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Beaver

JUNE 18th, 1959.

THREEPENCE

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE - UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

REFECTORY ROW

Union Still not Satisfied

The Union Council is still considering the Director's letter of May 1st in reply to Alan Hale's letter based on the motion concerning the Refectory passed by the Union on April 13th. The motion asked that a firm of catering experts be called in to investigate the Refectory service. It also asked that the advisory committee be reconstituted as a management committee. The Union regretted the failure to improve the Refectory facilities and criticised the privilege that the administrative staff have of joining the head of the queue. The motion also declared that if negotiations about this privilege with the School proved unsatisfactory then the Union representatives on the advisory committee should be withdrawn.

In a lengthy reply the Director doubted the degree of student dissatisfaction, arguing that the overwhelming majority of students use the Refectory although there are plenty of cafes and restaurants nearby. He stressed the School's concern to improve facilities, saying that eight thousand pounds had been recently spent on expand-

ing kitchen space, converting the Barley Sugar Room into a dining room and installing a new, modern bar. He expressed complete confidence in Mrs. Ellis.

The Director said that a catering consultant would be called in next term and that the Union would be able to discuss matters with him. He commented that the student members of the advisory committee are not experts and that he sees no reason to give them executive power. He declined to discuss the privilege of the administrative staff until "the threat" that the student members would walk out if negotiations failed on this point had been withdrawn.

It is understood that the School is currently discussing matters with the consultant who will be looking at Refectory conditions in the Michaelmas Term. Gerry Levens, Welfare V.P., has submitted to the School Secretary a list of points that the Union wishes the consultant to consider. Student representatives will probably meet the consultant when he comes next term.

Your Castle Next Year

Students who want accommodation from the University Lodgings Bureau for next term are advised to apply to the Lodgings Officer Mrs. Tabert at once. Delay in making your application may result in difficulty in finding suitable accommodation in the area you prefer.

Beaver slims

As you can see, Beaver is reduced in size. This is due to the printing dispute. Our usual printers could not take our order, but we have been fortunate in finding a firm who have settled the dispute by negotiating with the unions. This edition has been put together by a skeleton staff of five in under six hours, so we must apologize if the layout and content is a little below our usual standard.

Next term we shall be publishing five issues in all. We shall require help in all fields, and so those who are interested should apply as soon as possible at the beginning of the Michaelmas term.

A.I.D. Freshers' Nightmare

What's on their minds? Politics? No. The war-baby generation, the "bulge" has caught up with L.S.E. and it seems that A.I.D. and not the H-bomb, John Osborne or Moral re-armament, has caught our first-years' imagination! "There's still wine and song" says the banner on this year's L.S.E., W.U.S. Carnival float, dedicated to the theme of "Shape of things to come".

Whatever YOUR opinion of the subject matter *Beaver* congratulates the small band of freshers who were responsible for our float. At only a week's notice, Harry Abernethy B.Sc. (Soc.) and Co. put together a float which, simple in design, ingeniously conveyed a message of ominous foreboding. Harry foresees the coming unity of mankind when the A.I.D. syringe is "The universal father". On the plunger is a stork, "unemployed": Beneath the syringe, measured off into "one, twins, triplets, quads," the donors sit in their zoo, "Don't feed the animals", "It's quicker by tube", whilst the women queue for the white-coated doctor.

U.C. ATTACK

The two winning floats were N.E.C.'s rocket ship, placed for its mechanical ingenuity, and for expressiveness, Wye College's float, carrying a large tin cow, symbolic, no doubt, of canned milk and tinned food diets! But the L.S.E. float roused very strong reactions, and in particular "needled" U.C. who attacked and demolished it by the end of the afternoon. That was just the thin edge of the syringe! It must have got under some U.C. nature-lover's skin!

Eddie Locke helped the Catholic Society, the only L.S.E. society to operate independently in the carnival, to make £20 on their darts stall, a record taking.

JOE PALEY

Economists of Today

"The fascination of economics with its own scope and method verges on neurosis."

—W. L. J. Ryan, in the foreword to his new textbook PRICE THEORY, on sale at 31/6.

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Clement's Inn Passage

FASCISM A Live Issue

About 20 London students, mainly from the L.S.E. were at the Mosley rally in Trafalgar Square on Sunday May 7th (writes Joe Paley). They formed the next most vocal opposition group at the meeting, competing with U.L.R. in effectiveness. At one point Mike Murphy, a trade unionist with a very approximate resemblance to Hitler, was shouldered by the L.S.E. contingent to the distracting chant of 'Seig Heil'. Police intervention stopped them at this point, and the clashes remained verbal, but Mosley was struck by an orange ("missile") thrown from the crowd.

But the really serious issue of fascism has been raised in universities again following articles in the 'Daily Mail', 'Sennet' and 'Student News' which disclosed that 15,000 copies of the W.U.S. 'Carnival Times' had to be altered because Editor David Irving inserted fascist propaganda: he is one of a well-known group at London University having fascist sympathies.

Apathy Again

For the past fortnight the Union posts for the forthcoming session have been advertised by the new Council without success. Whereas one might normally have expected a large number of applicants for major posts like those on the Finance Committee or the Debates Committee, this year there have been more posts than applicants. The only posts for which there was stiff competition seemed to be the Press Officer, and to some extent, those on the Entertainments Committee.

There have often been wild accusations in the past that the Union is controlled and "ruled" by a small number of students. This completely negative attitude regarding Union affairs which appears to have crept into the minds of a large number of students is most deplorable. When it comes to doing the work it is a sorry sight to see such a small number of students coming forward to participate in the Union organisation. In view of the fact that there have been no applications for a number of posts it is expected that the new Council will have to invite applications again, and we sincerely hope that the debacle will not be repeated.

"I'm dying for a coffee"

Let's go to the GAIETY

The Cafe to suit the student's pocket

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SPOTLIGHT ON

LINDLEY

(See page 2)



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We hope that as many people as possible will attend and give as much blood as possible.

Overheard

' and in this case a son murdered his mother and the mother died ' Dr de Smith.

' we have a little bureaucracy of our own at L.S.E. Some of it is very charming I may add.'

Professor Robson.

BEAVER

LONDON SCHOOL OF
ECONOMICS
HOUGHTON STREET
ALDWYCH - LONDON - W.C.2

VOL. VII. No. 7

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As you can see, this edition of *Beaver* is somewhat slimmer than usual, an occurrence that will be met with mixed approval. Some of you, I am sure, have often felt that *Beaver* is far too large, but I feel certain that all of you will agree that it appears too seldom for a college newspaper. The reason why *Beaver* makes such infrequent appearances is quite simple—gelt—we just cannot afford to print more copies than we do because advertising revenue always falls short of our cost of production. A Union subsidy helps, but it is not enough to cover our expenses.

This edition of *Beaver* is only a four page issue because of the dispute in the printing industry. But even though this is a hurried lightweight edition, it does not disguise the fact that the majority of you seem to have forgotten that this is OUR newspaper. Many of you vaguely promise to write articles or to help us with some typing, but the truth of the matter is that *Beaver* is run by a skeleton staff of about eight or nine. Furthermore, even allowing for the cut in the size of this edition, this last issue of term has had to be compiled quite literally at a moment's notice, thus throwing an extra strain upon our small staff. So when we call upon you for application to join *Beaver* staff, if you are at all interested, please come along.

THREE TUNS

(in the Union Building)

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Three Tuns

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and

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RIGHT-WING,

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all your views are welcome in

BEAVER

POSTBAG

Beaver Accused

Dear Sir,

In your last issue of *Beaver* you accused the various factions in L.S.E. about their opinion and behaviour over the question of Hustings. In taking up this mantle of accusations, I accuse you and your policy as regards *Beaver* of disinterest in the different aspects of student life and activities within L.S.E. itself.

In the last issue of *Beaver* how much space was given over to what societies were doing within the college? The barest minimum will prove to be the answer; a report on the visit of Mendes-France, and a brief mention of the U.N. Society's Model Security Council (more of this later), and an account of the Drama Society's Annual Dinner. This, I submit, is totally inadequate for a College such as L.S.E.

If we turn to the features pages, what do we find? No less than seven interviews with outside personalities, conducted by *Beaver* staff. Is this student life? If I wanted to find out about these public figures, I could do without having recourse to reading stereotyped reports on interviews carried out with your approval or at your behest. This is not, surely, the prime purpose of a student newspaper.

Behind this general disgust with your present policy, there lies something more specific, which will also answer any reply you may be thinking of presenting on the lines of "If Societies won't tell us of their activities . . ." This concerns the First United Nations Model Security Council held in L.S.E. on March 3rd & 4th.

I wrote an article before the Model Security Council took place for your first issue of *Beaver* last term, explaining what would be taking place and the idea behind it. This was not published. On enquiry, I was assured by the Sub-Editor that he would cover the Security

Council and write a report for *Beaver*. This, it turned out, he was unable to do, so he requested me to write the article describing the Council and how the sessions had been progressing, he assured me it would be published. This, you well know did not happen. I ask you, WHY? Is the answer that your interviewers wanted to see their own external dialogues recorded for posterity, or perhaps the subject of international understanding and co-operation is of little importance to you.

In conclusion, I accuse you, Sir, of seeking to destroy the student nature of *Beaver* through your apparent apathy to what is happening inside L.S.E. In the heading of *Beaver* we read that it is the "Newspaper of the Students Union", a Union not in Fleet Street but in Houghton Street. Let *Beaver* remain the Students' Newspaper, and let your interviewees seek other mediums for the expression of their views, political or otherwise.

Sir, you have been accused,

Yours etc.,

Peter Smith

Chairman U.N. Soc.

In reply to Mr. Smith's letter I would like to make the following observations:—

His first article on the Model Security Council was received after the first Lent term issue of *Beaver* went to the Press. As we lack the facilities of Fleet Street, it became impossible to cover the meetings of the Model Security Council. Perhaps Mr. Smith has only read one copy of *Beaver*. For the issue he refers to in his letter was a special "interview" edition. Besides, it is a fact that we never receive adequate information of Societies activities despite repeated requests from *Beaver* staff. And just how many times has Mr. Smith bothered to give us news of the U.N. Society? Just once!

A. K. M.

SPOTLIGHT ON**David Lindley**

Besppectled and talkative David Lindley, who was elected with a majority as General Secretary of the Union for the next Session, is busy preparing for an active Union year, and looks forward to reducing the apathy which was rather apparent this year.

After finishing at Chesterfield Grammar School, he came to L.S.E. with a Derbyshire County Exhibition on Advanced Level Subjects. At School he was elected Secretary of the Labour Society, appropriately enough, on May 1, 1958 (he celebrated the first anniversary attempting to make a May Day speech in the exclusive lounge of Passfield Hall, after which he was chased out by the furious Lords of Passfield). In June 1958 he was appointed Assistant General Secretary and in the Michaelmas Term he played an important role in the formation of the Nuclear Disarmament Society.

He hopes to improve the Freshers' reception this year. The various Union departments, like the Entertainments Committee, the Publications, WUS, NUS, etc, will have stalls of their own in Room 2 so that Freshers can get detailed in-

formation. A good policy of this year's Council is to keep a few 'good' Union posts for Freshers, and this will, it is hoped, draw many freshers into Union activities.

Many Societies in the College do not have copies of their own constitutions, and David is going to make special efforts to see to it that every Society in the School has a constitution of its own. Council is also planning to have greater co-ordination among the various Societies so that there are none of those frequent clashes which occurred this year.

He also hopes to reorganize the filing system in the Union Office completely. A permanent Weekend School Committee is going to be appointed by this year's Council and we hope that this will result in more, and well-timed, weekend schools. All this and other measures that Council hopes to effect would require more finance. Since our Union gets a small grant from the School authorities when compared to other Colleges, we hope the new Council will try its best to persuade the School authorities to give a larger grant from next Session.

President's Column



At the end of my term of office, I have tried to assess the value of the work the Union has done over the past year. To hold the office of President of this Union has been a valuable experience though it has involved a pressure of obligations that at times I could have wished reduced. But perhaps the structure may be re-organized so that the President can be relieved of detailed administration and allowed to concentrate on his major functions of overall co-ordination and outside representation.

This might be done by having in the Union a permanent administrative secretary who could handle much of the detailed day to day work of the Union such as is done in U.L.U.

In assessing the value of the Union there is, I think, no doubt that it has a considerable contribution to make to the student life of this college. It can and does provide valuable services such as the bar and the Union shop but, in my view, its more important work, as I have often stressed in my previous President's columns, has been the part it has played in stimulating the corporate intellectual life of the student body. I do not think I could emphasize enough the value and importance of the Union Weekend Schools in a College that is non-residential. I wish that the Union, in conjunction with departments in the School and the School authorities would pay far more attention to organizing Weekend Schools of this nature throughout the year. On its own the Union cannot bear the burden of organizing more than two per session.

I would also lay great emphasis on the value of the Union debates and hope that the participation in these by members of the staff and by students will greatly increase. A vigorous debating atmosphere is invaluable in a college which has such a cross-section of students as at L.S.E. We should thank the academic staff who this year have shown a great interest in these aspects of the Union's work. Some have spent a great deal of time in advising us on these activities and others have taken an active part in them. Again, in a non-residential college the value of participation by the academic staff cannot be overemphasised.

We have also had this year the active interest of the Research students and their President. They can and have made an important contribution to these activities and I would like to see a closer co-operation between them and the Union organization, perhaps by the creation of a Union Vice-Presidency for their President.

Our activities have been continually inhibited by the lack of funds. In our Weekend Conferences the School has come to our assistance to avoid heavy deficits. Our debating activity has been restricted: we have turned down invitations from other universities to send debaters and we have been unable to invite debaters from other universities to our own Union because the money to finance them was not available. This is regrettable. When, during my visits to other colleges this year, I have seen their affluence, I have felt that L.S.E. has been an extremely "poor relation" and that we have, as a result, lost some of the benefits of the

university life that these other colleges enjoy. The fact that we are non-residential should have been an inducement to the School authorities to provide extra funds to minimise our disadvantages in this respect to enable us to give heavier subsidies to our Weekend Schools and to encourage our debating.

This lack of finance is also seen in the almost complete lack of traditional events in this college. In every other college I have visited emphasis has been laid upon traditional functions. In every other college I have visited, the Commemoration Ball has been a traditional event which is preceded by a Union dinner to which important academic and civic guests are invited. With our present budget we cannot afford to do this at L.S.E. and our Ball is little more than a high-class dance at the Festival Hall.

I have emphasised continually this year that in our Union attention should be paid to thorough organization and to the development of our intellectual activities. Both these depend on the funds which are available to us. But they also depend on the interest and help of members of the Union. This Union relies on the voluntary work of its members and if people do not apply for the posts, the organization will suffer. It has been a matter of regret to me this year that a number of people who took Union posts have not seen their jobs through to the end of the session but resigned halfway. The work of the Union is not only interesting but it has a value in the development of one's personality and, for this reason, I hope that many people will support it in the coming year.

There has been of course the usual amount of criticism this year and where it has been constructive, I have welcomed it. On the other hand, one always finds people who stand outside and think it is their duty to pontificate on the evils in the Union when they have little knowledge of its problems and have done nothing to help it. Earlier this year I commented that the study of the social sciences involves social responsibility. As a Christian I have tried to recognize and accept this and, inside L.S.E., to do it through the Union. I hope that next year other members will do this so that the session might be a vigorous and successful one. I extend to John Moore, the Council and the Union my very best wishes for next year.

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Meet the Prof**AKIL MARFATIA***interviews***Dr. TROPP**

Though a leftist, Dr. Tropp did not hesitate at all in giving his frank opinion of Professor Harold Laski. He considers Professor Laski as one of the kindest and most tolerant teachers—respected and admired by all students, whether or not they agreed with his political principles. He believes that a change away from emotional socialism was clearly noticeable at least two years before Professor Laski's death. At that time Prof. Popper was an equally influential teacher, and his lectures on 'Problems of Philosophy' were equally widely attended. But Prof. Popper's influence as a political philosopher appears to have declined, and since then there has been no one influential teacher to whom students flock regardless of their subject of study.

Dr. Tropp joined the School in 1948 as an undergraduate. After obtaining his B.Sc. (Econ) degree in 1950 he did research in Sociology for two years at the School and one more at Princeton University. In 1953 he became a Junior Research Officer and is at present a Lecturer in Sociology. His thesis "The School Teachers" (published in 1957) got him his doctorate in Social Institutions. He has also contributed articles to various sociological and educational journals.

DEGREES

He is of the opinion that the School is severely overcrowded. Questioned about the B.Sc. (Econ) course, he said that a change in the direction of lessening the area to be covered in many of the subjects, and, more reliance on teaching ways of thought rather than acquiring a mass of facts would be worthwhile. Although the B. Sc. (Econ) is one of the most difficult degrees in the country, students have the advantage of a thorough and well-planned combination of tutorials, class work, and lectures. The best

products of L.S.E. are equal to the best of any of the world's Universities.

The B.Sc. (Sociology) course, says Dr. Tropp gives far more time for students to settle down and think. There are only two papers in Economics in the Part I examination, the results of which are not counted for calculating honours. There are, however, nine papers at the end of the final year.

SILENT STUDENTS

His one grievance is that students do not talk enough in classes but appear to accept the teacher's opinions which they may discuss later amongst themselves. Thus a major benefit of the class system which is to provide an exchange of discussion under a member of the staff is lost. This tendency has become important after 1950; for in the previous five years the majority of the students were ex-servicemen who were much more forthright in their opinions. This is not to say that the intellectual abilities of students has in any way deteriorated. On the contrary modern students are highly selective — more than ever before.

EXCHANGES

He believes that graduate work at the School has increased considerably in importance in the last few years. It would be better for overseas students to come mainly for graduate work first because there were excellent undergraduate courses abroad and secondly because of language difficulties. He would like to see a greater exchange of teaching staff between L.S.E. and overseas Universities. He admires American graduate institutions which he visited in 1952/3, and he felt that they are putting greater emphasis on the development of graduate teaching rather than thesis work.

Labour and the Next Election

When, as a member of the Labour Party, I begin to think of that Party's chances at the next election, I am confronted with two issues. The first is— is our Party programme so good that it will win us sufficient votes to give us a majority. The second is— assuming our programme is lacking, have the Tory Party made so many mistakes that we will win anyway?

It is perhaps easier to answer the second question as the events of the past eight years are more readily assimilated by the electorate than a series of policy statements culminating in the 'glossy' future.

BACKWARDS

Firstly in economic policy, I think it is true to say that no government, in similar circumstances, has mismanaged a national economy in the way the Tories have. In a situation which favoured expansion and price stability (falling world prices) the British economy stagnated—indeed some industries went backwards.

ON THE DOLE

Unemployment rose due to the Credit Squeeze, which was the direct result of bad foresight on the part of the Tories. In Lancashire, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, the dole queues were longer than at any time since the thirties, had it not been for the beneficial effect of the social services, introduced by the Labour Governments between 1945 and 1951, this situation could have become far worse.

Only recently have the gold and dollar reserves again reached the figure they stood at in 1951, and the value of the pound sterling has dropped by almost three shillings. The plight of the pensioner and the people in the lower income groups has been ignored, though this was to be expected from the Tories, who have constantly favoured those who have, at the expense of those who have not.

CYPRUS

Now let us turn to other events, not as near to home but equally damning to the Tories.

Nuclear Disarmers are assured of 1,650,000 votes. The odds are that the T.G.W.U. will go in this direction since it has a reputation for being left of the M.G.W.U. and, unlike the M.G.W.U. its executive will not be firmly opposed to the policy.

In addition to these mammoth unions the Nuclear Disarmers can doubtless count on retaining the 890,000 who voted for the policy last year mainly from the Constituency Parties). That would give a total of 2,540,000. Last year 6,501,000 were cast altogether—hence with the T.G.W.U.'s support Nuclear Disarmament would be within 750,000 of a majority. Many smaller unions may also swing but the two major unions still to have their conferences are the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Union of Railwaymen.

GAITSKELL'S DILEMMA

Will the leaders of the Labour Party seek to forestall the possibility of total unilateralism

In colonial policy they have succeeded in alienating the opinions of more peoples than even the most ardent Labour supporter expected they would do. The settlement reached in Cyprus this year could have been achieved in 1955, without the loss of life and money which the Tory policy cost.

Recently in Nyasaland further life has been lost and another colonial territory is becoming alienated. Those who feel the Tory policy has not led to this should remember that the Tories imposed Federation on the Nyasas, who did not want it. Malta is rapidly going the same way and the suspension of the Constitution will do little to help.

Finally to foreign policy, here again is a shocking indictment of the Tories. They constantly try to bury Suez, and make out that people are sick of hearing about it. This is only natural, they want it buried and they are sick of it, realising that each time it is mentioned their stock drops. The recent financial settlement will not help, since not only did we lose over £275,000,000 (this is a Conservative estimate, see Daily Mail), but now it appears that the Egyptians are unwilling to hand back the holdings of British companies.

NATIONALIZATION

So much for the failures of the Tories. What of our policy? Is the future we offer so glossy? I think it is.

The Tory Press, now reinforced by the Institute of Directors, has long pressed a campaign to discredit Labour's policy. What are the facts?

First the question of nationalisation: Labour has pledged to re-nationalise steel and road transport. Both were brought under State control during its 1945-51 government, and both remain nationalised to some degree. The step is logical, and recently most capital investment has been provided by the State. Why should the State provide £50 million to Messrs. Colville at 5%, when the same firm will pay 13% to the owners of equity shares? Similarly unless road transport is brought under State control a national

transport policy cannot be evolved.

The issue of further nationalisation has been clouded and distorted by the capitalist Press. The real policy is as laid out in "Industry and Society". The money paid as contributions to the National Superannuation scheme would be invested by the State in equity shares in the 600 largest companies. The dividends paid by these shares would be paid as pensions. If, however, we found that despite our scheme these firms were still failing the nation, we would not hesitate to nationalise them.

PENSIONS & EDUCATION

The pensions plan, which was put forward in our pamphlet 'National Superannuation' contains the fundamental point that contributions vary in proportion to the income of the person contributing. In this way it is believed that the pension payable will be equal to half the income during working life.

In education we propose an extension of the comprehensive system so as to allow equality for all. We do not advocate the immediate abolition of public schools.

Finally, the very vexed question of housing. The Labour Party does not wish to see everybody a council house tenant, in fact in our policy statement, "Homes of the Future" we propose to make 100% loans to anyone who wishes to buy or build their own home; and what we do propose to do is to stop the renting of houses by big companies at profit; we propose that a man may own his own home and one used by his family, but that any others he does shall be sold to the Local Authority at a fair market price. Councils will be empowered to make improvement grants to householders who wish to repair or renovate their homes. This is our plan, to make better houses the right of every citizen.

We feel that our policy is the right one, and that compared with the Tories lack of planning and their record of the last few years, we must succeed in the coming election.

A. J. SIMPSON

Trade Unions and THE BOMB

I wonder how many people noticed the astounding decision of the third largest trade union, the Municipal and General Workers, at its annual conference earlier this month to support unilateral nuclear disarmament. The remarkable nature of the decision has received some—but not enough—publicity; its immense importance for the future politics of this country has been overlooked from one end of Fleet Street to the other. The decision was profoundly astonishing since the M. & G.W.U. (its Secretary is Sir Thomas Williamson and one of its members is Hugh Gaitskell) has always been regarded (and still is on other topics) as a right-wing union, strictly loyal to Transport House. A brilliant and moving speech burning with moral and Christian fervour by a crippled branch secretary, Mr. Leonard McNamee, aroused the consciences of the delegates. On a show of hands however,

his motion appeared to be lost—but the Chairman, Mr. Jack Cooper, for no apparent reason, called for a count (how the Executive must regret his folly!) and in this count 75 delegates abstained, allowing the motion to pass by 150 votes to 126 votes. Wild scenes of enthusiasm resulted among the Nuclear Disarmers. Mr. McNamee and Mr. Cooper have played their parts in history.

VOTES

The immense significance of the decision is that the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is now within visible sight of converting the Labour Party. The M.G.W.U. have 650,000 votes at the Annual Conference of the Labour Party (at Blackpool in early October this year). If the largest trade union of all, the Transport and General Workers (with one million votes) also goes unilateral at their biennial conference in Douglas next month, then the

by changing their position at their forthcoming meeting with the leaders of the T.U.C. on the questions of nuclear weapons? I believe they will if Nye Bevan, Richard Crossman, Ian Mikardo and Harold Wilson have their way. They would in any event have affirmed that when they propose to suspend H-bomb tests they mean cease permanently. But this slight shift will not placate Mr. Frank Cousins. The next stage would be to offer to renounce the H-bomb if (and only if) we can persuade all the lesser powers (including France) to agree not to commence independent manufacture—the bi-polarisation plan of Mr. Crossman.

GENERAL ELECTION

Mr. Gaitskell may not like the idea but he is in a dilemma. By accepting this he may prevent total disaster for his policy and his career at the Annual Conference. Mr. Cousins (like Nye Bevan) may feel that a

100% unilateral policy would cost Labour the next General Election—better to get into office on a blurred policy and then go unilateral. But even if Mr. Cousins does a deal with Mr. Gaitskell there is no certainty that the T.G.W.U. will not defy Cousins since he could not publicly put forward the argument about the election and in any case most delegates will be mandated. Mr. Gaitskell may feel that it is wiser to bank on getting home by 750,000 on his present policy—by staking his whole personal career on the issue, he might just make it.

Two vital questions, then, will be answered in the next month. Is Mr. Gaitskell prepared to compromise? Is the mighty Transport Union about to go unilateral? If the answer to the latter question is in the affirmative, this will almost certainly affect the decision of Mr. Macmillan on the election date.

DAVID CARLTON

THE OBSERVER PLAYS

Faber and Faber 42s.

Since "Look Back in Anger" we are being repeatedly informed that there is a new, vital surge in the theatre. The *Observer* competition in 1957 contributed to this pleasant theory. The manuscripts came pouring in. There were two thousand Kenneth Tynan reports in his preface. The book presents seven of them. Call me a cultural reactionary or a myopic bourgeois if you like but I refuse to be bluffed by *A Resounding Tinkle*. I was bored by its nonsense at the Royal Court and on the printed page it was just as boring.

Undoubtedly *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl* by Errol John, which won first prize is the best of the seven. Of course I could not possibly evaluate the quality of these winners in comparison with the other entries—I have never seen them. No doubt there are many disgruntled competitors whose hopes of fame and fortune were dashed who could make some suitable comments on this theme. (I hasten to add that I was not a competitor, although I once thought quite seriously of finishing the play that I have been tinkering with for the last few years.)

The best idea was undoubtedly contained in *Four Men*. They are conspirators of conflicting political views who agree on one thing—the necessity of assassinating the Prime Minister. Possibly it deserves more than its honourable mention. The second prize winner, all about crooked politics and politicians in the South of the U.S.A. struck me as a cross between a political pamphlet and a sociological

exposure of a corrupt system of power. I got the impression that the characters were explaining facets of life in the South for the benefit of the audience's education about a particular set of social conditions, rather than for one another as a genuine part of the dramatic action. The characters strike one therefore as stilted and almost as only symbols. An article in the *New Statesman* would have been more valuable and possibly more entertaining.

Somehow the play which showed the greatest sense of human pathos and made valid and outspoken social comment shared only a third of the third prize. *The Shifting Heart* is a hopeful tragedy from Australia. It engages us powerfully in the lives of a family of Italian immigrants who face the deadly pressure of intolerance from their Anglo-Saxon neighbours. I felt that in this play, Richard Beynon has captured for the stage a stark glimpse of the stuff of life.

All of the plays in this book (including *Tinkle*) imply social criticism. I hesitate to agree with Tynan's enthusiastic suggestion that they are "plays of rebellion." Possibly they are a taste of more pungent things to come.

The one conclusion that may drawn from this collection of new plays is that lovers of the living stage can offer congratulations and thanks to the *Observer* and Kenneth Tynan. They can also hope for another competition in the not too distant future. The "vital surge" needs constant encouragement and opportunity.

Body and Soul

Being a waiter I couldn't help but overhear these two delightful old ladies, handsome in their minks, as they sat sipping their lemon tea from coloured straws and nibbling expensive buns with fancy names.

"I have a new Master now, you know," said one. The other smiled and then looked nervous.

"But what happened to Sri what's-his-name, the seventh incarnation of the seventh son of the Himalchalu?"

"I just don't know Agatha, but suddenly I lost the spirit.

My soul was blithely floating out of the sordid box of my body and then all of a sudden I desperately wanted to go to bed with him."

"Did you?"

"No."

"Why not?"

"He said he didn't want to. I even offered him a fifty guineas sacrifice, in cash. I had it with me, I'd just drawn a dividend payment."

"What happened?"

"I left him. Went to my favourite esoteric book shop and picked up a book by this

new Yogi, the one who never washes but always smells of lotus blossoms. I realised then that he was going to be my new Master. I'm taking a course in greater insight into god."

They nibbled their buns. "Did you know Marks and Spencers went up sixpence?" said Agatha, "I'm thinking of playing with a few hundred. British Oxygen looks promising too."

"I never invest without the advice of my new Master. He suggested Babcock and Wilcox in a trance—his soul was hovering over the Himalayas at the time. I was quite thrilled."

"Waiter!" called Agatha. "I sidled over. "More water," she commanded.

"Yes Madam" her into a large tip. I bought a book on the Mystic Inspiration of the East.

I've never looked back since. Opened up my own studio and give private lessons on how to cleanse the soul through bodily suffering. The only snag is the bodily suffering. The worst thing about that is sleeping with them.

Abstract Expressionism in L.S.E.

I invited the abstract expressionist Peter Coviello, to exhibit in the Research Student's Common room expecting his paintings to air of provocation.

I do not contend every man's democratic right to express his wretched little opinion. But when noises articulate into occasional sentences these noises are fair game for critical inspection.

For example, I often heard it said that the paintings are not masterpieces. This snuffy remark was very common. No, they are not masterpieces. For one thing they are the work of a young painter who style has not yet settled. At least two of the paintings (Rose Veil and Yellow Veil) do swing—swing demurely but swing nevertheless. The best of the paintings, the highly unpopular Black Awakening, wails from the roof. In any case the remark is open to suspicion. Do cricket fans refuse to watch anything less than a cricket match?

Curiously, Coviello's greatest fault is a brush stroke that is too finicky—not too clumsy. His apparent clumsiness in so far as it comes off is part of his "attack". Much silly publicity has been given to "attack" in abstract expressionism (running a bicycle over a painting, stamping on it in tennis shoes etc.) The truth is that "attack" in painting if newly important, is a traditional technique. The bold stroke of the mature Rubens and the impasto of Van Gogh are both used as devices of "attack".

Another phrase I've often heard is "The statements of

aesthetics that accompany the exhibition make more of Coviello's paintings than is actually there." True! The partisan of abstract expressionism first says piously that the paintings speak exclusively through the paint. He then grows fearful lest the paintings be mistaken for aesthetic exercises or the analytical abstractions of Duchamp or Jack Smith—and thence plunges into some boorishly rhetoric about "commitment of the entire self" or "new forms of consciousness. Suspecting that the viewer has grown sleepy-eyed during this last argument, he then insinuates that the viewer lacks an unprejudiced, uncluttered mind. The truth is that abstract expressionism is closer to aesthetic exercises than its partisans would like to admit. In so far as it is expressive, the school assumes fluency in the language of painting. One is expected to know which effects, in theory, get which results. Sometimes one must even know a bit of etymology. Just as one must hear Chaucer's "Whan that Aprill with its shoures soote" behind the "April is the cruellest month" that opens "The Wasteland", one must see the paintings of Mandrian and the geometrical forms of classical art to feel the effect of the two jizzily balanced sets of grey panels in Black Awakening. Coviello is wrong: the language of art has to be learned.

But is there any excuse for hanging these paintings? No, none. K. KAPLOWITZ

HORRESCO REFERENS

So often people tell me that they are going to teach whether they graduate or not. This may be you. If so, think again. Don't be too late, like Macbeth who found it easier to go to his destruction than to turn back.

When I hear the word teacher' my thoughts turn to a certain secondary school whose staff-room I graced. It was in London, east of Houghton Street and near the river, an old building of yellow brick surrounded by ancestral railings grimed with age.

The small square of tarmac that served as a playground had long ago grown too small due to the virility of the local population. Similarly the classrooms, where children sat crammed in among peeling wall plaster of clinical colour and long extinct pipes.

However, leaving aside all those little things like flooded and inadequate lavatories and insufficient space, let us consider the children. Now if anyone has altruistic ideas with regard to teaching, drop them. A class of children are indescribably cruel, and are ready to take advantage at every opportunity.

The children of this school were rough. Their parents, in the main were also rough. When you punished a child your first consideration was what 'mum and dad' would say. It took courage to use a cane or retain a child after four o'clock. I do not mind a black-faced coalman bursting into the classroom, brandishing a huge fist and demanding justice for his 'so and so' kid. However I do object to being sworn at by an outraged mother in the high street.

In the school the children

know what to expect and so do you, but it is extremely embarrassing when the parent seeks you out and denounces you before the public eye.

The school was mixed and had natural problems. With such things as broken elastic, safety pins, and "You should see what Johnny Brown did to Susan in the park last night, Sir", kept my time occupied.

Stella was fourteen and of rather doubtful character. In an endeavour to direct her feet in a more spiritual path she was given the humble task of collecting staff dinner money. One day she entered a boys class to silent stares. As the master handed her his two shillings a whispered voice from the back of the room said, "Look, he's given her the money".

To all would-be teachers I pass on the motto "Be Prepared". Never enter a classroom without some work for the children. Carry sufficient paper and pencils to be able to give them some work to do. Keep your wits about you and be ready for anything. I once found myself involved in a needlework class for fifteen-year-old girls, I thought quickly and survived—just.

Another warning and this is of great importance. Don't show any weaknesses. If you are young, and blush when sex is mentioned—then don't. If the children find this out then you will be ruined and demoralized.

If you still wish to teach, good luck. You may feel the call. If so sit down and wait for another call. Think hard and consider firstly and lastly whether you are suitable to control and educate. D. GRAY

JAZZ NEWS

A great new release is the new Herb Ellis disc on the Columbia label 'Nothing But the Blues'. The Jazz At the Phil guitarist is in fine form and is ably backed by jazz giants Roy Eldridge, Stan Getz, Ray Brown and Stan Levey. This is the latest and most successful attempt by the so-called "funky" moderns to delve back into the rich jazz heritage of the past. This is an excellent record marred only by rather an excess of guitar by Ellis. One is only given glimpses of the tenor man, whilst Eldridge blows few solos too. At last the moderns are realising that traditional jazz means more than the second-rate bleatings of Bunk Johnson and the other New Orleans veterans. Traditional jazz means Louis Armstrong and King Oliver as well as George Lewis and Johnny Dodds (two of the most overpraised musicians in the jazz world). Coming back to the Ellis disc, 'Royal Garden' swings from beginning to end, whilst 'Pap's Blues' is a sincere and moving performance of a really low-down earthy blues number.

L.S.E. jazzmen have hit the headlines recently. Digger Miller won the modern and Jerry Whitehead won the traditional finals in the W.U.S. competition. Also in the final was the swiny little trio of Pete North. And finally, a word of praise to jazz society chairman Lord Darby of Baham. Nev has shown himself to be a hard working and enterprising chairman. Under his leadership the L.S.E. Jazz Society is now amongst the top clubs in London.

BRIAN LEVY

Oranges and Lemons

The "Bells of St Clement's" are chiming again, for St. Clement Danes, one of Wren's finest churches, and one of the few he built outside the City, has been beautifully restored as the memorial church of the R.A.F.

Only a step from L.S.E., it is worth visiting for its light and airy atmosphere, its golden candelabra, and discreetly decorated ceiling which offers a contrast with the rich, dark woodwork below.

The Wren church dates from 1681, when the great architect in addition to working on St. Paul's was busy rebuilding the City churches destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. He eventually rebuilt fifty of them, and many can still be seen today as reminders of that late seventeenth century when prosperous London merchants still had their homes in the City, and fashionable London was only beginning to spread beyond the Strand, towards St. James's and Mayfair.

By the next century London had grown to include all Mayfair and Soho. This was the age of Johnson, and the clubs and coffee-houses. Dr Johnson worshipped at St. Clement Danes, and his memorial can be seen outside the east end of the church, looking towards Fleet Street.

Today the church has risen again after being badly bombed. I wonder if anyone will revive the children's service which used to be held every March, when each child received an orange and a lemon, in memory of the nursery rhyme

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