Wilson defends Labour's Market stance

By Peter Pockansky

The British House of Commons is the world's premier school for hecklers; Monday night, former British Prime Minis- ter Harold Wilson, a magna cum laude graduate of the anti-heckling option, gave a virtuoso performance during the second of the 1971 William L. Dayton Memorial Lectures. The audience was protesting, among other things, racial discrimination and economic exploitation in New Zealand and Britain's policy toward Northern Ireland.

Wilson uniformly put the provocateurs in their place with rejoinders which set the audi- ence off on wild gales of laughter or thunderous applause. His best put-down came in response to a complaint voiced by an elderly flag-waving gentleman. The MP's response: "First of all my good man, you're waving the wrong flag, that's the flag of the Irish Free State, not the IRA. Furthermore, the event to which you refer occurred in 1925." That particular quarter was not heard from for the remainder of the evening.

In a more serious vein, the MP commented on the current brouhaha over British entry into the Common Market. The Wilson government's application for admission was vetoed in 1967. Prior to the veto, the Foreign Secretary had voiced concern over arranging for continued access by the Commonwealth countries to British markets after British entry into the EEC. A main component of the problem was the low price of New Zealand's agricultural goods compared to French farm produce. Wilson noted that the then Foreign Secretary said in early 1967: "All members of the community would need to face the fact... that a permanent and continuing arrangement might be necessary in order to assure New Zealand of continued outlets for her agricultural produce."

The former PM went on to complain that: "Neither The London Times nor The New York Times which have ex- panded a considerable amount of space explaining the Labour Party's change in Common Market policy have printed quota- tions (such as the one above by the Foreign Secretary) explain- ing our pre-conditions made before entering into negotia- tions." Wilson offered the fol- lowing rationale for the switchover by the Labour Party, which he leads, from favoring EEC Peace after British entry into the EEC. The main component of the problem was the low price of New Zealand's agricultural goods as compared to French farm produce. Wilson noted that the then Foreign Secretary said in early 1967: "All members of the community would need to face the fact... that a permanent and continuing arrangement might be necessary in order to assure New Zealand of continued outlets for her agricultural produce."

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Peace coalition sends member to conference

(Continued from page 1)

Prof. Eugene Bell, spokesman for the MIT Peace Coalition and also of the Biology Department, added that the conference sessions will be held in the Senate Cham- ber of the Luxembourg Palace and will center on four topics: Medi- cal ethics and the Indochina War; War technology and its imme- diate and future consequences for the peoples of Indochina; Health services to the Indochinese coun- tries; and support for the health services of the Indochinese peo- ples under present conditions and during the period of recon- struction.

Bell also pointed out that the Coalition felt it necessary that a representative be sent to the Con- ference. Singer was chosen because of the trip he made last spring to China and Hanoi. On that scien- tific visit he was able to make many medical contacts and actu- ally see conditions as they really were.

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