colonial question is the touchstone of the sincerity of any party that claims to stand for Socialism and the emancipation of mankind from the horrors of capitalism and imperialism. But those who are in the habit of speaking most glibly of "freedom and democracy for the colonial peoples" are usually the most ready to sell their services to the imperialist exploiters. Parliament in the last fortnight has again confirmed this estimate.

Colonial Debate

The debate on colonial affairs on July 9th, the first debate on the subject since the Labour Party took power, and which several M.P.s had pressed for in the previous week, was attended by no more than 50 M.P.s; a number which dwindled to 20 during the course of the debate. So much for the interest which the majority of our "Socialist" representatives displayed in the scores of millions of enslaved colonial peoples. The Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace was apparently the stronger attraction!

George Hall, the Labour Secretary of State for the Colonies summed up his position in the following words:

"I want to see private enterprise assisting in building up new industries on the basis of those public services, with proper regard, of course, to the public interest."

As the Imperialists always mean their own profits when they speak of "the public interest" we can be assured that "the public interest" will be well looked after.

There is thus a continuation of the Tory colonial policy of the past, a point which was appreciated by Oliver Stanley (the former Tory Secretary of State for the Colonies), who said:

"It (the Labour declaration of colonial policy) did not seem to differ greatly in essentials from the policies which have been declared on previous occasions."

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Creech-Jones, however, preferred to put it differently:

"Therefore, instead of Labour members endorsing the sentiment that the policy of the Labour Government is just the continuity of previous policies, they should rejoice that, at last, our propaganda has succeeded in converting the Tory Benches to a much

more human and liberal approach to the problems with which this Government have now to contend." (!!!)

Burma Legislature Bill

The hollowness of such "reforms" as the Labour Party are proposing is fully revealed in the example of the following amendment to the Burma Legislature Bill on June 28th. It referred to qualifications for election to the Senate. In the words of the Under-Secretary of State for Burma, Arthur Henderson:

"We are removing property qualifications and leaving the qualification to be that of public service."

And what precisely is deemed "public service"? This is happily elucidated by Mr. Henderson:

"... certain previous official service, or other public service recognised by the conferment of a title which, I believe, is equivalent to the M.B.E. over here, and also is based upon such other qualifications in respect of the rendering of distinguished public service as the Governor in his discretion may prescribe."

There could certainly be no better way of ensuring that the most able and loyal defenders of British Imperialism get into the Senate!

The Tories of course supported it, through R. A. Butler and others—although they would have preferred property qualifications to have remained too.

The two "Communist" M.P.s Galacher and Piratin, also made speeches supporting the amendment, although this will come as no surprise to those who are acquainted with the Stalinist abandonment of the revolutionary struggle of the colonial masses, and with the support by Stalinism of British Imperialism during the war. A genuine Communist in Parliament would have exposed such a farce of representation.

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SMASH MASTER BAKERS' SABOTAGE

By Workers' Control

THE CAMPAIGN OF THE MASTER BAKERS TO SABOTAGE THE BREAD RATIONING SCHEME OF THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT, IS ASSUMING TREMENDOUS PROPORTIONS. PROMINENT HOARDINGS IN ALL MAJOR CITIES ARE PLASTERED WITH ANTI-LABOUR POSTERS. ALMOST EVERY SHOP THAT SELLS BREAD, IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, DISPLAY PROMINENT POSTERS "HANDS OFF OUR DAILY BREAD!"

From one district to another the degree of determination shown by the Master Bakers varies slightly. Some threaten direct sabotage. Others, that they will only partly carry out the scheme. But all are determined to force the Labour Government to make concessions.

Behind the Bakers' campaign is clearly to be detected the shadow

of Churchill and the whole gang of reactionary Tories. This is a hot issue—the first hot issue that the Tories have been really able to hang on to since the General Election—and the capitalists are whipping it for all it is worth.

Every prejudice of the backward shopkeeper and of the most backward section of the working class has been aroused in opposition to the Labour Government. It is beyond dispute that this campaign is having a certain reactionary effect.

Instead of the Labour Government learning from the Tories and

acting in a militant class manner—in a manner really representative of the class that put them into power, the working class, they have retreated in face of the Tories and are clearly prepared to make concessions.

Strachey has already increased the allocation of sugar to bakers by 25%, which will compensate for any profits that may be lost.

Instead of taking real steps against the Master Bakers he is consulting the "Law officers"! Unlike the workers who are treated with the mailed fist, the employers

(Continued on back page.)

Tory Housewives Demo. Flops

The reactionary Tory campaign against the Labour Government's decision to ration bread and flour, was carried a stage further by a widely publicised "demonstration" at Trafalgar Square on Sunday, July 14th.

The demonstration, generously advertised by the most disinterested Tory press, was financed by the anti-working class Mrs. Tennant, a leader of the notorious Neo-fascist "Face the Facts Association". It was organised in conjunction with the Daily Mail sponsored, "British Housewives League", whose secretary Mrs. Were, shared the speakers' platform with Mrs. Tennant. While the demonstration itself, consisted of about two hundred middle-class women and a few banners, a crowd of almost 500 working class people and other labour supporters expressed hostility to this Tory set-up by booing and protesting at the anti-Labour speeches from the platform.

Totally ignoring the unpleasant fact that there does exist an actual world shortage of grain and cereals: Mrs. Were made the claim that: "She had it on first hand information that there was no world food shortage but the countries with food surpluses declined to give credit to 'this Government of muddlers'."

The "first hand" source of information apparently forgot to tell the favoured Mrs. Were that the world grain shortage was also further aggravated by the actions of the capitalist grain-monopolies in withholding vast stocks of wheat

and grain from the world markets in order to force up the price.

Mrs. Tennant seized the opportunity to vent her anti-labour and anti-working class venom from the platform, and chauvinistically declared that:

"German prisoners of war were being well-fed, because they might be useful when the will of the British people began to express itself against the Labour Government."

This attempt to put over a form of anti-Labour propaganda was received with increased boos and cries of "fascist" from the audience. Since Mrs. Tennant's denials of her "Face the Facts Association" having any "political affiliations" fell flat, she ungracefully retired, and the "demonstration" folded up.

The Labour Government, by its policy of refusing to take the working class fully into its confidence on the rationing of flour and bread, is playing into the hands of the Tories. The co-operative, trade union and labour organisations must demand a positive policy of working class control and distribution of all food stocks in Britain by the setting up of Consumers' Committees, composed of workers in the distributive trades, small-shopkeepers and housewives.



"Why don't they just phone?"

U.S. Trotskyists on Ohio Ballot

COMRADES MALCOLM WALKER AND PAUL WYLIE NAMED TO RUN FOR U.S. CONGRESS AND STATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BY HAROLD JOSEPHS

TOLEDO, O., U.S.A., June 21.—The Socialist Workers Party in Toledo entered the fall election campaign by announcing it will run two candidates, Malcolm Walker for U.S. Congressional Representative (9th Dist.) and Paul Wylie for Ohio General Assembly-man.

This will be the first time that the SWP has entered candidates on an Ohio ballot. Complicated election laws make it extremely difficult for minority parties to get



PAUL WYLIE

on the ballot. Although Comrades Walker and Wylie will campaign as revolutionary socialists under the name of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), their ballot designation will be "Independent."

Union Men

Comrade Walker, a former merchant seaman and member of the AFL Seafarers International Union, is Toledo SWP organizer. He has participated actively in labour struggles.

Comrade Wylie has a long record of militant union activity in this area. He is a popular union steward in his department at the Spicer Manufacturing Company, where he has worked for more than 10 years.

Fighting Programme

The SWP candidates will be the only ones on the ballot who will truly represent the interests of labour. They are planning to conduct a vigorous campaign in Lucas and Ottawa Counties on a seven-point fighting programme:

1. For an independent labour party.
2. Full employment and job security through the 6-hour day, 30-hour week and government operation of all idle plants under workers' control.
3. Full equality for Negroes and all national minorities. Abolish Jim Crow.
4. Protect workers' living standards through a sliding scale of wages to meet all cost of living rises.
5. Tax the rich, not the poor.
6. Against all forms of government strikebreaking.
7. For a socialist society.



MALCOLM WALKER

WAGES FALL IN NATIONALISED FIRM

BY DAVE WEST

Nationalisation Without Workers' Control
No Benefit to Workers

When the Labour Party came before the workers at the General Election, a year ago, they asked for the workers' votes for their nationalisation policy (with compensation and without workers' control), as something that would confer tremendous benefits on the working class. The masses, who know the hard struggle to make a living in modern society, from the experience of their daily lives, realised the need for a fundamental change and gave their support to the Labour candidates.

Subsequently Herbert Morrison announced that it was not the needs of the workers that was to be the yardstick of Labour's policy for the nationalization of industry, but the efficiency or otherwise of the industry in question.

It soon became obvious that the nationalization plan, which involved the paying out of vast sums in compensation to the bosses, and the continuation of private capitalism in other industries, meant that they could not afford to give any substantial benefits to the workers.

We have now received particulars of a case where in actuality the workers' standards have been worsened by the taking over of a private concern by the Ministry of Supply.

The concern in question is Power Jets Ltd., of Whetstone, Leicester and its experimental plant at Cove near Aldershot. The plant has now become National Gas Turbine Establishment.

good for the main factory in Leicester also.

Mechanics: Under Power Jets Ltd. 47-hour week

Starting Wage, Basic	£3 14 6
National Bonus and Lien Bonus	1 11 6
	£5 6 0

Merit money rising at 3 monthly increments of 5/- to a maximum of

	2 0 0
	£7 6 0

Under the Ministry of Supply: 47 hour week:

Starting Wage, Basic	£3 13 6
National Bonus and Lien Bonus	1 11 6
	£5 5 0

Merit money — Nil. Maximum under new scale

	£5 12 0
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Under the new scale a Mechanic Tester receives a starting wage of £5 8s., with a maximum of £6 19s. Inspectors £6 1s. with a maximum of £7 8s. Labourers will receive £1 per week less under the new scheme. Electricians and Fitters' mates retain their present rates, but new-comers will start at 15s. per week less.

arrangement ceases under the new scheme.

Workers Not Consulted

According to the information we have received the new wage scales were imposed on the workers without any consultation with union representatives of the Aldershot plant. It would seem that having arrived at some agreement with the Leicester works (our informant had no information on this point) the decision was arbitrarily imposed upon the workers of the smaller factory without so much as a consultation with the workers' representatives.

The workers must wage a struggle against such bureaucratic methods, and the lowering of their standards in enterprises such as this. They must exert pressure through their organizations on the Labour Government to reverse this policy. They must demand that the firms nationalised by the Government shall cease.

The workers do not want to exchange one capitalist manager for another or the same capitalist manager acting in the interests of the capitalist state. They must demand that the workers, with the technicians as consultants, shall have full control not only of wages and conditions but the managing and running of all industries which are nationalised.

Not worse conditions and wages, but higher wages and better conditions in the nationalised industries!

Nationalization at the expense of the bosses not the workers!

Atom Test Cinema Audiences Horrified

The Atom Bomb Test recently held at Bikini, appeared to have ended in a flop. For weeks the issue was played up in the Press. All preparations were described in as much detail as the Military Intelligence would supply for purposes of propaganda. But when the Bomb exploded the whole campaign seemed to collapse.

First the wireless transmission failed and even the best wireless enthusiasts could coax nothing out of the set but disappointment. The following day the press reports indicated that the bomb explosion was not so terrible, after all.

Result: a fearful multitude, expecting the worst, heaved a sigh of relief.

But now that the news-reel of the explosion has been released, showing the preparations and damage, people are beginning to realise that it was not such a flop after all.

Five ships sunk, and the terrible devastation to the superstructure of the ships shown in the news-reel give some indication of the real power of the atom explosion. The force of the explosion which flattened and pushed over the upper works of these battleships must really have been terrible.

Women, especially, gasped with horror as the news-reel showed the sheep being sheered and smeared with ointment, as part of the experiment. Loud protests came even from the men! Children were horrified as children always are when they see dumb animals being treated with calculated cruelty.

Yes, the news-reel brought the macabre experiment home to the masses much more sharply in pictures than the press had done in words.

Yesterday, at Bikini, it was the few score pigs and the sheep that they smeared with ointment and covered with protective gadgets. Tomorrow they will smear millions of human sheep and guinea pigs if the capitalists are left in control of the destiny of the nations for the next few years.

After the last war an anti-militarist and revolutionary movement swept the masses of workers

in the most important nations. The capitalists played the pipes of peace under the pressure of this mass movement of the workers. Disarmament became a common and popular theme.

But today the capitalists can speak quite openly and cynically of the next atom bomb world war—between America and Russia; with Britain in the tail of America's plans. The principle reason they can speak so openly is because of the complete and utter capitulation of the mass organisations of the working class to chauvinism, to nationalism, and to militarism.

Atomic power-driven rockets carrying atom bombs round the world, thousands of which will be dropped in the first few hours of the third world war. Almost the entire population of Britain and certainly the population of the most important cities of this country and most of the major cities of the world, burnt to dust and cinders as were the people of Nagasaki; that is the future that Capitalism holds out for the workers of the world.

The harnessing of atomic energy could open up a future for mankind of cheap production of all the necessary things in life and most of its present-day luxuries. But only on condition that the working class control atomic energy. To do that the workers have to overthrow and destroy the foul system of capitalism and introduce socialism nationally, and on an international scale.

Time is not on the side of the workers, it is on the side of the capitalists. Time is not on the side of those who want to use atomic energy for construction, it is on the side of those who must by the very nature of their system, use it for destruction.

Rouse the trade unions. Rouse the Labour Parties. Rouse the co-operative societies and all other organisations of the working class. For the workers of Britain must control the atomic process, or they will be cindered like the Bikini sheep.

