

Letter to our Readers

We're sorry to be late this quarter. Editorial 'flu has been one reason. Production of the important "Socialist Wages Plan" by Ken Alexander and John Hughes has been another (have you got your copy?). But re-inforcements are on the way. It's a pleasure to announce that four new members have joined our Editorial Board: Dr. D. G. Arnott, our scientific advisor, writer, and talent scout; Mervyn Jones, novelist and Tribuneer, as well as leading N.D. spokesman; and Michael Barratt-Brown, economist, and Ralph Miliband, political theorist and historian, whose articles have been outstanding features in our earlier numbers.

Meanwhile, some readers have written asking us about our discussions with ULR and projects of a new united journal. All we can say at the moment is that An Announcement Can Be Expected. When it comes, it should be a pretty good announcement: it should offer something better in every respect than you are getting now. But the thing can't be hurried. There are difficulties to overcome, not least the problem of finance. To get something more stable, far less hand-to-mouth, and exhausting to editors and distributors, we must set up a proper full-time office; and this requires a real breakthrough. So, please continue to send your donations to meet our annual deficit; and please continue to talk about us and push our sales.

Other associated activities are growing as fast as our embryonic organisation can cope, and as the initiative of friends and readers can push them. The Leeds Left Club is now firmly established after four successful meetings — with Norman Mackenzie, Richard Hoggart, Michael Barratt-Brown and Stuart Hall. Left Clubs will commence (we understand) in late April in Manchester and in Edinburgh. And this journal is calling an invitation conference of trade unionists and economists to discuss industrial problems, on the week-end April 18/19. Space is very limited, but any qualified readers interested in further details should send an enquiry to Jim Roche, 23 Rochester Terrace, Leeds 6.

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G. D. H. Cole was a friend of ours, in a special sense. In the old days of the duplicated 'Reasoner' a manuscript arrived one morning on 'democratic centralism'; it was quite unsolicited, and it came from Cole. He had seen a copy of our journal, and although most people thought of it as the organ of some obscure dog-fight in the Communist Party, he was interested in any journal that took socialist theory seriously enough to fight about it: so he decided to join in. Later, he contributed to the discussion on foreign policy in the fifth number of the "New Reasoner." His comment on us (as reported) was: "I like those boys, but they're too wordy." We hope to carry a full interpretative and critical article on some aspect of G. D. H. Cole's work in a future number.

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If we could get fifty friends who would sign a banker's order to us of £1 per month, this would give us an income of £600 p.a. This would enable us, immediately, to put all our work onto a very much firmer

basis. It would mean the breakthrough we are looking for. Are any readers in a position to join this scheme? Please write to us, and we will send details and a banker's order form.

Among old contributors to this number, is **Claude Bourdet**. We congratulate him on his recent victory in the Paris municipal elections, and apologise to him for being unable to hold the number long enough to allow him to make some important changes to his article in the light of recent events. New contributors include **Dorothy Cole** who is a research economist at Cambridge: **A. E. P. Duffy**, an extra-mural lecturer at Leeds, has several times fought as a parliamentary labour candidate in Devon: **A. H. Halsey**, lecturer in sociology at Birmingham, is co-author (with Jean Floud and F. Martin) of 'Social Class and Educational Opportunity': **Arnold Hinchliffe** is a London school-teacher and free-lance writer: **Rodney Hilton** is Reader in Medieval History at Birmingham University: **Eric Heffer** is Secretary of the Merseyside Trades Council: **John McLeish** is an extra-mural lecturer at Leeds, and has in the past few years visited Moscow, Leningrad and Warsaw to evaluate local psychologies: **Peter Thirlby** combines historical research with teaching at Ealing: **Alba Taylor**, a social science graduate, is Polish by birth and has recently returned from a visit to Poland.

To remind any readers who have not yet got their copy: **A Socialist Wages Plan** by Ken Alexander and John Hughes, which Ian Mikardo has described as "the most remarkable Socialist policy document that has been produced for many years," is available from Mrs. Joan Welton, 52 Marlborough Avenue, Hull, or from Janet Hase, 7 Carlisle Street, London, W.I.: price 2 shillings plus 3d. postage.

Readers who are discouraged by the prospect of the forthcoming General Election campaign, in which none of the central socialist issues will be posed, might consider seriously the ways in which they can help to make the New Left a reality in their own locality. This seems to us a more constructive and realistic way of meeting our present dilemma than voter's vetoes and other stratagem born of a sense of despair. The New Left can be built alongside the election and N.D. campaigns, and as an integral part of these campaigns. The first thing is to canvas seriously for readers of N.R., the **Wages Plan**, U.L.R.: we will be glad to send you supplies of a special brochure — you help us by sending them out to your acquaintances. Supplies of the New **Reasoner** can be sent to you on sale or return terms; why not order half-a-dozen copies of this number, and prepare for a special canvas of likely readers with our next number, which will contain a special article by a group of scientists on Bacteriological Warfare? Then, when you have extended sales, you will be in a position to consider the next step: a discussion group, a conference, or, in larger centres, a Left Club.