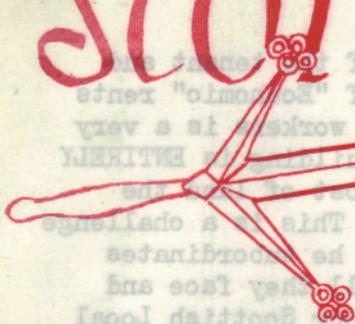


SCOTTISH



VANGUARD

JOURNAL OF THE WORKERS' PARTY OF SCOTLAND - MARXIST-LENINIST.

Vol. 2. No. 6.

JUNE 1968.

6d.

BALLOT BOX TRIUMPHS OF THE SCOTTISH NATIONALISTS and the CANTRIPS OF SOME COUNCILLORS

" -- ANY UNIONIST VOTE -- FOR CONSERVATIVE OR LABOUR UNIONIST IS A WASTED VOTE". Thus states the Scottish National Party in a policy statement headed, "No Left Turn and No Right Turn". Local Government elections have certainly demonstrated the potency of such propaganda. Now there are scores of S.N.P. Councillors, with the reasonable prospect, given a general Parliamentary election, of many colleagues joining Mrs Winnie Ewing in the trek to Westminster.

The dearly beloved slogan of Arthur Donaldson, "Neither Left Nor Right", is already being exposed as an absurdity by the antics of certain S.N.P. local councillors. There are many S.N.P. members of high calibre, strong and honest character and genuinely concerned for the welfare of our people. But, alas, there are others whose most brilliant characteristics have been the astonishing ability to embrace with passionate enthusiasm their S.N.P. new love, and agility in jumping on band-wagons.

Not Left, Not Right, Not Even Sitting on the Fence.

We had the illuminating spectacle of a Dundee Ward contest between two S.N.P. candidates. One was a very recent convert from the Tories and imposed on the Ward S.N.P. Branch by the S.N.P. Constituency Association. The Branch revolted. In Edinburgh the situation is comical. Of the S.N.P. Councillors, three voted only for their own Party candidates, five gave thirteen votes to 'Progressives' and eight votes to Labour and one to an avowed Tory. In Aberdeen the S.N.P. Councillor sits with the Tories (alias 'Progressives') and votes generally as they do. SHORT SHRIFT FOR THE "WASTED VOTE" IDEA. Glasgow S.N.P. Group displayed a measure of realism by acting as a united Party Group, the only possible way for any Party Group hoping to exert the utmost possible influence for its Policy and to avoid looking ridiculous to the public. It is clear however that the Glasgow S.N.P. Group are, by implication, moving in the wrong direction through their declared intention to oppose increased rents, "During the present financial squeeze".

(Contd. on page 2)

THE PEOPLES ARE ON THE MOVE!

REVOLUTION IS IN THE AIR! YOUTH ARE DETERMINED!

PROSPECTS ARE BRILLIANT!

(See p.8.)

FOR A WORKERS' REPUBLIC OF SCOTLAND

From Front Page THE BALLOT BOX, etc."Economic Rents" Nostrums.

Every S.N.P. Councillor must now choose between the interests of the tenant and those of the money-lender. The utterly hollow demand for payment of "Economic" rents must be ridiculed. The fact must be exposed that wages of building workers is a very small proportion of housing costs and that the high cost of housebuilding is ENTIRELY due to the money-lenders high interest charges together with the cost of land the profit basis of production and distribution of building materials. This is a challenge every S.N.P. Councillor must face if he is to justify a claim that he subordinates every consideration to that of the welfare of the people. Also, will they face and act upon the fact that the cost of Interest and Debt Repayment to our Scottish Local Authorities is upwards of one hundred million (£100,000,000) pounds per ANNUM, almost £20 per head of the total population, or say, £60 per family, ALL of which goes RIGHT INTO THE POCKETS of the utterly PARASITIC MONEY-LENDERS, who render no essential service whatever?

Scotland-the land of the Feus, Multures, Superiors & Vassals.

Are our S.N.P. Councillors and Members of Parliament prepared to tackle the scandal of the private ownership of land, with its accompaniment of inflated values, especially where housing sites are required, not to speak of the Feu or Multures Duty system which provides a grand annual rake-off for another set of parasites? No, not them, if they loyally abide by S.N.P. Official policy, which is to apply a mild measure of "control" over landowners with over 3000 acres, and to pay "compensation" for a public take-over of the iniquitous Feu Duty.

Mere Agents of Westminster.

Moreover, and superseding all the foregoing is the fact that Scottish Local Authorities are today mere agents of the Westminster Treasury and immersed in a welter of documents bemusing to the Council Officials and often quite incomprehensible to many councillors.

In so far as S.N.P. Councillors ruthlessly expose the inherent rottenness and gross injustices of the whole system and work for its destruction and replacement by democratic justice for the majority, the workers, they will certainly receive the wholehearted approval of The Workers' Party of Scotland. Conversely if the S.N.P. falls into mere acceptance of the conventional view of local and national government they will in due course find themselves exposed to the wrath of the workers, just as is happening now to the Tory and Labour parties.

Scottish Regiments - Servants of English Imperialism.

The extraordinary conduct of some S.N.P. high-ups in public office is reflected in the question of disbanding of "Famous" Scottish and Highland Regiments. Originally these regiments were created for service against the interests of the people of Scotland at home, and especially to tie Scotland more firmly to the United Kingdom. Subsequently they have been used throughout the world to bludgeon the peoples of other nations, small and large, in the interests of English Imperialist expansion. Well may we say, "Scotland forgive them for they knew not their delusion". The most notorious recent instance was the role of the President of the National Party, Dr MacIntyre, who, as Provost of Stirling, allowed himself to be drawn into a ceremony of adulation of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, recently returned from their role as part of the "British" forces engaged in the bloody suppression of South Yement Nationalists. It was alleged, according to the Bowen Report to Parliament on Aden, that "Three British Military Interrogators tortured and humilitaed arrested suspects". It is now reported that a high officer of this regiment, designated, according to 'The Scotsman' of 13th May, as "Mad" and as "The hero of Aden", may be chosen as an S.N.P. candidate. It is of course a fact of recent history that the South Yement Nationalists, defeated and drove the 'British' forces from their native land.

The Working Peoples' Party of England

On Sunday the 5th of May 1968, a new party was formed in England based on the scientific understanding of Marxism-Leninism and known as the "WORKING PEOPLES' PARTY OF ENGLAND."

The Workers Party of Scotland is convinced that the formation of such a party is the first step necessary for the defeat of the English Imperialist State and the creation of a Socialist England. We hail this historic occasion as a further strengthening of Marxist-Leninist forces throughout the world and contributing to the isolation and defeat of world reaction headed by U. S. Imperialism.

The Workers' Party of Scotland pledges its complete support to the "WORKING PEOPLES PARTY OF ENGLAND" in their struggle to emancipate the people of England.

A full report of this historic occasion will appear in the next issue of the SCOTTISH VANGUARD.

THOMAS MUIR OF HUNTERS HILL

YOU AND YOUR INTERESTED FRIENDS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A FULL AND UNRESTRICTED DISCUSSION, without any committal to a particular concluding resolution, but simply aimed at clarification of thinking on the burning issues facing everyone, regardless of political ties, on the subject of:

"SCOTLAND TODAY -

and

"NEXT DAY"

On Sunday, 9th. June, 1968,
1p.m. to 5.30.p.m.

In: GRAND HOTEL, CHARING CROSS, GLASGOW.

Fee of 2/6 per head, payable at door.

A FARES POOL will operate.

Discussion will be based upon, but not rigidly confined to, the "MANIFESTO OF THE WORKERS' PARTY OF SCOTLAND (M-L).

This great rebel leader of "Society of the Friends of the People", was born in High Street, Glasgow, on 24th. August, 1785. He was sentenced by the High Court, Edinburgh on 30th. August, 1793, to 14 years banishment to Botany Bay. He escaped and after extraordinary adventures, including severe wounds, he reached Paris to support the French in their revolutionary activities, but died at Chantilly, Paris on 26th. January, 1799.

These dates will be commemorated at meetings in Glasgow and Edinburgh under the auspices of the Workers' Party of Scotland.
(Details Later).

From p.2. "THE BALLOT BOX, etc".

The Feet Voters.

The workers, the wage and salary earners, of Scotland, like the workers of France, and certainly, in due course, also their comrades the workers of England, Wales and Ireland, will lose faith in the ballot-box and take the more direct step of "Voting with their feet", to assert their rights as the oppressed class comprising the vast majority of people. We wrote an article in a recent issue entitled "The Struggle Between Two Roads in Scotland" and we reaffirm our conviction that the workers of Scotland must destroy the obsolete machinery of capitalist government, both National and Local, to enable the new Socialist Democracy to be built. (Editorial)

JOHN M. MITCHELL

contributes this part review of the book

"THE CLYDESIDERS"

by Robert Keith Middlemas
Hutchenson, 1965. 50/-

THE CLYDESIDERS

During the first world war the Scottish industrial workers around Glasgow were so militant in defence of their working conditions that their district became famous the world over as the Red Clyde. This name was proudly accepted by the workers as a badge of their class courage and solidarity. Their employers were ashamed of the name. They looked on it as a mark of disgrace arising from a lack of patriotism in the Clydeside proletariat and accused them of not pulling their weight in the war effort against the Kaiser's Germany.

Glasgow, one of the earliest of the original industrial towns of capitalism, drew its labour force from peasants and agricultural labourers driven from Ireland or the Scottish Highlands by their rapacious landlords. From the beginning Glasgow's housing conditions were among the worst in Europe, with gross overcrowding in foul, disease-ridden tenements. With them the Irish brought their rebel national spirit directed against English colonial rule. The Heritage of the Scottish Highlanders was a smouldering resentment against their forcible eviction from the land. Thus Glasgow always had a tradition of discontent and certainly deserves the title bestowed on it by the author of *The Clydesiders*, "a most political city".

Before and during the first world war Clydeside was of vital, if not crucial, importance for the British military build-up, being one of the main producers of capital ships, armour plating, heavy armaments, guns and munitions. On the Clyde, as in other parts of Britain, the period just before the war had been one of deep working class unrest with frequent strikes. When hostilities opened, Glasgow's factory workers, instructed by a very active if small socialist element, turned out to be not very 'patriotic' in that businessmen's war. They at once put up a resistance to being dragooned by the Government into special sacrifices for the war effort such as low wages, longer hours and dilution of labour.

Jimmy Maxton, Reformist. - John MacLean, Revolutionary.

The left socialist movement was, as elsewhere, divided into reformists and revolutionaries, that is idealist parliamentarians and Marxists. The parliamentarians belonged to the Independent Labour Party, one of the original socialist groups which had helped to federate the British trades unions together to form the millionfold Labour Party. Their prominent public leader was Jimmie Maxton, a flamboyant platform personality, who figures in this book, wrongly, I think, as the chief of the Clydesiders, champion of the Red Clyde and symbol of the militant Glasgow proletariat. The Book is in fact mainly a history of his party, the ILP, the Clydeside Members of Parliament, seen through the eyes of a Senior Clerk of the House of Commons.

As one might expect from such a source, the author takes an aloof, "detached" and therefore uninteresting view of this dramatic period of Scottish working-class history. Never once does it come alive under his dry-as-dust if capable pen. It does not come as a surprise to learn that he is now engaged on a biography of Stanley Baldwin, that classic businessman Prime Minister and arch enemy of the workers during our period and the following General Strike.

The Red Clydesider who towers above all others was the world-famous Marxist agitator, educator and political leader, John MacLean. He was indeed the fiery herald of the socialist revolution in Scotland and his name has become a legend and a symbol of our proletarian power.

Contd. on page 5

Contd. from page 4 **"THE CLYDESIDERS"**

Mr Middlemas disposes of him in a few lines of under-estimation, distortion and untruth. Enough to say that Lenin bracketed John MacLean with Karl Liebknecht as a socialist of world significance, invited him to Moscow to discuss the need for a British Communist Party, and that Litvinov appointed him first Soviet Consul in Britain.

Refused his demand for a legal passport to visit the Bolsheviks in revolutionary Russia and disdaining to travel illegally, MacLean was denied the chance to discuss with Lenin his ideas on Scotland's road to socialism. Convinced that Scotland's working class was historically the most advanced, most militant and class-conscious in Britain, MacLean plumped heavily for a Scottish Communist Party aiming at a Scottish Workers' Republic friendly with an Irish People's Republic.

It was not to be. The existing small Marxist parties, groups, and 'lone-scouts' felt the need to unite into one all-British Party. MacLean's own Scottish Workers' Republican Party got off to a bad start, made little headway and folded up a few months after the premature death of MacLean at forty-four years of age. On a very cold and foggy November night I stood beside the platform at his last meeting in the General Election campaign. We had to help him home. Three days later he died of acute pneumonia, having literally killed himself for the cause. Cruel prison hardships, including many weeks of forcible feeding during hunger strikes, played havoc with his strong physique and he refused to rest from his ceaseless agitation and organisation. When the author of *The Clydesiders* says that MacLean was used by the Marxists and then discarded, it is the most pitiful nonsense. John was one of the strongest characters Scotland ever produced. Equally nonsensical is the assertion that he "represented a deep-rooted tendency to anarchism" and that Guy Aldred the famous British anarchist was his disciple. Aldred was a member of the Freedom Group of anarchists of 1907 and remained of that persuasion until his death a few years ago. Guy was a God in his own small world, never a disciple.

The Red Clyde Shop Stewards.

The fighting reputation of the Red Clyde has its grass roots among the factory shop-stewards. Best known of these were perhaps William Gallacher, Tom Bell and Arthur McManus. In 1920 these men played a leading part in forming the British Communist Party. At that time they scorned Parliament as a trap for worker-politicians and called it the Gas House. They left the more career conscious ILP under Maxton to cash in on the Red Clyde's class-consciousness, winning seats in the Commons with a second-hand reputation as "the wild men from the Clyde".

Socialists they were, these Ilpers - of a milk-and-water vintage. At that time the leading Communist R. Palme Dutt, in the *Labour Monthly* wrote, "The new Glasgow group are Socialists. That is the whole innovation - they regard the capitalist class as enemies. They are spoken of as extremists. That is, of course, ridiculous. They are very far from being extremists. On the contrary, it would be much easier to question their Socialism".

In fact the ILP Clydesiders, during their decade of over-publicised activity in the Commons, served to deflect the workers' attention from the mass struggles in the streets and work-shops, led by the Communists, to Labour's sham fight in Parliament. This they did by occasional noisy outbursts on housing, pensions and unemployment. As our author puts it, with his usual restraint, "The ILP had been a safety-valve within the Labour Party for the energies which would otherwise have been an embarrassment"; his mild euphemism for the people's resentment which would otherwise have exploded into open class struggles.

THE GREAT BETRAYAL

BY Ian C. RITCHIE.

Glasgow

In the events of the last few months the people of Scotland surely have seen that, not for the first time, they have been witnesses to a great betrayal. The stark truth could hardly be more obvious - - - that since achieving power with an overwhelming majority in 1966, Wilson has quite cynically betrayed the Labour movement on every single major political issue. Is it possible that there is even one single Scotsman living today who does not know who are the real masters of Britain's economic fate?

A Socialist Government could have defied the bankers, the so-called "Gnomes of Zurich" alias the "International Monetary Fund" alias the "United States Treasury". It is not too difficult to imagine the kind of deal that would be made by our motley band of place-seekers and time-servers, under the ruthless leadership of a pipe smoking careerist who sees himself in his pipe-dream as Mr. Wonderman himself.

For years the massed ranks of the Scottish workers have voted solidly for Labour in the hope of a better life based on social justice. Time and again they have marched to the polls with that hope in their hearts. Time and again their hopes have been frustrated by successive Westminster Governments.

The Scottish working class could smash the Wilson Government at will, as could also the English workers, but the English workers have given no sign that they are ready as yet to do so. This is of course understandable, as they have no reasonable alternative other than the Heath set-up, in other words, Tweedledum or Tweedledee. A general election in the near future is a distinct possibility and even if the Wilson Government is thrown out, Mr. Ramsay MacWilson has surely shattered the Labour movement in Britain for some generations to come. But, no matter what the English think, England is not Britain. There is always Scotland.

Contd. on page 7Contd. from page 5 "THE CLYDESIDERS"

The ILP are put in a nutshell by the Labour historian Beatrice Webb in her Diaries: "Utopians and pseudo-revolutionists peddling phrases without understanding." This lack of understanding, due to simple ignorance plus a "British" contempt for theory, was their basic weakness. Typical was their star attraction, Jimmie Maxton, Jimmie, writes the author of 'The Clydesiders', "had learnt his Socialism at the feet of John MacLean and thereafter confined his reading to novels and Westerns and lacked the habit of concentration, but he absorbed knowledge from the legions of his personal friends. He tended to feel his way into a theoretical standpoint." At another point Middlemas has to admit, "Very few politicians in the Labour movement understood or read theoretical economics, even in the ILP." Here, of course, he omits the Marxists. In this connection Middlemas contradicts himself by quoting, on p.78 from Sheriff Fyfe of the Scottish Unrest Commission (end of 1917): "The political implications of the industrial discontent had been greatly increased by the fact that 'large numbers of workers are now imbued with ideas of economics and political economy'." These ideas did not descend from the clouds. They were the work of the Marxists, of John MacLean above all, whose classes on occasion numbered close on a thousand strong, probably the largest ever held in any capitalist country. They had to be held in town halls and cinemas.

THE COMMON MARKET,
A NOOSE TO HANG THE NEW SCOTLAND.

BY VAL. SUTHERLAND.

The Scottish people are demanding Self Government now, however the road to this end is an extremely rocky one. The Scottish Nationalists are numerically the strongest political force at this moment in the struggle towards the formation of a Scottish capitalist government.

Under the present U. K. set up, Scotland is just another exploited section of the English capitalist system, a mere pawn without a say in any of the vital decisions being made and which directly affect the Scottish people as a nation. On matters affecting world peace, etc., Scotland can only stand by as an onlooker denied the right as a nation to participate and lend our voice for peace.

The Scottish Nationalists whilst striving to put this right in a limited way are themselves part of the failing Capitalist system and one of the main features of such an ageing system is that power is held by fewer and fewer hands. One has only to look at the takeovers, amalgamations and the formation of giant monopolies taking place, to see the truth of this. It would seem that to achieve self-government for Scotland would be contrary to this principle, and indeed it is. If this is so, what is the next move after having secured independence? Is it to become a member of the European Economic Community?

One is led to believe that this is simply an economic alliance, when in fact the truth of the matter is that this is a political union much more tightly knit than our own discredited union of crowns and parliaments. For instance this month in spite of strong opposition from the Belgian government, the large Belgian farms have to switch from dairy produce to beef production on the orders of the nine-man E. E. E. dictatorship.

The Scottish Nationalists have declared their intention to negotiate on their own terms.... what an illusion. There can be no terms except for the short interim period. You join because you are forced to and you accept the Treaty of Rome when you do.

As a Capitalist nation, Scotland could not survive one year with Europe. From From and including Norway and the Scandinavian bloc, Eire right down to Spain, all these are part of the United European States. Have no illusions, there are no possibilities for a really free Scotland under Capitalism and the efforts of the Scottish Nationalists for a free Scotland are merely a charade. Contd. on page 10

Contd. from page 6

"THE GREAT BETRAYAL"

John MacLean, (a name that will surely be mentioned in history, and if the history is a true reflection of our times, mentioned with honour and pride), said that Scotland has a very special part to play in the world's struggle towards Socialism. It was because John MacLean sincerely believed that we could do little while England hung like a millstone around our neck, that he founded the Scottish Workers' Republican Party.

John MacLean was right as usual, in thinking that Scotland, birthplace of Keir Hardie and other stalwarts of the Labour movement had a special part to play in the march towards Socialism. That is why John MacLean wanted a free Scotland. That is why the Scottish people must unite as never before to throw this Wilson government, this last defence line of British capitalism out of Scotland. They must unite to smash this London-controlled Labour so-called Government once and for all, and establish the SCOTTISH WORKERS' REPUBLIC — OUR REPUBLIC.

A Revolutionary Situation Prevails

TO WHOM IS IT A "DANGER?"

"- when it is impossible for the Classes to maintain their rule in an unchanged form, there is a crisis, in one form or another, among the "upper classes", a crisis in the policy of the ruling class which causes fissures, through which the discontent and indignation of the oppressed classes burst forth. - for a revolution to break out it is not enough for the "lower classes" to refuse to live in the old way, it is necessary also that the "upper classes" should be unable to live in the old way". - "Too often has it happened, when history has taken a sharp turn that even the most advanced of parties have been unable for a long time to adapt themselves to the new situation, they continued to repeat the slogans that were formerly true, but which have now no meaning, as 'suddenly' as the term in history was 'sudden!' (Lenin).

"Historically all reactionary forces on the verge of extinction invariably conduct a last desperate struggle against the revolutionary forces, and some revolutionaries are apt to be deluded for a time by this phenomenon of outward strength but inner weakness, failing to grasp the essential fact that the enemy is nearing extinction while they themselves are approaching victory". (Mao Tse-Tung).

These quotations are appropriate to the remarkable times in which we live. In a few phrases they correctly analyse the fatal malady with which the old order is afflicted and point triumphantly to early victory for the healthy, vigorous and increasingly united forces of the workers, the peasantry and the youth. The press, the radio and our parliamentarians chatter about the "dangers" of the situations in France, Germany, etc., and their fear that such "dangers" may spread to our country. But, we ask, to whom are these potentially revolutionary upheavals a danger? Certainly not to the workers, the wage and salary earners, faced with ever rising prices and a 'wage freeze'; not to the students, fobbed off with inadequate grants and frustrated by an academic system obsolete both in form and content. However, these revolutionary upheavals are a real danger signal to all the profiteers who live by the unearned proceeds of land ownership, stock exchange gambling, property rents and investment interest. At this very moment of falling living standards for the workers we find the financial press reporting gleefully in May of this year the "Soaring Land Prices"; "Montague Burton up half a million for half-a-year"; "Shipping Group Profits Jump"; "Cheers all the way as I.C.I. and Courtalds delight their shareholders - profits rose by a staggering £14 million - a years total dividend up to over 25% - the Treasury have been consulted and have raised no objection to the increased rate", and finally the "Supermarket business has boosted the private fortune of its chairman, 33 years old Geoff. Kaye, to £7.5 million". And so we could go on, and on.

The Vaster Wealth of the Wealthy. Deeper Poverty of the Poor.

We know also that relative to the vast wealth of today the rich as a whole are richer today than ever they have been whilst the worker, still suffers from the impoverishment and insecurity which is always his lot under capitalism. What a commentary upon the utter failure of the Trades Union Congress, in this centenary year since its formation, to even secure wages that keep pace with prices and productive capacity!

No longer are the peoples to be led by parliamentary and other phoney 'representatives' towards a promised land they never reach. They are now, in France and elsewhere, taking their own road, just as we in Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland must do also, thus to demonstrate their common class interests with the workers of all lands. The time draws nigh for the creation of a WORKERS' REPUBLIC OF SCOTLAND and the end of minority privileges and rule and the United Kingdom instrument of that rule, the present parliamentary system.

Contd. on page 9

Independence

NOW'S THE DAY AND NOW'S THE HOUR. BY KEN HOULISON.

The Workers Party of Scotland hails the advances made by the S.N.P. in the recent Local Elections, not as step forward, but as a clear indication of the desire of the Scottish people for Self Government and Separation.

The W.P.S. stands firm on its view that even if every council seat was occupied by the S.N.P. councillors, regardless of how honest or well intentioned they may be, that no real change could take place or be effective so long as Westminster holds the strings of the purse and even more important as long as the structure of society remains as it is. There is little difference between a Capitalist Scotland and Capitalist Britain!

The ticket collector in a railway carriage can stamp the ticket in whatever way he likes but nevertheless he is destined to travel the line of the drivers choosing, and so we are condemned to remain in the position forced upon us by Westminster and the ruling class regardless of local reforms.

The latest figures of 79% in favour of Separatism as given in the Daily Record Referendum proves once again that the people of Scotland want and will accept nothing less than complete economic and political independence. The question then is When and How will we achieve this.

The S.N.P. is prepared to wait until 1970 and a General election and even then it is extremely vague if not completely blank on how it intends to secure economic and political independence for Scotland. In actual fact, the S.N.P. by waiting until 1970 is prepared to condemn our country to the loss of a further 150,000 emigrants, hopeless prospects for our 100,000 unemployed, half a million poverty stricken people must thole their misery quite unnecessarily and many elderly folks will die prematurely; shocking slums must await the urgent National crash housing programme: English

Contd. on page 10

Contd. from page 8

A Revolutionary Situation

Not for one moment does the Workers' Party of Scotland doubt that our workers possess all the political talents and organising ability necessary to secure, on a firm basis of factory and other committees of the People, a swift transfer of power to a workers' democratic dictatorship, thereby ending the bureaucracy, privileges and dominating authority of the minority wealthy class. This can be achieved speedily smoothly and permanently only through the scientific leadership of a Marxist-Leninist Party, essential to give conscious direction to the great, spontaneous and courageous uprising of the hitherto frustrated workers.

This is no time for the shilly-shallying and temporarising of the revisionist "Communist" Party of France with their surrender to De Gaulle, nor the 'parliamentary road' of the "Communist" and Labour Parties of Britain, and for that matter for the longing look towards Westminster of our Scottish National Party friends. This is the time for the clarion call of ALL POWER TO THE WORKERS NOW.

Tom Murray.

Footnote to the above: We trust that our present governmental, civic and police authorities will take serious note of the very tenuous hold they have on the masses of the workers. This is clearly evidenced by the speed and colossal strength of the political strike actions in France, and it can certainly and probably will happen here in due course. Let these authorities avoid the provocations and brutalities which have for so long characterised the conduct of our British ruling class and their bootlicking tools. The sands are running out for the bankrupt old order here as elsewhere. (Ed.)

Students Grants - A RADICAL STUDENT ALLIANCE VIEWPOINT.

By Pete Sneddon.

It is a common myth that students are some kind of wealthy elite living it up at the expense of the "taxpayer". We suggest that a closer examination of the real situation shows that the position of students is in fact similar to that of the rest of the working-class.

THE GRANT SYSTEM

Almost all British students will obtain a grant if they are working full time for a first degree. The amount of the grant a student normally gets depends on the income of the parents. Thus, although the maximum student grant is about £9 a week for 37 weeks in the year (the student is expected to support himself for the other 15 weeks), the average grant is approximately £4.10. If you see a rich student it is because his parents are rich.

Students who do not receive a full grant are expected to have it "made up" by a "parental contribution". (in many cases this contribution is not given - and no form of compulsion is possible).

Contd. p.11.

Contd. from p.9. *Independence*

American and Scots profiteers allowed to continue their robbery of the people, many more millions of Scottish taxes produced by the hard work, ingenuity and sweat of the Scottish working class will pour into Westminster, while all the time the growing unrest and resentment of these social conditions will continue to grow and manifest themselves in such acts of vandalism and violence as we are at present witnessing in Scotland. For what is there to respect when you have been stripped of respectability, manhood and nationhood. Our youth are forced to live under these conditions and it is they who are wholeheartedly behind the movements for Scotland's National Liberation. It is a fact however, just as much as it is unfortunate that some sections of our youth who remain as yet unorganized can only express themselves in personal violence, not directed at the enemy who has imposed this life on them, but against the ordinary citizen. It is not suggested here that Independence would cure this malady, but it would certainly make it much easier to cope with. The Workers Party of Scotland is emphatic in its view that only by the setting up of a Workers Republic of Scotland, can the ills of Scotland be fixed.

The people of Scotland are shouting loud that "Now's the Day and Now's the Hour." The Workers' Party of Scotland in line with the masses of people of Scotland once more issues its declaration of November 4th, 1967, wherein it calls upon the Scottish National Party to convene a Great National Convention of the people of Scotland, local bodies, Trade Unions, Cultural Bodies and Political Parties for the purpose of constituting a Provisional Government in Scotland. The people being the makers of history will decide the next step.

From p.7. *The Common Market.*

However just as Capitalism swallows up nationalities into a political and economic one in order to increase markets and power, so Socialism and Communism in spite of never ending propaganda to the contrary, elevates and preserves nationalities and minorities. Language and culture are treated with the utmost reverence and care. When we secure our freedom let us cherish and preserve our own very distinctive culture. Freedom is never given, it must be fought for, and, once having obtained it we must never be deluded into surrendering it especially to the faceless men who control the Treaty of Rome and the International Monetary Fund.

THE WORKERS' PARTY OF SCOTLAND
(Marxist-Leninist)

Chairman: KEN HOULISON.
Vice do. & Treasurer: VAL SUTHERLAND.
Secretary: MATTHEW LYGATE.
S.V. Editor & Circulation: TOM MURRAY.
Publisher & Printer: D. LIVINGSTONE SMITH.
Interrelations Secretary: DAVID SHANKS.
'Vanguard Youth of Scotland'

Secretary: ALLAN LAIDLAW.

All, c/o The Bookstore,
63, West Port, Edinburgh, 1.

West of Scotland Organiser: COLIN LAWSON,
310, Albert Drive, Glasgow, S.1.

Copies of our "MANIFESTO" and extensive LITERATURE LIST, will be sent on request. Specially recommended as a stimulant to serious thought on the contemporary scene, is DR S.W. TAYLOR'S book, just out, "POLITICAL POWER-A CLASS ANALYSIS" 8/6 pf.

"Scotland is a NATION composed of TWO CLASSES - those who live by EARNING wages or salaries, the vast majority of our people - and the WEALTHY BOURGEOISE minority, whose luxuriant living is derived from UNEARNED income: dividends, profits, rents: in other words by the EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN. The Scottish Nation is a grossly UNDERPRIVILEGED part of the IMPERIALIST STATE, known as 'Great Britain', whose dominant power and authority is the ENGLISH CAPITALIST ESTABLISHMENT". (From the 'WPS Manifesto')

The policy of our Party, as developed in our "SCOTTISH VANGUARD", (6d. monthly, Post free 9d., or 9/- p.f. for 12 monthly issues), is always completely open to the fullest scrutiny of the public. We have nothing to hide. The utmost importance is attached to our total rejection of any kind of "Front" organisation, or attempts to infiltrate other bodies.

Contd. from page 10

STUDENTS GRANTS.

Every three years the size of grants is adjusted to compensate for increases in the cost of living. Before the last review, however, the government announced that the increase would be cut in half. In other words, students: even after the increase, will be getting less in real terms, than they were in 1962.

STUDENT AND SOCIETY.

One of the arguments used in attacking the students' claim is that they are parasites who should be grateful for what they get.

However, this argument ignores the fact that students are given grants, not out of the goodness of someone's heart, but because a modern capitalist society needs skilled workers. For this reason the grants to the universities themselves have been relatively unscathed. As an editorial in "Universities Quarterly" (March 1968) notes "It would have been possible to cut recurrent grants, perhaps by reverting to the original Robbins estimates of student numbers, but happily the Government does recognize that economic growth depends on highly trained man power. (p.122).

In other words capitalist society needs students in the universities. However, it is trying to cut back on the cost by giving them less while expecting them to do the same or a great amount of work.

WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS PICKED ON STUDENTS.

It has done so because in several ways students are one of the least ^{well} organized sections of society. They lack any real trade union structure of their own. They have allowed themselves to become isolated from the rest of the working population. There is little they can do in the way of striking which will have an immediate effect. Furthermore, the greater demand for university places means that there is less need for British capitalism to recruit it's highly trained man power from the working classes. Thus, there is less need to make it financially feasible. In other words, the cut in student's grants is yet another attempt of capitalism to survive at the expense of the working class.

Topics of Today

"LYING WORDS" ON VIETNAM. "False hypocritical lying words about peace and peace negotiations." Were the words used to describe correctly President Johnston's appeal for "serious quiet discussions" when the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris were questioned about their reaction to Johnston's "appeal". President Ho Chi Minh declared the other day their determination to defeat the United States. "It is better to die than to be a slave. There is nothing more precious than Independence and Freedom" he said. "Premier Pham Van Dong said, "The Tet offensive was the beginning of the new era. It means that the Americans are on the losing side. We are going on to final victory." The Scottish people struggling to secure their independence from the British Imperialist State will echo enthusiastically these great leaders of a valiant and victorious people who are illustrating by deeds the ability of a small nation of united people to destroy an arrogant and apparently all powerful invader.

"THE PRINCE OF ARROGANCE." A certain limited number of the Scottish Nationalists who love the monarchy must feel disgusted with the citizens of New Zealand who according to their newspaper "Truth" said "The Dukes visit, highlighted by his arrogant disregard for the public was a waste of time, effort and money - We've had our fill of rudeness and there are thousands of Kiwis who hope he does not return. Bewildered New Zealanders were unable to pinpoint the reason for the Dukes junket. If it were designed to boost public relations between Royalty and New Zealand it was a costly disaster." From all accounts this "Prince of Arrogance" created a similar reaction on a similar visit to Australia. Doubtless the same reaction has occurred on numerous occasions to many people in Scotland who have been amazed at the presumptuous mouthings of this expensive character whose income is colossal including an annual handout of £40,000. taken from the pockets of our tax payers.

"NOT ONLY IN FRANCE." President Heinrich Luebke, of West Germany fled precipately through the back door of a Bonn theatre the other day to escape an angry crowd of his fellow citizens determined to get hold of him and presumably to make him understand their disgust with his government's intention to introduce emergency powers like those of his predecessor "Adolf the Unmourned." Students of Madrid barracked themselves inside the Philosophy Faculty which they had decorated with a banner "Faculty Occupied." Commune of the University of Madrid." The bloody Franco like his buddies Adolf and Benito is undoubtedly on the way to perdition.

THE JOHN MACLEAN SOCIETY, General Committee at its first meeting elected the following officials: Chairman; GEORGE TODD. Vice-Chairmen: COUNCILLOR JAMES BRYCE and MICHAEL GRIEVE. Secretary: VAL SUTHERLAND, 2 Pilmuir, Newton Mearns, Glasgow. (Phone 041-639-1975.) Minutes: PETER KEARNEY. Organiser: PHILIP ROBERTS, 131 Galloway Drive, Fearn Hill, Rutherglen. Treasurer: MRS JEAN WILSON. We understand that the committee will be most grateful for any material or information or reminiscences of John MacLean.