News From New Zealand

Regarding the general political situation. It seems the fall in prices of primary products (dairy, wool and meat) on the British market has caused a state of terror in New Zealand.

The Labour politicians are blaming the nationalizers for the state of the finances of the country. Fervent appeals for co-operation and more production are being made. Some employers are demanding wage cuts, dairy farmers representatives are demanding an extention of the working week for wage earners to 44 hours.

The 21st Annual conference of the New Zealand Federation of Labor, representing 225,000 trade unionists is over and its decisions published in the Labour Weekly, "The Standard," May 7th, 1958. According to the report in the above organ most of the time of the conference seemed to be taken up with the guaranteed price, the dairy farmers' position, and the financial state of the country.

The conference was addressed by the Prime Minister (the Rt. Hon. Walter Nash), the Minister of Finance (the Hon. A. H. Nordmeyer) and the Minister of Labour (the Hon. F. Heckett).

The Prime Minister told the conference. "We will not allow any interference with your rightful share of the production of the country. We will do everything possible to ensure full employment."

Mr. A. Nordmeyer pointed out that in the past six years New Zealand had spent overseas £63 million more than it earned.

"No country, no company, no individual can go on spending more than he owns." Mr. Nordmeyer said: "We have reached the stage where, no matter what government was in office, drastic steps must be taken."

Mr. Hackett told delegates he came on behalf of the Government to ask for their cooperation. The Government did not want the anarchy of men not prepared to abide by majority decisions or to accept the guidance of their leaders.

"We are not going to be taken on" Mr. Hackett made it plain. He referred to specific instances of nonsense that had occurred and pointed out the cost to the nation in pounds, shilling and pence per day, week and month of such "irresponsibility."

Mr. F. P. Walsh, in his presidential address pointed out:

"At present there is no grounds for a wage claim under the terms of the Economic Stabilization Regulation. The Communists are urging the Federation of Labour to make an application so that the Federation will look foolish and the Labour Government embarrassed."

As food prices have fallen on the new revised Index, the FALL would have been GREATER, not less, on the old Index (their emphases).

"The Prime Minister, the Minister of ried a resolution thanking:

The Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Labour for their informative and constructive addresses.

"Fully appreciates the chronic state of affairs that the economy of their country had drifted into as a result of the mismanagement of the Nationalist Government — the state of affairs facing Labour when it became the Government in December.

"Pledges ourselves to co-operate with the Government and other sec-

(Cont. on page 22)

ANNUAL

WSP CONFERENCE

HOTEL ESSEX, Boston

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 30
12:00 Noon — First Session
7:30 P.M. — Buffet and Social

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
10:00 A.M. — Second Session
6:00 P.M. — Dinner
8:00 P.M. — Final Session

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
All Day Picnic

THE WESTERN SOCIALIST

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE FOR SOCIALISM! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS

VOL. 25 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS No. 202

THE MIDEAST CRISIS

Whatever else it might be deficient in, one thing is certain: the American capitalist class is unexcelled in downright hypocrisy and callousness. When it comes to the protection of its property and its profits the United States rulers are ready at all times to take whatever steps seem necessary. Support and direction to a rebel army in its successful bid to overthrow an anti-American regime in Guatemala; open chastisement and condemnation of its own allies in the United Nations for their precipitation of the Suez crisis; and now the invasion of a foreign country, Lebanon, on the flimsy excuse that it was requested to do so by the government of that country, a government that was shortly to be ousted. *Hypocrisy,* because America is as ready as any nation to commit aggression when its interests are threatened. *Callousness* because of our capitalists' seeming disregard for the horrors of threatened nuclear warfare. Even the possibility of wholesale extermination of populations does not deter them in their lust for profits.

Henry Cabot Lodge, no doubt speaking with tongue in cheek, stated in the United Nations that "we would not be there had we not been asked to come." Circumstances alter cases and the U. S. delegates now stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their allies in defending, rather than attacking aggression, and the world again shivers on the brink of all-out war.

Why American Troops

The reasons behind American intervention with force might be anything that creates a sudden danger to American vested interests. In the case of the Middle East invasion the problem is, of course, the menace to American Oil interests by the United Arab Republic and also, in the background, the spectre of Soviet State Capitalism's competition in the area.

It is frequently argued that such crass materialistic issues as control of oil fields is not a major cause for hostilities between nations. The Middle Eastern potentates, we are told, would still wish to sell their oil to the West even if they took control by means of nationalization and the West would lose nothing in the long run by such an event. Furthermore, we are informed by those who would try to deny the Socialist case, that there is enough oil within the confines of the United States to take care of all of her needs in a showdown.

In the first place, no industrial nation is willing to give up sources of raw material and strategic bases without a fight. Nor would the fact that the rulers of a widespread pan-Arabian republic might be anxious to sell their oil to the oil-hungry West mean too much to the vast industrial giants in this country, and in Britain that now own the lion's share of this comparatively cheap source of power. American interests in the Saudi-Ar-