

NOTES

ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES FOR THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

John Kelly writes: The Alternative Economic Strategy, in one form or another, is now supported by many sections of the labour movement. It has recently become the focus for intense debate following the publication of books on the AES by London CSE, Sam Aaronovitch and Glyn and Harrison, and there are signs that some of these debates are beginning to focus on concrete issues such as inflation, import controls, investment finance etc. The aim of this conference on Alternative Strategies (to be held in London on October 17-18) is to provide a forum where intellectuals and activists can take these and related discussions somewhat further. The structure of the conference falls into two main parts: on Saturday October 17th, after an opening session by Bob Rowthorn, there will be a series of workshops examining some of the specific issues that are likely to arise in the course of implementing an alternative strategy. The Sunday sessions focus on the ways in which such a strategy can be implemented, looking at the role of the state, the trade unions, trades councils, local struggles and initiatives. Speakers include Tony Lane, Sheila Rowbotham, Judith Hunt, Adam Sharpies, Mike Ward, Anna Coote, Hilary Wainwright and Tony Bunyan.

The Conference is sponsored by the Conference of Socialist Economists, the Labour Co-ordinating Committee and *Marxism Today*. Full Registration costs £8 (£3 unemployed) for which you will receive conference papers. Registration forms are available from: John Kelly, Dept. of Industrial Relations, LSE, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, Tel. 01-405 7686.

SOCIALIST ECONOMIC REVIEW

Ken Jones writes: Following its successful launch last year, *Socialist Economic Review* will be holding its second annual conference at Birkbeck College, London on September 19-20th.

Interest in the Alternative Economic Strategy is as intense as ever, and this year's conference will reflect the different aspects of current debate. Firstly, there are the major strategic questions, such as: does the AES provide an opportunity for widespread popular mobilisation? Will it succeed in transforming the economy in a socialist direction, or will it merely provoke an overwhelming reaction from capital? These will be some of the issues raised in a debate introduced by John Harrison and David Lipsey.

Secondly, there is the question of how the AES can link together different left and progressive forces. In particular, what is the

relationship between the AES and the women's movement? Three papers at the Conference, including 'Socialist Feminism and the AES' by Sheila Smith and Jean Gardiner, will focus attention on this theme.

Thirdly, there are questions concerning the practicality and coherence of socialist economic policies. Does the Left really have a detailed idea of what policies should be implemented, and of the way to overcome the obstacles which will inevitably be confronted? These issues will be tackled in a series of workshops covering aspects as varied as collective bargaining and inflation; industrial policy; financial institutions;

exchange rate policy; public expenditure control, and the role of taxation.

The whole conference will begin with three 'overview' papers looking at recent developments in the UK and in the international economy — including a session given by Domenico Mario Nuti on the significance of events in Poland. And the final session will take an equally topical look at progress by the GLC in implementing a Left industrial policy, with a discussion led by Mike Ward (GLC Industry and Employment Committee Chairperson).

Conference details from: SER, 36 Plimsoll Road, London N4 (Tel: 01-354 0013); or

register at Harkness Hall, Malet Street at 9.30 am on September 19th. Conference fee £8 (unwaged £6).

ERRATA

In our August issue, an error changed the sense of the first sentence of the last paragraph in the left-hand column of p26 in Monty Johnstone's article. This should have read: . . . democratic supervision over the state apparatuses, . . .

Contributions to *Notes* (brief please) are welcome. We need copy by the 1st of the month preceding publication.

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