

THE  
BULLETIN

An Information Service  
for  
Socialists



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Letter to Readers

As we went to press the news was that the military rebellion in the Kabylie was almost over but that the situation on the Moroccan/Algerian border had reached the shooting stage. Events move so quickly and there has been quite a lot of press coverage so we didn't attempt to cover the Kabylie rebellion factually. Instead we have tried to make available information which has not to our knowledge been in the British press, namely on the aims and aspirations of the rebels.

We hope readers will give widest publicity to our items on Venezuela and Cuba. It is surprising how widespread the notion that Betancourt is left wing has become. This is all the more regrettable as it seems likely that Venezuela may become among the first Latin American countries to follow the Cuban road. Solidarity from the West European labour movement will then become extremely important. The Cuba article speaks for itself.

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outlined what we would call the "Scarborough mood" and posed the problems this raised for the left. Against this "Scarborough mood" must be counterposed the general left swing in the country and the very strong expression of left sentiment shown by the vote for left figures for the N.E.C. The process of keeping up the fight for socialist policies within the Labour Party without separating oneself from the mass of the party's supporters and workers is one which requires a great deal of thought. Here are some ideas which we hope will help discussion on the problem.

The left has been very vulnerable to the charge that it is "rocking the boat" by raising political differences. The answer to this is to show that the left is far more concerned with defeating the Tories than the right. The Tories calculate that by the time the General Election comes round the state of the economy will have improved so that they give some concessions - say in next year's Budget - and generally have more room for manoeuvre. The fear that they will be able to pull this off is widely felt in the CLPs. Obviously the thing to do is to drive them out of office as soon as possible.

The charge of "rocking the boat" will be completely undercut if the left makes itself the spearhead of a campaign to drive the Tories out of office now. A great "Resign Now" demonstration could be the focus of such a campaign. The great unemployment demonstration of March shows the possibilities in this field. Sections of the right will argue that demonstrations never bring governments down. Against this we can argue: (1) it is not true - the Suez demonstration helped bring down the Eden Government; (2) that the Tories are in such a confusion over the leadership issue, that their international standing is so low, that there is such a paralysis of will at a time when very important issues face the country that such a demonstration could just tip the balance. And anyway, do we just sit on our thumbs waiting for the enemy to choose the time of battle?

The Tories will try by all means to regroup their forces when they have finally chosen their new leader. They will want to present the image of a new, fresh, invigorated team which will break with the mistakes of the past. The Labour movement must prevent them from doing this by keeping up continuous pressure on them, by giving them no time to regroup, by demoralising them and convincing them that they can't win.

Such a great demonstration could not merely be around the negative slogan of the Government resigning. To be successful it must be linked with living issues which masses of people feel strongly about and which they blame the Government for. There are many such issues - but let us take a typical one, housing. The Tories have come forward with the vote-winning (they hope) target of eventually building 400,000 houses per year. Such a campaign could turn this gimmick of their's against them. It can be shown that this target is totally inadequate - it condemns hundreds of thousands of people to live in bad housing for 10, 20 and 30 years. It can be demonstrated that even this target could not be achieved unless there is a national planning of resources. Moreover, without measures to end land speculation, even this increase in house building would lead the price of land to rocket sky-high. This is just one issue - there <sup>are</sup> others.

Thus the left would be to forefront of the fight to drive the Tories out (and anyone who opposes such a campaign is rocking the boat) and at the same time taking advantage of the 'two-way' nature of so many of the Scarborough decisions to further the fight for socialist policies. To return to our example; a fight to expose the inadequacy of the Tory target of 400,000 houses would also be a fight to commit the Labour Party to building substantially more. Such tactics will not be easy to apply and must be combined with a thoroughgoing critical analysis of Labour's policies in its more specialised press.



A fund has been set up to aid the striking Asturias miners who have now been in action for over two months. Donations should be sent to The Spanish Democrats Defence Committee, International Dept., Transport House, Smith Square, London S.W.1.

#### BRICK-FINDING POLICE SERGEANT HAS NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

Readers will remember the case of Donald Rocom, the Peace News, cartoonist, who was discharged after being accused of having an offensive weapon in his possession - a half-brick. He had produced evidence that there was no brickdust in his pocket and then he took out a summons against the policeman, Detective-sergeant Harold Challinor, who 'found' the half-brick. The writ alleges assault, wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, and malicious prosecution.

Detective-sergeant Challinor has come into the news again. This time in relation to case of two boys, whose prosecution has been twice adjourned and now withdrawn, the police offering no evidence. The official reason given for the police's failure to prosecute is that the police officer concerned, Detective-sergeant Challinor, is suffering from a nervous breakdown. The charge against the boys was the same as that against Donald Rocom, and the same expert who declared that there was no brickdust in Rocom's pockets was ready to give evidence for the boys too. The Labour M.P. for Southwark, Ray Gunter is taking the matter up with Henry Brooke, the Home Secretary.

#### PEACE NEWS STARTS OWN TYPESETTING VENTURE

from Peace News 11/10/63

Peace News now has its own typesetting installation in operation. With an interest-free loan of £5,000 from one of its readers a typesetting plant has been erected and brought into operation after a year of planning by the directors of Peace News and a number of technical advisors.

This "factory for peace" in London, like its engineering counterpart in Glasgow, will have a policy of general commercial production and undertake typesetting for the printing trade in general. All profits will benefit the Peace News Fund.....

#### NOTTINGHAM PUB WITHDRAWS COLOUR-BAR

The Admiral Dundas which had refused to serve what it terms mixed company, that is white and coloured people together, has reversed its policy. A number of incidents had taken place but matters came to a head when the president of the Nottingham University Students' Union was present when a coloured student was refused service. He forcibly drew attention to the fact that the management of the public house faced risk of having the renewal of its licence opposed. Later the same day a member of the Young Socialists went in with a West Indian member of the A.S.W. and they were served. Since then a number of people have tried out the colour bar there and been served. Thus a victory has been won. It is thought that the brewery, alarmed at the number of protests it was receiving, put pressure on licensee. However, matters are not standing there and letters have gone to the clerk to the Council outlining the incidents when coloured people were refused service.

#### BIRMINGHAM LABOUR COUNCILLORS RAPPED OVER RENTS POLICY

By 93 votes to 76, the Birmingham City Labour Party passed on October 9th a resolution which called on the Labour group on the Council to suspend its rents scheme "to allow a Labour Government, when elected, to offer low interest rates to local authorities, in line with Socialist policy." Another resolution, passed by 109 votes to 79, criticised the failure of party officers to call a special policy conference on the rents plan.



On 3rd. October, the Clerk of the London County Council, Sir William Hart, received from Reginald A. Stamp, a letter resigning his office as the chairman of the Council.

This came about as a result of a meeting requested by Sir Percy Rugg, the Leader of the Tory Opposition, with Sir Isaac Heywood, the Labour Leader of the L.C.C.. The Tory Leader showed Heywood copies of two letters dated over two years ago which had recently come into his possession. The correspondence has been sent to the Director of Public prosecutions with a request that he should consider whether they called for investigation and, if so, that he would have an investigation made and take such further action as he might then think proper. Since Mr. Stamp's name is mentioned in the letters, Mr. Stamp "decided to resign the Chairmanship of the Council in order to avoid embarrassment while any investigation took place."

These are the bare facts. What lies behind them? It is significant that the letters should have been "discovered" two years after they were written, and that the Tory press has built this issue up into some impending scandal. The suggestion is that the Tories are determined to have a "Stamp" affair to discredit the Labour L.C.C., and the Labour Party in General.

#### ATTEMPT TO DEPRIVE LCC COMMITTEES OF RANK & FILE REPRESENTATION DEFEATED

Following the purge of three members of the Policy Committee of the L.C.C., Labour Party, an attempt was made at the Party meeting on October 8th to leave the three positions vacant. This arose as a result of the revolt against the L.C.C.'s disgraceful Address of Welcome to the Greek Royalty. This attempt to leave the Policy Committee without rank and file representation was heavily defeated at the Party meeting.

#### MORE SUPPORT FOR THE HOUSING CAMPAIGN

Another M.P., John Rankin, who sits for the Glasgow Govan seat in the House as a Labour representative, has signed the Housing Campaign petition.

The secretary of the Bromley, Kent, Constituency Labour Party, has returned in a completed petition form signed by officers and members of that C.L.P.

#### N.A.L.S.O. SCHOOL IN NOTTINGHAM SUCCESSFUL

The organisers of the N.A.L.S.O. Midlands Region school on Portugal and Portuguese imperialism are pleased with its outcome. Students came from Nottingham, Loughborough, Leicester, Clifton T.C., Birmingham, Cambridge, and a number of socialists from Nottingham also attended. The Saturday sessions were well-attended to hear talks on Southern Africa and Portugal. The Sunday sessions were not so well attended (largely as a result of a highly successful party Saturday night we understand) but the participants listened to talks on N.A.L.S.O.'s plans in the Portugal campaign, and the relationship between the colonial revolution and the fight for socialism in the advanced countries.

#### "AID TO CUBA" COMMITTEE TO BE REESTABLISHED IN NOTTINGHAM

At the last session of the above school, participants raised the question of what could be done to help the Cubans in meeting the effect of the terrible hurricane damage. During the discussion the question of the COMECON ultimatum to Cuba also came up. (see elsewhere in this Bulletin) It was decided to organise a meeting under the auspices of the Left Club on Friday the 25th of October, where the question would be gone into further. It is recognised of course that the effect of such a committee would be small unless it acted as a catalyst to a whole process of reestablishing the Cuba Committees which sprang up in the crisis last year.



1778 The Financial Times of 7th October reported:

"West Germany's Social Democrats, who have at the very least an outsider's chance of entering the Federal Government after the election in 1965, have come out for an economic policy relying on market forces rather than planning. Socialist belief in nationalisation went out of the window several years ago. Planning, except in the loosest sense of the word, has now gone the same way. As Herr Willy Brandt, the SPD potential Chancellor, put it at the week-end, the Party is not putting its faith in starry-eyed dogma.

"Herr Brandt was speaking at the conclusion of a three-day forum on economic policy, which the SPD had organised. He specifically gave his support to Dr. Karl Schiller, a member of the Berlin City government, who in the keynote speech of the conference declared that the onus of proof that planning is necessary lies squarely on the planners themselves.

"Dr. Schiller rejected the French planning methods, by which industry by industry investment targets are recommended though not actually imposed. All he would entertain was the drawing up of a "national Budget" which would give industry an idea of how the authorities expected the economy as a whole to develop. "The triple combination of a market economy, of overall guidance by fiscal and monetary means, and of a welfare policy has proved to be the up-to-date approach," Dr. Schiller declared. The sentiment could be subscribed to by Dr. Erhard himself.

"A deeper gulf is fixed between the Social Democrats and their opponents on the amount of influence to be given to labour in the management of business."

RUSSIAN TRADE UNIONS PUT OFF SPANISH TRIP from I.C.F.T.U. P. & R. Service

In a long article published on 19th. Sept. in Trud, the daily newspaper of the Soviet trade union, a spokesman for this organisation tried to explain why the visit of a delegation from the Soviet trade unions to the Spanish trade unions was postponed. The very obscure explanation, however, indirectly confirmed the fact which the communists wanted to hide, namely, the undoubted evidence of a contact between the communist state-run trade unions and the fascist state-run Spanish trade unions.

The fact is, that the initiative for the visit to Spain came from the Soviet trade union federation which - by the intermediary of the .... W.F.T.U. - asked UNESCO to sponsor this trip under the UNESCO programme for international workers' exchanges. On the Spanish side, the reality is that the trip was prepared by the Spanish trade unions in cooperation with the Spanish government and it would include visits to the four most industrialised regions: the Asturias and the Basque country, as well as Catalonia and Madrid.

It is also interesting that although the cable announcing that the Soviet trade unions would postpone their visit, was dated 10th Sept., it was only nine days later that it was announced in Trud.

AUSTRALIAN COURT BANS STRIKES AT MELBOURNE FORDS FOR 12 MONTHS

On October 7th, Mr. Justice Spicer, Chief Judge of the Commonwealth Industrial Court, said that the six unions at the Ford Motor Company had broken their contract terms, and this prohibited them from taking part in strikes. The Ford company took the matter to the court after a strike at its Broadmeadows plant, near Melbourne. The strike involved 2,000 men in a dispute over bonus payments, tea breaks and relief work. The strike spread and eventually involved 2,000 other workers at the Geelong plant, 60 miles south-east of Melbourne. The union are planning a campaign against the ruling designed to stop them resisting the Fords' speed up.



A London correspondent has sent us a copy of a press statement issued by the London Committee of the National Liberation Front (F.L.N. of Venezuela) Herewith extracts highlighting the repression by the Venezuelan Government:

After outlining recent arrests (see last week's Bulletin for details) the statement goes on "The government decreed the arrest of all these M.P.s as a result of an incident which occurred on Sept. 30th. The official version ... is as follows: a train was going from Caracas to the holiday resort of El Encantado, ..... About halfway on its journey it was stopped by armed individuals whom the Government claims were members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (F.A.L.N.), and these proceeded to rob the holidaymakers ..... At this point members of the National Guard came on the scene and violent fighting broke out in which 5 guardsmen were killed and 2 boys and 3 women injured. We deny emphatically that such an action was carried out by members of the F.A.L.N.

"On the contrary we assert that this has been another act of provocation by the Venezuelan Government. We can recall 2 other incidents..which were used by the Government to suspend constitutional guarantees and unleash severe repression against the opposition parties and Venezuelan people. "

After giving details of the two previous incidents, the statement goes on: "The affair of the train is without the slightest shadow of doubt of a similar nature to the incidents which we have just mentioned.." The action in no way conforms to activities the F.A.L.N. have been carrying out, it adds. "Firstly, the people who go to El Encantado, which is a working class and lower middle class holiday resort, are not the type against which actions of the F.A.L.N. are directed. And secondly, the actions of the F.A.L.N. have been of four types...

" ..The first is of the publicity type like the incident involving the ....Di Stefano incident to draw international attention to the situation in Venezuela. The second is assaults on barracks and police stations and other armed centres so as to acquire arms in order to carry on the struggle.... The third is the actions against the enterprises which are the sustenance of the regime in power, e.g., oil companies, tyre factories,.....The fourth is the actions which seek to bring relief to the extreme poverty of the city's slums. For example, the forcible requisitioning by the F.A.L.N. of lorries distributing meat, vegetables, and foodstuff in general and distributing them free of charge, to the impoverished who live in the belts of misery around the Venezuelan cities.

"Whenever ..... the F.A.L.N. has carried out actions they have always published their responsibility for those actions.....Why should the Government resort to a new frame up at this moment?

"First we must point to the pressure which right wing elements <sup>the</sup> Venezuelan army have exerted on President Betancourt which European newspapers, including the Times, have noted. This is in keeping with the trend in Latin America to replace representative democracies by military dictatorships....

"It is fairly obvious that President Betancourt has given way to further pressure so as to avoid being overthrown, even though we hold he has been a willing tool in their hands, because in any free and fair elections the opposition parties are likely to win. The opposition parties and candidates have taken a very clear position with regard to the sequel of events following the train incident." The statement goes on to give details of the stand taken by the People's Democratic Front, the Liberal Party and the A.S.-A.R.S. (a breakaway from Betancourt's own party). All these have both criticised the arrest and threatened not to take part in the elections unless the ill-egalised parties are not made lawful. The statement ends with the charge that the Government is paving the way for a new military dictatorship.



1780 Ed. note: We reproduce here an article from the Financial Times of October 10th. We would point out that <sup>the</sup> paper appears to have reliable sources, especially on Comecon activities. The paper has carried reports of previous Comecon discussions which have been invariably confirmed by subsequent events, e.g. the Rumanian disaffection with Soviet policy.

"A 'showdown' is unofficially but reliably reported to be taking place in Prague between Cuba and the Comecon countries, led by the Soviet Union, which have become tired of pouring huge sums of aid into the Caribbean island, all to no effect. An ultimatum is to be presented to Cuba, according to which Cuba will have to receive a powerful economic commission from Eastern Europe which will reform her economy (and some of her political system), or else cease receiving the East European aid which has been running at a rate of \$1.6 m. a day in the past year.

"These developments have been coming out of a meeting which opened in Prague on October 7. The meeting was convened to discuss two Cuban demands for aid. Cuba asked firstly for immediate help to deal with hurricane damage and secondly for a loan of \$5000m. over 1963-65. The Comecon countries agreed to the first demand, and will together supply medicines, building materials, tents, clothing, blankets and food to the value of \$3.5m.

"But the second demand was rejected in terms highly unflattering to the Cuban Government. One after another, the East European delegates accused the Cubans of squandering aid in unrealistic experiments. Criticisms covered the Cuban Government's economic policy in both agriculture and industry. In agriculture, the Cubans were accused of confiscating small farms to form <sup>stems</sup> state farms, without in fact having the workers to run the latter....

"....The Soviet delegate stated bluntly that Cuba could not expect any great food subsidies from the Comecon countries. Because of the bad harvest, the Comecon countries would have to buy grain in the West, "and we don't earn our export dollars to drop them into the Havana sewers." The Czechoslovak delegate accused the Cubans of favouring Chinese policy and dismissing Cubans favourable to the Soviet line.

"The meeting has been adjourned until the end of the month, while the Cuban experts return to Havana for consultations. When they return they will be presented with the ultimatum mentioned above. If the Cubans accept the ultimatum, the commission which they will have to receive may consist of up to 700 people, with extensive powers. Cuba will be made to normalise relations with the U.S. and to reduce its army and militia by a third, while making them more professionally competent." (our emphasis throughout)

#### CUBA NOT TO SIGN TEST BAN TREATY

Speaking in United Nations General Assembly on October 7th, Lechuga the Cuban delegate explained his country's attitude towards the Moscow Test Ban Treaty. He said that at precisely the time the treaty was signed, the U.S. Government, a signatory to the Treaty and an imperialist nuclear power, began a new stage in its aggression against Cuba and stepped up its activities aimed at destroying the Cuban Revolution. This adventurous and hypocritical double-faced policy laid bare the vicious and perfidious nature of the U.S. Government. He pointed out that the U.S. Government today continued to persist in its economic blockade and carry out subversive activity. The U.S. retained its military base at Guantanamo on Cuban territory. He declared: "Cuba will not sign the partial nuclear Test Ban Treaty so long as these criminal and illegal activities against our country are continued."

CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY BACKS CASTRO ON TEST BAN TREATY: The Oct. 2nd issue of Hoy, Cuban Communist daily paper, justified Cuba's abstaining from signing the pact, and its effort to maintain friendly relations "with the whole socialist world...."



Like many other critics of the Ben Bella Government, the Kabylie rebels have been very quiet about their precise economic and social programme. They substitute violence of language against Ben Bella for a programme. They talk a lot about democracy in general and take advantage of the absence of the formal institutions of bourgeois democracy and the concentration of power in a single person. (that this concentration of power is dangerous and a sign of weakness in the revolution we have pointed out before) However, a few indications are available and they indicate that the Kabylie military rebels represent a danger to the aims and aspirations of the revolution.

On Sept. 29th, the day that the call went out for open armed rebellion a French reporter Jean-Francois Steiner happened to be in Tizi-Ouzou, the capital of Kabylie where the leaders of the rebellion staged a mass rally. Steiner claims that he had received a tip in Algiers that something would be up; thus he was the only reporter of the outside press to be present. He reported Ait Ahmed as saying:

"Algeria must be politically independent of France, but the Evian agreement must be respected in both spirit and letter. First of all, because the agreement is a good one, next because one's word is a sacred thing. It is because Ben Bella perjured himself that we are fighting him. It is because he perjured himself that his regime is bankrupt.

"His dishonesty plunged him into a course from which he has no way out. After having broken the popular enthusiasm following independence, he was obliged, to maintain himself, to resort to demagogy. Thus it was that he betrayed France and his friends. He could not keep the promises he made so he was condemned to reinforce the police regime. (our emphasis)

On the nationalisations undertaken by Ben Bella, Ait Ahmed was reported to have said: "Algeria must carry out the revolution, but the nationalisations provided for in the Evian agreement must be the result of frank and valid negotiations with France. We must end the unilateral acts of the present regime in which the "nationalisations," in quotations marks, are nothing but spoils." "

Another repellent note, repeatedly sounded in the propaganda of the Cuban counterrevolutionaries, also figures prominently in the "Proclamation" issued by Ait Ahmed and Mohand Ou El Hadj:

"The Algerian Communists know that Algeria is sinking into chaos. They count on disintegration. They are helping Ben Bella only to use him." (Le Figaro, October 7th.)

Ait Ahmed claims that he stands for socialism. It is a most questionable variety as may be gathered from the following declaration:

"Ben Bella's error was to believe he could repeat the October Revolution. But Algeria is not Russia. What he wants, him, is Stalinism. As for me, I am for socialism, but by stages and without reducing the country to unemployment." (Paris-presse l'intransigeant, October 8th).

Mohand Ou El Hadj showed his sympathy with Ferhat Abbas, the former leader of the bourgeois democratic wing of the F.L.N. in the following remark: "Mr. Ferhat Abbas, who was president of the G.P.R.A. and then president of the National Assembly, is treated like a traitor today because he dared criticise the Constitution." (Le Monde, October 8th)

BEN BELLA MAKES GRAVE ACCUSATION AGAINST G.P.R.A. from a London correspondent

Le Monde reports Ben Bella, speaking at the historic 100,000 strong demonstration of Oct. 1st, in which he announced the extension of agrarian reform to all settlers' land, said: "There are some people who know the camp of Khemisset..Someone called Boussouf killed there some thousands of persons. There are also men here who know that our Government in Tunis filled entire cemeteries with thousands of cadres of Algeria. They were killed because they did not agree with it..." He went on to say that Abane, a very prominent leader of the FLN, had been strangled by the same people.



"BREATHING SPACE FOR BRITISH ECONOMY" - SIR ROY HARROD from Financial Times Oct 11

The British economy has been given a "breathing space in which to make vital decisions," Sir Roy Harrod told the Economic Research Council...He described the present phase of the economy as one of "lull, pending rather strong developments." Expansion of the economy was bound to cause an increase in imports, which would trouble the balance of payments position. "The crunch is still to come," Sir Roy added. Moreover, Western Europe had not as yet felt the effect of President Kennedy's measures to stem the capital outflow from the U.S.. Although these measures should do little harm to the continental countries, which has acquired good reserves, "Britain tends to be on the razor edge."

President Kennedy's measures were unlikely to bring the U.S. balance of payments to right in the near future. "So long as the dollar is weak, the now very powerful central bankers of the important countries will take all steps to prevent a sterling crisis occurring. But not so afterwards," Nothing drastic need be done to defend sterling in the immediate future, he stressed. But the Government, whether Conservative or Labour, would face the choice of adhering to the National Economic Development Council's growth policy or of yet again damping down production at home with the plea that the "defence of sterling" made such action necessary.

The balance of payments position was at present fairly satisfactory, Sir Roy remarked, because of the damped state of the economy, and because of a big inflow of capital, in part "a mirror image of the outflow of capital that has been giving so much trouble to the U.S."

BRITISH BUSINESSMEN OPTIMISTICbased on Economist report

Seldom in recent years have British businessmen been more cheerful about their companies' prospects, and found more reasons for being so, than they appear in the F.B.I.'s latest sampling of top business opinion. The 644 replies to the F.B.I. konjunkturst show that 54% of them are more optimistic about the general business situation than they were 4 months ago; the balance of those reporting a rise in production over those showing a decrease has risen (only 13% indeed, reported a downtrend in the past 4 months); new orders for home and abroad show a sizeable balance of increases over the few declines. Most important as a concrete indicator of their confidence, for the first time since June 1960 the companies expecting to authorise more capital investment in the coming year than last year outnumber those who <sup>are</sup> still expecting to authorise less.

...Rather more than half the firms replying still report that they are operating below capacity, but this is well down on 4 months ago; since this time last year, the proportion working to capacity has risen from 34 to 42%....Much of the new capacity installed in recent years offers considerable savings in labour, so that employment in general seems unlikely to become a limiting factor in expansion for some while to come; but as the main factors that may hold down their output in coming months more industrialists are once again citing skilled labour than were doing so earlier this year. Orders remain by far the most important limitation, but the proportion of firms worried about these in the short run has dropped.

Looking ahead in the export field, industrialists are fairly optimistic too about foreign sales, with greater hopes in industrialised than in primary producing markets. Their main worry in meeting foreign competition is over export prices....The National Institute of Economic and Social Research will soon be publishing a useful study of how well these F.B.I. figures work as an indicator or recent and shorter term future changes in the economy. Certainly most outside observers today trust most of the answers much more than they did when the inquiries began; but is it not still asking too much to expect any businessman ever to admit that his costs are falling or his profits rising?