

COVENTRY GENERAL STRIKE Demob. Slowed Up SABOTAGED BY T.U. OFFICIALS "For The Jolly Old Empire" SOLIDARITY WITH HUMBER WORKERS

BY BILL HUNTER

The Coventry Shop Stewards called upon 50,000 Coventry engineering workers to down tools at 11 a.m. on 13th March, in support of the Humber engineers.

The officials of the A.E.U. and T. & G.W.U. have reached agreement with the Motor Bosses to keep the men at work and are using their time and energies for this purpose.

A leaflet issued by the Humber Shop Stewards Committee states clearly the case of the workers and the need for engineers throughout the country to rally to their support.

Coventry Employers' Wage Policy

"When the end of the war was in sight, Coventry Engineering Employers formulated their new wage policy. Export at that time was not considered. Production costs were high. They must come down. How? said they.

"We must maintain dividends, if we cannot increase them. We cannot touch the Steel Cartel, the Electrical Ring, or the Nuts and Bolts Combine.

We Must Reduce Wages!

"... when the iron hand became too obvious a year ago, the men struck and again pegged certain prices.

Now, with the local unemployment pocket at its peak, Humber, whose directors are leading figures in the Coventry Employers' Association, and the political life of this city, have given a demonstration of how to effect the final squeeze.

At their Stoke factory, the basis for fixing piece-work prices has been for many years 100% plus 46%. Now they categorically refuse to discuss any figure above the National Minimum of Consolidated Base Rates, plus 27 1/2% (70s. 6d. plus 19s. 4d.) which is a much lower figure than pre-war.

"We are resisting this final squeeze with all the force of our organisation. The biased action of the Ministry of Labour officials in sanctioning redundancy, which does not exist, gave added strength to the pressure being exerted by the firm and also drew attention from the main issue.

If there is any lag in the struggle, it can only be the pro-

duct of the Stalinist policy in the past, which has stifled the militancy of the workers and divided their ranks. During the recent Daimler Strike against the bosses' wage cutting policy, the C.P. dominated Humber Shop Stewards Committee passed a resolution urging the Daimler workers to return to work. The effects of this have already been seen. This naturally destroyed the confidence of the Daimler workers, who may not respond as well as they would normally have done. The fake militancy of the *Daily Worker* today, is a result of the great pressure of the militancy among the engineers. They dare not openly oppose the fight of the workers.

But let every engineering worker remember that the Stalinist officials of the A.E.U. are either silent, or are openly sabotaging the struggle by demanding that the workers return to negotiate with the bosses. This, when the employers themselves have sabotaged every attempt of the Humber workers to negotiate their wage claims. The employers provoked the present struggle by sacking 1,300 workers.

For a National Link-up

This struggle, no matter what the immediate outcome may be, will have an important effect on the whole engineering movement nationally. It will give an impetus to the national struggle of the engineering workers for higher wage standards and for defence of their union rights. The fight at Ford's Dagenham, is only further evidence of the vicious anti-working class plans of the Motor Bosses.

The engineers of Coventry, London, Birmingham, should immediately link up their struggle on a national plane so that the energies of the workers are not frittered away in isolated strike struggles.

All faint-hearted leaders, all who pursue a two-faced policy, should be removed. Only the militant, and determined fighters should be placed in the lead.

The engineers of Coventry, London, Birmingham, should immediately link up their struggle on a national plane so that the energies of the workers are not frittered away in isolated strike struggles.

Support Coventry Humber Engineers!

PARIS ARRESTS

60 Armed Police Arrest 28 Trotskyists

On Tuesday, March 6th, some 60 police, armed with sub-machine guns, burst into a Public Meeting called by the P.C.I. (International Communist Party, French Section of the Fourth International, and brother party of the R.C.P.).

Present at the meeting, in addition to members of the P.C.I., were comrades and observers from nine other countries (America, Britain, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Greece).

The discussion had been arranged to deal with the international situation and the work of the Fourth International. Several sympathisers as well as a number of independent journalists were present.

Marched Through Streets Under Armed Guard

The 28 were marched through the streets by their impressive escort of police, armed with machine-guns, and the great crowd of curious by-standers no doubt thought that this was surely a big haul of foreign agents. Many of the comrades were arrested.

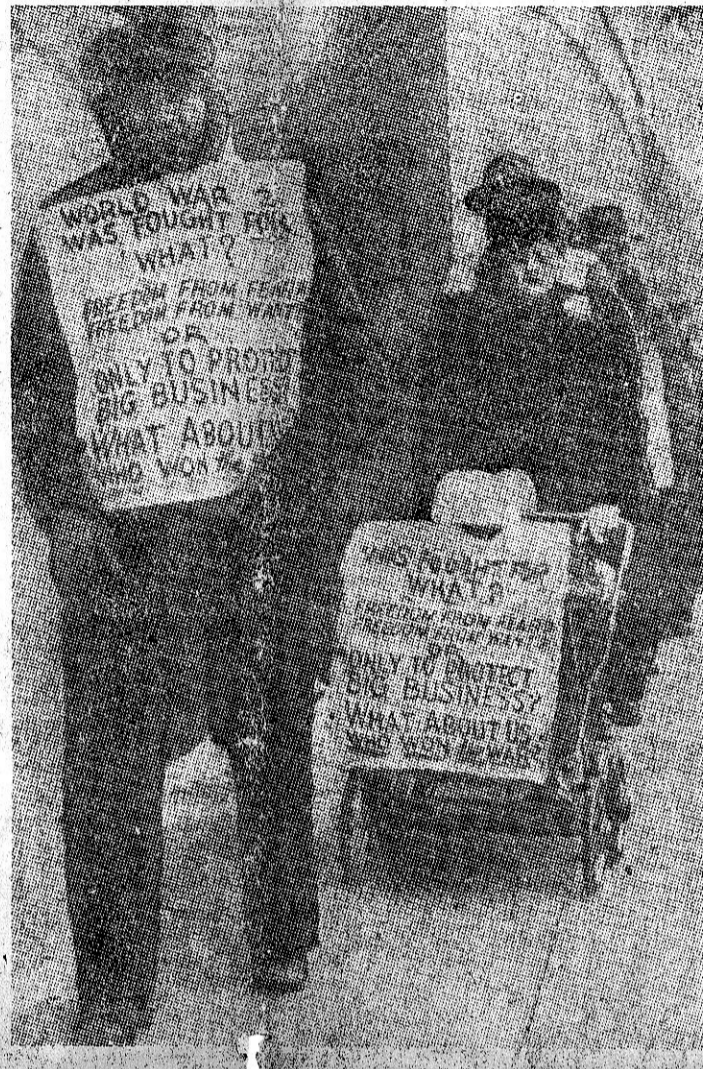
At the police station, it quickly became evident to the police themselves that there was no justification whatever for the raid, and that no charges could be made. But they were held under armed guard.

After strong protests, the French citizens were released at one o'clock in the morning, but the foreign citizens were held until the following morning after spending the night without beds, covering, or food. They were released at mid-day the next day, the police stating that "there was no question of their being liberated, as they had never been arrested!" This illustrates the farcical and arbitrary nature of the proceedings.

Among the arrested British comrades were Jock Haston and Harold Atkinson.

Report of Protest Meeting appears on page 4.

U.S. Strike Picket



A CIO steel-work pickets before a steel plant in Chicago. The picket sign reads: "WORLD WAR 2 WAS FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM FROM WHAT? ONLY TO PROTECT BIG BUSINESS? WHAT ABOUT WHO WON?"

1,650,000 steel, electrical, Auto and meat workers are still on strike. Their picket lines remain solid despite the tear gas and batons of the State police; and also, despite the attempts of the Union leaders and Stalinists to reach a compromise with the bosses.

GERMAN FAMINE

BY T. JACKSON

In Belsen, in its worst days, 800 calories were given to the prisoners. The British authorities expect the German workers to live on less.

Remember the indignation at the crimes of the Nazis? Remember the spate of propaganda—the news-reels. The skeletons seen on the films were given 800 calories. Now they propose to transform the whole of Germany into a Belsen. The rations of the British people amount to 2,500 calories or more, daily. This winter the German workers have received 1,104 calories, now reduced to 1,000. The red-line danger point, below which the maintenance of human life becomes speculative is 1,300 calories daily.

British Troops as S.S.

From the point of view of cold capitalist calculation, even sections of the ruling class are becoming alarmed. They understand. In concentrated areas, such as the concentration camps, it was possible on the basis of an iron totalitarian regime to employ S.S. thugs like Kramer and Grese to subjugate the starving inmates. But British troops are not S.S., and would not allow themselves to be used as S.S. thugs. They will have no stomach to shoot down hungry men, women and children, demanding bread.

Not much is required to at least stave off disaster. According to the Sunday *Observer* of 10th March, only 100,000 tons of barley would be sufficient. The capitalists can always find transport and mobilise the means to secure their ends when it is a question of safeguarding their profits and their markets. Emergency measures could be taken to ensure that these supplies were brought in, if necessary by bomber fleet.

Famine in Germany Will Affect Us

A catastrophe for Germany will be a catastrophe for the whole of the European working class. Starvation and death will be followed by epidemics. Epidemics know no frontiers, and the channel is no barrier to disease.

This is the vicious circle of capitalism. Only heroic efforts by the working class, above all the British workers, can lead to a way out. The Labour and Trade Union movement must demand emergency measures to guarantee that the masses will not die in Germany.

Nuremberg and Moscow Trials Message from NATALIA

"All that you have undertaken seems to me to be correct and even magnificent. We must really profit from it. It is an exceptional situation to illuminate all these questions definitively. I have been very touched by your action and I thank you greatly for having set this programme of action on foot with such energy."



Natalia Sedova-Trotsky

Demobilisation is to be slowed up. That is the cold douche of water which has been thrown into the faces of the workers in the armed forces.

The snail's pace of demobilisation is to be even slower. The original figure of the reduction of the forces to 1,100,000 by the end of this year, we are now told "may be too optimistic."

In the carrying out of this slow-down policy, the Government has closed down eight dispersal centres. In May and June only 422,000 are to be demobilised, yet in January alone more than this number left the forces.

This is the cynical reply of the Labour leaders to the wave of protests in the Forces at the delay in bringing them home.

The war has been won, but the purpose for which it was fought still remains: domination over the peoples of Europe, and especially the colonial peoples. At all costs Britain's domination and exploitation of Egypt, India, Malaya, must be maintained! The peoples of Indonesia and Indo-China must not be allowed to gain their independence! The Greeks must be held in subjection! And bayonets must be thrust menacingly at the starving German workers in lieu of food!

"For The Jolly Old Empire"

Thus, an enormous burden is imposed on the British people to maintain a punitive force to guard the interests of capitalism imperialism. The sons and

brothers, husbands and sweethearts of the British workers are forced to remain in the far corners of the earth, away from their homes, under bad conditions and military discipline. This is the peace for which the workers sacrificed their lives and blood. All this, in the words of Morrison "for the jolly old Empire."

The Airmen in the R.A.F. demonstrated not only their own opinions, but the opinions of the mass of the British workers when they demanded "SHIPS FOR BLIGHTY, NOT FOR JAVA."

Now even the threadbare deceit of shipping shortage has become so transparent that it has been abandoned. Only one thing delays demobilisation and demands the calling up of new recruits: the imperialist interests of the ruling class.

Let The Peoples Govern Themselves!

The workers put the Labour Party into power because they wanted an end to this Tory policy. The workers must demand that the Labour leaders cease forthwith the continuation of imperialist policy. Bring the boys back home to help struggle for the better world which was promised them. No slowing up! Speed up demobilisation! Let the peoples of the world govern their own destinies!

ENTIRE PRESS SILENT ON NUREMBERG Stalinist Frame-Ups Exposed

The Prosecution has now concluded its case at the Nuremberg Trial. As was to be expected not a single syllable was uttered which would remotely connect Trotsky and the Old Bolsheviks with the Nazis. The workers in this country, in particular the rank and file members of the Communist Party, are realising that the Moscow Trials are what the Trotskyists characterised them—monstrous frame-ups.

Stalinist Prosecutor Vishinsky sent the Old Bolsheviks to their death on the basis of this evidence. Why is he silent?

Had there been any evidence whatsoever which could have been used to bolster up the witchcraft trials, the G.P.U. would have introduced it. The powerful publicity machine which the Kremlin has at its disposal, would have magnified and blazoned it forth to the world.

It is a significant fact that the Moscow radio and press have studiously avoided this subject. In Stalin's speech, he attacked the Trotskyists slanderously, as usual by pretending that they had opposed the industrialisation of Russia. (Every well-informed person knows that it was Trotsky who put forward the Five Year Plan in 1924). But significantly enough, Stalin never mentioned the alleged connection between Trotsky and the Nazis, a theme which was pushed *ad nauseam* in the years before the war by the Stalinist machine both in the Soviet Union and abroad.

As interesting was the fact that the *Daily Worker* which has always featured such attacks, eliminated the reference to Trotskyism in the report on Stalin's speech. It might raise awkward questions to use it just at this time!

They are silent at Nuremberg. But they were very voluble in producing reams of "evidence" in the frame-up at Moscow. In the indictment of the Bukharin-Rakovsky Trial.

Clearly, no evidence was produced for these foul charges because the charge of collaboration between Lenin's co-workers and the Nazis was one of the most sinister fabrications in the history of mankind.

However the failure of the Stalinists to produce any evidence, the conspiracy of silence which has met our campaign; the refusal of the entire press to publish the statement signed by such well-known political and literary figures as H. G. Wells, Professor C. E. M. Joad, Capt. John Baird, M.P., Fred Longden, M.P., John McGovern, M.P., Arthur Koestler, J. F. Horrabin, Dr. C. A. Smith, E. M. King, M. P., John McGovern, M.P., and others—the complete silence will have great historical conse-

"EVIDENCE"

In the indictment at the Bukharin-Rakovsky Trial, we read:

"The accused Bessonov, who on his own confession took an active part in the secret negotiations between the Trotskyites and the German fascists, mainly military circles, on the matter of jointly fighting the U.S.S.R. not only personally negotiated for support for the anti-Soviet conspiracy with Daitz, Rosenberg's closes; colleague in the foreign affairs of the department of the fascist party but was kept informed of the meetings and negotiations between L. Trotsky and Hess, Niedermeyer and Professor Haushofer, with whom L. Trotsky reached an agreement on the terms mentioned by Piatakov at the trial of the anti-Soviet Trotskyite Centre."

"The existence of an agreement between L. Trotsky and the Trotskyite organisation in the U.S.S.R. on the one hand, and the fascist circles, on the other and the carrying on in the U.S.S.R. of undermining (treason) activities on the instructions of the German Intelligence service was admitted during the investigation by other accused in the present case."

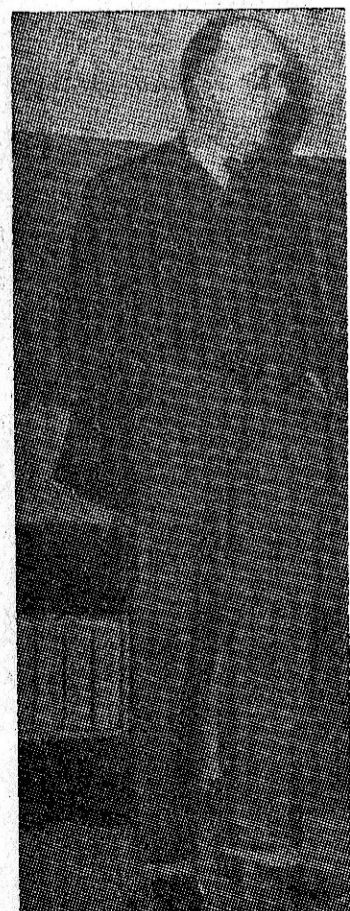
quences. It underlines the findings of the independent Commission of Inquiry that the Trials were frame-ups, that Trotsky and his followers were "NOT GUILTY"; that Stalin and the Stalinist bureaucracy were guilty of a criminal conspiracy against Socialism.

Nuremberg will be a name that the Stalinists will want to forget. Every honest worker, every honest member of the Communist Party, every member of the Labour movement will scorn any new campaigns of slander against the Trotskyists based on the Moscow Trials.

Trotsky wrote: "the truth will conquer in the end." If Nuremberg serves no other purpose, it is at least a milestone in the great struggle to expose Stalinism and its foul deeds perpetrated against Bolshevism in the infamous Moscow Trials.

Motor Bosses Profits — See Back Page

Labour's Coal Board



LORD HYNDLEY £8,500 a Year.

Ten Years for R.A.F. Militant

Aircraftman Norris Cymbalist, Radar operator at R.A.F. Base, H.Q. Singapore, has been sentenced to 10 years' penal servitude and discharge with ignominy from the services, on charges arising out of the recent R.A.F. Strike at Kallang near Singapore.

THIS IS A FRAME-UP. Cymbalist and six others were elected representatives of the Airmen in Singapore during the January Strike. This whole committee was arrested, but later released. The leaders were dispersed and isolated. A few days before Cymbalist was about to sail for home on leave, he was again arrested.

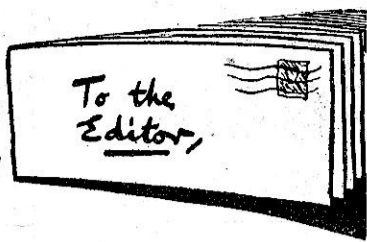
Norris Cymbalist has been sentenced to 10 years for daring to condemn and struggle against the arrests of his comrades. According to the *Straits Times*, he is alleged to have made the following statement:

"These five representatives of ours have been arrested and I am calling upon you, if you are still with me, to come out on strike until they are released."

Demand His Release

Every workers organisation should demand the immediate release of Cymbalist and other victimised airmen. Resolutions of protest should be sent to J. Strachey, Under Secretary for Air, and to the Prime Minister.

Letters



Stalinists Disturbed

S.E.A.C. 22.2.46

Dear Comrades,
I sent a letter to the "Strait Times" about the Nuremberg Trials which was not printed. A copy has been sent to another daily paper. The C.P.ers who are wavering are sympathetic to our stand over this question. Our exposure will have profound effects among advanced workers.

I am meeting more and more British C.P.ers and getting a good reception. We are now regarded by them as being the real communists. I mean they accept the Trotskyists as the real communists and three I met last week individually favoured a fusion of our parties.

Latest developments in Malaya show that at this stage the C.P. is losing its mass support for political action. The last few demonstrations showed the masses to be neutral and it is well recognised among trade union leaders, who, although C.P.ers, are deeply concerned at the manner in which the party leadership is misusing the rank and file. The chasm between the two sections—industrial and political leaders, is widening and is being expressed in the way the C.P. are by-passing the T.U. leaders by organising certain aspects of industrial work.

Stalin's Foreign Diplomacy
What is so obviously wrong is that the C.P. bureaucrats are out to cause as much disruption in the country in the shortest space of time to aid Stalin in foreign diplomacy, without concerning themselves in the least with the effect this has on the working class and their struggles.

The C.P. are in a hurry to embarrass the B.M.A. on behalf of Stalin. Whilst this is going on, the C.P. are playing around with the Union Jack and propagating support for U.N.O. I notice that a new Union Jack is waving away in the premises of the Young Democratic League. They flooded Malaya with such slogans as "Welcome our Allies" and built up illusions. Even to day, despite all the incidents, they peddle talk about a "new democracy" and such like. In the absence of other political parties, they are getting away with such demagoguery.

Stalinists Disturbed

I tried to get a discussion with a leading C.P.er, but when he heard that I was a Trotskyist he wanted to push me off. He is a Chinese. The line at first in Malaya was that Trotskyism had gone out of existence long ago. I managed to hold a rough and tumble discussion and give out two papers before he tore himself away. He is disturbed by the knowledge that a Fourth International is in existence. I banged "Brotherism" and he believed the official story that it was an individual act, in a child-like fashion. He has been a member of the Party since the late 20's and I understand that a left opposition was present in this country. This man is a nasty type, a typical G.P.U. character, and he suggested that any attempt to set up a movement opposed to Stalinism would not be a healthy affair. I have given a few elements of this kind a nightmare by showing our papers to them. It certainly disturbs them.

Best wishes to all the comrades.

From a C.P'er

Warwickshire, February 3, 1946
"Socialist Appeal", Dear Comrade,

Remembering that one of the main arguments used by the C.P. against the Trotskyists from the first days of the Left Opposition, was that they were playing the game of the counter-revolution by criticising the same working class organisations (the Communist Parties and its associated organisations) and the Stalin Government that the reactionaries attack. I was interested to see the following written by Johnny Campbell in the "Daily Worker":

"MURKOVICH AND COUSELVER"
Colonel Murkovich, the American Isolationist and Britain-hater, has been criticising the Labour Government. So has the Communist Party. So Mr. Michael Foot makes the cheap suggestion that Mr. Murkovich and the Communists are really 'birds of a feather'.
"Really, is Mr. Foot incapable of making the most elementary distinction? Mr. Murkovich criticises the Labour Government because he is interested in furthering a reactionary U.S. policy. We criticise it because we want to further a progressive British policy, which by its very nature must be a progressive international policy."

Daily Worker, Jan. 31 1946.
Does this not also give an answer to the C.P. leadership which attacks the critical attitude of the Trotskyists and Left Wingers towards the Labour Government? At the time when Pollitt still retained the prospect of peaceful and harmonious relationships between the Soviet Union and capitalist Britain to be maintained by Bevin and the Labour Party bosses—at that time it was said that to criticise the Labour

Government would be to follow the lead of the reactionary monopoly capitalists, who also criticised it; and that this was to harm the interests of the working class!
The arguments used by the C.P. leadership today demolish those which they used yesterday. Such political chameleons who zigzag at every turn of Stalin's foreign policy will never be able to lead the working class to Socialism.

Yours fraternally,
M. (Y.O.L.)

Ousting the Disabled

Dear Comrade,
I work in a Toy Factory which as far as I know was founded for disabled people. It was up until Jan. 9th, 1946, when there was a big pay off in our shop and we were told we were temporarily suspended as there was no work. I would admit myself there was little to do, but what surprised me more than anything was that the following morning, six young boys started in the jobs, their ages ranging from 16 to 18 years. Three of the lads receive 11d. an hour, the other three receive 8d. My opinion is that they are getting out the disabled people in a quiet way to bring in boys for cheap labour.
All the promises made "to take care of disabled soldiers, etc." turn out to be so much vote catching when things like this are allowed to happen. I hope the Labour movement will do all in their power to see that these disabled get a real square deal, and not permit a return to the conditions after the last war.
Glasgow Ex-Serviceman.
(Name and address available if required.)

MONEY NEEDED! URGENT London Engineers

Rally to make the £250 Target! ONLY TWO WEEKS TO GO

Comrades! This is not good enough! Is your Branch on the Black list?

The Subscribers' Cards are now beginning to yield results. Some comrades have already obtained guarantees from sympathisers to give 1/- per week, and one comrade has passed the 3/- per week mark. Think what this means! If only two hundred and fifty comrades reach this target, we shall have a guaranteed regular income of £37 10s. 0d. per week!

The capture of the "Neath Campaign" and the "Expansion Fund" spirit would soon build up our FIGHTING FUND to £25 per week. BUT MAKE IT SOON, because that amount is the very least that we need to keep our press on a stable basis.

The Thames Valley and Hendon Branches will have the lead in this vital Party building activity. But many Branches have not sent in a single penny! If the Branches don't all pull together, we will never reach our target—and the conscientious branches will tend to relax their efforts.

We feel sure that some branches must be holding on to monies collected. SEND IN WHAT YOU HAVE COLLECTED. Don't hang on to it. Subscribers!

You have already demonstrated great initiative and devotion by sending in one-third of the total direct to the Central Office. Keep it up! POUR IN YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, and address them to: Norah Hill, 256, Harrow Road, London, W.2.

BRANCH FIGURES POOR RETURNS

Branch	Paid in. £ s. d.	Target.
CENTRAL OFFICE	55 11 9	£50
HENDON	8 10 10	£10
FORCES	8 0 0	£8
THAMES VALLEY	5 10 0	£4
GLASGOW	4 0 0	£9
SOUTH WEST LONDON	3 16 4	£10
WEST LONDON	2 15 2	£8
EAST LONDON	1 14 0	£5
NEATH	1 9 0	£8
COVENTRY	1 7 6	£3
SOUTHALL	1 7 0	£6
ENFIELD	1 2 6	£1
TREDEGAR	1 0 0	£2
SOUTH EAST LONDON	1 0 0	£10
NEWCASTLE	1 0 0	£6
LIVERPOOL	1 0 0	£1
GWAUN-CAE-GURWEN	11 0 0	£1
CANNOCK	6 0 0	£3
BIRMINGHAM	—	£5
DUNDEE	—	£1
EDINBURGH	—	£4
LEEDS	—	£3
MOTHERWELL	—	£4
NORWICH	—	£1
NOTTINGHAM	—	£1
OXFORD	—	£2
SHEFFIELD	—	£8
ILFORD	—	£2
CHINGFORD	—	£1
NORTH LONDON	—	£8
LONDON DISTRICT COMMITTEE	—	£10
EASTBOURNE	—	£3
NEWARK	—	£2
CHEL TENHAM AND GLOS.	—	£1
	£101 2 1	

R.C.P. Appeals to C.P. Fight the Fascists

LONDON DISTRICT COMMUNIST Party Revolutionary Communist Party

To the Secretary, 8.3.46. London District Committee, C.P.G.P.

Dear Comrade,
Next Wednesday, March 13th, a meeting is being held in the Royal Albert Hall by an organisation calling itself the Britons' Vigilantes Action League. This is one of the budding Fascist organisations whose programme is basically the same as the programme of the B.U.F.
We consider that it is vitally necessary to combat this propaganda in the most active manner. Even though these movements may not represent an immediate or important danger, it is important that the Labour organisations crush them before they have an opportunity to flourish.

We appeal to your organisation to call for joint action with all working class organisations with the object of holding a mass protest demonstration outside the Albert Hall, and if possible, preventing the meeting from being held. To date, the Daily

Worker has not called attention to this Fascist meeting, or issued any call for action to prevent it taking place. We appeal to you to make a call through the columns of the "Daily Worker" to the organised workers to rally to smash this organisation in its initial stages and to prevent the rise of any form of organized fascist movement in the future.
Yours fraternally,
JIM HINCHCLIFFE, Secretary London District Committee.

On March 9th, the "Daily Worker" at last published an item on this meeting on the back page. Instead of giving a lead for working class action and organisation against this provocation, they merely reported that "it is understood that questions about the demonstration are likely to be asked in the Commons next week and the demand made that the meeting shall be banned."

Only on the same day of the Fascist Meeting did the "Daily Worker" call upon the London workers to demonstrate.

E.T.U. Workers 6 Point Demands

We hear that the workers of No. 10 Division, J.I.C. Electricity Supply have set up a Shop Stewards' Coordinating Committee, as a result of the intense and widespread dissatisfaction at the inefficiency of the cumbersome Whitley Machinery through which they are represented.

The loudest complaint just now is the wage question, but the following Six Points are to be the basis of immediate pressure:

1. 6d. per hour increase in basic rate for all workers in industry.
 2. A 40-hour working week without reduction of weekly wage.
 3. Complete revision of the "Grey Book". (Rules, etc.)
 4. Improved conditions for Shift Workers re overtime and Sunday work.
 5. 100% T.U. Closed Shop.
- (Continued at foot of Column.)

Following quickly on the heels of the Coventry Engineers' militant action in defence of their wage standards, the London engineers have taken the first step in the direction of struggle for the implementation of their claim for:

- (1) 20/- increase in the basic rate.
- (2) 40-hour week with no reduction in pay.
- (3) Guarantee of a week's work or a week's pay.
- (4) Fortnightly holiday with pay.

At a packed meeting of London engineering workers in the Holborn Hall on March 3rd they enthusiastically launched a call to all engineering workers in the Greater London Area, to march to Hyde Park on Wednesday, March 20th, to demonstrate their support of these claims.

The meeting was addressed by Wal Hannington, one of the National Organisers, and some indication of the willingness of the engineers to fight for their modest demands was to be seen in the enthusiastic applause with which any reference to action was received. A passing reference to the Dockers' Strike, and the Building Workers' Demonstration was wildly cheered

Truth About Engineers' Wages

During the war engineers have earned a fair standard of wages. They do this by working themselves to a standstill, putting in 70, 80, 90 and sometimes even 100 hours a week, in an endeavour to rush jobs through.

But this has in the long run, assisted the employers to cut piece-work times, and to retain the low basic rates. So that now, with no overtime being worked, and with piece-work prices for peacetime production on the "all out" pace of the fastest wartime production, the engineering worker is faced with the prospect of being unable to earn a wage at all comparable with even his pre-war rates—and they were bad enough.

Government figures for the rise in the cost of living show an increase of 52.4% over 1938. But the engineers' rates have increased over the same period by only 38.5%.

The skilled engineer's London rate (the highest in the country), is now a fraction of a penny over 1/6d., which, with war-bonus added, gives a flat rate of approximately 2/0d. per hour, or 4 15s 11d. per week, before deductions for insurance. If this is compared with the flat rates of skilled building workers of 2/7d. (which is low enough), it is understandable that the engineer thinks he is not exactly "on a good thing."

Committee Dissolves Minority Protest

"STATEMENT BY THE MINORITY OF THE MARCH 20th ENGINEERS' DEMONSTRATION COMMITTEE"

"We, the undersigned members of the Committee elected at a mass meeting of A.E.U. members in London, on Sunday, March 3rd, dissociate ourselves entirely from the decision of the majority of that committee to break the unanimous mandate given to it to organise a demonstration on a working day (March 20th) in Hyde Park in support of the Union's claim for 20% increase, 40-hour guaranteed week and a fortnight's holiday with pay."

question of a week-day as against a week-end demonstration was fully discussed, and the decision taken for it to be held on a week-day. One of the undersigned even suggested at the Mass Meeting that the fixing of the exact day for the demonstration could be left to the Committee to settle, but even this suggestion was not accepted and the meeting insisted on naming the exact day.
"Under these circumstances, we maintain that the action of

the Committee in breaking such a hard and fast mandate and then dissolving itself, without even calling a report-back meeting, is an act of betrayal of the membership that elected it.

"We are of the opinion that the majority of the Committee had, in the 24 hours between the Mass Meeting and the meeting of the Committee, fallen victims of the false propaganda of Transport House and the Communist Party leaders: propaganda which misled the rank and file into believing that militant action will hamper the drive for production and so weaken the Labour Government."

"We on the other hand, take the view that the key to the problem of production in engineering lies, in raising the depressed wages and conditions of our members, and far from weakening or embarrassing the Labour Government, demonstrations such as that proposed in pursuance of our just and modest demands could only strengthen the hand of the Labour Government in assisting us in our fight against the Employers' Federation.
"We are certain that every rank-and-file who is genuinely interested in the fight for the Union claim, will agree that this

breach of mandate required urgent investigation.
"We are therefore calling a meeting of all members interested in this problem on:

Sunday, March 31st, at 10.30 a.m. at the Holborn Hall

and ask you not only to attend, but to see that your Branch and Factory Committee appoints a delegate to attend, so that the whole matter can be fully aired and discussed.

"Meantime, we would urge your support for the following resolution to be sent from Shop Stewards' Committees and Branches to the D.C.'s:

"In view of the flagrant violation of its mandate received from the Mass Meeting at the Holborn Hall on Sunday, March 3rd, we ask the D.C. to recall the mass meeting at the earliest possible date in order to ascertain the feeling of the membership."


F. EMMETT
J. REARDON
(Minority of the "Demonstration Committee.")
Any correspondence to: E Emmett, 6, Whitford Gardens, Mitcham

LEON TROTSKY NOT GUILTY

Nuremberg Trial Exposes Moscow Frame-Up Trials

PUBLIC MEETING CONWAY HALL WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10th, 7p.m.

JOCK HASTON TED GRANT



800 SIT-DOWN STRIKE

800 Machine Tool workers employed at H. W. Ward & Co., Selly Oak, Birmingham, are on sit-down strike.

The statement of the Strike Committee, reads:
"Negotiations have been taking place since November, 1946, on the question of the reduction in Bonus Earnings, and the complicated Bonus System.
For six years we have patiently suffered economic hardship in the interest of the national effort, also in our desire to see the abolition of fascism. Today we desire to support the present Government by relating production to earnings, and also increasing production per man hour. We can only do this by providing an incentive through the medium of a fair and equitable Bonus Scheme, which our members are able to understand. Our problem has been to Works Conference and after a week had passed, the gauntlet was thrown down by the Management.
We appeal to all fighters in the Working Class Movement to support us in our struggle."

The collective bonus at this firm is worked on a complicated system of units which were fixed as far back as 1927. The workers find it impossible to follow the Management's calculations by which they arrive at a monthly bonus figure.
Because of certain contingencies—shortage of material, etc.—the workers have found that during the last three months, their bonus has dropped to 32% calculated on their basic rate.
Well Organised Strike
An interesting feature of the strike is its high degree of organisation inside the factory. The men have fixed up a stage and amplifiers, and are running concerts and whist drives to keep up their morale.
Most of these workers are skilled craftsmen employed at the firm for a long period of years, who do not go on strike lightly. It is obvious that these workers must have had extreme provocation. Every militant will wish them success in their struggle to better their present conditions.
Donations should be sent to the Convenor, W. H. Ward and Co., Dale Road, Selly Oak Birmingham.

ARBITRATION OR ACTION?

The engineers have a good case. Their demands are moderate. They are not asking for anything more than a fair share of the national product. They are not asking for anything more than a fair share of the national product. They are not asking for anything more than a fair share of the national product.

faces the employer with demands—he can be the slickest talker imaginable, he can be a nice negotiator, he can have a lot of talk that would remove legs of a donkey—but if you know that he would remove nothing more than talk, get a series of negotiators get nowhere. This is to any shop steward.

then, some may ask is it the Tribes gave anything? Why didn't they just concede any part of the demand? The answer to this is: The employers and the al know that there is a beyond which they dare not go. Although the unions need in the shops, if pushed in, will take matters into their own hands. Throughout there were a series of c and unofficial strikes, Tyneside apprentices, de, miners, busmen and so—name but a few of ger ones. It is fear of ead of such strike move- and that only, which or the grudging concess- at have been granted in . The Union negotiators st their will, and in spite selves—have had this The strength of this has been measured by all concessions gained, the present wage claim, ineering workers have a nity of work out. Two are clearly defined: remain in the rut of Arbitration Tribunals fobbed off with next to or, having no faith in bunals, go forward and to back the claim with instructing the E.C. to ballot for strike in the f—a refusal by the em—and see that they do it.

J. KING

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party,
256, HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2.
Phone: CUN 2526.
EDITOR: E. GRANT.
BUSINESS MANAGER: A. MAXEY.

Editorial

Churchill's Speech

Churchill's speech delivered at Fulton, U.S.A. is a reflection of the disturbed character of the epoch following World War II. Hardly has the war come to an end, than the concealed antagonisms of the erstwhile allies, burst forth.

His speech illustrates the plight of British imperialism. No longer can she play the role of arbiter in Europe and in world affairs. Her economic base weakened, her Empire in turmoil, her military might enfeebled in comparison with the giants, she now faces, not Germany as an imperialist rival, but an even greater threat—the Soviet Union. Caught between the vice of the two dominant world powers, Churchill seeks safety and salvation under the wings of the American eagle.

The Stalinist bureaucracy, taking advantage of the difficulties of world capitalism, is strengthening its strategic and economic positions in Eastern Europe, the Far East, and now in the Middle East. Decaying British capitalism, impotent in the face of Stalinist demands, faces a future of decay and disintegration.

Churchill views the future with gloom. He seeks to auction off the services of British Imperialism as a base of operations for America against the Soviet Union. Peering into the future, Churchill, in guarded language, foreshadows the outlines of World War III. The words are honeyed; but the essence is revealed.

Churchill openly comments that none of the illusions of 1919 in the League of Nations, in the durability of peace, or the stability of the relations established by the victors, is present today. UNO'S deliberations from the outset, are overshadowed by the manoeuvres and tensions between the Big Three. The smaller powers vacillate and range themselves round the trians.

Thus, the stark reaction beneath the democratic coating juts through Churchill's fine language.

The Communist Party, which sedulously sowed illusions in Churchill during the war as a great "democrat", suddenly grows indignant because the leopard's spots appear in the old hue. "There was once a Churchill who spoke in valiant tones of the people's struggle against Fascism, of his comradeship with Stalin, of the Russian glory and of international co-operation in peace as in war. That Churchill is no more." Churchill then, as now, disguised the predatory aims of British imperialism with "democratic" language.

After six years of silence and whitewashing of Churchill the "Daily Worker" is excavating its dusty files for the records of his anti-working class deeds. But this does not prevent them from continuing to cultivate the deception and illusions in capitalist "democracy", with its fake promises of "peace and security" for the peoples.

World War III looms ahead for the tortured peoples of the earth. It is as inevitable as World Wars I and II if the cause of these catastrophes is not removed: the contradictions of monopoly capitalism in the era of imperialist decay. This oft-repeated Marxist axiom must burn itself into the consciousness of the proletariat of all countries. To the soothsayers of Reformism and Stalinism, let us repeat Lenin's words, written on November 1st, 1914: "Imperialism has placed the fate of European culture at stake. After this war, if a series of successful revolutions do not occur, more wars will follow—the fairy tale of a 'war to end all wars' is a hollow and pernicious fairy tale."

APATHY IN THE C.C. ELECTIONS

BY JIM HINCHCLIFFE

The County Council elections have resulted in further sweeping gains for Labour. For the first time, Middlesex is controlled by Labour. Northumberland (and other areas) were captured by Labour. In the London County Council, the Labour Party increased its representation from 76 to 90, while the Tories dropped from 48 to 30. The Tories were swamped even in former strongholds.

The general pattern of the campaign has been the same as in the General and Municipal elections—with this difference—it was on a more apathetic level. While a certain amount of enthusiasm was displayed in the backward rural districts, the apathy in the advanced working class areas was almost incredible.

In London, for instance, we read the report that:

"Only 10 went to hear the Streatham Labour candidate... and the meeting was abandoned after a few minutes. Neighbouring Balham and Tooting Labour failed to attract any audiences at all, and on the following night, Norwood Labour candidates waited in vain for an hour in an empty hall." Herbert Morrison, Cabinet Minister spoke to an audience of 40 odd in the Paddington area. These reports can be repeated a hundred times. All speak of the campaigns being conducted

in a milieu of indifference. In Shoreditch, Labour stronghold for 20 years, the poll fell as low as 12 per cent. In the big majority of cases throughout the country it did not exceed 25 per cent.

The Stalinists succeeded in capturing a few seats in the County Councils including a couple on the L.C.C.

Why the Apathy?

This seemingly contradictory process—of a doubling of the membership of the Labour Party coupled with non-attendance at meetings and inactivity—of a mass swing to Labour on the one hand, and of a general apathy on the other, is clearly indicative of the waiting mood of the workers, coupled with an increasingly critical attitude towards the Labour Government. With the memories of the MacDonald sell-out in 1931, and the more bitter experiences of

(Continued on page 4.)

FUSION IN GERMANY

Since Hitler's fall, German party politics have largely borne an unreal character. With economic life disrupted and the struggle for life dominant, there has been very little genuine working class politics. The parties have generally reflected the struggles between the occupying Powers and the manoeuvres of sections of the German population for a favourable position with these Powers.

BY D. JAMES

At a recent conference of the Berlin Social-Democrats, the following exchange occurred:

"Do you really believe," asked the speaker, "that Germany could now exist without the occupying Powers?"

"Yes we can do without them," was the loud and angry reply of hundreds of delegates.

(Observer, 3.3.46.)

In the present conditions of national oppression, a stand for Germany's national independence—though rejecting all forms of chauvinism—must be the foundation of any genuine socialist politics. The delegates' angry cry is therefore a welcome indication of reviving political life.

Unquestionably the most important political question at present is the Communist Party's proposal for fusion with the Socialists.

Social Democratic and Communist Parties

At present, the leaderships of the two working class parties show little sign of having learned anything from the experience of the Nazi victory and dictatorship. But the leaders who at present determine policy are the products of twelve years' degeneration of Stalinism and Social-Democracy in the outside world.

The Social Democracy (S.P.D.) is strongest in the British and U.S. zones. It has a small Stalinist wing in the Russian zone, but the overwhelming majority of the leadership is slavishly dependent on Anglo-American imperialism. Its programme appears to consist of begging the Allies to grant Germany a measure of capitalist democracy, which is the be-all and end-all of its policy.

Conversely, the Communist Party (K.P.D.) is purely an agency of the Russian occupation. It counts in its ranks, many devoted fighters in illegality against Hitler who may well at a later stage demand revolutionary policies. But the leadership, imposed from exile in Moscow, is entirely conservative. Thus, last June, Walter Ulbricht definitely stated that a fight for socialism was at present out of the question; and this is the line of the whole K.P.D. It demands a united Reich including the Ruhr—but this is purely a demagogic point, used by Stalin to embarrass his "Allies". When it comes to the question of the pillage and economic stifling of Germany by Russia, and the seizure of German territory by Poland, the K.P.D. is silent.

Neither party shows any sign of realising that their failure to present bold revolutionary policies led to the demoralisation of the German working class and the victory of fascism. They are, on the contrary, more prostrate before capitalism than ever.

The Fusion Proposal

There is one startling difference from 1933, in the Stalinist campaign for fusion with the Social-Democrats, whom they were then denouncing as "social-fascists".

The K.P.D. makes out that this is a lesson they have learned from the tragic split in the years before Hitler's victory. Undoubtedly many genuine K.P.D. militants support it sincerely for that reason. But the leaders have quite other motives. They do not submit their criminal ultra-left policies of those years to a critical examination—since this would expose their own responsibility for the Nazi victory. Worse, they do

violence to the whole communist tradition. For example, the Frankfurt-on-Main Communist Party, answering the Social-Democrats' refusal to unite, stated that "the split in the German working class movement since 1918 (!) has exclusively aided German imperialism and harmed the German people and the peace of the world". Here denunciation of the bitter split from 1918-1923, is made an excuse for obliterating all trace of the tradition of Liebknecht and Luxemburg in fighting reformism and founding the Communist Party.

The Social-Democratic leaders claim that the Stalinist fusion campaign is part of their plan to crush all opposition, and institute a monopolistic dictatorship under Russian control. The Social Democrats have their own reasons for opposing the fusion, which we shall deal with later, but this accusation is unquestionably true. The terror of the G.P.U. in the Russian zone, has forced the Social-Democrats to accept the fusion.

The comunique of a joint meeting of representatives of the two parties in Berlin on December 21st, where the fusion was unanimously agreed, carried the signature of two members of the Russian occupation forces who were present at the discussion! William Forrest of the "News Chronicle" (2.3.46) relates "instances of extreme pressure being brought to bear on Socialists to make them amenable to unity." According to these reports, the N.K.V.D. (better known as the O.G.P.U.) is one of the chief instruments of this pressure. In the middle of the night the N.K.V.D. men call at the homes of local Socialist leaders and take them to their headquarters."

The "Manchester Guardian" (26.2.46) states:—

"Of the more prominent members of the S.P.D. who have spoken against fusion, Mr. Brill, of the Thuringian executive, has been arrested; Mrs. Lisa Peter, wife of Magdebourg's former burgemeister Kops Peter, who has had to leave Westphalia, has

(Continued on page 4.)

Dutch R.C.P. NUREMBERG CAMPAIGN



"De Waarheid" blijft zwijgen
Wij eisen herenigd bewijsen
De afgevaardigden van de Revoluutaire Communistische Partij in ons dorp in het oeg van de Nuremberg-Commissie... (text continues with demands for evidence against the Dutch R.C.P.)

plotting against the Russian Soviet Republic with the Nazi Government or even having anything whatsoever to do with this government."

"Undesirable Curiosity"

"Parat", Democratic Socialist Weekly, of 9th February, writes under the heading "Undesirable Curiosity" regarding the campaign of our Dutch Party:

"People who have been persecuted, exiled and put to death on account of this accusation (plotting together with Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union) the correctness of which is disputed by the R.C.P. and by a number of non-Trotskyist citizens in many countries, no doubt have the right to press for a new investigation when new possibilities arise. And indeed, these possibilities now exist; Hess is one of the accused at Nuremberg. The court has at its disposal the secret documents of the German General Staff and the espionage service. Why should not the Russian Prosecutor, by asking questions and publicising documents, see to it that the culpability of the Old Bolsheviks be proven on the world forum? We fear that these questions will not be asked and these documents not be published, and that the Russian Prosecutor will consider the insistence of the Dutch Revolutionary Communist Party as an undesirable curiosity."

G.I.'s Are Bitter

American soldiers and marines are embittered and dissatisfied because they are forced to remain in China. They would be only too glad to accede to the demands of the Chinese people and go home. The first excuse for keeping Marines in China was to "disarm the Japanese". This excuse broke down when it be-

CHEN CHI-CHANG Died in the Struggle

From "The Militant", American Trotskyist paper.

BY LI FU-JEN

With the arrival of the first word from our Chinese comrades in more than four years, comes the tragic news of the death of Comrade Chen Chi-chang, veteran revolutionary and a leading member of the Chinese Trotskyist organization from its inception.

I came to know Comrade Chen well during the many years I spent in China. He was the authentic type of professional revolutionary who devoted his entire life all his energies to the emancipating struggle for socialism. Perpetual, grinding poverty and the need to provide for a wife and five young children — did not deter him. He gave part of his time to translation work from English to Chinese in order to gain a bare livelihood and the rest of his time was given to the movement. I never knew him to complain of his personal difficulties.

move the printing apparatus with great speed from one hiding place to another. It was Comrade Chen Chi-chang who made arrangements and saw that they were carried through. He not only guarded the printing apparatus but also wrote for the party press. At intervals he engaged in transporting Trotskyist literature from the centre to branch organizations in Hong-



Revolutionary Fighter

Like his comrades, Chen lived the life of an underground revolutionary fighter, always in the shadow of capture by the bloodhounds of Chiang Kai-shek's police. He developed special skill in the multifarious activities of an illegal political organization.

It was largely due to his ingenuity and never-flagging vigilance that the underground Trotskyist printing press was maintained without interruption during the years before Pearl Harbour to bring out the party organ *Don Tseng* ("Struggle") and other publications. This press was operated under the very noses of the Kuomintang and British imperialist police. Often it became necessary to

kong and elsewhere—one of the most hazardous undertakings.

A Grievous Loss

Comrade Chen managed by great vigilance and caution to evade the ever-spread dragnet laid for the Trotskyists by the Kuomintang and imperialist police. As a member of the Central Committee he was especially sought after by the authorities. Only now do we learn of his death at the hands of the vicious gendarmes of Japanese imperialism. The Trotskyist movement has suffered a grievous loss in the death of Comrade Chen. His name is added to the roll of honour of Trotskyist martyrs. We salute his memory!

Chinese Protest Occupation

Twenty thousand Chinese students marching through the streets of Shanghai on January 13th, defied police efforts to break up their procession and shouted at Americans along the route: "Why don't you go home?"

Leaders of the students said the demonstration was part of a nation wide movement demanding the establishment of a democratic China and the withdrawal of United States forces.

G.I.'s Are Bitter

American soldiers and marines are embittered and dissatisfied because they are forced to remain in China. They would be only too glad to accede to the demands of the Chinese people and go home. The first excuse for keeping Marines in China was to "disarm the Japanese". This excuse broke down when it be-

came known that Japanese troops had been ordered by Brass Hats to stand guard over railways needed by Dictator Chiang Kai-shek.

The next excuse was an alleged "shipping bottleneck." But when the American public learned ships were being used to haul Chiang's troops to North China, that excuse too was tossed into the ash can.

"Stabilising Force"

Now a brand new excuse has been put forward for keeping the G.I.'s in China. Representative George J. Bates of Massachusetts, a member of the House Naval Affairs Committee, declared while touring Tientsin on January 21st that "the Marines may be kept here some time longer as a stabilising force."

With their "stabilising force" excuse, Wall Street's spokesmen are getting closer to the truth. U.S. imperialism wants G.I.'s stationed indefinitely in China to "stabilise" Chiang Kai-shek's dictatorial regime against the will of the Chinese people.

Stalinists Defile Traditions of Liebknecht

Karl Liebknecht led the Internationalist struggle against reformism and for Marxism. Today the Stalinists casting aside the great traditions of the revolutionary movement try to obliterate the distinction between Marxism and reformism.



KARL LIEBKNECHT ADDRESSING MASS MEETING IN BERLIN 1919.

What's on

Birmingham PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, April 3rd
7.30 p.m. in the

P.P.U. ROOMS
36, Holloway Head

The Soviet Union and Churchill's Speech

Speaker: TED GRANT
Editor "Socialist Appeal"

Conditions of the Indian Masses

BY AJIT ROY

In 1943, when famine made its appearance in India, the mass revolt of the previous year had already been crushed and a spirit of apathy pervaded the country. But the present famine makes its appearance when the mass of the Indian people are preparing for a decisive struggle against imperialism and all it stands for. The working-class of India is beginning to awake and know its own strength.

The millions who died in the first famine came mainly from the ranks of the poor peasants and the landless agricultural labourers. The industrial workers whose services were badly needed for the war effort were kept alive by direct grain supplies through the mills, dearness allowances and bonus payments. But with the ending of the war, the condition of the working class has steadily worsened.

With the ending of the war contracts, Indian capitalism finds itself in the midst of a profound crisis. The mill-owners, both British and Indian are attempting to unload the burden of their post-war problem on the backs of the workers. Mass dismissals, wage cuts, victimisation and attacks on trade union rights are taking place almost daily.

From the Railways alone 260,000 workers to be discharged. The Jute industry is dispensing with the services of 150,000 workers. From the Ordnance factories and the metal and engineering firms another 250,000 workers are to go.

For the vast majority of these workers there is no prospect of alternative employment. Since there is no unemployment insurance and no obligation on the Government to provide in any way for the unemployed, the vast majority of these discharged workers will have to face starvation with their families in the cities, or die a slower death. Such are the conditions which have given rise to the tremendous wave of strikes which is sweeping through the industrial centres of India.

The Indian workers are fighting back with great militancy and determination for the right to live, against the background of the mounting horrors of the new famine. The employed workers fighting for higher wages are fighting side by side with unemployed workers demanding government allowances for the jobless.

In their present mood, the Indian masses are not prepared to accept death in a spirit of docile resignation to the imperialist coupon clippers. Jawaharlal Nehru whose reformist policies has not impaired his insight into the feelings and mood of the Indian masses, declared recently:

"On no account are we going to submit to large masses starving and dying while a few profit by their misfortune. In Oudh, I told

the peasantry not to submit to their misery when starvation stared them in the face. I invited them to rebel against the political and social conditions which brought it about. If we have to die, let us die like men and not like rats in a hole. We will not submit to some people feasting and racing and flaunting their luxury, while the mass of the people suffer the agony of starvation. We will not submit to the incompetence and corruption of highly placed officials and the selfishness of the black marketeers and profiteers. If the heavy burden has to be borne, it will have to be shared equally by all and the government responsible for mismanagement or worse will have to go."

Such is undoubtedly the feeling of the Indian masses to-day. They are beginning to realise that if they are to live, they have to fight against imperialism, native capitalism and landlordism. The working-class of Britain must learn to see the struggle of the Indian people as their own. There can be no prosperity in Britain as long as millions of people in the colonies are compelled to live under a regime of poverty and famine. The struggle of the British workers for socialism must be linked to the struggle of the Indian people for freedom and economic emancipation. Together under the banner of the United Front, we shall march to victory.

700 at Paris Meeting

PARIS—13 March 1946. An enthusiastic meeting of 700 workers called by the International Communist Party (French Section of the Fourth International) was held in Paris on March 12th. This was a magnificent response after only five days' preparation.

Speakers from France, Spain, Indo-China, and England protested against the arrests of the Trotskyists, and the banning of *Le Verite*.

100 Indo-Chinese workers were among the audience. The platform demanded the complete freedom of Indo-China; called for the Communists and Socialists to break the coalition with the capitalists and take power on a socialist programme. Comrade Jock Haston, General Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party addressed the meeting.

Fusion in Germany

(Continued from page 3) been taken into custody in Magdeburg", etc. etc.

The Workers' Attitude

Under these conditions fusion is intended to strengthen the hold of the Russian occupation force in their region and use the united party as an instrument to convert Germany into a satellite of the Stalinist bureaucracy. Of course, not in order to overthrow capitalism, but merely to serve the interests of the rapacious bureaucracy.

At the present time, in spite of the C.P. traditions and of its identification with the land reform, there is a decline in C.P. influence. Nor is this only in the Russian zone. The workers give their votes to the Social-Democrats since in words at any rate, they stand for democracy.

Thus, in Saxony, on January 16th, elections of delegates to a Trade Union Congress gave 286 to the Social-Democrats, and 52 to K.P.D.

The recent shop-stewards' elections in Berlin factories gave the S.P.D. 111, the K.P.D. (C.P.) 50, the Christian Democrats 2 and the non-politicals 37.

The local elections in Bavaria (U.S. zone), gave the S.P.D. 500,000 votes to the K.P.D.'s 140,000.

The rank and file Social-Democrats oppose the fusion. In the recent Conference of the Berlin party, Grotewald and other protagonists of fusion were repeatedly interrupted and shouted down with cries of "puppet" and "dictatorship". The delegates voted down a resolution for immediate fusion and adopted a resolution making fusion conditional on a secret ballot of all Social-Democrats in Berlin and the Russian zone. So only in the Russian zone are

the Social-Democrats in favour of fusion.

Against the Fusion

The opposition of the Social-Democrat leaders, especially from the Western zones, to the fusion, is determined mainly by their being agents of the Western Allies who wish to oppose all acts whereby Stalinist influence is consolidated. They do not raise unprincipled arguments from a Socialist point of view. They are in reality no superior to the Stalinists. There is thus no reason to oppose the fusion on the grounds of programme; under other circumstances (as in this country) we should support it, in order that all the reformists and traitors should get together and remove any source of confusion for the working class.

But under the concrete circumstances, revolutionists should oppose the fusion. Because of its "democratic" ideology, the S.P.D. possibly offers a channel for independent working class activity—which is bound immediately to come into opposition to the reformist quisling leadership. Fusion with the K.P.D. would mean a totalitarian G.P.U.-dominated regime where the workers would be stifled.

But under no circumstances must the Social-Democrats and Stalinists be allowed to discredit the entirely correct idea of working-class unity—for specific aims in the struggle against capitalism. It is a crime to be laid at the Stalinists' door that the good opportunities of teaching the lessons of the tragic defeat of 1933 are being flung away. What an irony, that the workers should once more flock to the Social-Democrats whom history has discredited once and for all by their abject capitulation.

(Continued foot next Column.)

ATTLEE'S SECRET MEETING

BY J. JOHNS

With the precautions peculiar to those who wish to hide their reactionary schemes from the workers, a secret Conference of 1,700 Trade Union officials discussed with Mr. Attlee Bevin and Isaacs, the Government's plans to increase production. Extreme measures such as a double check on credentials, were taken.

Why this secrecy? It couldn't be for fear of the capitalists, because they have at their disposal, in every detail, the facts and figures of industry and the Government's plans in relation to industry.

The decisions and discussions of this conference are to be kept secret only from the workers.

The workers, who are being exhorted to economically coerced, to slave harder, are to be kept ignorant, not only of the facts, but of the very plans which directly affect them! What a deplorable act! Every workers' organisation should condemn this secrecy.

"Discarding Customs"

According to the press, the Conference agreed to discard "customs and rules established for the protection of the worker before the days of full employment." (Attlee radio speech); introduction of vicious systems of piece-work (Payment by Results, bonuses etc.); abolition of tea breaks and other concessions forced out of the bosses; sabotage of all strikes and struggles for better conditions and higher wages; formation of Joint Production Committees and other forms of class collaboration.

In general the Government is putting into practice the T.U.C. proposals to which only reduce the capitalist State, and the union officials to Stalinist policemen in the ranks of the working-class; but, which would compel the workers to greater intensity of production on lower living standards.

Tories Delighted

Thus, the nature of the Government's production drive, inaugurated by Attlee's radio speech, becomes clear. The whole burden of increased production is to be placed on the shoulders of the working-class, at whose expense production will be increased. Small wonder that the Tories and the press lords; the "Socialist" ministers and the Union bureaucrats—aided by His Majesty's Communist Party—have joined full chorus of applause in this vicious anti-working class campaign! The fact that these proposals come from a Labour Government, returned to Parliament to conduct Socialist measures, and not from a Tory dominated coalition makes them all the more pernicious and reactionary—not less so.

Labour Leaders' Promises

How do the promises of "full employment" and "prosperity", coming today from the lips of Major Attlee, differ from the utterances of Churchill? In December 1942 when 120 leading British capitalists issued their plans for post-war Britain, the following editorial prognosis: "Promises, promises, promises. They are being doled out in unlimited quantities. Uthwatt Reports, Scott Reports, Beveridge Reports, but False Reports, all the same. They paint a sort of Kingdom of Heaven in Britain after the war. A kingdom without unemployment, without poverty, without inequality, without

tion before Fascism, because the 'Communists' are today the greater evil! And that the idea of a United Workers Front, for lack of which Fascism conquered power with ease, is being discredited by these same 'Communists'!

The Revolutionary Road

But we can be sure that these lessons are not unlearned by the advanced workers of Germany. We learn that widespread discussions are taking place in the ranks of the German C.P. on the betrayal of their leadership in failing to lead a fight against Hitler, and that the rank and file recognise the correctness of Trotsky's position in demanding a workers' united front in the face of the fascist danger. What they need and do not find, is a party with a revolutionary programme of struggle against capitalism; untainted by collaboration with the imperialist and Stalinist oppressors; for a free and independent Germany in a United Socialist States of Europe. Without such a programme, all talk of "unity" is meaningless. Only when the Fourth International strikes its roots in Germany will the German working class, with all its traditions of struggle and its priceless heritage of experience, find a way out of the blind alley of Stalinist and Social-Democratic manoeuvres on to the road of freedom.

fear of further wars. But also without foundation.

The Government, and the class, that issues these reports is only too well aware of the growing disillusionment of the mass of the workers and soldiers in imperialism; of their determination to achieve a better society. They know that there is an irresistible move Leftward taking place throughout the country. For this reason they are attempting to deck up their outworn system in fresh and attractive colours.

"Big business looks ahead to a Britain in which there will be: (1) An increase in the power and scope of monopoly; (2) A greater measure of Government control of industry; (3) A drastic reduction in imports, and in the standard of living; (4) The need on the part of the workers to work harder and longer; (5) The need to develop and extend the international cartel arrangements for the restriction of production in the interest of keeping up profits."

Isn't this precisely what the workers are offered today? What has happened to the promises of Morrison, Bevin and Attlee when in coalition with the capitalists? They have been exposed as a continuation of capitalism in Britain. A continuation of the present policy of the Labour Government will make the promises of today as worthless as those of yesterday.

Profits Stand in the Way

The anarchy and chaos of production springs from one thing—the profit motive of the employers. By a thousand and one methods the employers consciously sabotage production in order to maintain their profits. If they cannot make profit they don't produce, and millions of hungry and ill-clothed workers are left idle. So long as these saboteurs remain in control and ownership of industry, produc-

Engineering Employers' Profits:

The engineer is told by the engineering employer that the industry cannot afford to pay more, then he sees, in the published returns of the companies for whom he works, the fabulous profits they have made during the war; and he asks himself if perhaps he hasn't been a little too slow. For example, Jack Tanner, President of the A.E.U. in presenting the Union case for the 20% increase, gave the following statistics of engineering profits:

Engineering Firm	Profits in 1938-39	Profits in 1944-45	Increased Percentage
Fished & Ludow	£200,000	£726,000	263%
Associated Equipment	£382,000	£1,185,000	210%
Electric Construction	£156,000	£253,000	62%
A. C. Cossar Ltd.	£87,000	£195,000	124%
Hobson (H.M.) Components	£82,000	£141,600	72%
Bristol Aeroplanes	£687,000	£1,076,000	57%
Gloucester Railway Carriage & Wagon Ltd.	£47,800	£208,000	332%
Morris Motors	£1,751,000	£3,076,000	75%

These are the PUBLISHED profits, and do not show the equally fabulous sums hidden behind the corners of directors' fees, paid free of income tax, expenses, amortisations and the thousands of other tricks and business secrets.

Apathy in the C.C. Elections

(Continued from page 3)

The Labour leaders' role in the war-time coalition Government, the workers returned Labour to power last July with no great display of enthusiasm. Since then, they have had little cause to be at all jubilant. A foreign policy which in all essentials is a continuity of Tory policy; the ruthless suppression and shootings of the Indian and colonial workers; the crushing of the legitimate aspirations of the Javanese and Greek peoples, all this has not gone by unnoticed.

Even more noticeable is the real nature of the domestic policies which are being pursued by the Labour Government. Its Social Security plans are but a slight improvement on the plans of the Tory-dominated Coalition Government. Its nationalisation plans do not affect the capitalist system in any fundamental manner. (Some capitalists have, in fact approved of them.) These policies could only serve to increase the scepticism which prevails amongst a growing section of the working class.

COAL POLICY

BY J. DEANE

The Parliamentary debate on the Coal Industry Nationalisation Bill revealed completely, the bankruptcy of the Tory Opposition.

But if the coal debate revealed this reactionary purpose of the representatives of capitalism, it also revealed the real policy of the Labour Government.

Nature of the Coal Board

The Bill proposes to set up a National Coal Board which shall control and direct the entire industry in Britain. It is charged with the task of securing the efficient development of the industry, and to make available supplies of coal in quantities and at prices suitable for other industries. This Board will be composed of 8 members and one Chairman, appointed by the Minister of Fuel and Power, who will have the final say in all matters affecting the Coal Board.

The 9 members of the Coal Board are appointed from persons appearing to him (Minister of Fuel and Power) to be qualified as having had experience of, and having shown capacity in, industrial, commercial or financial matters, applied science, administration, or the organisation of workers." (Coal Bill).

This means that the Coal Board will be composed of highly paid managers and technicians, i.e. agents of the capitalists and of the executives of the Trade Union movement. Sir Walter Citrine, Secretary of the T.U.C., and Ebby Edwards, Secretary of the Mineworkers Union, have agreed to sit on the Board at salaries of £5,000 a year.

Compensation — "No Government Could Have Been More Generous"

Almost three quarters of the elaborate and painstaking Bill is devoted to a scheme of compensation to the coal owners for all properties taken over by the state. In the words of Mr. Glenville Hall Labour M.P.:

"My right hon. Friend the Minister of Fuel and Power has thought of everything and he has thought of this (interim) payment to coalowners until final compensation is settled" in order that the Bill shall be perfectly fair to the mineowners in every particular, right down to the last jot and tittle."

"Hansard", 30th Jan. Mr. Peter Thorneycroft, speaking for the Tories said of the Labour Government's consideration for the coalowners:

"The colliery owners can now go into honourable retirement. The burden of responsibility is lifted from their shoulders. Whatever the form of energy may be devised as an alternative to the use of coal, the mine-workers can rest content. They can sit back and draw their State income from their inalienable bonds. It is perfectly true that this most ingenious piece of parliamentary drafting has ensured that they will be more or less practically free from participation in the productive effort. But they cannot have everything." "Hansard", 29th Jan.

The elaborate precautions taken in the Bill to secure the payment of enormous sums of money to the coalowners are truly astounding! As the "Economist" remarked on a previous occasion: No Government could have been more generous.

How Will The Bill Affect The Miner?

Let any miner read the coal Bill, and the record of the parliamentary debate. He will not find one word granting better conditions, wages, or an element of control to the miners. Mr. Shinwell, himself stated during the debate:

"The five day week for the miners longer holidays and improvements in living standards could be introduced progressively, when reorganisation had been established."

According to the same "socialist" source, reorganisation will take at least five years. The miners will have to wait five years the coalowners are to be paid immediately."

Mr. Shinwell has threatened legislation which will make "unofficial" strikes illegal. Struck by the similarity of their speeches, their threats and exhortations, Major Lloyd George, Churchill's Minister of Fuel and Power, remarked in the House of Commons:

"I could not help thinking that I had inadvertently let out some of my private notes at the Ministry, and that the right hon. Gentleman (Shinwell) had got hold of them."

The Bill prevents any possibility of the miners and workers knowing the true facts of the industry—the profits (compensation), the wages, the

costs. The capitalist managers are to remain at their posts subject not to the control of the workers, but to the capitalist state.

Without knowledge of all the facts of the industry; without direct control over the managers and technicians; and without a Coal Board composed of elected workers' representatives, the present nationalisation of the coal industry can only lead, in the long run, to a greater crisis of British economy and a worsening of the real wages and conditions of the miners.

Not Socialism — Say

That this Bill has nothing in common with Socialism, and is not designed to meet the needs and desires of the miners was demonstrated in the speeches of the leading Government spokesmen, in particular Herbert Morrison. In reply to Eden, he said:

"This is a Bill for the reorganisation of an industry. That is all. It is neither a Bill primarily of a financial character, nor of the fundamental constitutional importance."

Mr. Morrison again emphasised this in reply to Mr. Pickthorn: "The transformation of the capitalist industry into a Socialist industry is outside the whole fundamental constitution of the Stat. This is an argument about how best to get a living, and has nothing to do with the British constitution."

On the 30th August, 1945, the Mining Association issued a statement:

"... to place themselves at the disposal of the Government. In the interim period it is of vital national importance that the output of coal should be increased, and the colliery owners will co-operate with the Government in the fullest possible manner with this object in view."

For decades the miners have fought for nationalisation of the coal industry. But there is the world of difference between the present form of nationalisation, the whole burden of reorganisation and the payment of millions to the coalowners on the backs of the miners and the workers—and the nationalisation fought for by the miners.

Miners' Control Essential.

Already under the growing pressure of the rank and file who look eagerly for the benefits of the Labour Government, the leaders of the Mineworkers Union are conducting a campaign for a Miners' Charter. It is possible that Mr. Shinwell, in an attempt to prevent the growing wave of protest, will make small concessions to the miners. But what a disgrace it is that the Labour Government should refuse to grant shorter hours, higher pay longer holidays, etc., while it gives to the very people who wrecked the industry in order to make their millions, millions of pounds in compensation! The thoroughly opportunist nature of the Union leaders is demonstrated by the fact that they have uttered not one word of condemnation of this betrayal.

Horne and Lewther are agreed that the Mineworkers' Union should become the chief production officer of the State. Given certain concessions, much of their post support, they will help the State to draw yet more sweat out of the miners... in the interests of the capitalists, and in order to guarantee the millions of compensation to the owners."

Only if the mining industry is placed under the control of the workers, can nationalisation serve the interests of the working class. If Lawther and Horner were seriously concerned about the needs of the miners, they would condemn the Coal Bill and expose the Coal Board—which is a capitalist Coal Board.

Every miner, every worker, understands the need for control and planning. But every miner and worker also knows that control and planning in the interests of capitalism can only lead to economic chaos and a worsening of conditions. Why should the Labour Government be timid and cowardly before the capitalists?

The miners must conduct a vigorous campaign for workers' management of the coal industry, for control over the pit managers and technicians, for the abolition of compensation.

For the Miners' Charter! For the Abolition of Compensation! Not a Capitalist Coal Board—But Workers' Management!

HAMPSTEAD PUBLIC MEETING on THE WORLD FOOD SHORTAGE to be held on THURSDAY, 21st MARCH, at 8 p.m.

STANFIELD HOUSE, Hampstead High Street, near Hampstead Tube. Speakers: Bill Mellors, Ajit Roy