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By David Maude our labour correspondent
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The way is open for them to answer this question, and the issues could not be clearer.

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And they can put down an emergency motion instructing the engineers' executive to insist the TUC make May 1 the start of a General Strike to force the Tories out.

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TURN TO BACK PAGE

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'Given a little more time it can and will develop into one of friendship.'

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'Our successes will never be news, and to give publicity to the commonsense which is talked in sittings of the court which are not open to the public would gravely embarrass a number of people and would not assist in the cause of improving public relations.'

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Faced with this attitude parties who have behaved in

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£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

THERE'S at least one thing you can be certain of so far as the fund goes — every political enemy of the Socialist Labour League would be delighted to see it fail.

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Euro-credit near breaking point

INTERNATIONAL repercussions are beginning to emerge from the bankruptcy of Equity Funding Corporation in which many big names of American finance are involved.

The firm was forced into bankruptcy last week when the Securities and Exchange Commission in New York discovered that at least a third of its \$3,240m life insurance business was bogus.

The Equity Funding bankruptcy has burned the fingers of some prestige investors who regarded the 13-year-old company as a glamour stock.

Investors are now looking twice at all glamour stocks.

The bankruptcy is adding to an already marked reluctance to buy shares which might well lose their value overnight.

Particularly badly hit by fear and uncertainty is the Euro-bond market, particularly the market in dollar bonds.

SQUEEZE

The Euro-bond market involves the sale of shares to holders of Euro-currency, chiefly dollars held by non-residents of the United States which are therefore free of exchange controls.

Equity Funding has an outstanding bond issue worth \$23m

BY JOHN SPENCER

which matures (becomes due for repayment) in ten months' time. News of the bankruptcy slashed the price of the Equity Funding bond by half.

The Equity Funding disaster is the second major blow to hit the Euro-bond market in recent weeks. There is also the case of US Financial, which was due to pay dividends on \$11m-worth of Euro-bonds on April 1.

It still has 22 days' grace to find the money, but there is no indication that it can. US Financial must first settle an outstanding debt which takes precedence over the debt to its bond holders.

For more than a month the market in dollar-denominated

Euro-bonds has been virtually closed down. High interest rates have made it unprofitable for 'professional' market operators to borrow money to buy bonds.

They are caught in the squeeze between the high cost of Euro-dollars used to finance their positions and the yields on their bond purchases, which are not high enough to offset the financing charges.

UNRAVEL

Carl Gewirtz of the 'International Herald Tribune' comments that 'attempts to bring anything but the best-known and top-credit-rated companies to the market are ruled out for the time being'.

The uncertainty on the Euro-bond market reflects growing awareness that it can act as a transmission belt for all the problems of international big business.

The market is part of a network of credit which is international in its scope.

As the 'Financial Times' put it last month, quoting Professor A. A. Walters: 'One large collapse could hit confidence a severe blow, falling on the US commercial banks and in practice being transmitted back to the Federal Reserve system.'

The complex network of Euro-credit has become so stretched that if one thread snaps the entire fabric of international credit could begin to unravel and no one would be able to stop it.

Democrats protest colonial policy

Portuguese police attack anti-war march

AT LEAST 25 people were injured in the town of Aveiro, in central Portugal, when police attacked demonstrators singing the Internationale and demanding an end to Portuguese wars in Africa.

Eye witnesses said heavily-armed police used dogs to break up the protest march and sent demonstrators fleeing in all directions when they paraded up Aveiro's main street.

The clash came on the final day of the Third Portuguese Opposition Democratic Congress when about 1,500 people defied a ban on public demonstrations and tried to march to the monument of a well-known local democrat, Dr José Estevao.

The demonstrators were chanting such slogans as 'Down with the colonial wars' and 'amnesty for political prisoners,' witnesses said.

At least two people were taken to hospital and a number were injured by truncheons and dog bites.

Portugal is at war in all three of its African colonies, Guiné-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola.

The cost of the war is borne by the workers and peasants of Portugal, who have one of the lowest living standards in Europe, and the colonies.

At least 40 per cent of the budget goes on arms, many of them supplied under NATO auspices by Britain and the United States.

Conscription for at least

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

four years—and sometimes up to age 35—is in operation.

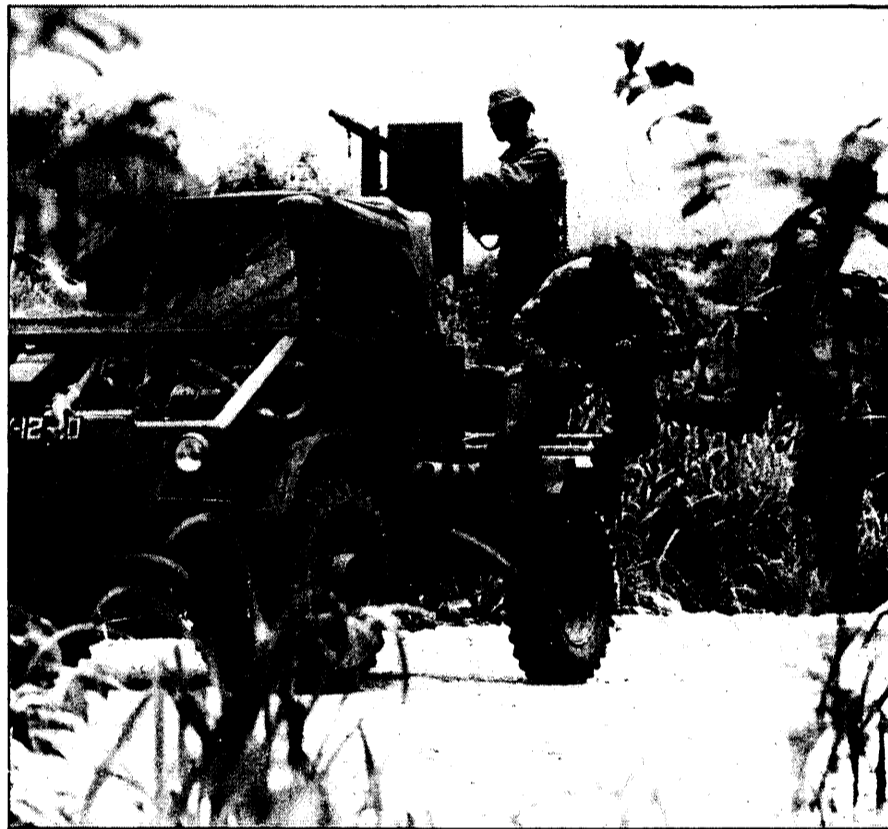
This year the Portuguese and the British Tory government are celebrating the 600th anniversary of the Treaty of Alliance between the two countries, which makes Portugal 'Britain's oldest ally'.

Dr Marcello Caetano, the Portuguese dictator, is to have dinner with the Queen at Buckingham Palace in July as part of the celebrations and the Duke of Edinburgh is visiting Lisbon in June.

THE LABOUR Party executive has voted not to send a delegation to the celebrations in Lisbon, causing some bitterness among MPs who were looking forward to a convivial few days as guests of the right-wing regime.

Three MPs, Alfred Roberts, Ben Ford and Ted Garrett, were to have made the trip as part of an inter-parliamentary delegation. Their acceptance of the invitation put the Labour Party in an impossible position.

Only a few weeks previously the party executive had passed a resolution urging the Tory government to have nothing to do with the



600th anniversary celebrations.

Portuguese troops in Africa.

Messrs Roberts, Ford and Garrett are reported to be less than delighted with the decision and are claiming that some of the NEC 'lefts' take their holidays in Portugal.

The right-wing friends of Portugal within the Labour Party seem oblivious to the fact that the Social-Democratic Party, with which their own organization has 'fraternal' ties, is illegal and membership is punished by heavy jail sentences.

SIX leading Japanese firms said yesterday they were considering the immediate release of surplus land and wool which they are accused of hoarding and thereby contributing to price increases. Representatives of the six firms told this to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party when they were summoned to party headquarters to explain the activities which are said to have caused unusual price rises in many commodities.

US deeper in Cambodian mire

THE VISIT to Indo-China of General Alexander Haig, President Nixon's senior troubleshooter in south-east Asia, is raising fears in Washington that the US may be drawn deeper into the Cambodian war.

American ground troops are not at present involved, with the result that the unwilling conscript army of General Lon Nol has been cut to pieces by the liberation forces which enjoy enormous popular support.

But American planes have been pounding the liberation forces' positions around the capital Phnom Penh for several weeks.

It is only a matter of time before a giant B52 bomber is shot down and US servicemen taken prisoner.

Whether Nixon would use this as a pretext for intervention of ground troops remains to be seen—the Lon Nol regime has no popular basis and no terri-

tory in the country to speak of.

One thing, however, is certain: the Lon Nol dictatorship cannot last much longer on its own.

The Nixon administration must decide whether to intervene more actively to prop it up or suffer a particularly humiliating and decisive defeat.

On Saturday the Saigon regime announced that the deterioration of the military situation in Cambodia constituted a 'serious menace for the Republic of Vietnam'.

Workers and students back Renault strike

THOUSANDS of college and high school students together with factory workers and trade unionists were planning to march through Paris yesterday afternoon in support of the wages struggle at Renault and the demand for reintroduction of military deferment.

The demonstration followed the first meeting of the new French Council of Ministers, where President Pompidou urged the adoption of a tough line with the movement in the high schools.

At the same time, however, the President was more conciliatory in the words he used about the Renault strikers and immigrant workers in general.

No doubt he hopes to create divisions between the workers and the students.

Pompidou and his Education Minister, Joseph Fontanet, made clear after the cabinet meeting that the education service would be kept going and university liberties would be protected.

Neither aggression from outside, nor illegal occupations of public buildings would be tolerated, he said.

The authority of the chiefs of the educational establishments would be strengthened.

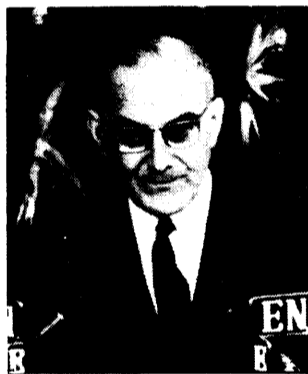
Pompidou was considerably more conciliatory when he turned to the question of the Renault strike and the conditions of production-line and immigrant workers.

The government, he said, should show itself 'imaginative and generous' in satisfying the demand for changes in workers' conditions, particularly those of immigrants.

The President's tone demonstrates the fear that unless the present situation is delicately handled there could be an explosion of class struggle.

Pompidou is particularly anxious to try to prevent any revival of the unity between the middle class and the workers which was demonstrated in May-June 1968.

He is heavily dependent on the Communist Party to hold the working class in check—a task which it has religiously carried out over the past few months, especially in the pre-election period.



Caetano . . . 'Oldest ally'

Yemeni students occupy embassy

YEMENI students seized the North Yemen embassy in Cairo yesterday and held the ambassador hostage.

About 500 students occupied the embassy in protest at the handing over of land to Saudi Arabia and the arrest of opposition leaders in Sanaa.

A students' spokesman said the protest was also against the occupation of some islands at the entrance to the Red Sea by Israeli commandos.

An Israeli presence on the islands in the strait of Bab el Mandeb could give them control over the entry of shipping.

COMMON MARKET commission has approved the sale of 200,000 tons of surplus butter to the Soviet Union at a knockdown price. The deal will cost the Common Market farm fund about £150m in export subsidies to community butter traders. Delivery over a seven-month period will effectively halve the EEC's 400,000-ton 'mountain' of stockpiled butter.

■ THE RIGHT TO WORK

■ THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

■ THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

FROM DAVID MAUDE IN LIVERPOOL

SIT-IN STRIKERS at Tillotson's Liverpool carton-making factory are fighting to defend three basic rights.

These are the right to work, the right to independent trade union organization and the right to take industrial action. St Regis, the US conglomerate which now owns the factory, has challenged all three.

On Friday, March 16, 26 women workers at the factory were told they were being made redundant.

Since 1967 the labour force at Tillotson's has been cut from 700 down to 400, with waves of redundancy each year.

Last September, when another 103 jobs were threatened, the factory chapel of SOGAT, the paperworkers' union, decided enough was enough.

The chapel said it would resist all future redundancies, either compulsory or voluntary.

So the management knew it would be resisted—the more so since negotiations of the redundancy plans were still going on at local and national level. It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that the company must also have planned its next move.

The form the chapel's resistance took was a work to rule. The company retaliated by dismissing four chapel officials.

Tom Chute and Ann Shane are, respectively, father and mother of the SOGAT chapel (a post equivalent to shop stewards). Eric Bradley and Artie Martin, the other two sacked workers, are deputy FoC and chapel chairman.

On March 22, Tillotson's general manager, P. S. Brewin, informed the four that they had been dismissed for inducing their members to break their contracts of employment, which he claimed was an unfair industrial practice under the Industrial Relations Act.

Ray Jones, assistant secretary of the Liverpool branch of SOGAT, says such a statement is quite outside his experience as a union official.

'There may have been other instances of this kind of thing,' he told me, 'but I haven't heard of them. As far as I know it's quite unprecedented.'

The following day, Friday March 23, the 400-strong workforce at the Commercial Road factory unanimously decided to occupy the factory until their chapel officials were fully reinstated.

The management immediately left the site and took up residence at a new luxury hotel in the city centre, the Holiday Inn, where they have been picketed by women workers from the factory carrying placards.

Tom Chute, the sacked

FoC, explained that the sit-in strike was being conducted on a rota basis, with 60 workers in attendance each shift.

Committees had already been set up to run the various aspects of the occupation, and there would be regular mass meetings.

'This action is against our right to work and against us as elected FoCs,' he said of the company's move to dismiss them.

'It's an attack on our most basic rights as trade unionists, and we're determined to win these rights back.'

Added Ann Shane: 'The management's attitude has been completely dictatorial.'

'They refused discussion of their redundancy plans, although we were prepared to discuss manning levels in the factory. They refused to give us a manning agreement.'

'Notices issued to the 26 were compulsory, not voluntary. Yet later they accused us of opposing our members' right to a free choice in the matter!'

'Quite rightly, the women just handed back their notices and sat in the canteen.'

Steve Hughes, a fork-lift truck driver four years at Tillotson's, expressed the mood of the younger workers at the factory.

'We back the union all the way,' he said. 'We can't lose if we stick together.'

'I've got some mates on the dole. We're not just fighting for four union reps, but for the right to work. That's what we want.'

Many of the sit-in strikers voiced fears that behind the management's attitude lay plans for complete closure.

There are reports that St Regis has purchased a new site which will be opened up for production by 1975 and will employ less than 200 workers.

Labour MPs have been asked to investigate.

Print sit-in for basic rights



Girls from the occupied plant picket the employers who are 'exiled' in a city centre hotel.

Plea for coal's future in EEC

BY ROYSTON BULL

THE TYING in of Britain's economy to the requirements of the monopolies of the Common Market was again underlined by Derek Ezra, chairman of the Coal Board, yesterday when he told EEC officials, including the Community's Energy Commissioner Henri Simonet, of his industry's hopes and needs.

The Council of Ministers is expected to review energy policy at its mid-May meeting, when long-term fuel supply decisions are due to be taken.

One possible plan is for Britain to concentrate on coal production while Germany concentrates on steel. This might lead to a reversal of the historic decline of Britain's mining output, but the corollary would be the 50,000 steel redundancies—and more—the British Steel Corporation is about to implement.

But there is nothing certain about this prospect. All sorts of vested interests in the nine Market countries have to be placated.

This is why Ezra couches his proposals in the form of a plea—to the higher authorities in Brussels and Paris.

'The British coal industry is vigorously using all the Community channels to state its case,' an NCB handout reads.

The decision could just as easily be that Britain should run down still further both its steel AND its coal industries.

Ezra's main theme song all along has been a political-nationalist one: that Middle-East oil supplies are going to become less and less reliable in the crisis-fraught period ahead.

He also plays the Malthusian 'energy shortage' theme, too, implying that the world's oil supplies are going to run out or become prohibitively expensive.

The tragedy is that Britain's National Union of Mineworkers goes along with a lot of this hogwash and gets itself firmly caught up in the EEC net as a result.

None of these monopolist-inspired committees can offer any solution other than an imperialist one. And with the crisis of capitalism getting deeper every day, the prospects for all who work in the coal industry are precarious whatever is 'decided'.

The truth is that no 'planning' by any capitalist countries, singly or in groups, is worth the paper it is on.

The European Coal and Steel Community Consultative Committee may decide one thing today, but harsh economic necessities will make them repudiate it tomorrow, just as the British and Italian capitalists have already torn the Common Market monetary policy to shreds only months after it had been drawn up.

Sheffield threat to halt boilers

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

A MASS meeting of Sheffield hospital workers yesterday voted to consider bringing out boilermen at the 11 local hospitals.

The threat to pull out boilermen was put to a packed meeting of 150 ancillary workers at Transport House by Ken Curran of the regional co-ordinating committee. Laundry personnel also passed a resolution to continue the present level of industrial action.

The Sheffield workers agreed to meet in a week's time to reconsider the situation. Lilly Talbot, a worker from the Northern General, told Workers Press: 'We want to stop anybody from doing voluntary work. If we give in now, we'll have a life like dogs. Mr Heath is frightened of a General Strike.'

● Hospital workers in South Wales are to continue their strike action until April 18. The unions' co-ordinating committee agreed in Cardiff yesterday to reaffirm their decision to continue the strike plan.

Hospital workers invade boardroom

ABOUT 300 striking hospital workers invaded the offices of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board yesterday to see Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary for Health and Social Services.

Chanting 'What do we want? More money', they marched to the top of the board's seven-storey headquarters.

But Joseph had a last-minute change of plan. He decided to miss his Manchester engagement and go straight to Preston to see Lancashire County Council officials.

When they heard Joseph would not be arriving the strikers—mainly from the Salford group of hospitals—immediately occupied a board room for a protest meeting.

At this point the authori-

ties called the police who turned up in droves. The strikers agreed to leave the building if asked to do so by the police.

A delegation later saw the board secretary, Mr Frank Pethybridge.

Colin Barnett, north west regional officer of NUPE, said: 'This is a sign of the hospital workers' increasing militancy and determination to win a decent settlement.'

'Sir Keith Joseph must understand that his failure to come here today and meet a deputation from the unions has caused our anger to increase.'

'This is the first time a hospital board's premises have been taken over, and the management must realize they will never again be able to kick hospital workers around like they have in the past.'

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TRACTORS: SAFETY CABS SAVE LIVES

In 1972 there were 95 fatal accidents in agricultural work. Nineteen of them were of children under 15 years old. Thirty fatal accidents involved tractors, and five of the people killed were under 15 years old.

Many of these deaths might have been avoided had the tractors been fitted with approved cabs when workers drove them. Since September 1970 all tractors sold for use in agriculture must be fitted with such cabs, but not until September 1977 will tractors bought before that date be compelled to have approved cabs.

Yet the Ministry of Agriculture has reported that 51 accidents involving overturning tractors with approved safety cabs were investigated in 1972 and in nearly every case the driver escaped without injury.

The Ministry statement declares: 'There is overwhelming evidence that safety cabs save lives. At least 100 people are alive today because their tractors were fitted with safety cabs when they overturned. Most of these drivers escaped without injury; the others suffered only minor injury or bruising.'

'This is truly remarkable in view of the severity of some of the reported overturning incidents. Some of the tractors rolled over several times down steep hillsides.'

Yet the Tory Ministry has resisted pressure from the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers to make safety cabs compulsory on all tractors.

Fatal accidents in agriculture in England and Wales last year were (figures in brackets indicate people under 15 years of age):

Tractors		
(a) Overturned	19	(2)
(b) various	11	(3)
Other self-propelled machines	3	(2)
Other field machinery	14	(1)
Electricity	6	
Falls	13	(3)
Drowning	5	(5)
Animals	7	
Falling and swinging objects	4	(1)
Gunshot	3	
Other injuries and diseases	10	(2)
TOTAL:	95	(19)

Unemployed youth

One of the worst-hit areas in the country for youth unemployment is the north-west. At the end of last year there were five unemployed boys for every vacancy in the area.

These grim figures were given to a conference organized by the Institute of Careers Officers by Mr John Healey, chairman of the Department of Employment's central youth employment executive.

He said that in March the number of young people out of work fell nationally by a third. But in the north-west the drop was only a seventh.

And throughout 1972 the area was the only region where employment figures for youngsters did not improve.

In mid-1968 the region had two vacancies for every boy out of work. By the end of last year there were five unemployed boys for every outstanding job. Yet in the south-east there were three vacancies for every unemployed boy.

Healey said the fact that more young people were staying on at school prevented the figures from climbing even higher.

Another alarming factor in the north-west was that 15 per cent of unemployed young people had been jobless for at least six months.



WHITE-COLLAR BEANFEAST

Leaders of 1.5 million white-collar workers get together today at Congress House for a yearly beanfeast known as the annual conference of the National Federation of Professional Workers.

Even if you are a member of one of the unions involved, the initials NFPW probably mean about as much to you as they do to the average miner, shipwright or steelworker.

Because this is one of those bodies which seems to spend most of its time passing pious resolutions and writing to government Ministers, but doing little or nothing to defend and advance the living standards, working conditions and union organization of those who subscribe its funds.

Last year the federation's 52nd conference called for 'continued unity of the trade union movement in resisting, in line with TUC policy, the implementation of the Act'.

The terms of the motion—moved by TASS, the technical and supervisory section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers—were drawn to the attention of all 41 affiliated unions. A copy was sent to the TUC.

Within a few weeks of the conference the TUC performed a massive about-turn and allowed unions to co-operate with the National Industrial Relations Court, and NFPW

affiliates began trooping dutifully into court at the drop of a writ, regardless of their decision to resist implementation of the Act.

And if the union leaders have their way the same thing is going to happen to the policies they will decide today.

Five unions have motions dealing with the Tories' state pay control laws tabled for discussion.

The Society of Civil Servants 'rejects the government's proposals for the second stage of their prices and incomes policy', and calls for full support for its own campaign against them. TASS wants NFPW affiliates to 'maintain maximum pressure on the government for a reversal of its present policy'.

USDAW, the shopworkers' union, 'affirms its strong opposition to any form of statutory control of wages'—but goes on to talk about the 'imperative need' for unions themselves to establish a voluntary incomes policy giving effective control of prices, rents and dividends.

The GLC Staff Association was 'disturbed by reports of prospective government interference with the rights of staff . . . to proceed by regular annual increments up their scales of pay'. Insurance workers in Clive Jenkins' ASTMS organization want the NFPW conference to deplore 'the government's niggardly provision in the Counter-Inflation Bill (second stage) which permits the payment of only one-third of the remaining gap between

Clive Jenkins of ASTMS, one of the white-collar unions in the NFPW.

men's and women's rates'.

All these motions betray the deep and dangerous reformist confusion which the union leaders want to foist on their members.

The report of the federation's 70-strong executive committee reveals the contempt in which these kind of policies are held by the Tories.

Last July the executive wrote to the Secretary of State for Employment, Maurice Macmillan, expressing 'deep concern' at the jailing of five London dockers for contempt of the industrial court.

Macmillan handed down the letter to his Minister of State, Robin Chichester-Clark, who replied haughtily that 'the government cannot accept that its industrial relations legislation is responsible for any increase in industrial disruption'.

The dockers could have been jailed even before the legislation of the Industrial Relations Act, he said. In other words if the NFPW didn't like it it was just too bad.

The executive 'noted' this arrogant reply, but decided to take no further action on the subject. 'Further correspondence in the matter would not be fruitful', the union leaders commented.

And guess who today's guest speaker is at the NFPW conference. None other than . . . Robin Chichester-Clark!

PLUNDER AT SCHOOL

School meals are an essential part of the education and should not be hived off to private contractors, the Manchester education chief, Mr Dudley Fiske, has told a conference of educationists.

He said the service was in a vulnerable position. It was facing 'a managerial and commercial revolution'. The danger was that meals might be taken away from educational control like the school welfare service.

He was speaking at Leeds University where a new cook-freeze unit had been pioneered. In this experiment, meals are pre-cooked, then deep-frozen. Mr Fiske said a similar blast-freezing kitchen would open in Manchester later this year as part of the Abraham Moss Centre in Cheetham. This would produce 2,200 meals a day.

He concluded by saying that Manchester schoolchildren were fed pea soup and bread in the late 19th century. Ever since those days school meals have been important both for children's welfare and learning.

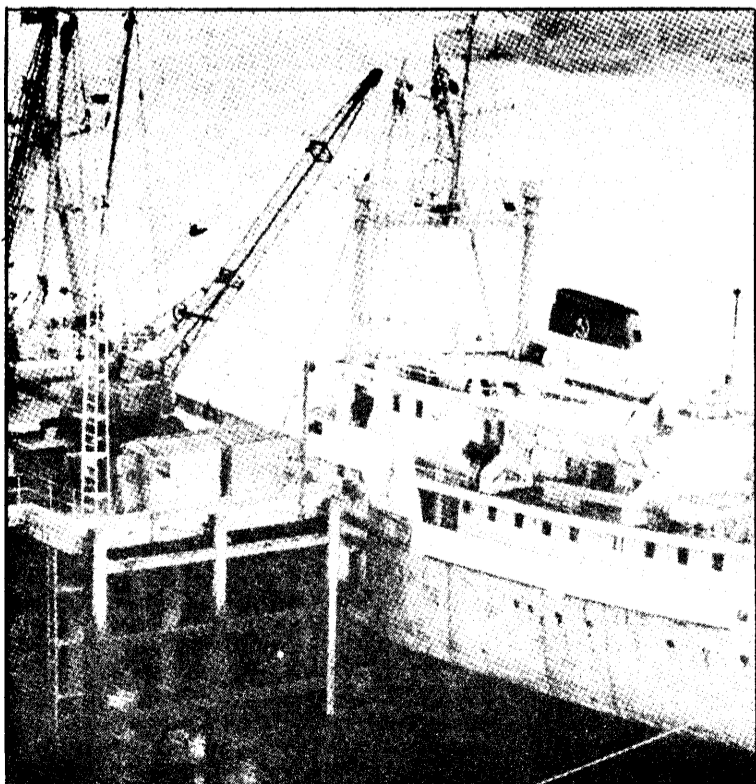
Kesp experiment

Although Fiske did not mention it, in many northern schools the new synthetic protein, Kesp, is being served during school meals. At one school Kesp has been used in stews and in the meat sauce on spaghetti. The experiment was launched without the knowledge of teachers, parents or pupils.

THE BIG PAY OFF

Payments totalling £97.5m were made to 297,000 workers made redundant last year. This works out at an average of £328 per redundant worker, says the Labour Research Department. Last year Sir John Wall left the chairmanship of International Computers Limited. He received £56,000 as 'compensation for loss of office'. He had been chairman since 1968.

POLICE GUARD ALLOWS SHIP TO UNLOAD



The Russian ship, 'Kondratii' unloading timber at the unregistered wharf Howdendyke on the Humber.

In the early hours of Sunday, April 1, a Dutch ship, the 'Inge Fiedler', berthed furtively at Bankside wharf in Hull and began unloading a cargo of French timber.

Under a strong police guard, seven non-registered employees of William Barchard and Son Ltd, the wharf owners, discharged the vessel in seven hours flat.

By 3.30 in the afternoon, its 400 tons of cargo lay ready for despatch on the quayside, the ship's hatches were battened down and the 'Inge Fiedler' lay ready to put back to sea.

This incident incensed the port's registered dockers, who have been waging a long and bitter battle against the non-registered wharfs dotted up and down the Humber and the Trent.

During the national docks strike last year they staged flying mass pickets at these wharfs, closing vital loopholes through which strike-breaking shipowners and 'cowboy' employers were attempt-

ing to pour thousands of tons of cargo.

Last Thursday Barchards climbed down and agreed to use registered dockers to unload their timber. But the threat from other wharfs continued.

Hull dockers want the recall of the Transort and General Workers' Union docks delegate conference to discuss why the National Ports Council has not recommended registration of such wharfs.

One of the wharfs most strongly picketed in the campaign which led up to last year's national dock strike is at Howdendyke.

Like Bankside this wharf tends to specialize in the handling of timbers. Which is what the Soviet vessel the 'Kondratii' was unloading there when the picture left was taken.

What has the Communist Party, which helped sell the National Ports Council inquiry into unregistered ports to dockers last year, to say about this blatant collaboration with the dockers' enemies?

PORTUGUESE WAGE SLAVES

BY JOHN SPENCER

British capital plays an important part in the exploitation of the Portuguese colonies in Africa, Mozambique and Angola, both directly and in association with South African mining and finance houses.

Portugal ranks as Britain's 'oldest ally': a relationship which has kept Portugal a poor, mainly agrarian country but a lucrative outlet for capital and a market for manufactured goods.

This relationship was cemented by the Methuen Treaty of 1703 and Portugal became a main supplier of wine for the tables of the rich. In the 19th century Portuguese governments fell into increasing dependence upon the financiers of the City of London. Then British capital gained a foothold in Portugal's African colonies established two centuries before.

As a backward country economically, Portugal did not have surplus capital seeking profitable outlets abroad.

While Europe's 'big powers' have handed over their African colonies to national-bourgeois governments, Portugal stubbornly resists what is known as 'decolonization' because her economy is parasitic on the colonies in a different way from the more advanced imperialist countries.

The colonies provide an outlet for surplus population, earn foreign exchange to bridge the balance-of-payments deficit and have reserves of cheap labour which can be employed in mines or on plantations of Mozambique and Angola. In addition, the white rulers of Mozambique are paid by the South African government to provide migratory workers for the gold and diamond mines.

In extracting profits from the cheap black labour of the

colonies, Portuguese imperialism plays the role of middle man and gendarme, while the lion's share goes to international business and financial interests.

Considerable advantages are offered to foreign companies and investors: tax exemptions and guarantees that profits and capital can be repatriated.

International capital backs Portugal's vicious colonial wars because it is safe from expropriation and is sure of making lush profits as long as Portuguese rule is maintained.

British and international capital control the Angola Diamond Company, DIAMANG, through the De Beers Consolidated Mines and Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa.

DIAMANG employs 200,000 African workers and has a concession for almost the entire country. Many of these workers are recruited under obligatory labour systems which compel Africans to work in the mines for subsistence wages.

British capital is also involved with the South African companies which exploit the rich mineral resources of Mozambique.

Anglo-American is associated with the notorious Union Minière, originally operating in the Belgian Congo, in coal and bauxite mining.

British firms also profit from Portugal's colonial wars in defence of international finance capital. Whitbread brew beer for the troops, British-American Tobacco sells them cigarettes, firms like Plessey and Racall supply telecommunications equipment. Chemical warfare—defoliation of liberated areas—is carried on with the help of chemicals obtained from a South African subsidiary of BP, notably a herbicide known as Convolvutex.

The list of firms operating in Portugal and the Portuguese colonies compiled by the Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guine and published as a pamphlet is a

veritable roster of famous business names, including ICI, Shell, the Thomson Organization, Metal Box, Unilever and Rio Tinto Zinc.

Most of the big insurance companies have agencies in Portugal or the colonies. The Standard Bank of South Africa, which is closely connected with the City, has big interests. Barclays Bank and Hill Samuel also have interests. Lazard Bros have arranged two loans for the Portuguese government since 1967. The 1970 loan, arranged by the Export Credit Guarantee Department, a government agency, was backed by Barclays, the Bank of Scotland, Glynn Mills, Lloyds, Midland and the National Westminster.

Portugal has now to borrow internationally in order to meet the payments on past loans. The time may soon come when more has to be paid out in interest and repayment than can be obtained in new loans.

Although British investments in Portugal and the Portuguese colonies has been outstripped in recent years by those of West Germany and the United States, the government and ruling class look on Britain as their traditional protector. None of this capital investment helps to establish the Portuguese economy on a sound basis; it merely increases its dependence on international capital.

Portugal, like Turkey, Greece and Spain, is very much part of the 'Free World'. Although not a member of the Common Market, she is closely linked with it just as she has been with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since its foundation.

The Portuguese government is aiming to become a full EEC member and to get more support from the NATO countries to wipe out the colonial liberation movement.

These efforts will be backed wholeheartedly by British capitalism on behalf of its 'oldest ally' and junior partner in the imperialist exploitation of southern Africa.

BUNDESBANK RESTRICTIONS SEND BANK RATE SOARING

Rates of interest in West Germany are continuing at record levels, creating great difficulties for anyone who wants to borrow money.

The rates have risen in response to stringent controls imposed by the Bundesbank at the height of the monetary crisis a month ago.

The Bundesbank imposed controls to prevent the influx of Euro-dollars which were being sold for marks in the confident expectation of a mark revaluation.

The Bundesbank barred German nationals from borrowing cash in the Euro-currency market for domestic use and forced the commercial banks to deposit a large portion of their reserves in its vaults.

The aim was to stem the inflation that threatened to get out of control as a result of the dollar wave flooding over the frontier.

For every dollar brought into Germany the Bundesbank had to set into circulation an equivalent quantity of marks.

As a result of the Bundesbank's measures, the interest rate on short-term loans has risen over the past month to reach an all-time record level.

It now stands at just under 20 per cent a year and forecasters predict it will go even higher.

Of course this will mean steep increases in the cost of living and an industrial down turn.

Virtually no long-term loans are being contracted in West Germany. Industrialists who want money for investment are holding off until the price of money falls.

Stranglehold on credits

The lack of investment in turn will lead to lay-offs and increased unemployment if the interest rates remain high.

And the Bundesbank council has made it clear that it has no intention of relaxing its stranglehold on credit. No change is planned in the battery of controls.

This decision was taken despite appeals from the commercial banks which are affected by the increased interest rates.

These banks are closely tied into the ownership of industry and will transmit their problems directly onto the backs

of the workers in the basic industries.

The banks, of course, are lending everything they can lay their hands on in order to take advantage of the interest rates.

So much so that 'The Times' reports some banks are rumoured to be unable to fulfil the Bundesbank's minimum reserve requirements.

This means that their liquid funds—cash in hand and securities which can be cashed on demand—are no longer sufficient to cover the amount of liabilities they have acquired.

The banks involved will be subjected to a 10-per-cent fine, but bankers indicate that at present interest rates it is profitable to make loans and pay the fine out of the interest.

However this practice could expose them to the danger of being 'caught short' without liquid capital when their debts are called in.

Bankers greed

They can no longer resort to the Euro-dollar market as a ready means of acquiring short-term liquidity.

The Bundesbank has promised that if any bank does get into this sort of trouble it will be able to get Bundesbank loans against securities deposited with the central bank.

This is a compromise which will not satisfy the bankers' greed for money to lend.

According to 'The Times': 'One banker in Dusseldorf sombrely noted that if the Bundesbank fails to relax restrictions in the near future, then many banks will be totally unable to grant credits.'

It was the bankers—in the eagerness to make quick gains by coupon-clipping on the Euro-currency market—who opened the door to the inflationary flood of dollars.

They will no doubt now turn round and deliver pious sermons to the German working class on the need to tighten their belts and share the sacrifices the banking system is making for the fatherland.

These hypocritical exhortations should fool nobody. The banks were responsible for the inflation in the first place. They now want to compound it for good measure. And when the Bundesbank steps in with controls they howl that funds are running out.

RESPECTED FASCIST

A leading supporter of Adolf Hitler—not General Franco—is alive and well and living in Madrid. He is Leon Degrelle, leader of the Belgian fascists, one of Hitler's favourite collaborators. He is an avowed racist and anti-Semite who believes in racial purity. 'I do not want my race to be polluted,' he said. 'The Jews? It is their own fault. They never want to be a true citizen of one country. They have

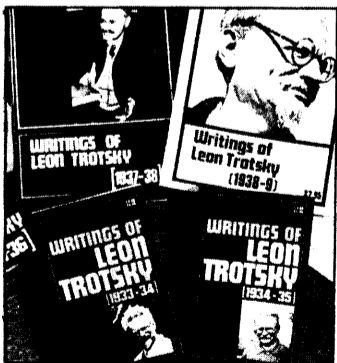
always been a fifth column.'

Degrelle was responsible for thousands of Belgian Jews going to the gas chambers. He now lives under Franco's protection in a luxurious flat.

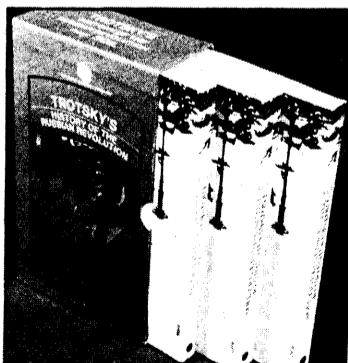
In an interview for Dutch television he praised Hitler as the greatest 20th century statesman and said that his only regret was that he had not won the war. It is said that many highly-placed and respectable Belgians fear Degrelle's return home. He knows too much about their fascist activities during the German occupation.

He has made a fortune in Spain in property speculation, owns five villas and is a respected citizen.

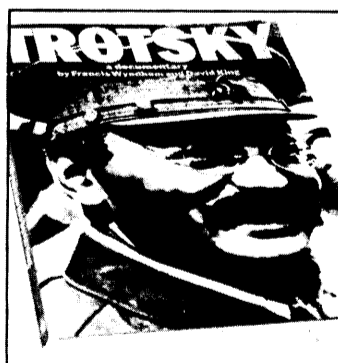
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THE EURO-CURRENCY MONSTER IS OUT OF CONTROL

The most graphic and striking expression of the inflationary crisis of world capitalism is today to be found in the Euro-currency market.

This consists of a vast pool of paper currency, bonds, IOUs and other forms of credit which are outside the control of any individual country.

It is extremely difficult to measure the size of this market and much of its business is conducted in secret.

Nevertheless expert estimates put the volume of paper being traded on the Euro-currency market at over \$90,000m.

This is about 1½ times the combined reserves of the nine member-countries of the Common Market and at least eight times the reserves of a comparatively wealthy central bank like the Bank of France.

The market is so large that no single country nor even a relatively powerful capitalist bloc like the Common Market, can control it.

Yet, large though it is, the Euro-currency market is not the only outlet for the immense quantities of paper money and other debts accumulated during the inflationary boom.

The United States tariff commission recently published

an estimate of the total short-term funds in private hands at the end of 1971.

They concluded that this amounted to at least \$268,000m—three times the estimated size of the Euro-currency market.

The commission pointed out that the sum involved is equal, at the same date, to the combined stocks of money and quasi-money of the United Kingdom, France West Germany and Belgium, more than three times the total international reserves of the industrialized countries (\$88,500m) and well over twice the total of world reserves.

The size of this sum of paper money—and remember this represents only the short-term 'hot' money which can readily be switched over national frontiers—makes any form of monetary stability impossible.

As the commission put it in its report, the hot money totals 'are very large numbers. They should lay to rest any doubts that the organizations involved are capable of generating flows that could disrupt normal payment relationships among countries . . . a movement of a mere 1 per cent or \$2,700m, in response to an exchange rate weakness or strength, is quite sufficient to produce a first-class international crisis.'

The tariff commission was not exaggerating. It was a movement of almost this sum from dollars into marks on Thursday March 1 that forced the West German government to close its foreign markets and set in motion the crisis discussions which led to the present floating currency regime.

That crisis laid to rest fixed parities and gave devastating evidence of the power of the Euro-currency market and the impotence of governments to control it.

This market, which is now such a source of heartburn for the governments and central bankers of world capitalism, was begun, paradoxically, from Moscow.

'AS GOOD AS GOLD'

Soviet and East European countries in the mid-1950s preferred to hold their overseas balances in the form of dollars, because the dollar had the advantage of being universally acceptable and in the eyes of most dealers 'as good as gold'.

But because they feared that Cold War considerations might lead the United States government to freeze their balances if the political situation worsened, they preferred

to hold their dollars with banks outside the US.

These were, in reality, the first Euro-dollars, the small beginning from which the present-day monster has grown.

Most of these dollars were deposited in London, which is still the centre of the market in Euro-currency.

There is nothing special about Euro-currency. A Euro-dollar, for example, is simply a dollar held on deposit through a bank outside the United States by a non-resident of the US.

Many of these dollars are in the hands of the giant American multi-national corporations and of the big banks that have muscled into Europe over the past ten years.

The dollar is not the only currency traded in this way. There are today Euro-marks, Euro-guilders, Euro-sterling, Euro-francs and even Euro-yen.

The market barely existed 15 years ago. The size of the Euro-currency market in 1959 was only about \$1,000m. It has grown almost 100-fold since then.

The growth of the Euro-currency market ran in parallel with the deficit in the US balance of payments. It was this deficit which kept a permanent and growing pool of dollars outside the US.

These dollars represented claims on the United States

Treasury, which was pledged to redeem them for gold at a price of \$35 an ounce.

In March 1968 the Treasury reneged on its pledge to sell gold to private dollar-holders and on August 15, 1971, the Nixon administration declared it would not sell any more gold at the 'official' price to central banks either.

This removed the entire basis in gold terms for the inverted pyramid of paper money and credit of which the Euro-currency market formed such an important segment.

The Euro-currency market was and remains an essential part of the mechanism of world trade for which it provides a substantial slice of total foreign exchange.

Yet at the same time this immense accumulation of paper and credit has played a prominent part in undermining the stability of the international monetary system and ultimately destroying it.

The Euro-currency market forms a pool of hot money which is now of completely indeterminate value and in which one currency is floating against another without any fixed relationship (except for the European 'common float').

Nobody any longer believes the fiction that paper can be made 'as good as gold'. This is





demonstrated every day on the bullion markets where the price of gold continues to climb.

This development was foreshadowed a century ago by Karl Marx in his book 'Capital'. He wrote (Vol III, page 483): '... it should never be forgotten that money, in the first place in the form of precious metals, remains the basis from which the credit system can never detach itself.'

In a keynote speech to the Bankers' Club of Chicago on April 27, 1971, Sir Leslie O'Brien, the governor of the Bank of England, referred to the danger that investors and bankers would lose confidence in what he termed 'the worldwide usability of the dollar'.

Faith in the dollar, he said, laid the foundation of the Euro-currency market and was its keystone. But today there is no longer the slightest confidence in the once almighty dollar.

O'Brien told the Chicago bankers that this 'unhappy situation' of lack of confidence would, if it ever arrived, endanger 'the whole fabric of the post-1945 international monetary system'.

This fabric is already in ruins a mere two years after O'Brien's speech and it is the edifice of international credit itself which is now exposed to the danger of a crash.

Paper transactions are now almost the sole means of financing world trade. Even in 1971 less than a third of world trade was being conducted in or backed by gold.

But today world trade is not conducted in gold at all. The gold assets of the various central banks are effectively frozen.

No central banker in his right mind will settle a debt in gold when he can still settle in dollars, marks, francs, sterling or other paper.

Equally, nobody with a gold hoard wants to part with the metal while its price on the free market continues to rocket upwards and the buying power of paper currency continues to plummet.

FORCED TO BORROW

Traders who need foreign exchange for their transactions are increasingly forced to borrow on the Euro-currency market what they need.

The market is almost entirely free of restrictions and many if not most countries have stringent restrictions on foreign currency transactions involving their own nationals.

However, transactions conducted entirely in other countries' monies have been free from restrictions, making the Euro-currency market an 'extra-territorial' one.

In addition, countries which have imposed controls over the freedom of residents to invest overseas from domestic funds have allowed such investment much more freely if it was to be financed by borrowing overseas.

The Euro-currency market is international in its ramifications. To cope with the demands of the market, the banks have grouped themselves together into multinational consortia banks.

These banks, in which almost every financial institution of any size in the capitalist world is involved have facilitated immensely the ex-

tension of credit and the growth of the market.

But at the same time they have concentrated the risk, ensuring the one failure can be transmitted rapidly throughout the system.

In fact, the very 'sophistication' regarded as such a virtue by the Euro-market money managers is the gravest source of weakness and danger.

Many capitalist economists have warned about the dangers involved. At a 'Financial Times' conference held recently in London, Professor A. A. Waters was quoted as saying it was remarkable there had been no large-scale failures so far—testifying to the 'knowledge and wisdom' of the participants.

'Nevertheless', he said, 'one large collapse could hit confidence a severe blow, falling on the US commercial banks and in practice being transmitted throughout the system.' The 'Financial Times' speaks of the danger of 'a substantial default in either the medium-term bank market or the long-term bond sector'.

It blames this danger on 'the pressure of competition for volume business' leading to 'a continued trend towards the lengthening of the credit available, increasing pressure on spreads and profitability and the extension of credit to an ever-increasing number of borrowers who a few years back would have been regarded as marginal by most lenders'.

The latest Bank of England reports on the market demonstrate a marked tendency towards borrowing short and lending long—in other words loaning for longer periods money borrowed on short-term basis.

This is the classic formula for failure, because it places the institutions involved in the continual danger of being unable to find ready money to pay their short-term debts.

In domestic banking practice the central bank normally acts as a 'lender of last resort' in that it will discount the bank's long-term assets, lending ready money against the long-term IOUs in the bank's possession.

But in the Euro-currency market there is no such lender of last resort. As O'Brien put it: 'There is no one national banking authority that can supervise its operations, insist on sound practices and stand ready, in emergency to be a "lender of last resort".'

CHAIN REACTION

'By the same token, it cannot be easy for lenders, whose interbank lending is unsecured, to know much about the creditworthiness or the full financial commitments of the ultimate borrower.'

'One big failure, it is sometimes said, could lead to a chain reaction bringing down all in its path.'

Yet O'Brien rejected the idea of supervising the market, echoing the opinion of other pundits that the Euro-currency market could not function if it were brought under control and would in any case simply migrate out of London as soon as controls were applied, depriving the British banking magnates of their parasitic earnings from international coupon-clipping.

O'Brien's answer to the problem of banks lending long

Above: Sir Leslie O'Brien of the Bank of England. Left: Paul Volcker with the then US Secretary of the Treasury, John Connally on his visit to London for the Group of Ten meeting in September 1971.

and selling short is proving entirely inadequate. In his speech he claimed: 'It is possible and indeed customary for banks to maintain a fairly close maturity matching between their liabilities and their assets.'

All this means is that banks 'customarily' don't suffer from liquidity problems. This is like failing to take out car insurance on the ground that motor accidents are not 'customary'.

In fact the Bank of England maintains a watch on the 'maturity matching' of banks involved in the Euro-market. But this simply shows that the situation is deteriorating: banks are making longer and shakier loans and borrowing in the short-term to cover them.

O'Brien comforted himself in Montreal with the thought that 'by and large', the banks were observing the customary matching.

The Bank of England's ostrich attitude to the menace of Euro-currency market defaults is not, of course, accidental. It arises from the unstable character of the whole of international credit.

The monetary authorities are paralysed: the monster called into being to serve the credit requirements of world capitalism is out of control. More to the point, it is so unbalanced that any attempt at discipline or control could be the last straw which breaks its back.



ADOLF HITLER — STALIN'S FRIEND

A TWO PART ARTICLE BY JACK GALE

The Communist Party is consistently and deliberately covering up for engineers' leader Hugh Scanlon, who has publicly declared his willingness to accept an 'amended' Industrial Relations Act as well as 'the fact' of British entry into the Common Market. The Stalinists are doing this because they are in complete agreement with Scanlon. Despite their earlier verbal opposition to the Industrial Relations Act and the Common Market, the CP leadership is preparing to accept both. Such a somersault would be nothing new for Stalinism, as an examination of just one episode in the history of this counter-revolutionary tendency will show.

On August 23, 1939, Joseph Stalin made a pact with Adolf Hitler. This consisted of a non-aggression agreement, the joint division of Poland, and economic 'co-operation'.

It involved the destruction of the Polish Communist Party, the return of refugees from Nazism from Russia to Germany and the export of strategic materials from Russia to Germany.

The pact sparked off Bacchanalian celebrations between the Stalinists and the fascists:

'Herr Stalin spontaneously proposed to the Fuehrer, as follows: "I know how much the German nation loves its Fuehrer; I should therefore like to drink to his health." Herr Molotov drank to the health of the Reich Foreign Minister and of the ambassador.

'Herr Molotov raised his glass to Stalin, remarking that it had been Stalin who had brought about the reversal in

political relations. Herren Molotov and Stalin drank repeatedly to the Non-Aggression Pact, the new era of German-Russian relations, and to the German nation.

'The Reich Foreign Minister [Ribbentrop] in turn proposed a toast to Herr Stalin, toasts to the Soviet government and to a favourable development of relations between Germany and the Soviet Union.' ('Nazi-Soviet Relations' by Hencke, a Nazi Diplomat, pp 75-76.)

In Britain, the Pact was to determine the line of the Communist Party right up until the day that Hitler invaded Russia on June 22, 1941. As always, the interests of the working class were subordinated to the requirements of the bureaucracy in the Kremlin.

Harry Pollitt, John Gollan, Bert Ramelson and company, therefore, were outspoken opponents of war during this period, not out of revolutionary internationalism, but in order not to disrupt the relations between Stalin and his new friends.



The CP's present general secretary, John Gollan, was then general secretary of the Young Communist League. On November 4, 1939, after Hitler had invaded Poland, Gollan wrote:

'The case of Poland cannot be compared with that of Czechoslovakia, China or other victims of Nazi aggression . . . Who fired the first shot makes no difference to the fact that it is an imperialist war. An end to the war now means a victory for the progressive forces. . . .

'That peace will or will not strengthen Hitler by the addition of more territory is simply not the issue. The reality of the situation is not the restoration of the old Polish state, nor an ideological crusade against Hitlerism. These are simply excuses for continuing the war . . . Reality and the interests of the people demand an end to the war and an immediate peace conference.'

The 'Daily Worker', forerunner of the 'Morning Star', has been—if possible—even more cynical. On September 25, 1939, it had headlined 'Warsaw Cries for Aid in her Agony'.

Five days later it had got the new line clear. The Stalin-Hitler Pact, it said, was a peace offer to Europe. To talk of war to the end, which means the slaughter of the youth of Europe, would be sheer madness.'

The British Communist Party, of course, was taking its line from Moscow. In 'Pravda' of November 30, 1939, Stalin declared:

'It was not Germany who attacked Britain and France, but Britain and France who attacked Germany. After military operations had begun, Germany approached the British and French governments with an offer of peace.

'The British and French governments brusquely re-

jected the German proposals and the USSR's efforts for a settlement.'

(Not only the Russian and British Stalinists, but the German Stalinists supported the Stalin-Hitler Pact.

Walter Ulbricht, later head of the East German government and Socialist Unity Party, wrote in the exile Party paper 'Die Welt', on February 2, 1940:

'The German government declared itself ready to establish peaceful relations with the Soviet Union, whilst the Anglo-French war bloc wants war with the Soviet Union . . . The German working class wants an extensive trade alliance with the Soviet Union . . .

'Many workers welcome the pact all the more because it strengthens their friendship with the great land of socialism . . . not only the communists, but also many social and national socialist workers regard it as their task not in any circumstances to permit a breach of the Pact' [emphasis added].

This failure to give a revolutionary lead to the German working class played into Hitler's hands. But it only echoed the pro-Nazi policies of the Kremlin.

The Stalinists not only greeted the Nazi crushing of Poland with pleasure, but undertook to crush any anti-fascist movement in the parts of Poland controlled by them.

On September 9, 1939, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Molotov, sent the following telegram to the Nazi ambassador: 'I have received your communication regarding the entry of German troops into Warsaw. Please convey my congratulations and greetings to the German Reich government.'

Then, a Supplementary Protocol to the original Pact of August 23, was signed by Molotov and Ribbentrop. This said:

Stalin with German Foreign Minister, Ribbentrop after the signing of the pact. Left: John Gollan who during the invasion of Poland opposed the war.

'Both parties will tolerate in their territories no Polish agitation which affects the territories of the other party.

'They will suppress in their territories all beginnings of such agitation and inform each other concerning suitable measures for this purpose.' ('Nazi-Soviet Relations' p. 107.)

In this period, the British Stalinists not only opposed war against Germany, they also opposed the Churchill coalition government.

In June, 1940, Palme Dutt wrote in 'Labour Monthly': 'The new coalition government of Churchill-Chamberlain-Attlee is a government of full and unlimited imperialist war.'

In July, he wrote: 'Churchill and Chamberlain unite in common defence of their identical imperialist and class interests.'

In May, 1941: 'By every device of publicity and flattery the great bubble of the Churchill reputation was inflated to become the mascot for the ugly visage of finance capital.

'All his previous record as the arch-enemy of the people, as the leader of reaction, as the imperialist adventurer and gambler with blood and treasure, and hero of a hundred fiascos, was covered over . . .

' . . . of the ruthless crushing of the General Strike, of the war on the Soviet Union, of the crusade against Indian freedom, of the leadership of diehard Tories, of the eulogies of Mussolini and fascism . . . were covered over and assumed to be forgotten.'

Within a few weeks it was to be Dutt and his Stalinist colleagues who were to be doing the 'covering over'.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

DOOM

The Tory 'law-and-order' brigade is getting a bit carried away with its own rhetoric.

In Hampstead, north London, that traditional home of millionaire Tories and trendy 'lefts', the Conservatives have put out a four-page printed 'Election Special' to boost their candidate, Ian Clarke, in the forthcoming GLC elections.

Under the slogan, 'Towards a Better Hampstead', Mr Clarke pledges himself to 'stand up and fight for Hampstead' and makes extravagant promises about schools, transport, planning and historic buildings.

All pretty straightforward local government stuff, one would have thought. But it is obviously not enough for the men behind the 'Election Special'.

Besides a fairly innocuous lead article saying that the vital issues in the elections are homes, roads, traffic, public transport, pollution and re-development of the docklands and that a vote for the Conservatives is a 'vote for a brighter future and a better London', there is a photograph of angry strikers confronting uniformed policemen.

The caption reads: 'The arm of the law or the rule of the jungle?'

But the best is yet to come. In a special appeal to the electorate ('Speak Up! The Silent Majority') the writer manages to produce this lurid picture of impending doom:

'In the Press and on television and radio the aggressive voice of disruption is heard loud and clear.

'The determined policies of Conservative government to defeat inflation are derided in the biggest propaganda drive against British progress since Lord Haw Haw's wartime tirades.

'At local level, imaginative schemes of Greater London's Conservative-controlled Council are knocked on principle by both Labour and Liberal pundits.

'In the docks and elsewhere dissident trade union rabble rousers seek to increase their influence through local government.

'The aim is not to improve the lot of all ratepayers or, indeed, any section of the community. They seek anarchy...'

Wow! That should have them shivering in their shoes at the top of Highgate Hill!

KEEP OUT

Frank Ing, Labour councillor on Hammersmith Council, is in the most curious fight. He is battling to get back to the Labour group on the Labour-controlled council.

Cllr Ing's troubles began last year when he and a group of other Labour councillors voted against implementation of the Housing Finance Act. That's in order, you would think. After all, opposition to the Act is the policy of the Labour Party conference and the TUC.

But Hammersmith's right-wing caucus decided to vote to bring in the Act and raise the council rents of all the local Labour supporters. For his 'heresy', Ing and his colleagues were expelled from the group.

They applied to the NEC for readmission, but this has failed.

Not wanting to give up the fight, Ing has now reapplied to the NEC.

Ing told the 'West London Observer':

'It's obvious we'll have to come to a decision eventually. They can't keep us out of a group forever.' Or can they!

TRIAL

The legal attack on building workers involved in last year's strike goes on. Last week four men were accused of intimidation and criminal damage.

All four, Kenneth Thomas (26), a setter, and labourers, Gwynfor Williams (22), Colin Kelly (28) and Edward Roberts (28), all of Denbigh, elected to go for trial.

They were sent for trial to Mold Crown Court.

LOCKED UP

A bright and good-looking child was before the juvenile court at Manchester last week. Welfare officer Tom Magee said the boy had been to school only 44 times in three months.

He had been taken to school but had run away. Magee said he was completely baffled by the boy's behaviour.

Asked for his reasons for running away from school, the boy told a court official: 'It is like being locked up.'

'But you are not locked up,' the official replied.

'I feel that way,' the boy said. The court decided to place the boy under supervision for 12 months.



OF WHOREHOUND, LADY KIX AND YELLOWHAMMER

BY A GUEST REVIEWER

Jacobean comedy is significant for providing the first examples of the rising bourgeoisie as the protagonists of society.

In the Thomas Middleton play, 'A Chaste Maid in Cheapside' (Half Moon theatre, 27 Alie St, London E1, until April 28), English drama escapes the heroic mould in which Shakespeare casts his characters and descends into the market place.

Everything — daughters, wives and even religious convictions—are drawn into commerce and have their price.

In this work Middleton acutely portrays the declining economic power of the aristocracy and their parasitic attachment to the vigorous and rapacious merchants of London—the centre of trade in the Jacobean era.

The nobility stride onto the stage in the shape of Sir Walter Whorehound, a debauchee with somewhat imaginary estates in Wales.

Sir Walter's attachment to

the goldsmith Yellowhammer is twofold. His daughter Moll may provide him with the child he needs to secure an inheritance and the association may bring him into closer connection with the new wealth of England.

Yellowhammer is eager to obtain the privileges that connection with title will bring even at the expense of Moll's happiness, which in business is quite a secondary matter.

Whorehound's rivals are Sir Oliver and Lady Kix, unable to beat Sir Walter to the loot because they are childless.

Again we have the impotence theme. The aristocratic couple have to recruit Touchwood, a poverty-stricken bourgeois noted for his amazing fertility, to provide the service Lady Kix so desperately desires.

Middleton's medium is satire liberally punctuated with heavy sexual double-meanings. The kind of comedy is, necessarily, rather laborious. One is amused rather than prompted into open laughter.

The best scenes in the Half Moon production are almost slapstick—the degeneration of a Christening party where the prudish, prurient 'gossips' of trading London are transformed into drunken bawds under the influence of punch. It is one of the liveliest episodes of the production.

The cynical rascality of Touchwood, who exploits his capacity for rapid reproduction with great effect, is finely portrayed by Sidney Forest (also one of the gossips).

The Latin nonsense conversations between Yellowhammer's idiot son and his sly tutor from Cambridge are another high point.

The Half Moon company squeeze all that is possible from what is a rather uninspiring play.

They are a community theatre who have done a successful interpretation of the Jack the Ripper crimes.

Their next production, 'The Mother' by Brecht, will offer them more scope for their undoubted ideals and talents.

POLITICAL PROFILES

By LEON TROTSKY

Paperback. £1.00 Illustrated

Sharp pen-portraits of leading figures of the Second International in Russia and Europe, for the first time published in an English edition. The translations were first commissioned by the Young Socialists' paper 'Keep Left'. Their enormous success has led to the completion of the translation of the whole book, which is the first part of Volume 8 of Leon Trotsky's 'Works' published in the Soviet Union in 1926. It provides the most vivid picture available of the historic figures of the Second International, their strengths and weaknesses, written by an observer who was also a participant in the daily struggle of the European and Russian working class.



Now available from New Park Publications
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Monday Club election becomes more bizarre

THE ANTICS of the Tories in the right-wing Monday Club become more and more bizarre. It now appears that someone has broken into the club's Victoria Street premises and stolen a membership list.

This list is being used to circulate information which is detrimental to Mr Jonathan Guinness, who is seeking re-election to the chairmanship of the club.

Guinness is being challenged by Mr George K. Young, the former deputy director of MI6

and now a manager with Kleinwort Benson, the City bankers.

Police have been asked to investigate a letter sent to club members purporting to come from Guinness about the forthcoming election.

Guinness said yesterday it was a forgery. It asks for votes for Guinness 'and is designed to pre-



Challenger George K. Young

sent my alleged views in as unattractive a light as possible,' he said.

There are fears that someone broke into the club's headquarters and ran off several copies of the membership list.

Commander Michael Woolrych, the club director, said: 'Unfortunately, we cannot rule out the possibility of an "inside job".'

Last week a leaflet from the 'Conservative Underground Press' criticizing Guinness's leadership was circulated to club members.

There is evidence, said Woolrych, that the same list of addresses was used on both occasions.

The election battle is being fought amid charges of influence from the extreme right-wing National Front.

Guinness has said that Young's election would mean 'a move in the National Front direction'. There is no evidence to connect Young with the Front, Guinness added.

Young, who is notorious for his anti-immigrant views, is official Tory candidate for Brent East at the next General Election. Enoch Powell spoke on his platform at the weekend.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

TOWARDS the end of last month Ford supervisors at the Halewood plant, near Liverpool, made a sharp change in their normal disciplinary policy.

Anyone they thought was working to rule was immediately taken off the payroll. Then he was told that if he failed to do the job within ten minutes the pay of the rest of the workers on his section would be stopped.

If this did not work, after a further ten minutes everyone in the department was threatened.

Resistance for another ten minutes—just 20 minutes in all—hit the pay of all the workers in the plant.

Supervisors told workers in advance that this was to be the new procedure. Full backing could be expected from higher management, they boasted.

Just how high in the Ford chain of command backing for this policy went cannot be established precisely.

But the story is told, with an air of authority in some management circles, that towards the end of February Henry Ford II himself was assured by his European executives that he could expect the threat of serious pay trouble in Britain to have completely receded within two weeks.

And according to a rumour widespread on the Halewood shop floor, when this forecast began to be proved over-optimistic a few weeks later one of Henry II's new American executives at the Liverpool complex blew his top at a Halewood planning meeting.

'I'm going to clean this god-dam place up', he is said to have yelled.

The supervisors appear to have acquired their unaccustomed cockiness around the time that planning meeting is supposed to have taken place.

There can be little doubt that the disciplinary crackdown formed part of a definite strategy—approved at the highest level—aimed at seizing the initiative from the union leaders and senior shop stewards and physically breaking up resistance to the company's £2.40, government-controlled Phase Two pay offer.

Crack down

But it must be said immediately that the initiative was largely handed to the company on a plate by union officials. And their continuation of the same reformist policies right up to the present moment places workers' organization throughout the Ford combine in jeopardy.

Alan Dowridge is just one victim of the disciplinary crackdown. His case spotlights the danger to all Ford workers.

A young worker in the Halewood trim shop, Alan was sacked two weeks ago on the strength of the allegations that he left his shift early.

On the day the alleged breach is supposed to have taken place he went home along with hundreds of others from his section, all of whom were under the impression it was the correct time for ending the shift.

When this was pointed out by shop stewards, management fell back on the argument that this incident was just 'the last straw that broke the camel's back'.

But Alan has a full and complete answer to management claims that he has been warned continually for other breaches of discipline. All the 'previous warnings' in the world cannot answer his counter-charge of victimization.

Why was no other worker out

of the hundreds involved treated similarly?

Alan's own explanation of this point brings out clearly the link between the union leaders' retreat on pay and the present disciplinary crackdown.

'Last October I was one of 29 men sacked for taking part in the one-day strike called on Merseyside over the Tory rents Act. At that time I was working on the sealer deck in the paint shop and there had been a decision on the section to go out for the day.

Split up

'We got our jobs back, but when we returned to work we were all split up.

'I was put on the trim line, which is ridiculous with my height. Most of the men on the section are supposed to be fairly small because they are having to bob in and out of vehicles all the time.

'I only refused jobs after getting clearance from the company's doctor, who agreed there were certain things it would be dangerous for me to do.

'It was soon after this that the pay claim got going.

'Of course it was obvious to

many of us that it was not just Ford's we would be fighting, but the government as well. So we were calling for immediate action. A work-to-rule at that stage could have shown the company we meant business and reduced their stocks for when things really got going.

'But there was nothing doing as far as the officials and convenors were concerned. Even compared with 1971, the wages campaign this time has been a flop.

'Once we ended our three-day strike there was an immediate hard line from the company. They went all out to break things up.'

Now Alan, married and four years in the Ford factory, is on the dole awaiting further union efforts to win his job back.

At least one other man has also been sacked, two more suspended and one issued with a final written warning as part of the crackdown.

Yet at last Thursday's paint, trim and assembly plant mass meeting, which voted to accept the company's £2.40 offer, convenor Billy McGuire intervened to prevent the matter being discussed.

John Dillon, a former shop

steward who was himself victimized in the aftermath of the 1971 secret-ballot settlement, had tabled a resolution before the meeting that there should be no lifting of the overtime ban and blacking of jobs then in force until the two sacked men were reinstated in full.

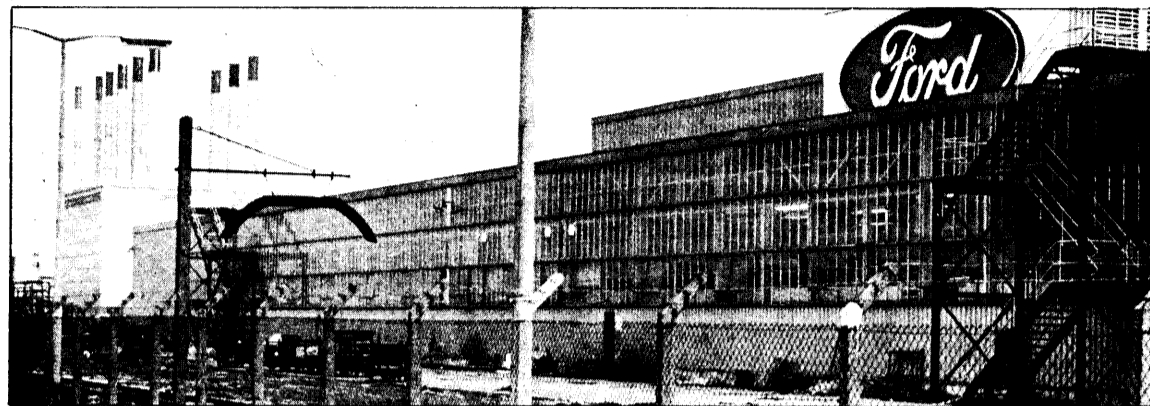
The chairman of the meeting, a steward called Jack Jones, had asked that workers stay behind after the vote on pay to discuss this and another resolution. But the motion was not put. Jones alleged afterwards that McGuire had snatched it out of his hand.

Indictment

Comments John Dillon: 'Since we called off our strike and decided to work to rule and ban overtime the company has used all the means in its power against us.

'There was a big Press campaign before any action at all started, of course. Then, when people started working to rule, there were incidents being caused continually, workers being sent home—all designed to sicken them off.

'For the first three weeks of this we never had a full week in.



The Ford plant at Halewood, Liverpool

Ford's get tough but pay fight's not over

But then they began to step it up and the sackings began.

'At least one of these lads was sacked for blacking a job in line with the decision of a mass meeting, yet we were not even allowed to discuss this last Thursday. This is an indictment of the whole way this campaign has been run.'

However, John Dillon stressed, Ford management could be making a big mistake if it thought all its troubles were over.

Last week's meetings, at which the body as well as the assembly plant accepted the £2.40, were the end of one period of the Ford workers' struggle, he said. But there was a great ferment of discussion of the lessons of that period. The recognition was growing that only all-out action could defeat the Tory government.

Last Friday the 6/559 branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union, organizing workers in the Ford transmission plant who have rejected the £2.40 offer, demanded that the unions give a lead to this new mood.

It called for the recall of the T&GWU national automotive committee to formulate co-ordinated action in support of the pay claim and the right to free trade unionism.

One transmission plant worker active in the branch, said: 'So far the leadership's tried to avoid the issue of the Tory government altogether. But that's central.

'For the next stage, that lesson must be learned.'

<p>SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETINGS</p> <p>Liverpool</p> <p>Transform the SLL into the Revolutionary Party</p> <p>TUESDAY, APRIL 10</p> <p>8.30 p.m.</p> <p>Mona Hotel James Street Liverpool 1</p> <p>Lecture: The economic crisis of world capitalism</p> <p>Manchester</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11</p> <p>8 p.m.</p> <p>Angel pub, Chapel Street.</p>	<p>SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETING</p> <p>Merthyr Tydfil</p> <p>Build the revolutionary party</p> <p>Join the Socialist Labour League</p> <p>Defend basic democratic rights</p> <p>Make the Tories resign</p> <p>TUESDAY APRIL 10</p> <p>7.30 p.m.</p> <p>Caedraw School Caedraw Merthyr Tydfil</p> <p>Speaker: G. Healy (SLL national secretary)</p> <p><small>Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG. Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG. Newsdesk: 01-720 2000. Circulation: 01-622 7029.</small></p>	<p>SLL LECTURE SERIES</p> <p>The revolutionary party and the history of the British working class</p> <p>Merthyr Tydfil</p> <p>Caedraw School Merthyr Tydfil 7 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday April 22</p> <p>Lectures given by Peter Jeffries</p> <p>The Unions and the working class in Britain.</p> <p>The Revolutionary Past of the British working class—and its future.</p> <p>The Transformation of the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.</p> <p>READING</p> <p>Trotsky, Where is Britain Going? Problems of the British Revolution.</p> <p>Perspectives for Transforming the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.</p> <p>Marxist Analysis of the Crisis.</p>	<p>SLL LECTURE SERIES</p> <p>The Socialist Revolution in Britain</p> <p>Middleton (nr Manchester)</p> <p>Hollins Social Centre Tintern Road, Hollins Estate 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>Monday April 16</p> <p>Lectures given by Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee)</p> <p>The Socialist Revolution in Britain:</p> <p>3. The state and revolution. Reformism and revolution in Britain. The fight for democratic rights today means preparing for working-class power.</p> <p>Basic reading:</p> <p>Perspectives for transforming the SLL into a revolutionary party.</p> <p>Marxist Analysis of the Crisis. Problems of the British Revolution (Trotsky).</p> <p>Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International, Communist Manifesto.</p>
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**APRIL FUND
NOW STANDS
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Support for our Fund this month has begun to slow down. Our total stands at £149.11, leaving us a long way from raising our £1,750 target. So start today—help us turn the situation around. Try and make April's figure the most successful yet.

We are sure you will. As the trade union leaders avoid tackling the burning issues of huge price increases and rent rises facing all workers, the building of an alternative leadership becomes more important than ever.

Only Workers Press speaks out firmly against the Tories and their attacks. Among all sections of workers, our paper must be used to build this new revolutionary leadership.

Don't sit back in any way. All your help is needed to push up our April Fund. Raise everything you can and post immediately to:

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**Delivery
strike in
Coventry**

SIXTY-FIVE car delivery workers at the Coventry firm, Silcock and Colling, have taken strike action over the refusal of management to pay shop stewards for attendance at meetings with management.

Ron Hollins, the senior Transport and General Workers' Union shop steward, told Workers Press:

'Two stewards were requested by management to attend meetings with them over a period of three days. The firm then refused to pay them although we have a code of pay for such negotiations.'

'Our drivers then decided that we all stop work and that there be no negotiations by shop stewards until the firm resumes paying them.'

'Special case' plea to Tories

**TUC plan—threat
to hospital workers**

BY ROYSTON BULL

THE TREMENDOUS determination of the hospital workers to win their struggle only throws into even greater light the retreat by their union leaders in the deal cooked up with TUC general secretary Victor Feather.

This is the plan to avoid any co-ordinated industrial action by the TUC which they were instructed to carry out by the March 5 special Congress.

Instead, Feather is to help the hospital union leaders with a new appeal to the Tory government that the workers should be made the only exception to the Phase Two laws.

What this means, however, is that all other workers are condemned by the TUC to accept the state control of wages at the present £1 plus 4 per cent level.

The TUC would call upon all its affiliated organizations not to quote any settlement on behalf of these [hospital] workers in justification of any claim of their own.'

This pledge by the TUC leaders, supported by Feather, Jones and Scanlon, is, of course, in complete violation of the March 5 decision which obliged the TUC to support all unions in struggle against the pay laws who ask for such support.

The TUC cannot both support workers' struggles to breach Phase Two and at the same time tie all other unions to the laws.

The worst aspect of this wretched deal to the Tory pay laws is that the hospital workers' leaders not only supported it, but actually proposed it.

Alan Fisher, NUPE general secretary, put the idea to the TUC's Finance and General Purposes Committee and then said afterwards:

'It is reasonable for us because we are the only ones left fighting. It is for the TUC to decide if it is fair or not on other workers.'

This is a recipe for disaster for the hospital workers' case.

There is not the slightest possibility of the hospital workers winning anything worthwhile other than through the defeat of the Tory government's whole wage control strategy, which

must mean a defeat of the Tory government itself and its resignation.

But at the same time, there is not the slightest chance of the hospital workers bringing down the Tories on their own. Only a General Strike can do this.

This was the meaning of the March 5 Congress, which called for a one-day general stoppage—however inadequate that is—

and co-ordinated action by all unions in support of those whose claims are challenging the pay laws.

Fisher is now deeply implicated in helping Feather, Jones and Scanlon head off the strike.

In doing so, he has not only abandoned the one hope his members had of winning their struggle, but has also jeopardised all other workers' struggles too.



'Special case' pleading for hospital workers will affect all workers.

Tory policies anger shopkeepers

THE GOVERNMENT was yesterday accused of state interference in retailing on a scale not seen in peacetime.

Mr Elwyn Stubbs, secretary of the Chamber of Trade at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, was speaking at Scarborough at

the National Chamber of Trade annual meeting.

He said shopkeepers would not tolerate profit controls for the next three years.

'Yet Ted Heath has gone one better,' he said. 'He has taken over every business in the High Street. I used to be the director of a furnishing company. Now I find myself a shopkeeper work-

ing for Ted Heath and Company.'

Although as 'responsible' businessmen they would be willing to observe short-term restraints, they wouldn't go further.

'When we read that Phase Three will possibly last for three years, we as shopkeepers say we are not going to tolerate government control of our profits for three years.'

A 'TEMPORARY VICTORY' FOR THE TORIES

FROM PAGE 1

restrictions continue to be imposed', he said.

While token strikes, such as the May 1 day of protest and stoppage, had their use, 'a far more tangible basis would have been for the Congress to ensure that no union struggling to establish a justifiable wage claim against the restrictions of the Phase Two policy would fail for lack of positive material, industrial and financial help from the rest of the trade union movement'.

The union president attacked the TUC's refusal to join the engineers in a firm stand against the Industrial Relations Act as 'a body blow against the movement'.

Was it not Scanlon, and Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who let the TUC General Council off the hook with a protest formula for May 1?

And what did these gentlemen do when first the civil servants, then the hospital workers, came to ask the General Council for 'co-ordinate action' in their support such as the Scanlon-Jones formula had promised?

Is it not the case that last Friday, Scanlon supported a statement of the TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee which offers to hold down other workers' claims if the Tories will grant special treatment for the hospital ancillaries?

It is in this light that Scanlon's claim yesterday, that his speech to the Parliamentary Press Gallery has been 'distorted', must be viewed.

Scanlon told the Press gallery:

'What is important in the Industrial Relations Act, as a start, is to make it perfectly clear that nobody can

use the industrial relations court without prior permission of the appropriate Minister'.

This, he said, would stop 'the Goads and other people' using the Act unless it was clear the government was backing them.

The second thing that was needed, he said, was to 'forget this idea of registration'.

Scanlon then said clearly: 'If we could get these two essential amendments we could then talk of some of the other practicalities.'

'I believe that if we could do those things for a temporary period, and allow a breathing-space to work out a voluntary policy on the basis of what was discussed at Chequers, that would be a way forward.'

Returning to the same theme yesterday, he said he had suggested the amendments to the Act to show the government's earnestness in wanting future talks with

the unions to be more fruitful than the last.

But he claimed it was beyond his comprehension how this could be 'distorted into suggesting some volte face on the part of our union'.

No one, of course, has suggested such a thing.

Anyone familiar with the constitution of the AUEW knows that, formally speaking, any change of policy must be initiated or approved by the national committee, which is now meeting.

But nothing, in Scanlon's speech yesterday alters what has been said, not only by Workers Press but by many of AUEW members and branches:

Scanlon's proposals add up to a compromise with the Tories at a time when they could be quickly defeated and removed from office.

**Canvey Island
arrests in oil
plant demo**

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

POLICE had to hold back about 200 people demonstrating at Canvey Island, Essex, yesterday, against a multi-million pound oil refinery to be built on the island.

Two men were detained after the demonstration—staged during the opening of a new road and bridge.

Part of the opening programme had to be abandoned after Essex County Council highway chairman Ald R. Daniels was shouted down.

Some of the crowd shouted 'Why don't you arrest Rippon?' and one placard described environment secretary Mr Rippon as 'Geoff the Ripper'.

He overruled one of his inspectors last month by granting permission for the £45m, 4-million-ton-a-year United Refineries plant to go ahead.

Planning permission has also been given for a 6-million-ton-a-year refinery for Occidental Refineries on the 4,000-acre island.

Steel lay-off

AT LEAST 10,000 steel workers at Scunthorpe, Lincs, will be laid off by the weekend unless two disputes are settled, said the British Steel Corporation yesterday. Already 3,000 workers are laid off because of strikes by 300 blastfurnacemen.

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