

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● MONDAY MARCH 5, 1973 ● No. 1013 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## SPECIAL TUC MEETS TODAY BLACK MONDAY

By Royston Bull

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But however great the currency confusion, and whichever way it slides next, the capitalists' general strategy remains the same: to pass the burdens of uncontrollable world inflation onto the working class. This will now be speeded up.

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Coupled with this could well be large-scale bankruptcies of financial and industrial corporations leading to closures and considerable unemployment.

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This means overcoming the resistance of the trade unions by introducing corporatist machinery like the National Industrial Relations Court and the Pay Board. Shortly, nothing less than a fully-fledged corporate state will be adequate for the task.

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Their document before today's special Congress—inadequate even two weeks ago—fails to even mention the capitalist crisis or the dangers of ruling-class reaction. In fact, they want Congress to abandon the fight against the Tories.

Workers in struggle against the state control of wages will be left to fight it out alone. The TUC leaders are determined that there shall be no political strike movement against the government.

Today's special Congress has been carefully prepared with just one aim in view—to defeat the call for a General Strike.

The TUC leaders will carry out the role which the labour bureaucracy has always played under capitalism—to contain the working-class struggle within safe reformist demands.

They want the working class to give them support while they 'negotiate' on the workers' behalf with the employers or with 10 Downing Street. They have become part of the system. Therefore they do not want it to be brought down.

This means the bureaucracy will conduct a conscious struggle to undermine all developments which would lead the working class to an understanding of the need to challenge capitalism for state power.

Yet this challenge is what is now required, nothing less. In order to maintain the rights to free collective-bargaining and to free trade unionism, it is a vital necessity for the working class to force the resignation of the Tory government and the repeal of all anti-union legislation.

The measures the ruling class is being forced to take to try and shore up its economically bankrupt international position will not stop at big fines to curb trade unions, or putting dockers into jail, or cutting living standards by holding down wages while prices are let rip.

But the working class will not easily be driven back to the degradations of the 1930s and the depression.

That is why the Tory government is feverishly preparing to take on the trade unions, to defeat the resistance to the pay laws and the rent increases, and to impose a corporate state to permanently discipline the working class.

That is why the TUC chiefs are co-operating in the abolition of fundamental trade union rights by channelling workers' resistance into harmless protests.

Secretly they welcome the corporate state in order to deal with any revolutionary mass movement that the crisis engenders.

This is why the Communist Party Stalinists are



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The Communist Party is thus, once again, helping to prepare the defeat of the working class, as Stalinism has always done.

In the coming political crisis, the spineless confusion in the labour movement leadership will bring a crushing set-back for the working class unless new leaders are put in.

Only the revolutionary policies of the Socialist Labour League can provide

the leadership necessary to meet the coming storm.

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● A Labour government must be elected pledged to carry out these demands. Their inability to do so will make it possible to expose reformism in practice.

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# Brussels crisis conference over dollar Euro-float doomed from the start

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

FINANCE MINISTERS of the nine Common Market countries were locked in conference in Brussels yesterday afternoon planning a joint float of their currencies against the dollar. The crisis conference was their response to the unprecedented wave of dollar selling which forced the closure of foreign exchange markets in most of the major capitalist centres last week.

The new dollar crisis struck only 17 days after the 10-per-cent devaluation of the dollar forced by the American government and big business on the Europeans and the Japanese.

There is open acknowledgement that the basic cause is a total collapse of confidence in paper currency and the international monetary system. As the 'International Herald Tribune' put it on Friday: 'Unlike previous crises, the dollar is not being dumped for other currencies now because there is an expectation that it will be devalued—in fact many experts believe the dollar is too cheap under the rates set on February 13.

'Bankers and economists insist that the dollar's weakness is basically a sign of a complete lack of confidence in the international monetary system.'

The system of fixed parities brought into existence at the Bretton Woods conference of 1944 is now utterly in ruins. Since the end of last week practically every capitalist currency is floating against the dollar.

This must lead to a breakdown of world trade, which has expanded in the past 25 years only on the basis of fixed parities providing some guarantee that traders would not lose on the money markets. There are no such guarantees with floating currencies.

The demand for a co-ordinated European float against the other world currencies is a doomed attempt to preserve some semblance of unity among the EEC countries. Its first effect will be to throw the full burden of the crisis onto Britain.

The Tory government is hoping for three guarantees from the other eight Common Market countries before they fix sterling, which has been floating since June last year. They want sterling fixed at its 'correct' rate, neither too high (which would hit British exports) nor too low (which would force up prices even faster than at present). They also want the EEC to guarantee sterling balances (British overseas debts) and an assurance that in the future they can devalue if it becomes necessary.

The character of these guarantees only reveals the Tories' desperation. They floated sterling eight months ago precisely because they did not know what rate to fix it at and could not maintain such a rate anyway.

To relinquish responsibility for the sterling balance to the other EEC countries will only strengthen their demands for even tougher anti-working-class measures in line with Common Market 'anti-inflation' policy.

And the final demand for permission to devalue in the future would make nonsense of the whole exercise.

The purpose of a joint float, particularly as far as the West Germans are concerned, is to force the entire Common Market to take joint responsibility for supporting the mark and other currencies which are under pressure.

The British government's only response in the present situation must be to turn round savagely and mount far more sweeping attacks on workers' basic rights, living standards and wages.

THIRTY members of Egypt's sole political party, the Arab Socialist Union, were dismissed at the weekend in a continued purge of political 'deviationists'. The expelled members, mostly left-wingers, will be deprived of the right to work. A total of 119 people have been expelled since the purge began last month.



Arab students demonstrating in Manchester at the weekend over the forced crash-landing of the Libyan airliner in the Israeli held Sinai desert two weeks ago.

## BRIEFLY • BRIEFLY

PAKISTANI workers and youth marched 300-strong through Luton on Saturday to protest against the shooting by police of two Pakistani youths at the Indian High Commission. Luton secretary of the Pakistan Solidarity Front, Mr A. R. Malik, said:

'This has aroused feelings of anger and sorrow among the Pakistanis of Luton. As a matter of fact, the whole event was so tragic that no British citizen can remain unconcerned about the brutal act of the armed police. Today it was the Pakistani youth, tomorrow it can be the British youth.'

CATALAN Liberation Front member José Pascal Armar has been sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment for being a member of an illegal organization. The Madrid Public Order Tribunal claimed that police found explosives in a garage which Armar owned. Another 'crime' was a visit paid to the International Association for the Defence of Ethnic Minorities in Milan.

SOUTH AFRICAN students have elected a 12-man management committee to perform the functions of their union's executive members banned by government decree from any part in university or student life. The orders banned eight leaders of NUSAS and six members of the black South African Students' Organization, two of whom were placed under daily 12-hour house arrest.

BARCELONA metro workers stopped trains and occupied the stations at the weekend in support of their demands for better conditions. Impromptu, illegal meetings were held with passengers.

## Shot US diplomats 'CIA men'

## Portuguese in guerrilla talks with Vorster

THE VISIT of Portugal's Foreign Minister, Dr Rui Patricio, to South Africa this week, will be concerned with the maintenance of white supremacy in the whole of southern Africa now threatened by nationalist guerrilla movements. The region's white minorities hold down millions of oppressed Africans by armed force, but their domination is now being threatened by an escalation of guerrilla struggles.

Portugal has been waging war for years against the liberation forces in Mozambique in a campaign which ties up thousands of troops and imposes a heavy drain on her economy.

Patricio made an on-the-spot investigation of the situation both in Mozambique and Angola before going to Cape Town to meet Prime Minister Balthazar Vorster and members of his cabinet.

The situation in Rhodesia has also been causing concern as a result of the flare-up of guerrilla activity, which has resulted in the deaths of seven whites and the wounding of many more.

South Africa is already assisting Ian Smith's regime with a contingent of armed police trained in counter-insurgency operations.

Portugal is concerned about this because the guerrillas have been using bases in the western shoulder of Mozambique which juts into Rhodesia and Zambia.

Co-ordination of anti-guerrilla activity on an areas basis has also become crucial as a result of the construction of the Cabora Bassa dam complex, due to be completed in 1975.

This project, regarded as a great engineering feat, is intended to

supply electric power to South Africa, although it stands in Portuguese territory.

A 500 mile-long high-tension cable will be required to carry the power.

Obviously this will be vulnerable to guerrilla attack. It will not only be necessary to protect it with troops, but Portugal intends to defoliate the countryside on each side of it.

Another problem of mutual concern is the closure of the border between Zambia and Rhodesia by Ian Smith, which resulted in a counter-move by Zambia re-routing copper away from Rhodesia and Mozambique.

This has entailed financial loss for both Portugal and South Africa.

Portugal wants a financial contribution from Vorster's government to help cover its military commitments against the guerrillas.

Voluntary organizations in South Africa already collect large sums, as well as medical supplies and comforts, to help Portuguese troops fighting in Mozambique and Angola.

The attempt to maintain white hegemony in southern Africa necessarily brings the Portuguese colonialists together with the apartheid regimes of Vorster and Smith.

BLACK SEPTEMBER Palestinian guerrillas who killed three diplomats in the Saudi Arabian embassy at Khartoum, surrendered to the Sudanese authorities yesterday and released two other captive envoys unharmed.

The three dead men included the American ambassador, Cleo Noel, his counsellor, Curtis Moore, and the Belgian charge d'affaires, Guy Eid. The two survivors were from Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The eight Black Septemberists killed the three men after the United States and Jordan had made it clear they would not accede to their demands. These included release of Abu Daud and other prominent Palestinian prisoners in Jordanian hands.

The black September group, a Palestinian secret society, takes its name from the massacre in September 1970 when King Hussein of Jordan attempted to exterminate the Palestine guerrilla movement.

Its members are sworn to avenge themselves on King Hussein and anyone believed or known to back him. At least one of the hostages executed in Khartoum, US embassy counsellor Moore, is known to have played a prominent role in organizing the 1970 massacres.

The Arab Press yesterday said that the US ambassador, Noel, was also, like Moore, a member of the Central Intelligence Agency responsible for crimes against the Palestinian people.

## Greek premier raises 'red students' bogey

GREEK premier George Papadopoulos told a weekend meeting of university rectors that the present student strike wave was the work of left-wing extremists.

'I know that there are a few former politicians who direct student unrest. We shall crush them. We are determined to safeguard security and peace and will spare no sacrifice to achieve this,' pledged the ex-artillery colonel who led the 1967 coup.

Over 80,000 students are engaged in a battle for freedom to organize their own union—the present students' union, like the trade unions, is controlled by the military.

Only government candidates can stand for election and all university academic bodies contain officially appointed 'commissioners', retired army officers.

Athens Polytechnic students have been at the centre of the fight against the dictatorship. Shortly after their strike began on February 1, ten students were arrested for distributing leaflets.

On February 14, teachers backed the students. The police moved in, surrounded the Polytechnic and beat up oppositionists.

## Second massacre?

AMERICAN government officials are preparing to use armed force to drive out some 200 Indian militants who have seized the village of Wounded Knee, site of a notorious massacre of Sioux 83 years ago.

The Indians, many of them women and children, say they will stay in the village until the government either accedes to their demands or kills them. 'The Federal government has to massacre us or meet our demands,' a spokesman said.

The town, seized in an attempt to highlight the continuing oppression of the American Indians, is now surrounded by hundreds of armed Marshals, FBI agents and National Guard.

After five days the government spokesmen are saying that their patience is exhausted. They have even brought in two Phantom jets to overfly the village and intimidate the occupants. Other weapons on the government side include armoured vehicles.

NEWS DESK

01-720 2000

# BUILDING BOSSES SCREAM FOR 'LAW AND ORDER'

The Tories haven't easily forgotten last year's strike by building workers. There have been detailed police inquiries and ferocious charges laid against groups of workers.

The National Federation of Building Trades Employers have added fuel to the fire by their wildly exaggerated dossier on 'violence and intimidation'. The federation is pressing the Home Secretary, Robert Carr (not that they need to press him very much!) to introduce tougher laws against picketing.



Robert Carr, Home Secretary: tougher laws against picketing.

Now the witch-hunting has been joined by Mr Nicholas Winterton, MP for Macclesfield. He told a recent meeting of the Crewe Conservative Association that 'violence and intimidation' had been used against building workers and trade union officials.

'It is a regrettable fact that in industrial relations in Britain today, violence pays.

'Another conclusion which may be formed is that there was a steady increase in violence from isolated, sporadic incidents in the earlier days of the strike to virtual "mobster" tactics towards the end, culminating in the events of notorious Black Wednesday—

September 6—when building sites over much of the West Midlands were subjected to deliberate and well-directed attack.

'This points to the final conclusion, that the violence was the work of comparatively small but co-ordinated groups of people who are well organized, well directed and well financed.'

On September 6, he said, roving pickets from Oswestry, Wrexham, Chester, Market Drayton and Colwyn Bay 'descended on 12 Midland building sites in an orgy of destruction'.

Winterton said the Federation dossier confirmed that builders had used 'personal violence, arson and damage to valuable plant, equipment, materials and property'.

He concluded by saying: 'Either new laws must be brought in or existing laws enforced to ensure that the activities of anarchists and communist thugs are crushed.'

Winterton was elected to parliament in September 1971 following the death of the Macclesfield MP, Sir Arthur Vere Harvey.

Thirty-five-year-old Winterton was educated at Rugby and served his National Service with the King's Hussars. He underwent managerial training with Shell Mex and BP before joining Stevens Hodgson, where he is now general manager.

It just so happens that Stevens Hodgson is a firm which makes handsome profits in the building industry. It is engaged in the sale, hire and servicing of contractors' equipment.

In 1967 Winterton was elected to the Warwickshire County Council, where he was a member of the building committee.

His blood and thunder received a huge ovation from the Crewe Tories at the Wistaston Manor Hotel. But the local working community is reported to have been unmoved by the remarks of this ex-public schoolboy.

Just a trace of embarrassment flitted across the faces of trade union and employers' spokesmen when they announced the result of their first joint conciliation and arbitration on an industrial dispute.

But without any hesitation Peter Kavanagh, Communist Party building workers' leader, described the result as 'a complete victory for us'.

The TUC-Confederation of British Industry conciliation service recommended the re-employment of Kavanagh and his workmate Brian Anthony, also a member of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians.

Workers at the Guilford Street, London, site of the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases have been on strike for ten months over the sacking of the two men for refusing to go on 'the lump' (work without union cards or insurance).

## JOINT REQUEST

Kavanagh hit the headlines some months back by shining up a crane on the site, and occupying it in protest against the sackings.

Then the dispute was referred to the TUC-CBI conciliators after a joint request from the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, UCATT and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The request was accepted by CBI director-general W. O. Campbell Adamson and TUC secretary Victor Feather. The case was referred to Dan Flunder, director of Dunlop Ltd, and ex-miners' union secretary Will Paynter.

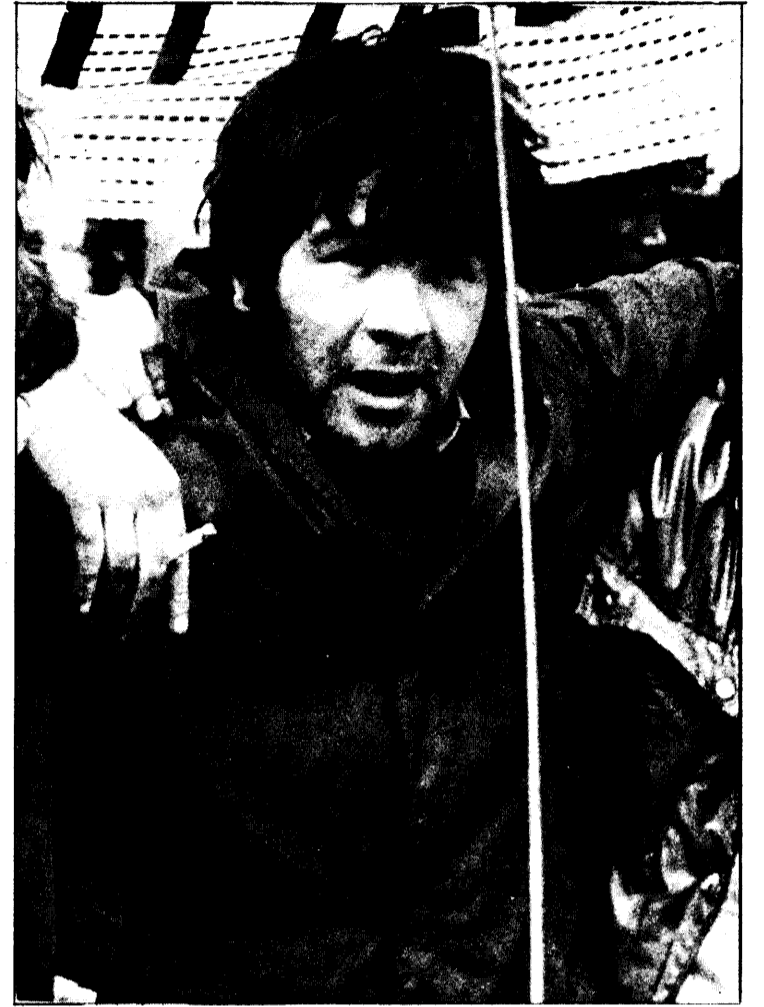
After a private hearing on January 31, Flunder and Paynter—an ex-CP member—filed the following award:

'Having given careful consideration to the evidence and to the circumstances of this case, we are of the opinion that Y. R. Lovell (London) Ltd should afford an opportunity for further employment to the steel-fixers who were discharged by the sub-contractors Go-Fix Steelfixing Company.'

The Guilford Street building workers returned to work on this basis last Monday, after an offer of employment from Lovell's to the two men.

CBI spokesmen are slightly embarrassed by the fact that the deputy chairman of Lovell's is Peter Trench (55), a former NFBTE director.

# ... AND THE CP CLAIMS IT'S A VICTORY



Peter Kavanagh, Communist Party building workers' leader, who occupied a crane to voice his opposition to the lump.

Trench is a member of the CBI panel from which conciliators and arbitrators for the joint TUC-CBI service are drawn.

It is perhaps just unfortunate for the look of things that French's company was a chief party to the service's first and, so far, only case.

## NOT WORRIED

TUC spokesmen are slightly embarrassed by Kavanagh's claims of victory in an award made by a former leading member of his own Party, Paynter.

The Communist Party, however, is apparently not at all

worried by the impression Kavanagh's remark gives that they are in favour of the TUC-CBI service, which is patently designed to end strikes under the threat that if they are not ended 'voluntarily' the Industrial Relations Act may be used.

Although several days have elapsed since it reported Kavanagh's words, no editorial disclaimer has yet appeared in the 'Morning Star'.

Both Trench, a founder member of the late Prices and Incomes Board, and Paynter, ex of the Commission on Industrial Relations, know the ropes as far as helping governments out is concerned.

# PRICE INCREASES, SACKINGS AND BREAD MAKERS PROFITS GO UP

Rank-Hovis-MacDougal, Britain's largest flour milling and bread combine is planning to sack 400 workers at its Openshaw factory, near Manchester.

This giant company, of course, is seeking a 1½p increase in the price of a loaf. The last financial year was a record one for RHM, all divisions except flour milling announcing higher profits.

Now rumours are flying around Openshaw that RHM is to transfer production of Aora suet to its Hartlepool works.

Many of the Openshaw workers are women and it is understood the closure will be

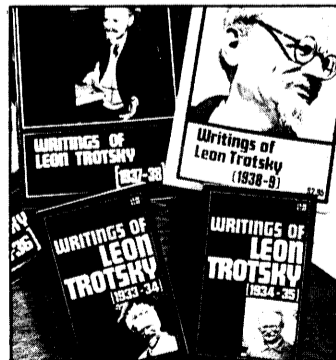
completed by 1974. Not that the fact there are already 1,500 unemployed in Openshaw will alter the thinking of RHM.

The company gave £4,500 to the right-wing Economic League and £5,000 to the Aims of Industry, report the last accounts. Both these organizations are notorious for their anti-working class sentiments.

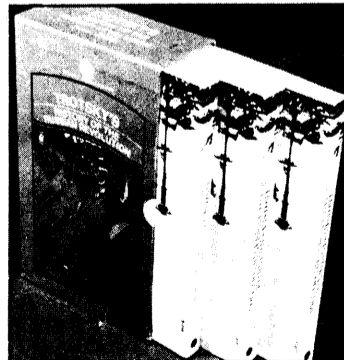
While the Openshaw women face increases in the price of bread and the dole, they should spare a thought for the hard-pressed Lord Rank and his board of directors.

Last year they paid themselves a phenomenal £310,000. Lord Rank himself got £41,700, with share dividends bringing his salary up to £52,000.

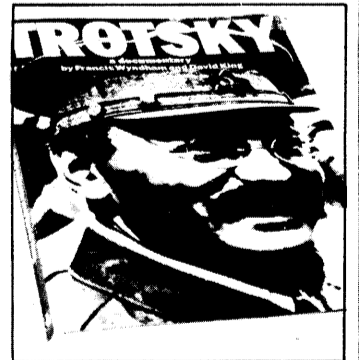
# ANNOUNCING...



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# A POLICY TO MEET THE CRISIS

**THE TORY government is relentlessly pursuing its plan for a confrontation with the working class. Each day new sections of workers are forced to become criminals — under Tory law — to defend their standard of living against government-inspired soaring cost of living.**

Large sections of these workers openly acknowledge that the only answer to their fight to maintain a decent standard of living is a General Strike. That is, the creation of the industrial and political conditions which will force the government to resign.

In its place must be elected a Labour government which is pledged by the mass action of the working class to implement socialist policies.

We say 'pledged to socialist policies' knowing that the present leaders of the Labour movement have no intention of introducing such policies. Indeed, in the last analysis some of them will be prepared to join a coalition government with the Tories to head off the working class.

But if the working class is strong enough to force the Tories out, it is strong enough to deal with the traitors in its own midst. This can only be achieved by exposing them in the fight for an alternative socialist policy.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League calls upon the working class to support the following policies to unite the working class against the Tories and the present Wilson-Feather leadership of the labour movement:

Here is the policy which the next Labour government must be forced to carry out.

**1) A Labour government must immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act, Housing Finance Act, Immigration Acts, Fair Trading Act and all wage control. After the repeal of all Tory anti-working class measures, there must be legislation to implement the Charter of Basic Rights, along the following lines.**

**2) The right to work!** Capitalism demands mass unemployment. The right to a job must

be guaranteed. This can only be done by breaking the grip of capitalist ownership on the economy. Employed and unemployed must unite to insist on a Labour government nationalizing the main industries and banks, under workers' control and without compensation.

The struggle must begin now. No closures, no sackings, must be the policy of the trade unions. Occupation of factories threatened with closure, as part of the fight to bring down the Tories.

**3) The democratic right to strike and to organize in trade unions.** Only the organized working class can lead mankind out of the historical crisis. Every right and every gain won by the working class, every democratic right in Britain, has been won because of the organized strength of the unions and the strike weapon.

A Labour government must immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act. This fight must begin now by forcing the TUC to break off all relations with the government and mobilize the working class to destroy state control of wages.

**4) The right to defend rights won in the past and change the system.** All the changes in legal procedures made by the Tory government must be repealed. All secret police and MI5 organizations must be dis-

banded and fully exposed. The secrets of the Tory administration in this sphere must be published. All rights to assembly, free speech and the Press must be guaranteed.

**5) The right to a higher standard of living.** It is not the living standards of trade unionists, but the profit system, which causes the crisis. The first step must be to expropriate all the great fortunes of the rich, close down the Stock Exchange, place a state control over all movements of capital in and out of the country.

Nationalization of the basic industries and of all large companies, banks, building and insurance societies will provide the resources for a unified plan to improve the living standards of the whole people. Workers' control of these, as well as the present nationalized industries, will run them in the interests of the workers and consumers.

Again, the fight must begin now. State control of wages must be answered by the most widespread fight for wage increases to meet price rises and improve standards. This means a fight to remove the Tory government and change the union leadership.

**6) The right to health and welfare benefits.** Every Tory government cut in welfare benefits, in the health service and in all public spending must

be revoked. On the basis of nationalization, a crash programme of expansion of services to the unemployed, the low-paid, the sick and the aged must be undertaken as an absolute priority. The working class and the Labour government must take immediate and absolute responsibility for these victims of the capitalist system.

**7) The right to decent housing.** Decent housing is not a luxury; it is a necessity. People have the basic right to decent accommodation at rents they can afford. Nationalization of the handful of building monopolies and building societies will provide the basis for a massive programme of new house building. The disgraceful problem of the homeless in the cities must be immediately solved by census and taking-over of all unoccupied property.

**8) The international responsibilities of the working class.** The working class is international. We fight for the unrestricted right of any worker of any nationality to move freely through the world.

Withdraw the troops from Ireland. Unite the Irish and British working class to throw out the Lynch and Heath governments.

Unite in the struggle for the Socialist United States of Europe, the only alternative to

the Common Market plans for dictatorship.

Withdraw all British troops from abroad and disband the present standing army.

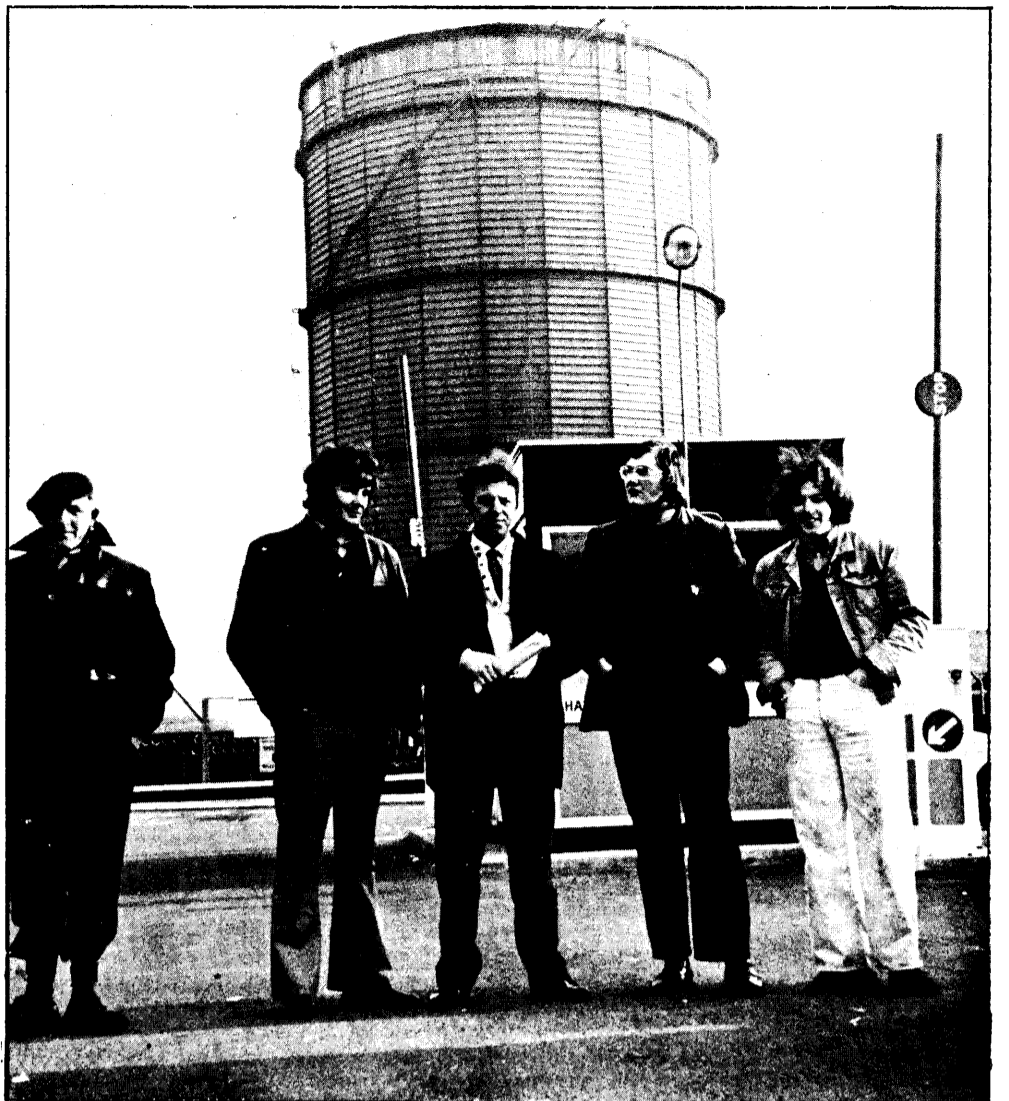
Sign treaties with all ex-colonial countries for programmes of equal trade and mutual assistance.

Break from NATO and all imperialist alliances.

For the carrying out of such policies the SLL fights for the setting up of Councils of Action to lead the struggle against the Tory government in every area. These Councils unite trade unionists, tenants, unemployed, all political parties and tendencies of the working class (Labour Party, Communist Party, SLL, IS, IMG, etc.) to fight against the main enemy, the Tory government.

The SLL calls upon every socialist and class-conscious worker to consider this programme and manifesto very carefully, and to decide now to take up their inescapable responsibilities. The building of the revolutionary party is the burning question now, not in some remote future. The SLL is determined to carry through its transformation into a revolutionary party.

We appeal to all readers of the Workers Press and our supporters to join the SLL and help transform it into a revolutionary party.



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COACHES AND TRAINS LEAVING FROM ALL AREAS

BY JACK GALE

Turkey was one of the first countries to receive aid from the United States under the post-war 'Truman Doctrine', designed to 'save the world from communism'.

She is now a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Council of Europe and an associate member of the Common Market. She has 600,000 men under arms.

In 1960 the Turkish army overthrew the government of Adnan Menderes. With 14 members of his government he was hauled before a specially-constituted High Court of Justice and charged with personal corruption and 'subverting the constitution'.

All 15 defendants were found guilty, and on September 17, the Prime Minister and two others were executed.

The armed services chiefs had formed a National Unity Committee which, after Menderes' overthrow, set up a National Security Council.

This Council has held effective power ever since.

From 1961 to 1965 Turkey was governed by a coalition government, headed by Ismet Inonu, replaced in 1965 by a Justice Party government under Süleyman Demirel.

In March 1971, the army again moved in, forcing the resignation of the Demirel government and putting a government of its own choice in its place.

The closing months of Demirel's government had been characterized by industrial-economic conflict and by mounting disorders amongst university students throughout the country.

Demirel himself was in a weak position. His parliamentary majority had been reduced to two the previous December by the defection of a right-wing group of his own party.

Consequently when the student unrest culminated in a programme of planned left-wing anti-government and anti-US demonstrations the government was unable to quell them. The Prime Minister introduced draft legislation to strengthen governmental power, but while parliament was still debating this, students in Ankara kidnapped four US airforce men.

## Prime Minister blamed

The search for the kidnapped men led to a pitched battle between students and police on the campus of the Middle East Technical University in which two people died. Several arms caches were discovered in the university buildings.

Although the kidnapers had released their hostages unhurt, the Prime Minister was widely blamed for allowing such a situation to develop, and the army seized the opportunity to issue an ultimatum denouncing Demirel and calling for the formation of a 'strong and credible government' capable of restoring law and order.

The military chiefs declared that if such a government was not established 'the Turkish armed forces will use their legal rights and seize power directly to accomplish their duty of protecting and supervising the Turkish republic'.

Demirel duly resigned and an 'above-party' government was formed under the premiership of a former opposition deputy, Mr Nihat Erim.

Erim's government came to power with promises of widespread social and economic reforms and a pledge to restore 'law and order' within a year. When the Prime Minister eventually resigned 'exhausted' in April 1972 neither of these objectives had been achieved. Many of the 'reform'

# TURKEY: MARTIAL LAW AND CENSORSHIP



Nihat Erim, Prime Minister of Turkey for a year. Above: The Turkish military are called out against demonstrators in Istanbul, protesting at anti-union laws.

measures were still under discussion in parliament and the country was not yet free from violent incidents.

Early in 1971 an underground guerrilla movement calling itself the Turkish People's Liberation Army (TPLA) had emerged as the main group responsible for the anti-government demonstrations.

Members of the TPLA claimed responsibility both for the kidnapping of the US airforce men and, later, for the abduction and murder of the Israeli Consul-General, Mr Ephraim Elrom.

In November 1971 several of those on trial for the murder of Elrom escaped from prison and in March 1972 kidnapped three British radar technicians. This was an attempt to save the lives of three others sentenced to death for their part in the earlier kidnapping of the US servicemen.

The kidnapers are alleged to have shot their British hostages and the whole incident ended in a gun battle with the security forces in which most of the kidnapers were themselves killed. Early in May TPLA members hijacked a plane and held passengers and crew ransom for several hours in Sofia airport in a final and unsuccessful attempt to force the government to commute the death sentences.

In his drive to restore 'law and order' and crush the TPLA, Erim's government introduced a series of measures. In April 1971 martial law was imposed on 11 of the country's 66 provinces, including all university towns and the Kurdish provinces of east Anatolia.

Martial law is still in force today. It provides for military trials, detention without charge or trial for up to 30 days, house-to-house searches and the imposing of curfews.

Widespread arrests followed throughout the summer and autumn of 1971, involving hundreds of people whom the government declared had been guilty by their attitude of 'helping to spread an atmosphere conducive to the present state of anarchy'. Although some of these people were released after interrogation, others have been tried on charges of disseminating communist propaganda, and others are involved in mass military trials now taking place.

The pro-Moscow Turkish Worker's Party has been banned and its members arraigned on charges of communist propaganda; most of the left-wing Press has gone out of print or subjected itself to rigorous self-censorship and the Turkish radio and television association put under the control of an ex-General.

In November 1971 parliament unanimously approved a Bill strengthening approximately one-third of the clauses of the 1961 constitution. In February 1972 a Bill was introduced to limit the rights of association and, particularly, to prevent student organizations from involving themselves in politics.

For five weeks after Erim's resignation, Turkey was without a recognized government. Eventually on May 22, 1972 Mr Ferit Melen—the former Defence Minister and a representative of the small National Reliance Party—managed to form a Cabinet. His government consists of representatives from both major parties

together with a number of 'non-party' political technocrats.

Melen himself is a strong anti-communist, who concentrates on strict 'law-and-order' legislation designed to crush all left-wing or terrorist opposition. Its main task is to prepare the country for the elections scheduled for October 1973.

The two main political parties in Turkey today are the Justice Party (JP) and the Republican People's Party (RPP).

The Justice Party is headed by Süleyman Demirel and was in power until the military ultimatum of March 1971. The JP is the virtual descendant of Menderes' banned Democratic Party (although it is a criminal offence to say so in Turkey), stands for private enterprise and enjoys support among the landowners in the country and among the small-town industrialists and entrepreneurs in the towns. In the elections of 1965 and 1969 the JP gained over 50 per cent of the vote.

The Republican People's Party was founded by Kemal Ataturk and headed, until May 1972, by his 88-year-old friend and colleague, Ismet Inonu. In the last two elections it gained a bare 30 per cent of the votes. Support for the RPP comes from the urban educated élite, which in Turkey includes army officers.

## Close control by the army

Communism or support for a Communist Party is illegal in Turkey. The pro-Moscow Turkish Workers' Party—banned since March 1971—was seriously split over the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

The army maintains a close control over political affairs, although usually avoiding a total open military takeover.

Strict repression is waged against left-wing dissension in its ranks. Eighty-three officers and men of the Istanbul gar-

ison now face trial on charges of alleged complicity in the activities of the TPLA.

After the overthrow of the Menderes regime in 1960-1961, freedom of the Press and of publication was 'guaranteed' by the constitution. Article 11 specifically stated that this freedom could not be limited by the law, 'even when applied for the purpose of upholding public interest, morals and order, social justice and national security'.

Journalists could, however, be prosecuted for defamation of the state and for communist propaganda under Articles 158/9 and 141/2 of the Penal Code; and for criticizing the 1960 military intervention or suggesting that Turkey would not thrive as a democracy under the 1962 Law of Measures.

The Press has been one of the main victims of military repression since March 1971. In martial law areas a number of journals and newspapers have been suspended or closed entirely and their editors and staff arrested.

The financial losses incurred and the fear of imprisonment encouraged newspaper owners and editors to adhere closely to the official guidelines laid down by the authorities.

These advise the Press to refrain from criticism of the government, state authorities and security forces; from open discussion of the March 1971 ultimatum; and from publishing material which might seem to praise subversive elements or lead to disorder.

Given such a broad definition, editors in practice tend to exercise careful self-censorship and, when in doubt about an article, to seek the advice of the authorities.

Radio and television face more direct censorship. The association has been put under the control of an ex-General and an army colonel is now responsible for scrutinizing news bulletins before they are broadcast.

CONTINUED WEDNESDAY



John Watson (left), a 19-year-old miner, and his friend Lawrence Bathgate at the Jarrow rehearsals.

## JARROW MINER HELPS TO RE-ENACT LOCAL HISTORY

**John Watson (19) learned his first lesson in class struggle on the picket line outside Westoe colliery in the last miners' strike. Like the legendary William Jobling, he was a rank-and-file miner.**

John paid for his militancy with a few bruises from the police when they charged the picket. Jobling paid with his life—over 140 years ago when the first miners' union was built on the north-east coast near John's home town—Jarrow.

John is one of a dedicated group of youth and workers trying to reach back to the days of Jobling. They want to show that the early struggles of the north-east miners and what they won as rights are once more being threatened by the Tories and the employers. But to win now the workers today need more than a union.

In the evening John Watson takes part in the Pageant rehearsals at Jarrow. During the day he talks to his mates at the pit, trying to make them see what he has seen about history and its role in today's struggle. In his spare time he goes out and recruits to the Pageant and sells tickets for the big day on March 11, when the Jobling episode and the three other episodes of class struggle will be presented as one at the Empire Pool, Wembley.

The politics, the campaigning and the attempt to make history live through his own efforts and understanding are new to John. But he says it is a task that cannot be avoided.

'It was when I read the script that I began to like the idea and understand what it was all about.

'At first I thought it was a laugh, but they kept on arguing with me. I thought there must be something in this if they are so persistent. Then I went to the public meeting. What was said there decided it for me. It showed that history was not just the past, but was happening once more. The Tories are taking away the things that blokes like Jobling fought for.'

John's friend Lawrence Bathgate thinks Jobling is important too.

'The important thing with this part of the Pageant is that it is a true story. I admire Jobling very much. He was an ordinary miner who did not let his mates down. He didn't crawl to the bosses when they tried him. He went to his death so the union could go on.

'This is not just history because it's not that much better today. What do I have to do to live? I have had every rotten job in Jarrow, including the pits. Now I clean out the holds up to my chest in filthy oil. It's job and finish—sometimes I work all the night then go straight over to my regular day shift. What do I get? £24 a week. The alternative is the dole. Have we really come that far from Jobling?'

The lessons of the Pageant campaign so far for John and Lawrence have been direct and simple.

John: 'The main thing I have learned in the discussions we have had is that you can't trust your leaders. This is something I knew before as well. It is obvious when you look at men in the TUC and

Labour Party who helped the Tories to go into the Common Market.

'Now we see the worst thing of all—all these leaders are prepared to see the unions be smashed up.

'I see the most important thing is to fight against the Tory government. By going into the past this way we can show better what is happening today. We show, for a start, that despite all their nice friendly words, the Tories and the bosses have always wanted to get rid of the unions.

'I think people will understand this. It's happened to me. Before, when the pit went on strike, I used to say: "Ah let them get on with it". But now I have changed my mind. I think we have to stand together and fight. It's the only way. The fight is against the government.

'But how we fight is important,' says John. 'All this arbitration, ballots and works-to-rule is rubbish. There is only one way—an all-out strike. The problems are so big now that it's not just enough to have one section out—like the miners. All unions are for the chop, so we should have everyone out.

'I am determined now to see this play through to the end. I think it will make the workers who see it rise up. They are going to say "What have we been doing all this time?" They will see the play and see what is happening now and what was happening then, and they will organize against it. If it does this it will do good because it will be the start of the revolutionary party to get rid of the Tories for good. That's what any real worker wants.'



## 'THE TRUE STORY OF WILLIAM JOBLING COMES TO LIFE'

Jarrow is most famous for its hunger march. But the crusade during the 1930s was not the most important contribution the town made to the history of working-class struggle. In its implications for future generations of workers the martyrdom of William Jobling dwarfed the fight against unemployment. It is his episode organizers of the Pageant—the 'Road to Workers' Power'—in the north east are bringing to life. **STEPHEN JOHNS reports.**

William Jobling was not a leader in the 1830 miners' strike in the north-east and it is this fact that paradoxically makes his martyrdom so significant.

He was picked out from the

ranks of the ordinary strikers and framed on a false charge of murder. He made no great speeches—he was not a skilled orator like all of the strikers.

But his refusal to admit his guilt, his insistence that he







was being persecuted as an example to others made him the symbol of the miners' struggle.

He was hanged at Durham. His body was coated in pitch, caged and fixed to a pole in the Jarrow estuary or 'Slake'. There his widow could watch the tide wash up and cover her husband's corpse three times every day.

The importance of the Jobling episode is that it shows the stubborn struggles of ordinary miners. Their first moves towards combination brought them immediately into the first organized conflict with the ruling class.

From this they saw themselves as a class and identified the capitalists as their opponents. The strike was not successful, the owners withdrew all the concessions. The miners learned that their rights would not be won in one

struggle—but that the struggle is never ending.

So, despite defeat and bitter persecution, they clung to the union as though it was their lives. In fact it was their lives. Everything they became was because of the union.

This is therefore an extremely important episode.

Stephen Clarke-Hall, who is directing the Jarrow episode, told me about the importance of Jobling and the hard campaign in the north-east.

'Jobling has always been a hidden history, yet it is the history of the north-east and all the workers who live here. In this area, up until the last year, Jobling was widely known as a murderer. This was because his example and the history of those vital early struggles was considered so dangerous. It is only in this Pageant, which is the centre point of a struggle even more

important than Jobling's—to build a revolutionary party in Britain—that the true story of William Jobling can come to life.



Stephen Clarke-Hall. Above: A section of the Jarrow group in discussion during rehearsals.

'You learn this almost immediately. It is impossible to get people interested in this campaign without presenting it as part of a fight to remove the Tories for good and defend all the basic democratic rights of the working class.

'Like Manchester, we found that the people who came round through interest and thought we were doing a "good thing" were not the people who made this Pageant possible. It was the workers and youth we really had to fight for politically who came through in the end.

'I don't think there is a single person we have in the cast now who was with us at the beginning. But this is surely to be expected; it is only through conflict that real gains in understanding can be reached.

'This is where the campaigning to sell tickets to bring

people round the movement is vital. To reduce the Pageant to rehearsals would be hopeless—the youth and workers we had around us would drop away. "What is the point of this?", they would say. "Nothing". And they would be right.

'In that sense "acting" has been no problem, because it's not acting we are doing but a political job. The "cast" bring this conviction into their work. They feel its a real responsibility to the working-class movement, therefore results are achieved—sometimes very remarkable results.

'It starts and ends with struggle. We have only the determination of the working class to keep us in business—the ancestors of Jobling up here—and the determination to build the revolutionary party to finish the task the miners of 1830 started.'



Demonstration of strikers in a village in Northern France in 1936. It was the election of the Popular Front government which gave the signal for the great strike movement that could have been the start of revolution.

On May 14, a strike took place in the Bloch aircraft factory at Courbevoie, this time over wages and hours. This also was a solid strike and was settled on the workers' terms.

These first skirmishes passed off without receiving much attention in the Press. They showed that the working class was becoming conscious of its strength.

Strikes began to break out in a number of big factories in the engineering, motor car and aircraft industries in the Paris region. The demands were still confined to wages and were relatively modest. What was significant was that the employers quickly gave way.

In most cases they had not had to face such a unified and determined working class before. They were in a state of uncertainty as a result of the election victory of the Popular Front. The initiative had passed entirely to the workers. The old government was still carrying on while Blum formed his ministry. Meanwhile strikes spread from one factory to another.

On May 28 the strike wave reached the Renault factory. The 35,000 workers downed tools and occupied the premises. By the next day practically every major factory in the Paris industrial belt had been occupied. Workers remained in the factories day and night and local people brought in food.

# THE FRENCH POPULAR FRONT

## 1936: General Strike follows election victory

BY TOM KEMP

The success of the Popular Front in the French elections of April 26 and May 3, 1936, was the signal for a great strike movement which could have been the start of a successful revolution.

At its peak the strike was joined by between 2 and 3 million workers and was the greatest movement of its kind which France had ever seen. It was not called or desired by the trade unions or by the Socialist and Communist Parties, who were partners in the Popular Front coalition with the Radical Party.

As a great spontaneous uprising of the working class it remained unparalleled until the even-greater strike movement of May-June 1968, in which over 10 million workers were involved. But in 1936, as in 1968, the movement gained only small reforms and the working class was pushed back because the vital factor in a successful revolution, the revolutionary party, was lacking.

Yesterday's election in France raises the possibility of a similar working-class reaction in the event of a victory for the left coalition which is contesting the election on the so-called common programme.

This coalition is a carbon copy of the 1936 Popular Front and includes, in the shape of the rump of 'left' Radicals led by Maurice Fabre, the shadow of the bourgeoisie as a guarantee that it does not intend to overstep the confines of capitalism.

As in 1936, the CP Stalinists are the most fervent advocates of the Popular Front-type policies today, seeking an alliance with the sections of

the ruling class and their servants in order to secure a government prepared to fall in with the diplomatic needs of the Soviet bureaucracy. CP secretary Georges Marchais has given repeated guarantees of good behaviour, accepting the Bonapartist Constitution of the Fifth Gaullist republic and ready to take office under it.

Marchais lives in fear of the working class and strives to hold it in check. The promises of the common programme are intended to deflect the working class from the goal of power by cultivating the illusion that its demands can be met within capitalism by the use of the ballot. But the Stalinists are afraid that a victory will give the workers confidence to fight and that they will break out of the strait-jacket re-imposed after the events of May-June 1968.

### REFORM

An examination of the role which the Stalinists played in 1936 is extremely instructive in understanding their aims. The programme adopted by the Popular Front parties in January 1936 was along similar lines. It was a policy for the reform of French capitalism, then staggering under the blows of the economic slump of the 1930s.

Only a programme which made no inroads into capitalist private property was acceptable to the Radicals. It promised an improvement in living standards and a reduction in unemployment, but nothing was said about nationalization or even the 40-hour week.

Nevertheless, the working class saw in the electoral victory of the Popular Front and the defeat of the reactionaries

an affirmation of its own strength. After the second ballot on May 3, spontaneous demonstrations formed up in working-class districts and re-joining to the strains of the 'Internationale' went on far into the night.

The task of forming a new government fell upon Léon Blum, the reformist leader of the Socialist Party. At the conference of his party he had emphasized that the victory of the Popular Front would not mean that the time had come to make inroads into capitalist property. He made clear: 'We are going to act within the framework of the present regime, whose very vices we have denounced.'

Although the mainstay of the Popular Front, the Communist Party was not prepared to enter the government. Secretary Maurice Thorez had argued in favour of participation. He was outvoted on the Political Bureau and this position was backed up by Moscow. It was claimed that the presence of communists in the government would harm the Popular Front by frightening middle-class people!

It was only a year or two previously that the Communist Party had been following the ultra-left line of the so-called 'third period' with its theory of 'class against class' and its main slogan 'Soviets everywhere'. The call for soviets was still being heard from workers in 1935 and 1936, although it had been abandoned by the Party.

Thorez himself raised the call for soviets when speaking in the debate on the fascist demonstrations of February 1934. But with the adoption of the Popular Front line, such ultra-left slogans—which for the working class represented genuine revolutionary aspirations—had to be dropped.

In fact the Party tried to give every guarantee that it had now become a respectable 'democratic' party. Jacques Duclos told the Press on May 7, 1936, that the Party would respect private property. The Political Bureau called for the defence of the franc and the maintenance of the gold standard. In a letter to the Socialist Party it denied having called for the setting up of popular committees.

Not surprisingly, when the CP recently held an election meeting to which businessmen were invited in Paris, the same Jacques Duclos gave the same assurances as in 1936.

After the election results had been announced, Waldeck-Rochet declared: 'The electors did not vote for revolution; we are not putshists nor partisans of all or nothing. We will accept our responsibilities in co-operating in the improvement of the conditions of the working classes within the framework of the present system.'

At this time the CP leaders saw themselves not as aspiring cabinet ministers, as they do today, but rather as having a special mission to work among the working class to ensure that it did not go outside the reformist limits imposed by the Popular Front with bourgeois politicians. This was their role during the strikes, which took them by surprise.

The first strikes began in Le Havre and Toulouse on May 11. The Bréguet aircraft factory in Le Havre was occupied by the workers, who struck because the management had sacked two union officials who had taken the day off on May 1. A similar strike took place in the Latécoère aircraft factory in Toulouse. In both cases the strike was won, sacked men were reinstated and the workers paid for the time lost.

### IMPOSSIBLE

Whatever the immediate demands of the strikers, the occupation of the factories directly challenged the authority of the capitalists and the state. The government rejected the idea of sending in troops because it was feared this would aggravate the conflict. In any case, the army was made up of conscripts who would have been more likely to join the striking workers.

Later, when a member of Blum's administration inquired of the general commanding the Paris garrison how many troops would be required for the job, it was clear that it was impossible. In fact, the general told him, if he wanted to get the workers out of the factory he would have to call up the reservists among them inside to eject the rest.

The trade union officials, many of whom were CP members, tried to keep the strikes under control. On May 29 they succeeded in working out an agreement for Renault which said that a wage increase 'would be examined as quickly as possible'. That night the workers accepted the agreement and left the factory.

But it was only round one. Although some factories resumed normal working in the wake of Renault, the strikes were spreading and their impact was beginning to be felt in the provinces and outside the engineering industries which had so far been in the vanguard of the movement.

After a weekend in which the bosses were congratulating themselves that it was all over, the strikes spread rapidly again from June 2, despite the efforts of the trade unions to start negotiations.

Within a few days they had spread to hotels, restaurants, petrol distribution, clothing, building; workers who had never been on strike before and in many cases did not even belong to a union were occupying their places of work or going home.

CONTINUED WEDNESDAY

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## WELCOME TO EUROPE

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) could scarcely hide its pleasure. Its latest 'Industrial Relations Bulletin' has an item on the newly-formed European Trade Union Confederation.

Welcoming the formation of the new body, the 'Bulletin' says: 'Highly significant from a British point of view is the role the TUC will play in the new confederation. The TUC will be the largest single affiliated body and will therefore have considerable political weight and recognition of this fact is seen in the appointment of Mr Vic Feather as president.'

'Mr Feather's appointment is, of course, of interest seen in the light of the TUC's current opposition to British membership of the EEC. There is no doubt that the British trade union movement is coming under considerable pressure from its European counterparts on this issue.'

'One of the results of this pressure was the TUC's decision, reported recently, to send observers to the EEC Consultative Committees in the social policy field.'

Workers who sent their delegates to the Brighton TUC last year might well be puzzled by this item. They had good reason to be—the congress voted by a majority of 3.1 million to oppose entry and boycott its institutions.

Below: EEC-man, Mr. Feather.



## CP'S CHANGE OF LINE

Contrast these two statements: ● 'Ownership must be taken by the state with the participation of the miners . . . They must fight against such ideas as that put forward by Mr W. Lawther: "There is no question of two different sides in this industry today. Owners of pits, miners and officials are all on one side." Working miners know that the mine-owners have not changed their spots.'

● 'That was wrong. Actually we were young and arguing for more wages. It was a partial strike, the older, more sensible elements did not support it. It was wrong, because the country was in a crisis situation then, fighting a war against fascism.'

The first is from 'Coal: A policy', a Communist Party of Great Britain pamphlet published in January 1941. The second comes from Communist Party executive member Mick McGahey, Scottish area president of the National Union of Mineworkers, talking to a 'Scotsman' reporter recently about a strike he led at Gateside colliery in 1943.

The difference between them can be summed up by a date, June 22, 1941—for it was on that date that the British Stalinists changed their policy on the war and swung hard over behind Winston Churchill and the British capitalist class.

From then on every striker was a traitor, as far as the Stalinists were concerned. And McGahey continues to defend this policy today!

McGahey told the 'Scotsman' reporter, Harry Reid, that the Gateside strike was his 'one regret' ('Scotsman', February 24, 1973).

It is necessary simply to quote Lenin: 'In each country, the struggle against a government that is waging an imperialist war should not falter at the possibility of that country's defeat as a result of revolutionary propaganda. The defeat of the government's army weakens the government, promotes the liberation of the nationalities it oppresses, and facilitates civil war against the ruling classes.' (Collected Works. Vol. 21, p. 163.)



# THE TIMES WE LIVE IN

REVIEWED BY JACK GALE

Last Tuesday's 'Play for Today' on BBC 1 was 'The Operation', written by Roger Smith and directed by Roy Battersby.

It concerned a ruthless property speculator, David Adler (George Lazenby), who destroys not only the centre of his old home town, but also the lives of a number of middle-class people who cannot stand up to the power of his wealth.

As Adler says, when he makes £1m profit in a week: 'That's real magic'.

Adler epitomizes 'success'. He's rich, worldly, and bursting with confidence. He has a television set in his Rolls, a luxurious country home in Ireland, thick wads of banknotes and he dispenses expensive presents with easy grace.

He frequents gambling casinos, has a more than nodding acquaintance with gangsters and conducts his operations from a luxurious suite of offices. He has no difficulty at all in gathering up a grocer's wife (Maureen Shaw) in the old home town—she offers herself in something under two-and-a-half minutes.

The emptiness of middle-class life is portrayed by the fawning of the local citizenry on the powerful Adler who might drop them a few crumbs, by a decadent house-party and the casual, bored wife-swapping.

The grocer, indeed, seems to be remarkably obliging in the matter of his wife's lovers, but he is enraged when his little shop is to be demolished to make way for Adler's speculative building. He refuses to sell up. He swears defiance at Adler.

But this is not typical BBC drama, where the courageous little man wins out against the powerful and corrupt. The grocer doesn't stand a chance. All Adler needs is a compul-

sory purchase order from the council. And when that requires a little rule-bending, well, that's soon arranged.

A prominent council official is wined and dined and offered a substantial money bribe. When he shows signs of refusing cash, an obliging young lady is wheeled in. A combination of her 'charms' and Adler's camera does the trick—the next shot shows the grocer's shop being demolished.

The grocer is driven beyond endurance by the loss of the shop which is the centre of his small life. He bursts in on his wife and her lover and kills them both. (He catches them in the middle of a sado-masochistic episode which apparently explains the hold which the dull, plain, middle-class wife has on the worldly Adler.)

Much of the action is seen through the eyes of George, an old schoolmate of Adler's, played by Tom Kempinski. Adler apparently needs George as a kind of witness to his triumphs. As George says: 'He calls me over from time to time to signify some change in his material progress.'

George is an individual drop-out. He has walked out of his university job and left his 'lady wife and two odious children'. He lives on the dole and occasional hand-outs from Adler.

He is presented as someone who rejects the life Adler has chosen.

He is antagonistic and cynical towards Adler in the early scenes, appears to feel a genuine affection for the tycoon's mistress and walks out in disgust when Adler humiliates her during their Christmas holiday together at his cottage in Ireland.

But just as the middle-class grocer's fierce possessiveness can't protect his business, so middle-class individual protest can't be successful either. Despite his distaste, George

hangs around, finally going on to Adler's pay roll at £100 per week to keep his mistress entertained.

The play portrays not only the ruthless determination of capitalism, but also the impotence of the middle class.

Even the wiping out of Adler by murder basically alters nothing. In the final scene George tells us that the shares of Adler Enterprises dropped briefly at the news of his death, but soon recovered when it was realized that business went on as usual.

Adler's new block of offices, says George, is standing 'empty and profitably waiting' while rents and land values rise, and a Sunday newspaper has paid handsomely for 'The David Adler Story'.

Then he drives off in a shiny new car, leaving us to infer that it is he who sold the story.

As the play's epilogue said: 'Any resemblance to places or persons living or dead, is a sign of the times we live in.'

Above: George Lazenby as David Adler, the property magnate, with Maureen Shaw as the grocer's wife, Diane Hardin in a scene from 'The Operation'. Below: Tom Kempinski as George.



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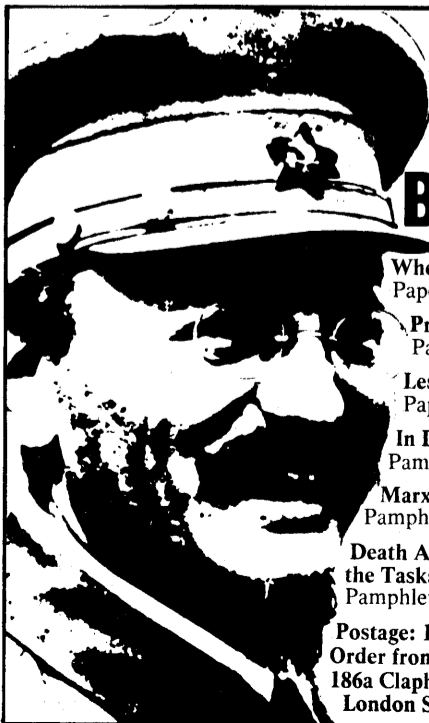
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# CAMDEN: BOROUGH OF QUICK PROFITS

Camden has become one of the favourite areas in London for property developers and speculators looking to make a quick profit out of housing.

Taking full advantage of 'improvement grants' from the local council, they have turned workers out of existing property and sold modernized flats for tens of thousands of pounds.

The process reached a high point this month when it was discovered an old house had been converted into flats and sold for £112,000.

Of the £75,000 profit made by the developer concerned, £9,000 was in the shape of grants from Camden.

Said Arthur Soutter, Labour councillor and housing committee chairman: 'Camden is a very trendy place to live and it is popular with TV producers and actors.'

The grant system had resulted in Camden tenants being removed and their improved homes being sold to middle-class people from outside the borough.

Camden had provided property owners with over £2m in improvement grants in the past two years. In mid-1972, only one-third was going to owner-occupiers, while the rest went to property companies and other non-resident owners.

In the case of an average Camden house being converted into flats and sold for about £19,000, the owner would, in effect, be provided with all his profit—about £2,400—at the taxpayer's expense, since this would be the size of the grant.

Evidence had come to light, said Cllr Soutter, where working-class tenants had been offered inducements to leave so the property could be re-developed. He regarded such payments as harassment.

The council was now doing its best to impose stringent conditions with the grants, giving Camden the right to say who lived in the modernized property.

As a result the number of applicants for grants—introduced as a concession to landlords and property men by the Wilson government in 1969—had slackened off considerably.

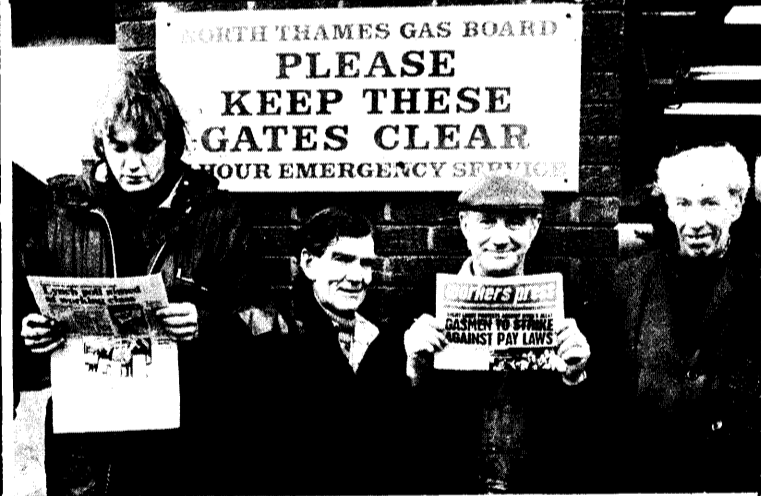
# CAMPAIGN FOR MORE POLICE

An immediate, government-backed campaign to increase police recruitment is to be launched in the Manchester area.

Tory Minister of State at the Home Office, Mark Carlsle, has told senior police chiefs that despite 'encouraging' recruitment over the last two years, the force was still 10 per cent below establishment.

Last year the force showed a net gain of 89, said Carlsle, who was opening a new £200,000 police station at Moss Side.

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# MINERS LEADERS DON'T WANT TO FIGHT

BY DAVID MAUDE

The coal industry's national reference tribunal has upheld the miners' union's view that five individual extra days off, granted by the Wilberforce inquiry last year, do not constitute a third week's holiday.

Right-wing union leaders hope the ruling will pave the way for the National Coal Board to add the extra week to the pay-and-conditions package it is offering the miners in a bid to stave off a threat of strike action.

It is by no means certain, however, that the Tories will allow this. A strict interpretation of their Phase Two state pay controls would only allow consolidation of the five days into a third week's holiday. If the reference tribunal is overruled, the right-wingers could be faced with considerable pressure for action.

But there are other straws in the wind which demand a ruthless examination of the leadership's reluctance to confront the state pay laws.

Chief among these are the continuing discussions about a productivity deal in the pits, on which the NCB is laying much stress in a bid to split the miners.

The Wilberforce report of 12 months ago recommended that such a deal be made by September of last year, 'based on increases in productivity nationally or by individual pits or by a combination of the two'. An NCB-union working party was set up in March.

By July 1972, when the National Union of Mineworkers held its annual conference, union president Joe Gormley was talking about a deal giving miners periodic bonuses as productivity rose.

Many workers in the industry were already involved in double, triple and even multiple shift working, he said.

It was inevitable that the Coal Board would want to extend such practices to get the maximum benefit from mechanization. 'We must find ways of encouraging the men to accept this fact.'

And the NUM chief went on to make clear that he saw such schemes as . . . means 'to increase the real value of wages instead of having to rely on an annual confrontation'.

## Discussions in private

This argument was backed up with the implied threat that if the miners pushed too hard on wages this time round, the Tories might hit at jobs in the industry by hanging fire on writing off the industry's capital debt and delaying implementation of their integrated fuel policy.

So the working party discussions proceeded, in private, with Tory Ministers and Coal Board chiefs periodically hanging this threat precisely over the heads of the miners.

By August there were rumours that the NCB had proposed axing 50 of Britain's 290 pits—and that Heath had sent the plan back demanding something more drastic. The following month Industry Minister Tom Boardman let it be known publicly that there would be no significant financial aid to the industry without firm pledges of increased productivity.

Soon it became clear that as far as the NUM working party was concerned these

blackmail tactics were taking effect.

In November it is believed, the union executive was informed of proposals for a two-stage deal which would give the NCB round-the-clock working in several pits. This was to be in return for 'fair shares' remuneration schemes similar to that practised in the Post Office.

The Post Office system operates on the basis that each time speed-up forces a worker out of his job, the rest of the labour force gets a cut. Union leaders are still trying to increase the size of their cut to 50 per cent.

These vicious proposals were larded with a lot of 'left-sounding, but essentially corporatist nonsense about establishing 'special committees at all levels for the purpose of achieving fair shares and controlling other factors'.

Such committees, a working party report to the executive claimed, 'would return some working initiative down the trade union structure'.

A further report—dating from just a few days before publication of the Tories' Coal Industry Bill in December—went even further.

Productivity committees could 'remove any suspicion that either side sought advantage at the expense of the other', it commented cynically.

The report went on to describe plans for a bonus scheme, from which fines would be deducted for bad attendance, incorporating possible local incentives to encourage fast mining of high-cost coals.

It was presumably on the basis of these sort of backstage plans by the union leaders that the Tories agreed to make up to £525m of taxpayers' money available to the industry over the next three years in the Coal Industry Bill.

But in a Commons statement on the Bill, Trade and Industry Minister Peter Walker made it clear that government demands on the miners are insatiable. Aid on the scale provided could only be justified by 'effective and sustained efforts by all sides of the industry to improve its competitive position, contain costs and re-establish viability', he said.

Acceptance of a productivity deal, either in place of or following a strike, would represent not only an ignominious climb down to this arrogant Tory pressure but a double betrayal of miners.

It would involve the agreement of the NUM executive to miners footing the bill for 25

years' shameless robbery of nationalized coal and for last year's Tory refusal to settle entirely justified wage demands.

It would sell out the miners' struggle over years to get rid of area differentials.

Walker's talk of re-establishing viability is a Tory fraud because there are two very good reasons why miners cannot be held responsible for last year's £118m loss in the industry.

First there is the crippling burden of interest, on loans floated to compensate the old coal-owners and to buy machines from the lucrative non-nationalized mining machinery industry. Over the last ten years the interest burden has been running at an average of £37.5m a year.

Secondly there is the £157m cost of last year's Tory attack on the miners.

Neither of these reasons can be laid at the miners' door.

Rather they pose the question: why is the NUM leadership not fighting for workers' control of the pits, and for the nationalization without compensation of the machine manufacturing industry, coal distribution, the finance houses and the banks?

And why are these same union chiefs trying to avoid a fight—in unity with the rest of the trade union movement—to force the Tory government out of office and replace it with a Labour government which would carry out these policies?

## Carry the fight to the end

These are the political issues involved in the fight against a productivity deal in the pits.

There are those, like the supporters of the self-styled 'rank and file' paper 'The Collier', who claim that all that is needed to stop such a deal is more militancy on the wages question.

'Beat the Tories and the NCB over money now and the chances are that the deal will be quietly forgotten,' writes John Charlton in the current issue of the paper.

This is dangerous rubbish, and an indictment of the anti-communist International Socialists group which helped establish this paper..

The only answer to Gormley is a political one. Miners' jobs, wages and trade union organization can only be defended and improved today in the fight to build the alternative revolutionary leadership in the NUM which will carry the fight against the Tories to the end.

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# Stalinists witch-hunt of militant teachers

**RIGHT-WING** and Stalinist leaders of the National Union of Teachers are preparing to mount a vicious witch-hunt against militant members of the union as a cover-up for their own failure to give adequate leadership.

The pretext being used is the stormy scenes which greeted the executive at the teachers' rally at Central Hall, Westminster, last week.

At that meeting, nearly 2,000 teachers voted for a resolution demanding an indefinite strike and unity with all workers in struggle against the Tory pay laws.

The union leaders refused to accept the motion and had to be howled off the platform before it could be put to the meeting. The executive's own motion merely congratulated those teachers who had come out on the official selective three-day stoppages.

Stung by this humiliation, the backwoodsmen running the NUT are desperately trying to cover-up their own treachery by accusing the teachers who repudiated them of wanting to wreck the union.

To discredit the militant sections of the NUT, the executive is using the oldest and most moth-eaten 'red-scare' methods beloved of right-wing reformists

BY ROYSTON BULL

under their reformist 'peaceful road to socialism' ideology that it is now impossible to distinguish a CPer from, say, Harold Wilson slandering the seamen's strike in 1966.

Now that he has joined forces with the right wing, Morris, along with the rest of the Communist Party leadership, has no difficulty in quickly adapting to the vicious scaremongering tactics.

The words are slightly different, but the nature of the lying innuendoes is identical to the slanders with which Stalinism has always fought the Trotskyist movement.

And just as the lies and distortions were whipped up by the Stalinists internationally into a hate campaign against Trotsky and his followers, which eventually led to their murders, so Morris and his bureaucratic henchmen are trying to whip up a scare campaign so that all militants are expelled from the NUT.

**EIGHT OFFICERS** of the Wandsworth Teachers' Association explained at their AGM that the platform at the Central Hall meeting had refused an overwhelming vote to discuss the Wandsworth motion.

'The chairman then tried to put the executive motion; the feeling of the meeting prevented him from doing so.

'In response to this, one of the Wandsworth officers, Eric Porter, tried to put the Wandsworth motion. He was physically assaulted and, at this point, order was lost.

'It was lost because the platform no longer wished in any way to reflect or respond to the wishes of the majority of the people present.

'The leadership began to leave the platform.

'Fred Scott, another Wandsworth officer, was physically manhandled by a member of the executive in his attempt to reach the platform and restore order.

'Amidst confusion and chaos, the platform cut off the power to the floor microphones and subsequently the platform microphones were unplugged.

ever since the communist movement began.

'This was planned disruption by Trotskyites, International Socialists, and the Socialist Labour League. And a lot of them are not teachers,' said president-elect Max Morris.

The curious difference between this outrageous diatribe and thousands of similar Tory-minded outbursts over the last 50 years in Britain is that the author is a member of the Communist Party.

So far to the right have the Communist Party leaders moved

The expulsions are being called for so that the NUT can be made safe for the right-wing reformism of a Stalinist and his brother bureaucrats.

Having led the working-class internationally to the most colossal set-backs over the last 50 years, Stalinism, with its fake militancy now being replaced by openly reactionary policies, has now joined the conspiracy to quell all revolt.

'This was deliberate disruption,' Morris told a Press conference later. 'The platform microphones were pulled out by a pre-arranged



Ruffled platform at the Central Hall meeting

plan and loud-hailers brought in by hooligans.

'These people could have made speeches during the debate if they wanted to. They didn't want to. They wanted chaos.

'This was a deliberate attack on their own union. Because of this shambles, the Press the next day did not carry a single word about the NUT's case but only scenes of the fighting. And that was planned. These people want to break up the NUT.

'These people do not really want more militant action. They

'Soon after this, the executive left and the lights were switched off.

'In spite of this, the majority of the people at the meeting stayed to hear Fred Scott move the Wandsworth motion. It was overwhelmingly carried. The meeting closed in orderly fashion.'

The loudhailer was present because it had been on their demonstration, Wandsworth added.

The officers' statement to the AGM was approved by about 100 teachers present, with only two votes against and one abstention.

merely want to be in a position to attack the executive for not doing anything.'

When some Camden teachers disagreed with this and said the militants' aims were sincere, Morris replied:

'You are giving them higher motives than I would.'

When asked what information he had for saying this, Morris refused to elaborate.

When his political companion Sam Fisher, NUT vice-president, took the attack to apologetic heights by alleging:

'These people are a cancer

within the union and are out to smash the NUT. They need chucking out of the union,' Morris agreed with him enthusiastically.

Union official Fred Jarvis joined in the slander of the militant teachers:

'Don't let us break up the NUT. Attacking the executive will not help our case forward one bit. If you think teachers can take on the government single-handed or even with other unions, you are mistaken.'

Jarvis said that because the meeting had driven the executive off the platform, people were phoning in from outside London asking what was going on. He suggested that the militants should attack the other teaching unions like the NAS and the UWT rather than their own executive.

The official NUT Press release about the rally stated:

'Those responsible are guilty of doing grave damage to the teachers' cause and the image of the teaching profession.

'The officers of the union intend to prepare a full report on the incidents which occurred for the consideration of the next meeting of the executive.'

The hostility towards the executive expressed by the overwhelming majority of the teachers who turned up at Westminster Hall was representative of widely held views within the NUT.

But because of the completely reactionary politics of Max Morris and the right wing, the criticisms of the leadership are being answered with a witch-hunt of the critics.

The real wreckers and splitters in the NUT are the bureaucratic leaders who want to drive out the most active elements in the union.

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## We said it first

ON FRIDAY, February 23, Workers Press reported on its front page the further 'moves to dictatorship' by the Tory government.

We drew attention to the promotion of Field Marshal Sir Michael Carver as the new Chief of Defence Staff.

We again emphasized the importance of Carver's appointment in last Saturday's paper at the same time indicating that Carver had written an enthusiastic foreword to a book on 'counter-subversion' by the notorious Brigadier Frank Kitson, of Kenya, Cyprus, Malaya and Ulster fame.

Yesterday the 'Observer's' Colour Magazine had this to say:

'It is said in government circles that the Prime Minister regards him [Carver] as the man to help keep the country running if there should be a disruption of normal activities.'

### BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.25 Cywain. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Woodentops. 1.45 Pets and vets. 2.05 Schools. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Yoga. 5.40 Sir Prancelot. 5.45 News. Weather.  
**6.00 NATIONWIDE.**  
**6.45 TOP OF THE FORM.**  
**7.10 STAR TREK.** Assignment Earth.  
**8.00 PANORAMA.** 9.00 NEWS. Weather.  
**9.25 PLAY FOR TODAY:** 'Access to the Children'. By William Trevor. With Joss Ackland, Mary Peach, Hildegard Neil.  
**10.30 COME DANCING.** 11.05 NEWS.  
**11.10 OPERA IN REHEARSAL.** Act 2 of Mozart's 'The Marriage of Figaro'. 11.35 Weather.

### BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.  
**7.05 PARENTS AND CHILDREN.**  
**7.30 NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.  
**7.35 LOOK, STRANGER.** Jimmy the One.  
**8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES.** Shoot-out at Diablo Station.  
**8.55 CALL MY BLUFF.**  
**9.25 SHOW OF THE WEEK:** Nana Mouskoury. With John Boulter. Design. George Zambetas.  
**10.10 FLAME IN THE NORTH.** Story of Finland. Written by Stuart Hood.  
**11.00 OPINION.** 11.15 NEWS. Weather.

### ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.33 World War I (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Mr. Trimble. 12.25 Alice through the looking glass. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'Return to Paradise'. Gary Cooper. 4.25 Pardon my genie. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 Lollipop loves Mr Mole. 5.50 News.  
**6.00 TODAY.**  
**6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS.**  
**7.30 CORONATION STREET.**  
**8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.**  
**8.30 BLESS THIS HOUSE.** The Loneliness of the Short Distance Walker.  
**9.00 THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.** The Sensible Action of Lieutenant Holst.  
**10.00 NEWS.** 10.30 WILD, WILD WEST.  
**11.30 DRIVE-IN.** 12.00 WORLD WAR I.  
**12.25 A TIME TO SPEAK.**

### REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 9.30-11.52 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.00 Schools. 2.25 Film: 'The Rebel'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Maverick. 6.45 London. 10.30 Theatre. 11.20 Boots Randolph show. 12.15 News, weather.  
**WESTWARD.** As Channel except 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 Date with Danton. 10.30 News. 10.33 Formas. 12.15 Epilogue.

### TODAY'S TV

**SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Schools. 2.10 Cartoon. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Film: 'The Boy Who Stole a Million'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 London. 10.30 Shops. 11.00 News. 11.05 Theatre. 12.00 Farming. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.  
**HARLECH** 9.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 Film: 'Wake Me When the War is Over'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'Berserk'. 12.15 Weather.  
**HTV Cymru/Wales** as above except: 6.01-6.22 Y dydd. 8.00-8.30 Yr wythnos.  
**HTV West** as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.  
**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Marcus Welby. 3.55 Romper room. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Cartoons. 5.35 Wind in the willows. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Russell Harty. 11.30 London. 12.00 Big question.  
**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 12.00 Programme guide. 12.05 London. 3.00 Film: 'Follow That Man'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Story. Weather.  
**ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 Film: 'Tarzan's Magic Fountain'. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15

Dick Van Dyke. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.40 Film: 'Scandal Sheet'.  
**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Second Chance'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 Yoga. 12.15 Ugliest girl in town. 12.40 Weather.  
**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 12.00 Handful of songs. 12.05 London. 2.30 Film: 'South of Algiers'. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Rochdale. 11.00 Film: 'Five Desperate Women'.  
**TYNE TEES:** 9.25 Just one word. 9.03 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 Film: 'Holy Matrimony'. 4.25 London. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the Press. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.25 News. 12.40 Lectern.  
**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 Film: 'Lad A Dog'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 Lion and dragon. 11.20 Quentin Jurgens.  
**GRAMPIAN:** 10.58 London. 12.13 Cartoon. 12.25 London. 1.38 Schools. 3.05 News. 3.08 Film: 'The Beautiful Blonde from Bashful Bend'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Royal clansmen. 6.40 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.35 Meditation.

### SLL PUBLIC MEETINGS

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Speaker: CLIFF SLAUGHTER  
(SLL Central Committee)

**TOTTENHAM**  
TUESDAY MARCH 6, 8 p.m.  
Lord Morrison Hall  
Chesnut Grove  
Speaker: G. HEALY  
(SLL National Secretary)

**BASINGSTOKE**  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 7,  
8 p.m.  
Public Library  
Speaker: M. BANDA  
(SLL Central Committee)

### SPECIAL ATUA MEETINGS

**BUILDING WORKERS**  
The crisis of capitalism and the future of the trade unions.  
Tuesday March 6  
7.30 p.m.  
Norfolk Room  
Caxton Hall  
Caxton Street, SW1

# 'Make our leaders take action'

# Hospital workers

# to lobby

BY DAVID MAUDE OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

**HOSPITAL WORKERS** from many areas will lobby the special TUC today to demand supporting action for their fight against the Tory pay-control laws.

According to NUPE, the majority union amongst the ancillary workers, the number of hospitals affected by the unions' selective strike policy will rise by 50 per cent this week. 241 were hit by the weekend.

## Unofficial strike in St Helens

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

**ABOUT 250** ancillary workers at the Whiston Hospital, St Helens, Lancs, yesterday began a one-week unofficial strike in support of their pay claim.

They will have pickets out today in spite of the fact that their union officials are opposed to the all-out strike action.

NUPE regional officer Mr Warburton told a meeting last Friday night that the four unions on the co-ordinating committee felt that the staggered strike policy was the best.

'Don't go for all-out strike,' he pleaded. 'Leave it to the co-ordinating committee.'

He had come to ask the laundry to come out, he said, but had been mandated from his executive committee to prevent emergency services in the whole of the north-west from collapsing.

Cries of 'No, no' and 'We want an all-out strike' greeted his pleas. One member shouted:

'When has this union led us anywhere? It's always leading from the back. It seems to me you've come here to stop this strike.'

A worried Warburton told the branch that if they came out it would be unofficial.

A member shouted back: 'You promised us support over the Industrial Relations Act. A majority voted for all-out strike. We demand that you back us now.'

A resolution for a total strike for one week was passed unanimously, even though the shop stewards backed Warburton in his refusal to make the strike official.

Over the weekend Workers Press reporters talked to strikers about what they think is needed to win their struggle.

At Queen Mary's hospital in Roehampton, London, NUPE branch secretary Tom Thomas stressed the importance of today's lobby 'to force the TUC to take positive action to back us'.

He said: 'The bullet is in the gun for the TUC to fire it, but up to now everyone's a bit disillusioned in the lack of role the union leaders are playing.'

'The danger is that they will throw everything on the rank and file and make us fight on our own.'

With 11 other hospitals in south London and north Kent Queen Mary's has been placed on 'red alert' by the hospital board.

But workers there are determined to continue their struggle after they are due to return to work on Thursday.

## Rise

Where 25 hospitals were out in London as a whole last week, this week the number is expected to rise to 40.

In north London, Whittington, Royal Northern, Hanley Road, St Leonard's and Barts Hospital are all coming out on official strike today for a week.

The North London Group is organizing a demonstration which will start from the Royal Northern to Hanley Road and then back to Whittington where a mass meeting will be held outside the Central Hall, Archway Road.

IN KENT, Bromley hospital is out for the day today and Farnborough will stage its second one-day strike tomorrow or Wednesday.

NUPE area secretary E. J. Stott told Workers Press yesterday that kitchen staff at Bromley, who will be feeding patients only had threatened to walk out completely if non-union labour was used to do their work.



**HOSPITALS** workers at the Whittingham hospital in Preston, Lancs, are showing firm determination as their strike for better pay goes into its second week.

Thirty men in the laundry began a week's strike on March 1, while the other 200 workers are operating a work-to-rule.

Two of the hospital's main gates are under picket and all non-essential materials are being turned away.

Other workers in the hospital — particularly nurses — are in full sympathy with the strikers.

Ted Firestone, NUPE branch secretary at Whittingham, said that

since the one-day hospital strike last December more than 100 new members had been recruited to the union.

On the picket line Michael Chambers told Workers Press:

'We're prepared to go on for another week if we don't get a wage increase.'

## Oxford unite strikers

A **JOINT** demonstration of gasmen, hospital workers and carworkers will be held in Oxford next Saturday.

It has been called to protest against the Tory government's state pay laws.

In calling for support for the demonstration,

the chairman of the Oxford and District Trades Council said:

'I want you to get involved in this demonstration and line up with the strikers.'

The Oxfordshire organizer of NUPE, Mr Anderson, said: 'If we allow the hospital workers to fail on this

occasion, we all know what the result is going to be.'

The demonstration has already won support from car workers in the 5/55 branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the Oxford Council of Action and from local civil servants.

## 'Cut North Sea gas or we strike'

**GASWORKERS** in the south-west will today threaten all-out strike action if their local board fails to cut off industrial users supplied by natural gas.

The board has said it will probably refuse, and if it does so more than 5,000 men will strike from March 13.

The West Midlands Gas Board said yesterday

it will cut pressures in its area to critical level this morning if 50,000 domestic users continue refusing to switch off their gas.

Pressure is to be reduced in Nottinghamshire. A strike is planned at one of the two gas-making plants in the region, Ambergate, near Derby. Strike action has already cut off supplies of coke-oven gas

from a plant in Scunthorpe.

The continued determination and militancy of the gasworkers presents a major challenge both to today's special TUC and to tomorrow's meeting of the General and Municipal Workers' Union executive.

So far only one union — the mineworkers' — has offered even token support to the gasmen.

## Pageant casts in impressive get-together

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

**PAGEANT TEAMS** from all over the country met for the first time in Manchester yesterday.

More than 200 youth and workers gathered for the first full rehearsal of the 'Road to Workers' Power' — starting from massacre of Peterloo to the formation of the Labour Party in 1906 following the Taff Vale judgement on the railway union.

It was truly an impressive occasion. At last the contingents from the four areas—Merthyr, Jarrow, London and Manchester —got a glimpse of the strength and the power that they are all bringing to this re-enactment of working-class history.

The day's work was started by a rehearsal of each separate episode, then the whole Pageant was put together in sequence and performed as it will be at the Empire Pool, Wembley, next Sunday, March 11.

The total effect was magnificent even without the sound, costumes and lighting that will turn it into such a spectacle at the Pool.

The Jarrow cast, which is recreating the formation of one of the first miners' unions, were especially impressive.

The team already has its full costumes—old boiler suits given by a local store.

The women and girls were dressed in shawls, long dresses and went barefooted as the striking miners' wives did in the 1830s.

**THE BUDGET** has outworn its usefulness, according to tax expert Mr Lindsay Duncan of the London Chamber of Commerce. The close watch needed on the economy could not be done as a one-off exercise. What was needed was a series of mini-budgets or micro-budgets, said Duncan.

## All Trades Unions Alliance MEETINGS

Fight rising rents and prices  
Defend basic democratic rights  
Force the Tories to resign

**BRIXTON: Tuesday March 6, 8 p.m.** Brixton Training Centre, Control Room, Effra Road, SW2. 'Forward to the Pageant'.

**DAGENHAM: Tuesday March 6, 8 p.m.** Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Common Market Conspiracy'.

**EAST LONDON: Tuesday March 6, 8 p.m.** 'Festival Inn', Chrisp Street, E14. 'Support the gasmen and hospital workers'.

**WATFORD: Wednesday March 7, 8 p.m.** Trade Union Hall, Woodford Hall, near Watford junction station.

**TOTTENHAM: Wednesday March 7, 8 p.m.** 'Prince Arthur', bottom of Broad Lane, N.17. 'Forward to the Pageant'.

**SOUTHALL, Wednesday, March 7, 8 p.m.** Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. 'The Road to Workers' Power'.

**WOOLWICH: Wednesday March 7, 8 p.m.** 'The Castle', Powis Street, SE18. 'Support the gasmen and hospital workers'.

## NALGO members repudiate Anderson's views

**WALTER ANDERSON'S** departure as general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association has been welcomed by members of the militant NALGO Action Group.

Not that the militants hail as a victory the likely replacement of Anderson by Geoffrey Drain, the deputy general secretary, who is expected to speak for the union at today's special TUC.

Patrick Hanson, the group's London convenor, thinks Drain's

policies would be virtually a 'carbon copy' of his predecessor's. But he stresses that the most important thing about the resignation is that it reflects the growing unwillingness of the rank and file to be browbeaten with talk of 'responsibility' and 'moderation'.

NALGO members from London will be lobbying today's TUC to demonstrate the extent of this break.

In an interview recorded with the 'Daily Mail', Anderson set out his philosophy. These are the views he has fought for both in NALGO and the TUC.

**On the Tories' state control of wages:**

'Once we have expressed our opposition to it, let us go on to say that we are prepared to do our best to stop inflation.'

'Let us then agree to put trade union representatives on the government's new Pay Board, to look after trade union interests. Let us help to find a solution.'

**On the TUC and nuclear disarmament:**

'What kind of trade union or industrial experience qualifies these people to express a view on the H-bomb?'

**On the head of another white-collar union, Clive Jenkins:**

'If he makes any more comic speeches, or does any more acting in front of television cameras he might well be advised to seek membership of Equity, the actors' union.'

These views are completely out of phase with the mood of large sections of white-collar workers.

On Thursday, February 22, NALGO's London district council

called on the national executive to instruct delegates to today's TUC to call for action of General Strike proportions to force a General Election.

Last Saturday, the executive itself refused to accept Anderson's line that... trade unionists should join the Pay Board.

So watch out for Anderson's next move.

## LINCOLN

What next after the by-election?

Tuesday March 6, 8 p.m.

ALBION HOTEL, ST MARY'S STREET  
(opposite the Central Station)

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