

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

ORGAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, FOURTH INTERNATIONAL.

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TWOPENCE

## CITRINE AIDS GREEK REACTIONARIES

BY VIC SIMMS

PREPARATIONS FOR A SAVAGE WHITE TERROR ARE AFOOT IN GREECE. RELYING ON THE FALSE PROMISES OF EDEN, CHURCHILL AND PLASTIRAS, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPRISALS AND A GENERAL AMNESTY, THE E.L.A.S. LEADERSHIP HANDED BACK THE HOSTAGES.

That was the signal for an atrocity campaign, leading to an open and naked regime of terror against the workers. Already, terror trials are being staged against the workers. Five of E.A.M. supporters have been sentenced. Unable to find evidence of murder against them, the charges were switched to that of bearing arms against the State. On this charge every one of the hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants supporting E.L.A.S. can be convicted. The notorious pro-Monarchist, Leeper, British Ambassador in Greece, makes no bones about it. He asserts in the latest White Paper issued by the Foreign Office:

"There will, however, be acts of harshness and probably cases of injustice towards the other side. Human nature here, which is southern and excitable, will enact some revenge for what it has

Couched in smooth diplomatic terms of humbug and hypocrisy, the portent of these words is clear: **THERE WILL BE SAVAGE WHITE TERROR AGAINST THE GREEK WORKERS.** In advance Leeper wants to excuse it. "Don't judge it too harshly".

But Leeper alone, could not convince the British working class. A representative of the British Labour movement must add his weight to this atrocity campaign which will result in the massacre of thousands of Greek workers and peasants. So, Sir Walter Citrine is sent by the Tories to the scene. He told the correspondents:

"I am filled with horror at what I have seen. The evidence is irrefutable. I have never seen a more terrible sight than those corpses of persons with their hands tied behind their backs."

In a country occupied by the Ger-

## ALLIES RETAIN NAZI OFFICIALS

### THUGS TO KEEP "LAW AND ORDER"

BY S. BLACKWELL

THE "WAR TO DEFEAT FASCISM" IS BEING EXPOSED AS "THE WAR TO PROTECT THE FASCISTS" BY THE EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN EUROPE TODAY.

AS THE ALLIES ENTER GERMANY THEY ARE PLACING IN POWER THE SAME NAZIS WHO TERRORISED THE GERMAN PEOPLE UNDER HITLER, UNDER THE PRETEXT THAT THEY ARE DOING "ESSENTIAL WORK", NAZI POLICE, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND FUNCTIONARIES — MEMBERS OF THE NAZI PARTY ARE TO CONTINUE AS BEFORE.

Every day items trickle into the capitalist press showing the real aims and motives of the ruling class.

Under the heading "Dr. Bruning is Our Man" Say New 'Nazis', the "Evening Standard" prints the following:

"The U.S. First Army are training captured German policemen anew to take over administration of occupied German districts.

These men, taken from the regular ranks of the German police force,

are undergoing training somewhere near the German border at a special training school, reports the 'Liberty' Magazine correspondent, Erika Mann, daughter of the famous German novelist, Thomas Mann.

"Before these men were taken they were severely investigated," she said.

Originally there were 200 of them, all of whom seemed willing to attend the military government school, but after they had been examined repeatedly, only 89 were left. They are all former members of the Nazi Party, because they were forced to be to keep their jobs under Hitler.

Now, asked whom they would choose for a leader, they answered with unanimity, "Dr. Bruning is our man."

### NAZIS KEPT IN SOCIALISTS KEPT OUT

The "Daily Express" of January 30th, 1945 states:

"The people of Aix (Aachen), those who genuinely want to cooperate with the Allies, are watching developments closely.

Most of them are socialists. They complain that their representatives are kept out of Government by office-holders almost solely representative of the old order.

85 OUT OF 87

They quote the case of the neighbouring town of Stollberg, where 85 out of 87 municipal officials from councilors is (socialists, are ex-mem-

hold water. The plain fact of the matter is that the ruling class prefers to collaborate with the people of their own stamp. In France and other occupied countries the "democratic" capitalists very quickly came to terms with the Nazis. Now, in Italy and Germany we see the same thing. The ruling class of Germany and Italy who introduced Fascism, look to the protection of Allied bayonets against their own working class.

The British ruling class — in order to poison the minds of the British workers, has made great play of the idea that the whole of the German people are fascists and responsible for Hitler. They have pointed to the V weapons as the indication of the savagery of the German people. Yet, the manufacturer of the V weapons is honoured and protected, and his tool placed in control of Aix.

The police thugs who have been trained by the Nazis to beat, torture and terrorise the German workers are to be retained by the Allies for the purpose of insuring "law and order".

In Italy it has been brought to the stage of a public scandal. The Allies attempted to retain the structure of the old regime intact. But it was impossible to do so because of the resistance of the Italian masses. Nevertheless, in spite of this, wherever possible the Allies have retained the same fascist bureaucracy and police, and have protected those who introduced Fascism—the capitalists and landlords.

The "Daily Herald" correspondent says:

"Most Italians are anti-Fascist, but officialdom seems so hypnotised by it that it is incapable of moving.

This deep-rooted fear may give Fascism its second chance.

In any hotel and any bar you meet the man who says: 'I never did believe in Mussolini's foreign policy, but Italian workers need dictatorship. It is the only way to results.'

## When Trotsky Led the Red Army

In Eastern Germany millions of workers and peasants are fleeing in terror at the approach of the Red Army. This is because Stalin threatens the German masses with vengeance and retribution, while the Russian press chauvinistically raves at everything German.

This is entirely the reverse of the internationalism and socialism of Lenin and Trotsky.

When Trotsky was leader of the Red Army, the Soviet Union appealed to the German workers fraternal solidarity with the Russian workers in the cause of socialism. This led, in Ludendorff's words: "to the rank and file of the German army becoming infected with Bolshevism." Thus the German revolution of 1918 was precipitated.

If Stalin had the internationalist policy of Marx and Lenin —



TROTSKY

summed. TO MOST NO...  
**JUDGED TOO HARSHLY** by British standards applied to our own conditions so very different from these."

man imperialist forces for three years, with the ruthless Gestapo and S.S. in action—in a country where a war of  
*(Continued on page 4.)*

# ON THE NEATH FRONT

## The Campaign Has Begun!

**THE WORKERS IN THE HEART OF THE ANTHRACITE COAL MINING VALLEYS ARE HEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME, IN MANY CASES, THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM — TROTSKYISM.**

In spite of difficulties of distance — this constituency stretches up four valleys for a distance of 12-14 miles — winter snow and rain, our sellers have been on the job pushing the "Socialist Appeal".

BY RACHEL RYAN

We have received a magnificent response and there is a growing demand for our pamphlets. The "A.B.C. of Trotskyism" — the testimony of Comrade Cannon in the American labour trial—is very much in demand. 150 copies have been sold and the workers have expressed the opinion that this is what they have been waiting for: an easy exposition of the whole socialist case.

At the Seven Sisters Pit workers have said to our sellers: "Where have you been all this time. We have been waiting to hear what you have to say." Everywhere we have gone there has been a friendly response and several workers have voluntarily come up to us to say: "You will get more votes than you think." There is a general feeling of disgust and disillusionment with the Labour leadership and the desire for a new fighting lead.

Three weeks ago, the so-called "Communist" Party had a letter in the local press slandering our Party and stating that we were anti-working class. Taking up the cudgels we have challenged the Stalinist "Communist" Party through the press, to a public debate to back up their slanderous assertions against us.

At a meeting in Resolven, Idris Cox, South Wales Organiser of the "Communist" Party demagogically attacked the Tory mismanagement of Cardiff and elsewhere. Our comrades pointed out that the Communist Party was largely to blame since they had called on the workers to support the Tory candidate for Cardiff, Major Grigg. From the floor of the hall our supporters challenged the "Communist" Party to a debate with us. Idris Cox refused. We have no doubt that they will not face us on a public platform before the workers.

The rank and file members of the C.P. are eager for a debate, and some still have faith that their leadership will accept the challenge. The more clear thinking members will begin to

doubt a leadership and policy which cannot be defended in public debate. The Labour Party has not yet got under way on the election campaign but have written one letter, printed in the "Guardian" to say that they do not require the assistance of anybody, particularly the Communist Party, in "fighting for socialism". It appears to have escaped their notice that they will be fighting this election "for socialism" with the support of the Tory and Liberal capitalist Parties!

We are receiving considerable assistance from the local I.L.P. comrades who are delighted that we are contesting the election and mean to give us a hand in striking a blow at the coalition and for International Socialism.

Many ex-Stalinists have offered us assistance.

Jock Haston, prospective candidate of our Party, addressed a meeting held in the Miners' Welfare Hall, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen (G.C.G.). The meeting was chaired by a local miner, John Jones, and the first speaker was Harry Finch, a Bevin Boy, who stressed the need for nationalisation of the mines under workers' control as the answer to the coal problem. Jock Haston exposed the counter-revolutionary role of Churchill and the British Labour and Trade Union leaders in Greece and Europe. "The workers of Britain", he said, "must show that their internationalism is based on 'Workers of the World Unite' by clasping the hands of the workers of Europe and Germany and forcing their leaders to break the coalition."

A series of meetings have been arranged in the constituency with Jock Haston, Ted Grant, Ajit Roy and a Greek Revolutionary—to be followed by speakers from all parts of the country. They are assured of a warm response from the class conscious workers of Neath.

The Red Army would be greeted with joy as liberators from the horrors of Nazism. The road would be clear for a socialist

Germany and a socialist Europe, which would end forever—war and fascism.

## GERMAN AND RUSSIAN SOLDIERS FRATERNISED



German and Russian soldiers fraternising on the Eastern Front in the last war.

# NAVAL WORKERS TO APPEAL

BY HEATON LEE

**On the resumption of the adjourned hearing of the case against 127 Naval Yard, Walker, Boilermakers it was decided to treat the platers, riveters, welders and caulkers separately as test cases for their respective trades.**

The first 3 names called were caulkers. All three workers were too deaf to give fluent evidence, much to the amusement of the bench, the prosecuting solicitors and a section of the press. None of the 127 defendants seemed amused, possibly because of the oppressive atmosphere of the court—or because they have had first hand experience of the drum splitting noise made by the caulking machines which soon deafen caulkers working 60 and more hours a week, year in and year out.

The prosecution's case was that the men had unlawfully taken part in a strike in connection with a trade dispute which arose as the result of a disagreement between the Boilermakers and the Management in the Naval Yard of Vickers Armstrongs in Walker.

Swan, Vickers Yard manager cross-examined by Mr. Rutledge, denied having instructed the foreman to lock out the workers. He admitted that

the dispute was one of long standing, as early as 9th May, 1944, the boiler-makers had demanded that the machines should be operated by a member of their society. He denied having ever told a skilled man to work on a time basis. There was a spontaneous murmur of protest from every accused worker in court, and Swan hastened to correct his "mistake".

In his opening remarks for the defence, Mr. Rutledge contended that the position at the Naval Yard should be defined as a lock-out not as a strike.

J. Peterson, a plater's shop steward in evidence produced a rule book of the Boilermakers' Society and referred to rule 41, para. 4, which laid it down that no material processed by a machine operated by a non-member of the Boilermakers' Society shall be handled by a member of that Society. From May until October, the workers had patiently negotiated with the management, they had waived this rule two or three times in the interest of progress and "of the nation" on experimental work. But by the middle of October it was impossible to make their wages on piece work as a result

*(Continued on Back Page.)*

bers of the Nazi Party."

"Among the 300 municipal officials of Aix and district are 57 registered members of the Nazi Party and affiliated organisations..."

### MADE V2 PARTS

"The patriarch of the Aix area is Joseph Johann Van der Velte, Bishop of Aix, Lord Mayor Oppenhoff used to be his lawyer. In that capacity, too, he was a director of the Veltrup Corporation, manufacturers of parts for tanks and V1 and V2 and machine tools."

The excuses that the Allied command gives that these people are doing "essential work" obviously does not

ashamedly."

If the workers of Italy and Germany had their chance they would soon deal with these people. But in order to do so they would have to liquidate the source of this disease, capitalism.

The workers of Britain and America must assist them in their struggle against the Allied attempt to prop up the ruling class of Italy and Germany, which can prepare the way for a new fascism and a new world war.

The workers must unfurl the banner of internationalism—join hands with the German and Italian workers in their struggle against their exploiters. Only thus will the world be saved from the horrors of a new bloodbath. Only thus will socialism be established in Europe and a new life commence for all workers, irrespective of colour, race or creed.

# FOOT GIVES COAL-OWNERS' PLAN

BY JOHN LAWRENCE

**Mr. ROBERT FOOT, WHO WAS RECENTLY HIRED BY THE COAL OWNERS TO CONDUCT AN "INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE COAL INDUSTRY"— AT A SALARY OF £12,500 A YEAR! — HAS NOW PRODUCED HIS "PLAN FOR COAL".**

Mr. Ebbv Edwards, who is the principal candidate for the job of full-time permanent Secretary of the National Mineworkers Union, has acclaimed this "plan" as "the greatest document ever produced by a representative of the industry in an effort to improve conditions." "Tribune" describes the plan as "a ridiculous scheme... considered as a serious contribution to the solution of our coal problem, it is the silliest yet produced."

"Tribune" is right and Edwards is either a fool or a scoundrel.

The Foot Plan starts off by declaring that "the only possible basis for the organisation and policy of the industry is that of National Service." But he hastened to add—in case anyone should imagine that "national service" requires nationalisation—that private ownership of the mines must remain, and "the best people to run the coal mines are the coal-owners"!

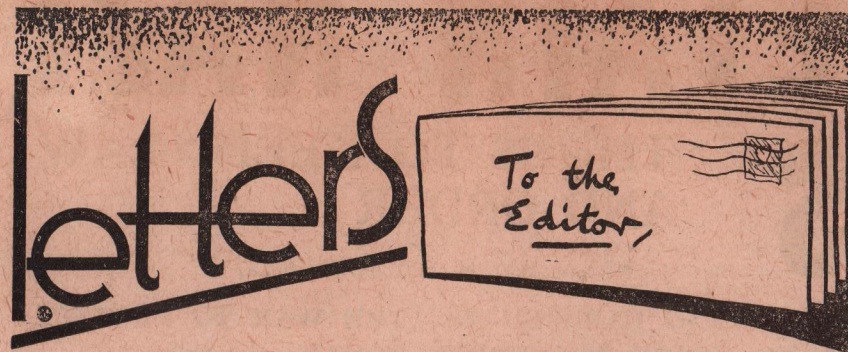
In view of the past record of the coal-owners, their gross incompetence, their reckless squandering of the country's coal resources in the search for quick profits, their brutal indifference to the suffering of the miners—in view of these things, we can only say that £12,500 a year proved too much for the "independence" of Mr. Robert Foot. However, having

duly established the claims of private property in coal, the Plan proposes that a Central Board should be set up with full power to "reorganise" the industry. This Central Board is to be composed entirely of representatives of the coal-owners!

At first glance it would appear that in failing to invite the miners' leaders to participate on the Central Board, the coalowners have overlooked an excellent and time honoured method of deceiving the workers. But there is method in their madness. They know only too well that the miners' leaders, reflecting the tremendous pressure of the disgusted rank and file, are pledged to the policy of nationalisation. The Foot plan decisively rejects this policy. The choice now placed before Lawther and his colleagues is therefore, for them, a most unhappy one. Either they must lead the miners in a determined struggle against the coal-owners and their plans, or — they must abandon the pretence of nationalisation, reveal their true colours to the miners, and plead for a couple of seats on the Central Board!

So far, except for the frank statement of Edwards quoted above, the miners' leaders have issued no official statement. When they do, we are quite certain that, whilst paying lip

*(Continued on page 4.)*



## FROM SOLDIERS

### Discussions on Greece

20th January, 1945.

Socialist Appeal,  
Dear Comrade,

Political discussion among the rank and file has long been a feature of my unit and you will readily appreciate that the Greek events greatly sharpened this.

Although throughout this campaign many of the fellows showed the usual confusion as a reflection of the lies of the daily press and B.B.C.; on two questions they were almost unanimous. Firstly that any government protection of the reactionary EDES was intolerable, and secondly, that if the government thought they could go on using British troops against "liberated" workers and peasants, they (the government) had another think coming their way.

Then came Churchill's speech; it cleared the air at once. It confirmed all your paper has been saying about Stalin and his attitude to the struggling workers of Europe. It showed that the British government realised that there would be revolutions followed by Workers' Power ("dictatorship of the proletariat") and Socialism, i.e. "naked triumphant Trotskyism". It also showed that Churchill and Co. intend to fight to preserve the system that gave us poverty, fascism and war.

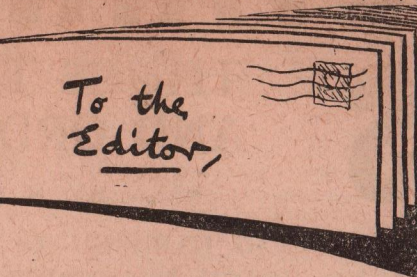
Most of our lads thought they were going into this war to fight Fascism. Now they know that they were rallied to the colours by a lie. They know that Churchill will fight against the workers' organisations and uphold the filthiest reactionaries. He will fight without the support of one of his most prized units.

Yours fraternally,  
Commando.

### "More Power to their Elbow"

Dear Comrades,

Churchill's speech was received badly. Most of the chaps said, "Well,



### The Death of Craftsman Taylor

24th January, 1945.

Socialist Appeal,  
Dear Comrade,

I want to bring to your notice an example of the callousness and disregard with which the worker-soldier is treated in the forces.

Craftsman Taylor, R.E.M.E., had been going sick for 3 or 4 weeks and was given M and D (Medicine and Duty) by the M.O. He was very ill and wanted a thorough examination. **But the result was still M and D—and no examination.**

On about January 12th, 1945, he was too ill to report sick. The C.O. was notified to have the M.O. visit Taylor. **But no M.O. came.** Whose fault this was has not been established, probably never will be.

His mates went for an orderly who called an ambulance and had Cftm. Taylor taken to the CR's at Ambrosden, from where he was sent to Banbury Hospital. **He died there.**

**His wife had a post-mortem on him and it was disclosed that he died from a fibrous growth on the gall bladder—cancer.** A collection in his unit raised £60 for his wife.

Had it not been for the incompetence and disregard for the soldier's welfare and life, Taylor's life may have been saved. It is time that the leaders of the Labour movement made some move to protect the workers in the armed forces. Let them demand that reactionary officers be cleared out, and the worker-soldiers elect their own officers whom they can trust and who will look after their interests.

Fraternally,  
Cftm. X.

### Tyne Workers Fight Redundancy

At a meeting held in the Connaught Hall on Saturday, 23rd December, 1944, attended by the workers of the Northern Coachbuilders' and representatives from

# The Killer in G.C.G.

BY JACK JONES

From the main road leading to Gwaun Cae Gurwen in the heart of the West Wales coalfield a little road branches off steeply down to the Neaudd Farm on the banks of the Amman river. This river separates the counties of Glamorganshire and Carmarthenshire. The houses on both sides of the road have a look about them of extreme care. They are typical of the "homes" of industrious and thrifty working people, and nearly all of them are dependant on the Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries, Mardy, Steer and East pits for the maintenance of their respectable appearance.

A small and respectable road—yet tragedy of demoniac proportions is their lot. They are, as the Yankee gangsters say, being "put on the spot". A killer, exceeding even Al Capone in devilish design, stalks these "homes"—scattering pain and suffering and eventually strangling its victims. But the local police force need not worry, and miners who have little breath left can breathe a little easier, for the killer is **Silicosis** and the victims are all miners. Furthermore, the killings are all perfectly legal because the victims are in receipt of—compensation!

In this little steep road of fifty houses, twenty-two miners have been solemnly certified, beyond all measure of doubt, as suffering from the attentions of the dread killer. "Beyond all doubt" . . . because they have finally qualified for compensation! Here are their names: Isaac Morgan, Will Morgan, Joe Howe, Fred Griffiths, Ivor Llewellyn, Alf Sheppard, Evan Evans, John James, Ted Lewis, Dan Griffiths, Ronnie Gwyn, A. N. Other, Johnny Morris, Gwyn Edwards, David Philips, Evan Lewis, Edgar Lewis, Morgan Davies, Tom Davies, Tom Jones, Dil Davies and Johnny Thomas.

Six more sleep for ever—dead, and many others are awaiting their "final result".

On January 14th, Joe Howe, aged 49,—one of the victims—passed on. . . . On Thursday the 18th, his coffin, carried by the rain, was carried reverently to the Old Carmel Cemetery which stands on the hillside overlooking the pit where he had seen and suffered so much misery. After so much pain, death for Joe Howe was easy to bear. The official description of Silicosis will tell you why.

"The disease is due to the miner breathing in dust while at work. The dust particles dissolve in the lung, forming fibrous tissues, and eventually large areas of the lung become practically solid and airless. The worker suffers from acute breathlessness and, in the later stages, from haemorrhage leading to a painful death."

If the passive, and sometimes active, opposition by the Welsh coal barons to the introduction of measures for the suppression of dust is taken into account, then the only verdict which the post-mortem on Joe Howe would be—**MURDER!** Not . . . "died of silicosis"—not even manslaughter—but **STARK NAKED MURDER.**

The death of Joe Howe and of hosts of others, is a tragic monument to the criminal incompetence and callousness of the capitalist system. In their devilish pursuit of profits, the coal owners have let loose a mad ape on the mining community. The tragedy of "Doctor's Road", Gwaun Cae Gurwen, is an unanswerable indictment of coal capitalism.

**Miners of G.C.G.!** Your traditions of militancy enshrouds the whole Anthracite area. If you delay in struggling for the rigorous application of dust-prevention measures—water infusion in the coal, spraying of rippings, and shot-firing on the off shift—a very different kind of shroud will soon cover your bodies.



### THE RESCUE PARTY!

## GLASGOW HOUSING SCANDAL

BY FRANK WARD

### Take Over the Houses of the Rich!

The 34 tenants of 19, North Portland Street, Glasgow, many of the families of serving soldiers, were faced during the last few weeks with the alternative of being thrown onto the street or going into the Poorhouse Institute at Forrest Hill. These were the only alternatives "offered" them when an eviction order, preceeding demolition, was presented for action.

This incident has brought to light once again, not only the harsh and brutal treatment meted out by the Government and its so-called Labour Council, but also the scandalous conditions under which millions of British workers and their families are forced to exist. There also exists a total lack of any plan to cope with the tremendous task of rebuilding the cities wrecked both by years of neglect before the war and by the bombing during the war.

No. 19 N. Portland Street, is a large derelict tenement, typical of many in the area and throughout Glasgow. Brick and stonework are cracked and crumbling, windows are cracked and broken, while chimney stacks lean awry. Damp often oozes from the walls while in the close the stench of decay permeates everything. The large

to take over the land, the Labour Council showed the limits within which these fine gentlement will go as "the working man's representative". They showed themselves not unwilling to continue filling well upholstered seats or accommodating themselves to their capitalist masters. For nearly 10 years this scandal has dragged on. For the last five they have utilised to the full the excuse of fighting for the "Century of the Common Man" against Fascism—while placidly allowing the Common Man to live in surroundings unfit for animals, never mind human beings.

The alternatives which these fine "socialists" presented the tenants were the street or the Poorhouse at Forrest Hill—the notorious Barnhill with only its name changed. Feeling ran high amongst the tenants, particularly amongst the soldiers who had obtained compassionate leave. Not one of their so-called representatives seemed to be showing any initiative in assisting them. They only began to develop an interest after a deputation of the tenants led by Peter McIntyre and others went to the Town Hall and obtained much needed publicity for this scandal. It was only after this publicity that some efforts were at last made. Now,

## PARTY NOTES

**CANNOCK:** A new Miners' Branch has been formed at Cannock and already the comrades have a regular circulation of 200 copies each issue of the *Socialist Appeal*. A study circle is held regularly attended by about twenty comrades. The workers I met were the best I have come

Does Russia's Entry Alter Britain's War were sold out in 10 minutes." Comrade Heaton Lee, the Election agent writes: "They are really wonderful comrades. The workers I met were the best I have come

more power to their elbow." They refuse to believe that the trouble in Italy was due to Fascists. The only chap who had any difficulty was our tame Stalinist who has been kept busy trying to explain why he now objects to the EAM leadership.

T., H.H.S.—

## Soldier Voices Feelings

28th January, 1945.

Dear Comrade,

Just a few lines to thank you for your kindness in despatching to me the "Socialist Appeals". They certainly raise our hopes to a sharp reality here, and it certainly arouses plenty of discussion. With the aid of the pamphlets you sent me I am digesting every detail and so use your literature as a stolid background for argument and mutual debate.

Well, comrade, the felling here is pretty high. Quite a number of the men in the district who are stationed here are very often marched and transported to the Arsenal to participate in the work, such as dock labouring, scaling, and painting, etc.

Just recently 8 men were ordered into a barge and were compelled to scrape the sides of a huge tank and remove the old rust. The officer commanding the detail, gave orders that the men were only to descend into the compartment for 15 minutes as the petrol fumes which had accumulated in the air were highly dangerous. The reason he mentioned this was chiefly because men working previously had complained of stomach trouble owing to the cramped up position one had to adopt. In fact, three of my mates only spent 10 minutes in this foul atmosphere. It was impossible to work under such conditions.

Another complaint which is prevalent among us is the attitude of many of these pro-fascist officers who stage these fatigues. One of them gave orders that a number of frying pans and pots should be cleaned and scoured. Believe it or not, the state of these utensils was horrifying. They were red rusty and full of dirt. It was simply humiliating to be told that men in uniform had to obey such ridiculous orders, when we could be employed in doing something useful.

Incidentally, we do not receive extra rate of pay. The total attitude of the men in camp is anger and disgust.

Believe me, we are compelled to rise at 5.30 a.m. each morning (Sundays excluded) and we are standing on the parade ground for 2 or 3 hours in cold frosty surroundings of a dismal barrack building.

Each day the command endeavours to transform soldiers into a burlesque and to parade him as a comic handy man. We are fed up with this glorified nonsense of having to do unnecessary and menial work—work which enables us to qualify only for a first class black-leg.

Comradely greetings,

Gnr. G.  
— Depot,

factories, the following resolutions were passed unanimously.

**"The workers of Tyneside demand that where the armament programme has been cut, the production of commodity goods for home consumption should replace the former war contracts."**

**Further that no worker should be sacked until further work is found elsewhere."**

Tyneside workers at a meeting held in the Connaught Hall on Saturday, 23rd December, welcomed the Trades Union Congress's and Amalgamated Engineering Union's support of the principle of the "Guaranteed Week" for workers declared redundant.

Meanwhile, during protracted negotiations, the workers are suffering. Therefore, this meeting demands that the negotiations be concluded not later than March 1st, 1945. Further, if any worker is declared redundant after that date the unions should immediately confer to decide further action.

In our opinion the solution to the  
(Continued at foot of next Column.)

# SOLDIER REFUSED TO SCAB

## Sixteen Months in Prison

WOULD NOT BREAK STRIKE

When Private A. Lambert (44), Pioneer Corps, a peacetime Swansea Dock worker, was sentenced by a field general court martial, at Longmoor, Hants, to 16 months' detention, he told the court during his trial that his conscience did not allow him to help break a Cardiff Dock strike last November.

He was charged with being absent without leave.

When arrested in Cardiff on December 18, he had been absent since November 18, the day his unit arrived in Cardiff.

Lambert said he had just taken part in the Manchester gas strike, and rather than do anything against his fellow dockers he went to stay with friends until the strike was over.

Being a Swansea dock worker himself in peacetime this was too much for his conscience and, rather than take part in it, he went absent.

"It would have been useless," he declared, "to have discussed my conscience with the commanding officer."

This vicious sentence reveals the class bias of the officer caste. They regard the army as a weapon of their class interests to be used against their rivals abroad and against the working class at home.

**STAINFORTH:** Another new miners' Branch of the Party has been formed with good prospects of growth. The comrades are selling 96 *Socialist Appeals*—170 were already being sold in the district. A regular study circle is held and there are good prospects for development in the area.

**SHEFFIELD:** The Sheffield Branch has new headquarters and with the acquisition of new members recently, there are excellent prospects of growth.

**NEATH:** The comrades are working hard in Neath preparing for the election. Literature is selling excellently. The comrades write: "We went out to Crynant and did a canvass. Nearly every house we went to bought the *Socialist Appeal*. The response was friendly, but they had not seen the paper before. Standing on the street corner in Neath one of the comrades sold 118. The papers are selling very well and Cannon's Testimony—the *A.B.C. of Trotskyism* is selling almost as fast as *Appeals*. There is a tremendous demand for left wing literature. Andy Scott's

Bro. Lambert has demonstrated a real trade union and class solidarity in refusing to blackleg against his fellow-workers. He was conscripted allegedly to fight against fascism abroad, not to fight against his fellow-workers at home. His stand will gain the sympathy and solidarity of the whole of the organised working class.

Dockers should demand through their trade union branches that their officials intervene to protest against this harsh and brutal sentence on one of its loyal members.

(Continued from previous column)

problems created by the change over from war to peace is:—

1. The "Guaranteed Week" to operate where the employers say there is no work.
2. Transfers and "Redundancy" to be controlled by the Shop Stewards and the union District Committees.
3. A sliding scale of hours and a rising rate of wages, to ensure the even distribution of the work available.
4. Nationalisation of the industry.
5. Immediate operation of a National Plan for Industry.

JACK JOHNSTON,  
(Secretary Works Committee).  
80, Buckingham Street,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 4.

detectives. He distributed "Socialist" up the streets across in the minefields. It astounded how correct their criticism of the C.P. is. They crave for a political discussion to clarify questions that are worrying them."

There is widespread political discussion taking place in the area as a result of our contesting the election.

**EDINBURGH:** The Edinburgh Branch continues to hold regular Sunday night meetings at the Melbourne Hall. On January 7th, Heaton Lee spoke on the situation in South Africa, where he worked in the mines. He described the imperialist exploitation of the coloured workers in the mines and on the land. The meetings draw an audience of between 50-80 workers, who take an active part in questions and discussion. Collections average 25/- a night.

The Branch has now taken over new premises at the Socialist Bookshop, 31 Lothian Street, Edinburgh.

**LONDON:** The London District Committee has set a target of £250 for the Neath By-election Fund for the London area. The campaign received a good start with the public meeting addressed by Comrades D. James and Ajit Roy which realised £17 15s. 10d. Provincial groups take note.

**SOUTH WALES:** Comrade Haston completed a successful tour in South Wales last month. He spoke at well-attended meetings of workers in Ebbw Vale, Merthyr Vale, Pontardulais and Gwaun-cae-Gurwen.

**GLASGOW, Parkhead District:** Lectures every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. at Hart Street (runs between Westmuir Street and Shettleston Road). 13th Feb.—"What Next for Britain." 20th Feb.—"The Need for a Bolshevik Party."

27th Feb.—"The Fourth International." Questions and Discussion.

# Boss Pays Gas Workers' Fine

On January 19th, 30 of the Manchester Gas Workers, charged under the Defence of the Realm Act, were dragged to prison for refusing to pay a fine of £10 each.

Out of the 36 men fined, only two paid the fine.

In the January issue of the "Socialist Appeal" we reported the likelihood of their imprisonment and called for support from all militant workers for the courageous stand these men were making.

Upon their arrests, the rest of the workers at the Bradford Road Gas Works came out on strike in their support. They were determined that their fellow workers should not suffer for the Corporation's refusal to grant the just demand of time and a third for night shift.

As the result of their determined

stand, despite the fact that the troops were called in again to work the Gas Works, the Management paid the fines and the men were released.

This is a clear indication to the Gas workers' of the strength of the workers' position. When the soldiers were brought in to break the strike in November, they almost dislocated the works. When the strikers returned to work they stated that the place was almost unrecognisable. These soldiers expressed the opinion that they would sooner be at the front than do the gas workers' jobs even for £12 a week.

The government were unable to get these same soldiers for the second time, and an entirely new batch had to be brought in.

The management would not have paid the fines out of goodness of heart.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

stand, despite the fact that the troops were called in again to work the Gas Works, the Management paid the fines and the men were released.

Faced with Government opposition to either paying out or granting authority

three-quarters of the tenants will be provided with houses but, as things stand at the present, a quarter will be forced to go to the Poorhouse. They have received no satisfactory guarantees that strict Institute regulations will not apply to them. In fact it is definite that males and females are to be segregated in separate dormitories as is usual in such Institutions. Protests against this have been met with no offers for joint quarters. Moreover, tenants are to be kept in their death trap for another three weeks while the "proper" channels are gone through.

The Council has been stirred—very slightly. This is probably not unconnected with the fact that these Councilors will have to face their electors some time this year for the first time in the last five or more. Representation is being made to Tom Johnson, Secretary of State for Scotland, for extra requisitioning powers. However, one can rest assured that only by constant pressure will some of these tenants be saved from the Poorhouse.

Even under the present lax rulings about condemned property, more than a thousand workers are likely to be faced with eviction in the next few months in Glasgow. This case will become only one of actual millions. Even if—and it is by no means certain—the tenants of 19 N. Portland Street are housed, we can be certain that this is but the minor part of a battle that is going to be more important for workers than Tobruk or Anzio—the Battle for Houses.

Now is the time for the working class movement to mobilise itself for the struggle. Demand the withdrawal of Labour from the Coalition and that the Labour leaders fight on a socialist programme in the interests of the workers.

**Take over the homes of the wealthy.** There are plenty available in Pollokshields, Kelvinside etc. Ration the wealthy to one or two rooms such as most of the workers of Glasgow face.

**The Nationalisation of the land** and severe penalties for those land sharks who hold the workers to ransom.

**The freeing of Labour for housing** and the immediate start of a vast Public Works scheme out of central Government funds to provide real and not paper "Homes Fit for Heroes" and their families.

This highly dangerous and skilled labour is not easily replaceable. The boss is in a weak position and if the trade union gave the backing to its members there is no doubt that the workers would have won hands down. So bitter was the feeling of the men, that they refused to give Butler, the union organiser a hearing at their meeting.

With the release of their comrades, the majority of the Gas Workers decided to remain out on strike for a few days as a demonstration to gas workers nationally that they are still determined to fight for and gain their rightful demand for time and a third.

Their strike must be a beacon light to the gas workers throughout Britain to achieve a national link up, to rid themselves of those union officials who are stabbing them in the back, and go forward to achieve their demands.

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International.

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## EDITORIAL

### Why the German People Flee from the Red Army

The victories of the Red Army are shaking world relations. The mightiest army ever built in Europe is faced with collapse and disintegration under the hammer blows of the Red Army. Such a reversal of fortunes from calamitous defeats to overwhelming victories, has seldom occurred in history. Although armed with the resources of Britain and America, and fighting only a third of the German army, the Anglo-American imperialist army could not achieve a decisive break through on the Western front. The victories of the Red Army will go down in history as a veritable military miracle.

What has been achieved is a class phenomenon. The strength of the Red Army both materially and morally lies in the basis of the Soviet Union. The October Revolution transformed the economic basis of Russia and simultaneously the psychology of its peoples. The one has guaranteed a sufficiency of material for the Red Army — the other has guaranteed its morale.

But the advance of the Red Army across Poland and into Germany, while causing some heart-failings in Washington and the City of London, is not regarded as a direct threat to capitalism in Germany or anywhere else. Stalin and the bureaucracy are as opposed to the socialist revolution in other countries as Roosevelt and Churchill.

The irony of the situation is that instead of welcoming the Red Army, millions of men, women and children in East Prussia and Silesia are fleeing in panic, risking exposure, hunger and death rather than come under the rule of Stalin.

And the bitter fact must be faced: Stalin offers them no more and no less than the Allied imperialists: slavery and subjugation. As the Red Army approaches Berlin, Stalin's spokesman Ilya Ehrenburg, former White Guard, anti-Bolshevik, now a rouble millionaire, writes:

"FLEE, YOU GERMANS. RETRIBUTION HAS COME. WE WILL FORGET NOTHING. THE SOLDIERS NOW STORMING GERMAN CITIES WILL NOT FORGET HOW THE MOTHERS OF LENIGRAD DRAGGED THEIR DEAD CHILDREN ALONG ON SLEDS. BERLIN WILL PAY FOR EVERYTHING. BERLIN IS ROUND THE CORNER AND NOTHING CAN STOP US." — "RED STAR", 31/1/45.

"YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEFORE US MILLIONS OF CREATURES PERVERTED BY PLUNDER AND TREACHERY, CRUELTY AND ARROGANCE. WE WANT TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE CLAW LAW OF THESE MILLIONS."

# British Labour Betrayed Greek Workers

By TED GRANT

Churchill's speech on Greece was a clear indication of the fears and of the aims of the British ruling class: it was a declaration of war against Socialism and the Socialist Revolution in Europe.

"For three or four days, or more it was a struggle to prevent a hideous massacre in the centre of Athens, in which all forms of government would have been swept away and naled triumphant Trotskyism installed.

I think 'Trotskyism' is a better definition of the Greek Communists and of certain other sects than the normal word, and it has the advantage of being equally hated in Russia. (Laughter and cheers)."

Thus Churchill openly signifies whom he regards as the enemy: **The Socialist Revolution which he correctly characterises as "Trotskyism"**. The despicable lies and slanders of Stalinism are brushed aside by this arch-enemy of Socialism and the working class. In giving an account of his stewardship Churchill has attempted to justify his policy of brute force by showing the dangers to his class that existed in the situation in Greece. **Of course he did not say that the general strike and uprising of the overwhelming majority of the workers, and large sections of the middle class in Athens, was provoked by the police firing on unarmed men, women and children. Nor does he say that the Greek workers had many bitter memories of the fascist police who were used as a tool of repression by fascist dictator Metaxas and then sold their services to Hitler.**

Against "Trotskyism", against the Socialist Revolution, against any attempt of the workers to take control of society into their hands in any country, **Churchill and the ruling class will use any means, including the devil and the Nazi gang itself.**

Not for nothing did Churchill in his first speech on Greece justify his support of Mussolini against the danger of Bolshevism. Today the ruling class pursues the same struggle Bolshevism under the name of Trotskyism, i.e. genuine revolutionary Communism.

#### WHO ARE THESE SO-CALLED WORKERS' LEADERS?

Not satisfied with the murder and terror organised under their aegis against the Athens workers and trade unionists, the British Ambassador—probably under the instructions of the British authorities—has arranged the repulsive farce of a delegation of so-called "Greek Trade Unionists — to thank him for saving them from Communist tyranny! Unhappily, so clumsy and careless have the British imperialists been that among these so-called "Trade Union leaders" is numbered a prominent Quisling named Krokos who was associated with the Labour Front organised by Metaxas when he illegalised the trade unions, and continued undisturbed under Hitler. The others are of the same ilk, having no connection with the Greek trade unions—the General Confederation of Labour.

And these imperialist gangsters, cynically trampling on the organisations of the workers, try to palm off these fascists on the British workers as "representatives" of the Greek working class.

Not satisfied with having crushed the general strike and the armed resistance of the workers of Attica, protecting the fascists from the just wrath of the workers, General Scobie must needs flaunt his puppets in the face of the Greek workers and peasants. The demonstration organised in Athens which acclaimed Scobie and Churchill was addressed by Scobie as "Greek Workers". **Queer workers carrying portraits of King George and acclaiming General Zervas, organiser of the Royalist fascist thugs—and shouting "no amnesty"! In reality it was a demonstration of counter-revolution—not of the workers, but of the same people who supported the Quisling government in Greece, demonstrating in favour of, anyone who would protect them from the workers. Whether it is Hitler or Churchill—it is all the same to them. Their one desire was to revenge themselves on the defeated workers—defeated not by them, but by British tanks, planes and guns.**

#### PLASTIRAS — THE INTERVENTIONIST

Plastiras, Churchill's choice of a "democrat", is leading the capitalist pack against EAM. An apt choice for Churchill. Plastiras led a Greek army in the anti-Bolshevik crusade launched by Churchill in 1919. He learned his "democracy" and how to treat the workers as a General in Wrangel's White Guard Army which fought against the Red Army, and hanged, tortured tens of thousands of Russian workers and peasants. A symbolic coincidence! Churchill and Plastiras remain true to themselves. They pursue the same aim now as they did then: the stamping out of Socialism and workers' power in any part of Europe where they may take control.

Plastiras at first stood out for the policy of exterminating ELAS. And why not? The British troops with their military superiority were bound to win in the end and the Greek capitalists could step in and crush the betrayed workers and peasants.

Churchill was undoubtedly originally supporting this scheme. His first speeches on the Greek question after the fighting broke out indicated these intentions. But when it became clear that ELAS had the support of the overwhelming majority of the workers and peasants—and that to destroy it would require a long campaign, Churchill thought it necessary to use other means to achieve his ends. A long campaign which might require 10 to 20 divisions—the Nazis had that and couldn't hold down the Greek people—threatened too many complications nationally and internationally. The disgust of the British workers and soldiers he feared, would inevitably result in some sort of action against British policy in Greece.

Through the puppet Plastiras, Churchill has already forced EAM to conclude a truce. For the time being he has dropped the demand for complete disarmament and has allowed ELAS to retain control of the greater part of Greece—but the non-industrial parts. The ports and big towns will be under the control of the puppet government and the armed forces of British imperialism.

The British imperialists thus have the whip hand in Greece and can now organise the forces of counter-revolution—the so-called Greek army—without hindrance in the strategic and economically important area which

and file members of the Communist Party.

When Will Lawther, under the influence of the opposition of the British workers, proposed that the Labour Ministers leave the Government and that the Labour movement organise Councils of Action, if British intervention in Greece continued, instead of using this as a basis for a campaign throughout the trade unions and working class, the "Communist" Party remained silent on this question. The "Daily Worker" which published all the verbal protests of Labour and even Liberal spokesmen which were so much hot air, **carefully censored Lawther's speech and did not even print his proposals in the "Daily Worker"**.

In Greece itself, the role of Stalinism has been the same. While the Greek ruling class was preparing to crush the working class, they tried to fool the workers with the same myth of "national unity". Before the general strike and insurrection, provoked by the actions of the Greek puppet Government, they did their best to capitulate to the reaction. EAM representatives in the Cabinet even accepted the proposal for disarmament of their forces while the Fascist Royalist Mountain Brigade and the Security Battalions were to remain unarmed. It was only the indignation and pressure of the masses who refused to place themselves at the mercy of their bitter enemies, which compelled them to withdraw from the agreement.

It was the class instinct of the workers who had learned in the bitter days of struggle against the Nazis, **the lesson taught by Marx and Lenin that arms represent power**, which made them resolve not to surrender their arms. They had been mainly responsible for liberating Greece from Nazi domination, and they were determined not to allow the capitalists who had set up the Metaxas dictatorship and collaborated with the Quislings to retain control and prepare the way for a new dictatorship.

Stalin remains silent because he considers Warsaw well worth Athens. In return for the frontier in Poland and a Government amenable to Stalin's foreign policy—while capitalism remains there, and a sphere of influence in the Balkans, Churchill gets a free hand in Greece. A cynical horse-dead behind the scenes has been arranged. Moreover, as Churchill well understands, Stalin is terrified of a revolutionary Balkans and complications

## The Voice of Race Hate

ATROCITIES. THE OTHERS, THEIR ABETTORS, CONFEDERATES, ACCOMPLICES, WE SHALL FORCE TO WORK. THEY SHALL NO LONGER MANUFACTURE ANY V1's OR V101's—THEY SHALL PLANT POTATOES AND TEND PIGS."

Here is the fate of the German workers — if Stalin has his way. This is not Vansittart speaking, it is the voice of Stalin, the traitor to the world socialist revolution.

Stalin offers only dismemberment, mass deportations, national humiliation and subjugation.

If the Red Army was operating the policy of Lenin and Trotsky the entry of the Red Army into Germany would be the signal for socialist revolution throughout Europe. If Stalin carried the message of a Socialist Soviet Germany united to a Soviet Russia the German masses would have overthrown Hitler and set up a Soviet Germany. They would have welcomed the Red Army as an army of liberation from fascism and capitalism.

What the position might have been was seen by many incidents which have taken place during the war. The German soldiers had to be threatened with punishment and death in a special order by the German General Staff for feeding Ukrainian women and children from the field kitchens. In Bulgaria when the Red Army marched into Sofia, under the impulse of the revolutionary ferment among the Bulgarian workers, German soldiers fraternised with Bulgarian and Russian troops giving the Red front salute.

Far from welcoming these manifestations of internationalism, Stalin hushed them up and prevented them from coming to the ear of the Russian workers and soldiers.

When faced with far greater difficulties and dangers, with far less resources Lenin remained through and through internationalist. He relied always on the support of the German workers and soldiers. The class criterion was the decisive one in analysing the policy of countries and of peoples. For him there were always two classes, two nations — the exploited and the exploiters.

In 1921 when Trotsky was War Commisar and the Bolshevik Party was an internationalist party under the leadership of Lenin, Tuchachevsky wrote:

"THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION HAS REVOLUTIONISED A STRATEGY. OUR RED ARMY WILL NEVER FIGHT AN ADVERSARY UNAIDED, FOR IT WILL ALWAYS FIND THE SUPPORT IT EXPECTS FROM THE WORKERS OF THE COUNTRY WITH WHOSE BOURGEOISIE IT IS AT WAR. ... THIS SUPPORT WILL NOT BE CONFINED TO REVOLUTIONARY OUTBREAKS IN THE REAR OF THE ENEMIES' ARMIES SINCE ONE OF ITS ESSENTIAL POINTS IS THE FACT THAT REINFORCEMENTS CAN BE RECRUITED FROM THE WORKERS INHABITING THE TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY THE RED ARMY. SUCH REINFORCEMENTS WILL NOT MERELY BE DRAWN FROM THE LOCAL POPULATION; THEY WILL ALSO COME FROM THE MANPOWER OF THE CAPITALIST ARMIES. THIS ACCESSION OF A STREAM OF INTERNATIONAL FIGHTING FORCES IS A CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF THE RED ARMY METHODS OF WARFARE."

What can Stalin's policy accomplish even in the event of complete success? What will be the result? A slice of territory torn out of Germany for Russia, a greater slice for imperialist France and capitalist Poland, misery for the whole of Europe, a precarious balancing of forces which, if not resolved by revolutionary means, will in the long run inevitably turn towards an even more savage reaction than that of Hitler and Mussolini.

Russia's allies of today cannot permit the existence of even a degenerated workers' state. Biding their time, they will prepare for a favourable opportunity to launch a new imperialist onslaught on the Soviet Union.

The outlook would indeed be a gloomy one for the workers of the world if the final word rests in the hands of the bandits of Allied imperialism or the traitors to Socialism, Stalin and the bureaucracy.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

"GERMANS of various types living outside Germany, social democrats and ordinary scoundrels, half-pastors, half card-sharppers, are obviously courting on our forgetfulness. One of them writes in his defence:

"The responsibility for crimes committed by a handful of Gestapo officials cannot be fastened on the German people or the German Army. The army had nothing whatever to do with these depredations."

"... Let the defenders of the 'poor Germans' sing like nightingales if they wish, but we, who have heard the last death-cry of little children, are not to be charmed by the roudades of the contemptible advocates of the murderers."

The Germans are professional lechers of considerable experience, hereditary sensualists. They have defiled all Europe. It is futile for this general to assert that we are going to Germany after German females. We are not drawn by their Gretchens, but by those Fritzes who insulted our women, and we say plainly that we will have no mercy on those Germans.

As for German women, they evoke in us only one feeling—of disgust. We despise them because they are the mothers, wives and sisters of hangmen. We despise them because they wrote to their sons, husbands, brothers: "Do send us a pretty fur coat!" We despise



ILYA EHRENBURG —  
EX WHITE GUARD  
NOW ROUBLE MILLIONAIRE

them because they are thieves and decoys.

We need none of these flax-haired hyenas. We are going to Germany for something different—for Germany. And that particular flax-haired witch with not get off easily."

Ehrenburg in  
"Soviet War News," 7/12/44.  
(See Editorial.)

But the final decision will not rest in their hands. The fumes of national hatreds will pass. The Allied workers will taste of the apple of "victory" and find that it is rotten. They will demand a reckoning for the crimes of the ruling class. And the Soviet workers and peasants will demand that the victory which they have gained at the cost of such suffering and exertions, shall be their victory and not that of the bureaucracy. They will demand that the stolen rights shall be restored to them — that the inequalities shall be ameliorated, if not completely abolished — that the officials should live as on the same level as the workers and peasants as they did under Lenin and Trotsky. That the Soviets be restored with the right of election and recall. The masses will demand a return to the internationalist policy of Lenin and Trotsky.

That internationalism has not died among the Soviet workers and peasants is eloquently testified to by the feelings expressed by Russian prisoners of war captured on all fronts: They long for a socialist Europe as the only real protection for the Soviet Union and have a hatred for Stalin and the bureaucracy.

How mighty Hitler looked just a few years back! Today he is travelling speedily to the dustbin of history. Mighty as are the military powers of Europe, there is a power which is mightier still — the revolution, international socialism which today is termed "Trotskyism".

The next epoch is ours. We greet with joy the victories of the Red Army because they testify to the fact that the October Revolution still lives. The victories of the Red Army are preparing for the victories of Trotskyism throughout the world.

they have occupied.

## BETRAYAL OF BRITISH LABOUR LEADERS

Under these circumstances the base betrayal of the Greek workers by the leaders of the British Labour Party and Communist Party is absolutely flagrant. They have lied to the workers as to the real aims and intentions of Churchill and the ruling class in the war. They have confused the workers by talk of so-called "misinformation" and "confusion" of Churchill by the British ambassador and the military representatives in Greece! **Disgraceful blathering! Churchill understood the position perhaps better than they did.** And as a ruthless representative of his class, he obviously arranged for the "information" which he desired to be sent to Britain, just as he invented a non-existent insurrection in Belgium when it suited his policy of repression with the aid of British troops there.

He prepared for his campaign of force and repression by systematic dissemination of lies, slander and misrepresentation. Aneurin Bevan quoted these instructions in the debate in Parliament:

"The Prime Minister has ruled that, in principle, no credit of any kind is to be given to ELAS or EAM on the BBC. In every case where it is thought desirable to make exceptions his personal approval should first be obtained...."

And these instructions were given to all Services connected with Greek affairs by the Political Warfare Executive on August 1, 1944, i.e. months before the conflict broke out!

As members of the Cabinet the Labour leaders must have known what was taking place yet they remained silent and did not denounce the obviously preparing conspiracy against the Greek workers. Thus they participated as partners in British capitalism's counter-revolutionary plots against the European peoples. And the Stalinist, so-called "Communist" Party traitors still continue to support the Churchill Government! Not to speak of Aneurin Bevan and other Labour Lefts who had not the courage to vote against the Government after revealing its intentions!

Thus, while Churchill and the ruling class have been preparing systematically to crush the workers in Europe with cold class calculations, the Labour and Stalinist leaders have been telling the workers fairy tales about "national unity" and the "interests of the nation". Churchill and the Tories have pursued a consistent class policy in the interests of British capitalism while the Labour and Stalinist leaders have allowed the workers to be taken by surprise by events.

Hypocritically the "Communist" Party urge "protests" to the government that will and must remain so much hot air. They oppose and sabotage any suggestion of action to clip Churchill's claws. They appeal to Beelzebub against Satan — Please Churchill should not carry out the policy of Churchill! All their "protests" are intended to check the uneasiness of the sincere and honest rank

throughout Europe. That is why he can jeer and pour well deserved contempt on the Stalinist buffoon W. Gallagher even when the latter makes a damaging point. Churchill sneeringly said:

"Evidently the chance remark which I made the other day to the hon. member has stung him deeply. (Laughter). The chance remark was:

"Mr. Gallacher (Com., W. Fife). Will the statement to be made on Greece be a better balanced and more reliable one than the one we had from him before the recess?"

Mr. Churchill. — Mr. Gallacher must not get too excited about these matters, or he will fall into danger of Trotskyite deviation to the left. (Laughter.)"

I shall continue to probe carefully the exact political shade which he adopts...."

Churchill knows the role of Gallacher and the C.P.—he knows that Gallacher is but an agent of Stalin and Churchill is kicking him jeeringly into line. Even fake opposition, which is intended as a harmless safety valve for the Communist workers is resented!

## GREEK WORKERS WERE STRUGGLING FOR POWER

But for the workers of the world the tragedy in Greece and its implications still remains! Churchill brushes aside criticism of the too voluble and indiscreet Plastiras, who openly threatens bloody reprisals against the Greek masses, with the cynical comment that the very existence of his government is dependent on British arms and the British Government is not in favour of this.

The fact stands out that within a few days of the revolution—for that was what the instinctive movement of the Greek masses meant—the workers and peasants armed and organised in ELAS-EAM were in control of the whole of Greece including the major part of Athens. In Salonika and other cities the workers had established control over housing, factories, rationing, etc. Lenin never tired of emphasising that power, that the State, can be reduced to "armed bodies of men." That what determines which class has the Power is which class controls the armed bodies of men. Churchill and the other representatives of capitalism understand this perfectly and that is why (despite the docile leadership of the Socialist and Stalinist leadership in the Resistance Movement), because of the potentialities of an armed working class, they are so insistent on the disarming of the workers and peasants and are demanding the creation of "national" armies; i.e. armies where the officers and other cadres have been selected by the capitalists and are completely under capitalist control.

Thus the situation in Greece was that the control of the situation was in the hands of the working class! It was a situation similar to that of the Paris Commune and Spain in 1936, except that the leadership was more cowardly, ignorant and treacherous.

Power was in the grasp of the heroic Greek workers and peasants!

(Continued on page 4.)

# British Labour Betrayed Greeks

(Continued from page 3.)

All that was necessary was that they should expropriate the property of the capitalists, confiscate the land of the landlords for the peasants, and organise a workers' state with a workers' Government!

That the workers wanted to finish with capitalism once and for all indicated by a report of their mood published in the "Daily Telegraph" of 31st January 1945:

"In those tense Athenian weeks before the Greek Communist Party's rebellion broke out, the whole city was painted over with K.K.E. slogans, among them "VENGEANCE!" "DEATH TO THE TRAITORS!" and "DEATH TO THE BOURGEOIS".

Throughout the conflict the main pre-occupation of the leadership has been to try and capitulate on terms which would not expose them completely in the eyes of the rank and file! Thus when Churchill (as the representative of British Imperialism) who was primarily responsible for the bitter war of intervention in Greece, flew to Athens, they publicly fawned on and praised Churchill despite the fact that the butchery of the Greek workers was planned by him well in advance.

They appealed for a compromise, Damaskinos as Regent! And Damaskinos became Regent and promptly denounced EAM in stringent terms! They asked for elections, a request which was refused—until the workers have been thoroughly tamed and broken and a majority for reaction, "republican" (if the masses still refuse to "wear" the King), can be ensured.

As an inevitable result of this policy of compromise and capitulation to the capitalist class at a critical stage in the struggle, big sections of the reformists and Liberals, especially the latter, have openly gone over to the side of the reaction. Now conversations are going on for the EAM leaders once again to participate in the capitalist Government. It is most likely that some face-saving sell-out agreement will be reached. Despite the heroism of the Greek workers and peasants they will be crushed and betrayed into the hands of the capitalists.

Yet victory was within their grasp. The British troops in Greece do not like the dirty job of repressing the Greek people. A wave of horror and revulsion has passed through the ranks of the British working class. But the shouts for "democracy" by both sides

resulted in confusion as to what was taking place. A clear class call for **Internationalism, for workers' solidarity**, would have echoed and re-echoed throughout the ranks of the British workers in overalls and uniform. Gallacher appropriately reminded Churchill this is not the first time he has organised a war of intervention against the working class. But this renegade failed to point out, Churchill's intervention against the Soviet Union collapsed only because of the **revolutionary Internationalist policy of Lenin and Trotsky!** In the war of intervention against the Soviet Union not a single capitalist army could be persuaded to continue fighting against the Russian workers. Churchill's lies and slanders were useless against this weapon of the Bolsheviks—revolutionary internationalism. His tanks, planes and guns were of no use to him. **The American army mutinied, the French, the German and others; the British Army demanded that they be sent home. This was only because the Bolsheviks, the "Trotskyists" as Churchill would call them today, carried through the Socialist revolution and made a class appeal to the workers and soldiers of the world. A class appeal ceaselessly propagated by the Greek workers and peasants would have had the same result.**

The Greek workers and peasants will not forget the lessons burned in their consciousness under fire if the Trotskyists in Greece, (and our Party though small, played a role in these events) have been explaining the role of reformism and Stalinism in what has taken place. A temporary lull may ensue in the class struggle only to break out with greater intensity in the next period. The martyred Greek workers will learn the lessons! They will not forget.

But Greece is not the end, it is only the beginning. Churchill is already preparing to deal with the revolutionary workers in the North of Italy. The ruling class is preparing to strike against the German workers as soon as Hitler falls. They are preparing to try and crush the revolution throughout Europe in the next period. And even now Churchill and the ruling class are preparing to settle accounts with the British workers too!

The advanced workers of Greece and of the world must understand the lessons of this conflict. Agreements and coalitions with the capitalists can only lead to disaster and defeat. No support to any section of the capitalist class can serve the interests of the

(Continued in next Column.)

# Police Raid Belfast Party

News has just reached us that the Ulster police are pursuing a campaign of intimidation against our Ulster comrades.

Their headquarters have been raided and the whole place ransacked. However, so unsatisfactory was the search, from their point of view, that nothing was taken away. They then demanded all the names and addresses of the members, which was, of course, refused.

The police threatened that they would continue to raid and harass constantly in future.

This raid follows a long history of persecution and victimisation of our Irish comrades.

They are constantly watched; endeavours have been made to place informers in their midst, and before this raid a stooge was attending their study circle. Prior to this, in an

endeavour to force our comrades underground, they arrested our leading comrade, Bob Armstrong, and threatened to intern him, like the I.R.A. prisoners who are interned indefinitely. Southern Irish comrades were victimised from their jobs and deported over the border.

In Ulster there is a reign of terror under Special laws which place all power in the hands of the police who do practically as they please.

Our Irish comrades will fight against these attempts to terrorise them. They are a legal organisation in a so-called "democracy" and they will fight to preserve what rights are still nominally possessed by the working class and the labour movement.

In spite of all repression they will continue openly to put forward the ideas of revolutionary communism which have not yet been legally banned in the British Isles.

# Irish Militant Deported

Johnny Byrne, Irish militant working on the railway as a porter at Paddington was refused an extension of his six monthly permit to remain in this country. No reason was given. No complaint was made at his work.

workers. Class collaboration means capitulation to capitalism. Reformism and Stalinism can only lead to victory in the class struggle for the capitalists. Only a Party carrying through the policy of Revolutionary Communism can lead the working class to Power! Build the Fourth International which alone unites the workers of all lands under the banner: "Workers of the world, unite!"

His employers denied responsibility and stated that he was a good worker and were willing to keep him. There is a shortage of porters on the railways.

This is a clear case of victimisation. Johnny Byrne was an active member of the N.U.R. into which he had recruited many Irish and other workers. He had recently been elected a delegate to the D.C. of the N.U.R. and delegate to the Works Committee. He was a delegate from his N.U.R. Branch to the South Kensington Labour Party.

He had been particularly active in assisting the building workers to organise and had noticed in this activity, he was being shadowed by

# COALOWNERS' PLAN

(Continued from page 1.)

service to the policy of nationalisation, they will leave the way open for a capitulation along the lines indicated above.

The next task of the mine-owners Central Board would be to solve the coal crisis. Before analysing the method by which they propose to tackle it, let us briefly indicate the exact nature of that crisis.

## WHY A COAL CRISIS?

Britain's coal industry, notoriously backward and inefficient, is now incapable of sustaining the present volume of industrial production.

The total production of coal in 1943 was 193.7 million tons—the total consumption in the same year was 198.3 million tons: a deficit of nearly five million tons. In sharp contrast to the rest of industry where, under the artificial stimulus of war, the productivity of labour has greatly increased, the output per manshift in the mines has declined from 1.13 tons in 1939 to 1.00 tons in 1944, and is now on a lower level than in 1914!

This backward and inefficient character of British coal capitalism is graphically revealed by a comparison with coal production in the United States. There, with 100,000 less miners, American mines produced 300 million more tons of coal!

This is due, not to the "laziness" of the British miner—only idiots and coal-owners could suggest that—but entirely to the greater mechanisation and more modern mining technique employed in America.

Today, on top of this inherent backwardness—a legacy derived from the whole haphazard development of the industry—the war has placed additional burdens and the whole archaic structure threatens to collapse. To restore health to the diseased body of British mining, a thorough modernisation of the industry is required. Any solution to the coal crisis, which cannot accomplish this modernisation (and it will involve a major surgical operation) is no solution at all.

## THE FOOT SOLUTION

The first task which Foot assigns to his Central Board of Coal-owners is the elimination of inter-colliery and inter-district competition through compulsory amalgamation. Having thus succeeded in creating a complete monopoly in the industry, the monopolists will then, we are told, use the tremendous power they have so easily acquired for the purpose of stepping

mendous volume of coal which could be produced by a thoroughly modernised industry would first have to find a market before it could be turned into profit. And there is the snag. The war has seen the disappearance of a large proportion of Britain's pre-war markets and the post-war prospects offer little hope of their being easily—if ever—recovered. Why then, under these circumstances, should the coal capitalists be expected to invest money in costly modern equipment merely in order to increase the output of a commodity for which there is no market? This would be too much to expect of any ordinary capitalist, but to expect it from the tight monopoly which Foot aims to create, is to expect a miracle.

In any case, the only possible way they could hope to secure a market for coal in competition with, say, the

## WHY WE CONTEST THE NEATH BY-ELECTION

### PUBLIC MEETING

Sunday, Feb. 18th, 3 p.m.  
CONWAY HALL, W.C.1.

Speakers:

F. EMMETT  
G. HEALY

Questions and Discussion

Revolutionary Communist Party—Fourth International

more economically produced output of the American mines, would be by subsidising export coal at the expense of the home consumer who would be charged exorbitant prices. The creation of a monopoly would enable the coal-owners to do this, and that is precisely why it is the central feature of the "Plan for Coal".

## OWNERS PREPARING FOR ATTACK

And what of the miners under this Plan about which Ebby Edwards is so enraptured? Foot states that:

"High wages (?) can be supported permanently only by increasing output and reducing the price. . ."

"The miners must adopt a liberal approach (!) to cost reducing processes."

# CITRINE AIDS REACTIONARIES

(Continued from page 1.)

intervention has been waged by British imperialism, where reactionary Fascist, monarchist gangs of thugs are armed with British and American weapons . . . and all he finds is a few corpses, not of workers, but of reactionaries! He has not been there long; he has not carried out an investigation sifting the evidence; he has not even seen the E.A.M. and E.L.A.S. leadership before making pronouncement. He is "horrified". His reasoning is paralysed; and he jumps to the conclusion that E.L.A.S. is responsible for these executions. He neither asked questions, nor doubted the veracity of Leeper, Scobie and Plastiras. They are all "honourable gentlemen" and this knight of the British Empire could not doubt their word.

This is not the first time that Sir Walter Citrine has indulged in atrocity stories. He is always in the right place at the right time, when British imperialism and the Tories need him. Remember the anti-Soviet hysteria over Finland. British imperialism then toyed with the idea of a war against the Soviet Union. Citrine, of course, turned up in Finland for an "objective" report. He returned and produced a real hair-raising story called "My Finnish Diary". Listen to this:

And again, Sir Walter writes:  
**"We asked our questions over and over again in different ways so as to ensure that we got the answer accurately. It seemed so utterly diabolical that Russian Communist fighters HAD DELIBERATELY SHOT AT HELPLESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO WERE RUSHING TO SEEK SHELTER FROM THE BOMBING."**

Yes, Citrine is an experienced atrocity story writer — and always his atrocity mongering happens to coincide with the needs of the British imperialists. Now he turns up in Athens as an agent of Churchill.

Leeper and Scobie are responsible to Harold Alexander, who is their immediate chief in the Mediterranean. Alexander himself was in the Baltic States in 1919-1920, organising anti-Soviet Units. Later he commanded German Baltic units against the Red Army. Add to this, Plastiras, who fought against the Soviet Union and twice attempted dictatorship. These are the gentlemen who assured Citrine that there were no British Troops, or Greek police, or Greek Gendarmerie at the scene of the crime. No wonder an American correspondent charged Citrine with seeing the wrong people and ignoring the right people!

As for witnesses: Leeper provides two Bishops (notorious supporters of Metaxas and King George), two

officers, wife of a British citizen (who apparently remained in Athens for three years unmolested under the German occupation), and two soldiers. This is the sum total of the "overwhelming evidence" that Churchill spoke of in the House of Commons. And Citrine is impressed by this evidence against the class he is supposed to represent.

Did Citrine check up on the report sent in by the "Daily Herald" correspondent, of the cold blooded murder of an E.L.A.S. prisoner in the streets of Athens:

**"The prisoner, in the early twenties was being driven up the street by eight Greek soldiers. Several passers by shouted "Communist" and he was knocked into the gutter.**

As he struggled to rise, a Greek officer stepped from a group of officers and shot him dead with his revolver."

This took place in the open street. 8,000 E.A.M. supporters are still held by the police in Athens; 6,000 have been shipped to Egypt. Behind prison bars we can well imagine what tortures are being inflicted on these class war prisoners. No investigation has taken place. Has Citrine made any inquiries? Does he know if this officer, a cold blooded murderer, has been brought to trial? Has he interviewed these prisoners to find out their condition?

Hostages have been released by E.L.A.S. But thousands of E.A.M. supporters are still in prison. But Citrine utters no word of protest. In the first unarmed demonstration of the people in Athens, according to the "Times", unarmed men, women and children were fired on. Many were killed and wounded. Did Sir Walter Citrine investigate this atrocity? He was apparently not "horrified" enough.

In search of atrocities, Citrine has travelled a long way. He found them in Finland; he found them in Athens; he found them in occupied Europe. But there are many parts of the British Empire, where he could have witnessed real atrocities. Even now he can visit the concentration camps of India; he can find plenty of evidence there of machine gunning unarmed women and children, bombing of villages, shooting of hostages, whipping, collective fines, and prison tortures. At these he is not horrified and utters no word of protest. But a few corpses in Greece during a bitter war of intervention against the Greek people, and he calls for vengeance.

Can betrayal and cynicism reach lower depths than this?

The British working class will not be deluded by such unauthenticated stories emanating from the enemies of the working class. From Citrine's

past record and his present activities, the workers know him for what he is—an agent of British imperialism. Instinctively they know the nature of the struggle in Greece to be one between the reaction and the toiling masses. They will raise their voice against the brewing white terror. In their trade union and labour meetings they will demand action to support the Greek workers and peasants and will demand that the trials of revenge be stopped before the flower of the Greek workers are massacred by the reactionaries.

## ELECTION FUND

Our appeal for funds to enable us to fight the Neath By-election is meeting with a fairly good response. But we are still far short of our £500 target. One reason for this is that we don't receive—and we don't expect—large donations from the more prosperous sections of the community. Collecting Sheets like this one from the "Chase Lawn Working Men's Club"—a miners club in the Cannock coal-field—are our chief financial support for the Election. The enthusiasm of these miners for our great battle for Socialism in Neath should be an inspiration to all members and sympathisers to redouble their efforts to raise and pass the £500 target.

### MINERS ARE GIVING THEIR PENNIES

Collection Sheet

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY  
 BRITISH SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

Publications: Socialist Appeal, Worker International News  
 General Headquarters: 256 HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2.  
 Phone: CL11-9534 (5 lines) (Day Minutes from Royal Oak Stn. Station)

Name	£	s	d	Total
H. Smith	0	6	0	6
J. Jones	0	6	0	6
G. Green	0	6	0	6
M. White	0	6	0	6
W. Black	0	6	0	6
N. Brown	0	6	0	6
H. Taylor	0	6	0	6
J. Wilson	0	6	0	6
M. Moore	0	6	0	6
N. Fox	0	6	0	6
H. Murray	0	6	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

CL

detectives. He distributed "Socialist Appeal" among his workmates.

He was given only a few days to leave the country and thus did not have time to get his case known and acted upon by his Union and Labour Party branch.

Conditions are bad enough in Southern Ireland but as a victimised militant, it is virtually impossible for him to obtain employment.

Any donation to assist him would be welcome.

# Naval Workers to Appeal

(Continued from page 1.)

of the management's refusal to put a member of the Boilermakers' Society on the machine. It was at this stage that the stewards had handed the manager the letter notifying him that they would revert to time work as and from 16th October, pending an enquiry or until a boilermaker was put to work on a machine. The Court adjourned to consider its verdict.

When the Court reassembled, there was a breathless hush as Mr. Rutledge addressed the Bench as follows:

**"By a substantial majority it was decided that the present position must continue.**

**"It is only left for me to address the bench on the question of mitigation. I am instructed to put nothing forward in mitigation of the facts. What the defendants have done they maintain was right, and in their interests as trade unionists to do so.**

**"I am instructed to say that whatever fines or costs are imposed, they will not be paid. Beyond that I have nothing further to say."**

Here is a brief recapitulation of the role which Anti-Labour Legislation has played in making victory out of defeat for the employers, after 10 weeks of stoppage had so disorganised the Yard that most production was coming to a standstill. Bevin decided at this juncture to put an end to the dispute by setting up an Industrial Court under:

**The Industrial Courts Act 1919.** The Court sat and found that "no good reason existed why the workers should not go back to work". Then Bevin used that section of the **Essential Works Order** which gives National Service Officers the power to direct workers into essential work, failure to comply with the direction led to him bringing charges against 127 workers under **Regulation 58A** and **National Arbitration and Conditions of Employment Order** which makes it unlawful to participate in a strike in connection with a Trade Dispute unless 21 days clear notice have been given to the Ministry of Labour that a dispute exists. The workers were found guilty under this order and sentenced to a £10 fine or 31 days imprisonment.

up the efficiency of the mines.

But why, may we ask, should the same coal-owners who have shown such an utter disregard for the condition of the industry up to now, suddenly concern themselves with a little thing like "efficiency".

The coal-owners, like all other capitalists are interested in mining solely from the point of view of profit. If mechanisation will produce bigger profits, then they won't hesitate to mechanise. But will it? The tre-

This verdict gave Bevin the power to use the hated **Regulation 1A(a)** which makes it illegal to do any act in furtherance of a strike on premises registered under the **Essential Works Order**. It would be a grave mistake not to appreciate to the full the tremendous part which the fear of the penalties under Reg. 1A(a) had in determining the workers decision to return to work, one week after the dispute had been declared a strike by the magistrates.

It is more than a coincidence that Vickers Armstrongs informed the workers on the 14th October that they would be participating in "**AN ILLEGAL STRIKE**" if they refused to accept the bosses terms. It would appear that even at that stage they had in mind the possible use of the Anti-Labour laws to attack working conditions as a preparation for post-war competition. When the Stalinist "Communist" Party, in a letter to the Secretaries of the Branches of the Boilermakers' Society, says that:

**"The main issues in the Walker Naval Yard Dispute has been covered over with minor issues".**  
**they are deliberately attempting to divert the workers' attention from the main lessons to be learnt from the events of the last few weeks.**

But the workers are not to be fooled or misled by these Pinkertons, who attempt once more in this letter to raise the bogey of "outside political influences (who) endeavour to spread the dispute and to impede the war effort." The lessons of the Naval Yard dispute have been thoroughly grasped by the Tyne Boilermakers' shop stewards and, representative stewards from Blyth, Clydeside, Teeside and the Wear who met on 11th January and resolved to combat the Anti-Labour laws by every means at their disposal, firstly by the use of the capitalist court itself. A defence committee was established and empowered to collect funds for the appeal. If the appeal fails a proposition accepted by the meeting comes in effect—"That a National Conference of Boilermakers' Shop Stewards be convened within 48 hours to consider further action.

At this Conference the demand should go forward for the end of the industrial and political truce—that Labour take Power on a Socialist Programme pledged to sweep all **Anti-Labour Legislation from the Statute book.**

We begin to see now what this talk of efficiency is really all about. Any degree of mechanisation which is actually introduced into the mines will be solely for the purpose of increasing the output of each individual miner by sweating and slave driving methods.

Under this system—in the old days it was called by its right name, "rationalisation"—hundreds of pits will be closed down, the number of miners in others will be drastically reduced, the net result being thousands of "surplus miners" thrown onto the streets. This combination of monopoly, mechanisation, and unemployment will then be used by the coal-owners as a weapon with which to ruthlessly beat down the wages and standard of life of the miners.

To sum up, the Foot Plan is no solution to the crisis. It guarantees the profits of the coal-owners, but, in so doing, it completely obstructs any real modernisation of the industry. Under this Plan the British miner would suffer the same tortures of rationalisation as were experienced by the Ruhr miners during the time of the rustification of the German coal industry.

### THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR THE MINERS

The task of reorganising the coal industry—the industrial nerve centre of the country—can only be accomplished by releasing the industry from the stranglehold of private property and profit making. A task which only the working class can carry through by expropriating the coal-owners and operating the mines for use and not for profit.

So wide are the boundaries of the coal industry—so intimate is its connection with other sections of heavy industry—that the task of ending capitalism in the mines raises sharply the problem of the overthrow of capitalism in general. The socialist solution to the coal crisis immediately poses the fundamental political problem of class power. No wonder Mr. Foot advises the miners to steer clear of politics. He knows only too well that the solution to this problem is a political question involving nothing less than the very existence of the capitalist state itself. Far from turning away from politics the miners, and the workers in general, must adopt a clear political attitude to this problem, fiercely exposing all those in their ranks who would blur over the fundamental political question of state power.

**Down with the reactionary plans of the coal-owners! Force the Labour and Trade Union leaders to wage a struggle for power on a programme which must include the nationalisation of the mining industry without compensation to the coal-owners and its operation under workers control!**

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