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FROM DAVID MAUDE  
IN EASTBOURNE

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● **David Basnett**, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

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Those who wanted to pursue talks with Heath and the CBI were: the electricians' union, the boilermakers, woodworkers and metal mechanics.

The T&GWU abstained. But even if its full affiliated weight had been cast against the motion, it would still have been carried.

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## THREE TALKS



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**Great response  
to Belle  
Vue rally  
Sunday  
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The All Trades Unions Alliance has called this conference in order that trade unionists from all over Britain can come together to discuss the way forward for the working class in face of the growing dangers from inflation and the anti-union legislation of the Tory government.

Only on the basis of well-worked-out policies can the labour and trade union movement unite to restore the right to free negotiation for wages and to organize in trade unions independently of the dictates of the police and the courts.

The central question that must be dealt with is how to fight the Tory government and how to fight the collaborationist trade union leaders who are trying to do a deal with the Tories at the expense of the working class.

To debate these questions fully, the ATUA has hired the largest arena in the north west. Belle Vue has seating capacity for 5,000.

Shop stewards committees all over the country have been electing delegations to go from their factories, docks, shipyards, mines, and other places of work, in response to the invitation from the ATUA.

Two special trains are going from London direct to Belle Vue station, and another from Southampton and the West Country. Coaches will be travelling from other towns throughout Britain. Trade unionists making their own way to the rally will be welcome.

To facilitate discussion, special sound equipment has been installed in the arena, with 15 different speaking points.

Every section of the auditorium will have its own microphone.

As a curtain raiser, a film will be shown in colour of the great Pageant of labour history performed by hundreds of workers and professional actors at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 11. Some highly sophisticated machinery will enable the film to be projected simultaneously on two screens so as to overcome the problems of viewing in a circular arena.

After several hours discussion, the rally will end with a specially written satirical cabaret performed by Tom Kempinski, Corin Redgrave, Kika Markham, Matthew Robertson, Mike Cronin, Vanessa Redgrave, Tom Marshall, and Victor Brox of Music Force, who wrote and played much of the music for the Pageant.

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Belle Vue will mark a decisive stage in the campaign to transform the Socialist Labour League into the Revolutionary Party through building a new leadership in the labour and trade union movement, to put an end to the abject surrenders to the vicious acts of a weak Tory government, and instead bring forward socialist policies as the only solution to the capitalist crisis.

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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# US trade deficit boosts gold price

THERE WAS another sharp rise in the price of gold in the wake of the large May deficit of the American balance of trade.

The price was fixed yesterday morning at \$122.50 an ounce, down 50 cents on Tuesday's closing price, but still \$3.75 above the price on Monday.

The latest figures for the US trade balance show that imports

surged ahead by almost 9 per cent last month, while exports increased by only 2 per cent.

In April the trade balance had shown its first surplus for many months, but the May deficit was \$157.9m.

News of the deficit had a very marked effect on the European money markets as well as on the gold price.

Within minutes of the deficit being announced the dollar lost all the early improvement it had

made during the subdued morning trading session.

It fell to a new all-time low level against the West German mark in 'very active' trading yesterday. It is now nearly 12 per cent below the rate in early May.

Very large buying orders for gold were reported immediately after the publication of the American trade figures. Dealers said trading became 'very active'. The price rose by \$4.25

an ounce, reaching \$123 in London.

The size of the US trade deficit means that successive devaluations of the dollar have not resulted in a firm improvement in US trade overseas.

The dollar's parity has declined between 20 and 30 per cent in the past two years, but this is still not enough to turn the terms of trade in favour of the US.

This in turn is producing a

panic rush out of dollars because it heralds further depreciation of the US currency.

The May deficit was the first since February, when imports exceeded exports by \$476.2m. In March there was only a small deficit of \$52.6m and in April a surplus of \$196.3m.

Both exports and imports during May were running at record levels. Exports rose 2.1 per cent over the April figure to \$5,602m and imports by 8.9 per cent to \$5,760m.

## Uruguay president steps up arrests and torture

A NEW WAVE of arrests and tortures has begun in Uruguay, linked with president Juan Maria Bordaberry's visit last month to Buenos Aires where he attended the inauguration ceremonies of the new Argentine President, Hector Campora.

A rural worker, Oscar Fernandez Mendieta (26) died shortly after his arrest by security forces. Although the official

cause of his death was given as a heart attack, a subsequent medical examination showed severe bruising on the body.

Another case concerns Fernando Alvaro Mejias (13) who was arrested at 4.30 a.m. on May 24, taken to military headquarters with his grandparents and interrogated for three days about a visit to his mother in Chile where she had fled.

Reports say the boy was blindfolded through parts of the interrogation.

Another prisoner, Ruben Sassano, was repeatedly tortured over a ten-month period, freed by a judge, but detained and tortured again. He attempted to commit suicide after threats that his 11-year-old child, who was under medical care, would be

brought to the prison 'to continue his treatment'.

There is concern also about the fate of Professor Augusto Bessouat and Mr J. Joura, chief librarian of the Fondo de Cultura Universitaria of the University of the Republic, both of whom were arrested without charges recently and whose whereabouts are unknown.

## Two-thirds of Equity insurance was bogus

AN EXHAUSTIVE audit of Equity Funding Life Insurance, the subsidiary of Equity Funding Corporation, has confirmed earlier fears that about two-thirds of its claimed insurance in force at the end of 1972 did not exist.

J. Carl Osborne, who was sent in after the company's disastrous crash to try and salvage something for its many creditors, said there appeared to be about 33,000 real policies with the life company with insurance totalling a face value of about \$1,260m.

The pre-cash assets of Equity Life were claimed as over \$3,200m. Then, the company had about 97,000 policies on its books, but the bulk of these had been fraudulently generated in order to sell them off or reinsure them to raise money for the crooked management.

The crash of Equity Funding was particularly bad news for Wall Street because many big banks were owed very large sums of money and some of the biggest institutional investors were holding Equity shares.

There was an undignified rush for the exits as the company's real position gradually leaked out.

The latest figures show that of the total business claimed, some 64,000 policies with face amounts of insurance totalling nearly \$2,000m were bogus.

Earlier projections had been slightly more optimistic about the number of real policies.

Checking the real number was made doubly difficult by the fact that the fraud was worked by computer. A special secret code had to be fed into the computer in order to distinguish between false and real policies.

## Death sentence

THE TEHRAN military appeal tribunal has confirmed death sentences on six left-wing guerrillas accused of having tried to murder Douglas McArthur Jnr, the former American ambassador in Iran.

Palestine Liberation Organization spokesman Said Hammami will be the chief speaker at an Iranian Students' Confederation meeting, 'Palestine Revolution and Iran', held in Imperial College, London, at 7.30 p.m. on Friday.

## Miners—one-time Allende supporters—in middle of crisis

# Open talk of Chile civil war

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

THE POLITICAL crisis in Chile is moving towards a crescendo, with both sides talking openly about the prospect of civil war. Santiago and the other cities have become a battle-ground with regular and bloody clashes between police and supporters of the opposition and the government.

On Tuesday, for example, supporters of President Salvador Allende were fired on with tear-gas grenades by police.

The pro-government demonstrators were hurling stones at the wives of strikers from the El Teniente copper mine which has been strike-bound for 70 days.

The women, who had walked from the town of Rancagua to the Chilean capital, 50 miles away, saw Allende at the presidential palace.

Afterwards they said they were 'very satisfied' with the talks, but refused to go into details, saying they might jeopardize chances of a settlement.

Allende's overtures to the miners have met with hostility from members of his own Socialist Party and from their coalition partners in the Communist Party.

They accuse the president of 'vacillation' and say that meeting with representatives of the miners is 'highly inadvisable'.

It was the coalition government which sent strike-breakers into the nationalized copper mine when the miners struck for a wage rise.

With the Stalinists in the vanguard, they took an ultra-tough line against the wage demand, though inflation has reached runaway proportions in Chile as a result of the failure of the government's economic policy.

The government ordered the police to use tear-gas and water-cannon to disperse 4,000 miners when they marched to Santiago to press their case.

This has given the right-wing capitalist parties the opportunity they have been waiting for.

Hypocritically, they have opposed the government's position in order to prepare to oust Allende.

In this situation, Allende has declared that 'Civil war must be avoided'. But he is



The copper miners of Chile, who welcomed the election of President Salvador Allende's Popular Unity government, are now in deep conflict with it.

not putting much trust in declarations.

The President is reported to be on the verge of bringing the heads of the three armed forces into his cabinet as he did in November last year during the 'bosses strike'.

According to the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina, which supports Allende's coalition, the military cabinet members would be brought in this time with 'greater decision-making capacity' than they had in the November cabinet.

In an unusually pessimistic dispatch, Prensa Latina correspondent Jorge Timossi writes that with the growth of political tension in Chile 'the alternatives for a solution are becoming fewer, while the need for one becomes more pressing'.

Carlos Altamirano, secre-

tary of Allende's Socialist Party, says the National Party hopes for an immediate coup against the regime.

The majority of the Christian Democrats, he says, are preparing the way for the overthrow of the government in August or September.

The door has been opened for the preparation of a right-wing coup by the treacherous policies of the Allende regime.

The majority of the miners at El Teniente voted in 1970 for the Popular Unity coalition, which was hailed by the Stalinists, including the British CP, as an example of the 'peaceful road to socialism'.

Allende began his period of office with assurances to the owners of private property that their 'rights'

would be respected.

When peasants began seizing their landlords' lands, their actions were declared a criminal offence, punishable with up to three years' jail.

Police and troops were used to drive them off the lands of their exploiters.

When Santiago transport workers struck in March 1971, their leader was arrested and charged with 'violating the right to work' (i.e., the right to scab).

These early indications of the Popular Unity's real character have been consistently followed ever since.

The British Stalinists have tried to justify every twist and turn of the Allende regime.

The latest turn of the crisis demonstrates even clearly the treachery and bankruptcy of Stalinism.

## Ruhr coal in the red

RUHRKOHLE AG, the huge West German coal combine which narrowly avoided bankruptcy last year, is now even deeper in the red.

Its latest published accounts show a loss of 550 million marks for 1972 compared with 177 million marks in 1971. Group sales were also reported to have fallen—from 7,290 million marks to 7,190 million.

To cut the losses on its balance sheet Ruhrkohle dipped into its reserves to the tune of 650 million marks. The company, owned by a consortium of steel and coal magnates, was saved from bankruptcy only by the intervention of the local state and national governments.

## Right wing presses witch-hunt in NUM

RIGHT-WING Labourites in the National Union of Mineworkers are to press ahead with their witch-hunt against Communist Party members, first reported in Workers Press nine months ago.

Next week's annual conference at Inverness will be asked to change the rules of the NUM to bar CP members from attending Labour Party conferences as part of the union's delegation.

Although prevented from being actual delegates, the CPers have in the past helped decide which way the delegation should vote.

This move by elements in the Colliery Officials and Staff Association section of the NUM could lead to a general anti-communist offensive by the right wing. It will inevitably sharpen the contradictions within the Stalinist-Labourite reformist leadership of the union.

## Employers hide behind Tories—Steward

# Perkins ask for talks

MANAGEMENT at Perkins' diesel factory, Peterborough, where 5,700 men are locked out, asked for a meeting with union officials yesterday.

Two and a half hours of talks between company representatives and union officials at Eastbourne on Tuesday ended in deadlock.

Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' district secretary Mr Bob Wright said: 'We made it clear we want an absolutely firm commitment that the company will recognize the existing gap between the wages of the Perkins men at Peterborough and those of Massey Ferguson at Coventry.'

Mr Wright said the unions had put forward a wages formula which he was sure would get the men back to

work if it was accepted by management.

But shop stewards at Peterborough yesterday had doubts about the kind of settlement their permanent officials were trying to reach.

Inspection shop steward Mr Harold Glaysher said Wright had told them last Thursday that they would never get parity with Coventry and that if they did shop stewards at Massey Ferguson would put in a claim of their own to maintain differentials.

Coventry shop stewards have denied they intend to mount a counter-claim and issued a

statement pledging full support to the Peterborough men.

Asked why the Perkins men were so determined to win their parity demand this year where all previous requests have been turned down, Mr Glaysher said:

'I think it's because of the change in attitudes of workers. We've got a lot more younger people then we had in the past and they are not prepared to be messed about.'

'A lot of the older people, 45 to 50, are concerned about their jobs and they don't want trouble but the fresh young blood that's coming in are not

going to wear it. They are willing to have a go.

'Some people might say they're a little hot-headed, but I wouldn't say that at all. They know what's right and what's wrong and they are not going to wear it.'

Describing how the dispute blew up into a lock-out Mr Glaysher said management accused them of working to rule.

He said: 'We weren't working to rule. We were doing what we should have done, nothing more, nothing less.'

'We were working normally. They wanted to provoke as much trouble as they could. What they wanted was a strike so that they could weep and wail to the public. When they couldn't get one, they turned round and locked us out.'

'The employers and the Tories are all hiding behind one another at the moment. Although Perkins don't even bother to hide when it comes to the pay laws.'

'I'm on the wage negotiating committee and Perkins didn't even talk about the government level. They said that's a just offer and more or less that's all you're worth.'

'They came out quite openly. They didn't say we're sorry, we'd like to give you more, but unfortunately we're not allowed to.'

'They said this is a realistic offer. When it came down to parity with Coventry if they didn't think we were worth more than a measly couple of quid in the first place, obviously they didn't want to give parity.'

'We've got to get rid of the pay laws, but we can't do it without getting rid of this government. They are everything we don't want. They want to get us back to the 1920s when you had to go cap in hand to get a crust of bread.'

'That's their attitude. There's no give and take. It's all take. I wonder at times what the TUC are up to discussing with Heath.'

'They are there to look after workers' interests, not talking to Heath and his mob. They should be all out to smash them.'

'A lot of these people just don't have sufficient experience of the shop floor. They don't know what's what and they try to give you a load of hog-wash.'

'I think it's right to have the rally at Belle Vue to discuss an alternative leadership. If we'd used our loaves, we would never have had a Tory government in.'



FIFTY women machine operators at Glynwed Fastenings, Darlaston, Staffs, are on strike demanding improved piecework earnings.

Negotiations began last Sep-

tember. At present the management is saying it needs more time, and that it cannot give an increase because of the state pay laws.

Daywork rate is £17.85 and pieceworkers can get up to £19 for 40 hours. Some of the

women work three machines. Men work machines next to women and are paid nearly double. On Saturdays, the men work the women's machines and get £1.50 an hour.

The women are picketing (above) the entrances and

stopping everything going in and out. This has caused the management to lay off about 200 at the firm.

The firm supplies bolts to a large area of the motor industry, including Perkins and Ford's.

## 'Vicious class justice' against Five

THE STOKE NEWINGTON Five Solidarity Committee has issued a statement attacking the 'vicious class justice' against four of the defendants serving ten-year sentences. The statement says:

The Stoke Newington Five Solidarity Committee, consider the judgement made by Lord Widgery, Justice Lawton and Justice Milmo, on the appeals lodged on behalf of John Barker, Hilary Creek, Anna Mendelson, Jim Greenfield, and Jake Prescott, to be a repressive measure.

While, of course, we welcome the fact that Jake Prescott's sentence has been reduced, the importance of the judgement lies in the fact that it accepts as valid the vicious class 'justice' meted out by Justice Stevenson and Justice James.

In the case of John, Hilary, Anna and Jim the sentence decided upon by Justice James was simply upheld. In the case of Jake Prescott, Lord Widgery made it clear that the only reason for reducing the sentence was that of retrospective parity with the sentences given to the other four.

He made it quite clear that he considered the sentence given by Justice Stevenson to have been

correct when it was given and that its lack of validity was purely a result of events occurring after that sentence had been given.

Apart from defending Justice Stevenson's decision this had the more sinister implication that the Appeal Court Judges consider that a sentence of 15 years could have been justly meted out to the other four.

By upholding the verdicts arrived at by the jury, the judges have made the conspiracy charge an even more convenient political weapon for the ruling class than it was previously. In the case of Jake Prescott, the jury were not given clear guidance from Justice Stevenson as to how to reach a verdict on the conspiracy. By saying that the jury was correct to convict, the Appeal Court gave a clear indication of the weakness of the evidence which can be used to secure a conviction.

In the case of John, Hilary, Anna and Jim, the jury convicted on a charge of conspiracy when the prosecution claimed the existence of a conspiracy hinged around individuals who that same jury had acquitted. The representative for the Crown at the Appeal repeated the line taken by the prosecution in the original trial regarding the centrality of Stuart Christie to the

conspiracy. Yet the appeal court upheld the decision.

What does this imply with regard to the ease with which a conviction can be secured on the charge of conspiracy? It appears to us that the Court of Appeal has declared its approval of the practice of convicting with no evidence whatsoever other than innuendo and the political beliefs of the alleged conspirators.

Justice Lawton referred explicitly to the centrality of the concept of 'common cause' in the definition of conspiracy. We consider the implications of this to be very profound in the light of the fact that there is no maximum sentence for conspiracy.

Finally, Hilary Creek is extremely ill. Her illness can be shown to be a direct result of prison life, and evidence to this effect was produced in a report by Dr Russel, a consultant psychiatrist who the prison authorities asked to look into Hilary's condition, which was presented to the Court of Appeal. Despite this evidence, the judges did not show any leniency towards Hilary.

We do not find in the results of the appeals any reason for complacency. We find in them every reason to continue our fight to secure the release of the Stoke Newington Five and to smash the conspiracy laws.

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# WE'RE COMING TO BELLE VUE

**A discussion around the policies which will be debated at the All Trades Unions Alliance conference at Belle Vue, Manchester, Sunday July 1st—3 p.m.**

THE NATIONAL Committee of the All Trades Unions Alliance has called a national rally of trade unionists at Belle Vue, Manchester, for July 1, as a further step in the preparations for building the Revolutionary Party.

This follows on the very successful ATUA conference of 2,200 workers at Birmingham on October 22, 1972, which launched the campaign.

The founding conference of the Party will be held in London at the end of October 1973. The basis of the draft perspectives and programme for the Party, which are currently being discussed in the pages of the Workers Press, was the ATUA National Committee's statement adopted at Birmingham last year.

In a statement adopted on May 13 by the ATUA in preparation for the July 1 conference, the National Committee declared:

◀ The further turn in the grave economic crisis caused by the political and economic effects of the Nixon scandal will have a profound influence on the inflationary boom in Britain and the policies of the Tory and Labour leaders.

The Tories have laid plans for a corporate state, but the sharpening class struggle resulting from the intensification of the crisis

will more and more disrupt these plans and expose Phase Three of the state pay laws.

It is this massive class basis for the launching of struggle which forms the Revolutionary Party.

Therefore it is vitally urgent that these new developments, which greatly assist the launching of the Revolutionary Party, should be discussed by the largest possible number of delegates and visitors to the July 1 conference.

Arrangements are in hand to provide appropriate facilities for such a discussion at the Belle Vue, Manchester, one of the largest assembly halls in the north of England. Invitations to delegations have already gone out.

The ATUA calls upon all those workers, who want to end the state pay laws and restore free negotiations for wages between trade unions and employers, to join the demand for breaking off all talks with the government on Phase Three.

The fight for the defence of basic democratic rights is now inseparable from the struggle to build the Revolutionary Party.

We believe that the July 1 rally can be an important landmark in the struggle to unite the working class on the basis of socialist policies to create the necessary industrial and political conditions for forcing the Tory government to resign. ▶

## The Communist Party has created a lot of confusion'

Alf Williams, married with a family, lives in Brixton, south London. He was born in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, and grew up under the civil unrest for independence.

He worked as a building worker and a seaman before coming to Britain more than a decade ago. He works for a south London local council and is a member of UCATT.

**Do you think it is possible to get rid of the state pay laws without getting rid of the Tory government?**

These laws are murderous. For a start we must have a General Strike. That is the only weapon we have left to defeat the pay laws and the government.

We used it in Nigeria in 1945. At that time the cost of living was going up and up, everything was so expensive. The administration put pressure on the union leaders not to call a strike, but we withdrew our labour. It was successful, very successful.

**Do you think that the Labour and trade union leaders want to get rid of the Tory government?**

No, the Labour Party is happy with what the Tories are doing. The Tories are doing their dirty work. The Labour Party doesn't criticize the Tories.

I have no confidence in the Labour Party any more. And the trade union leaders, they take sides with the Tory government. They confuse us—they sweet-talk the workers while they do the opposite thing.

**What experiences have you had that make you feel that getting rid of the Tory government is an urgent task?**

There are many things really. The Tories have no sympathy for the workers. They want workers to be poorer so that they can be made into slaves. They want to break down the unions.

Everything, every single item of policy has been to the disadvantage of workers. You work and work, you get overtime, but still you're broke. You just get older, there's nothing in the lives of workers except work.

The quicker we get rid of the Tories the better. Then we can dictate our terms to Labour.

**What do you think of the TUC's collaboration with the Tories over the pay laws and Phase Three?**

That is real treachery. No enemy can do more than that. They are real traitors to the working class. We put them there and then they do this.

**What do you think of the role of leaders like Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon in the collaboration?**

Scanlon — everybody now knows about Scanlon. They said they were 'lefts' but they are fake lefts. Remember it was Scanlon's union that was fined £65,000 by the courts. Now he goes to Heath.

They should both be sacked — Jackson from the Post Office workers too.

**The basic democratic rights of the working class are under attack. What can be done to unify people in defence of these rights? Are protests and one-day strikes enough?**

Protests and one-day strikes aren't enough at all. It hurts

us more. If I go on a one-day strike, I lose money. The government just laughs at us. We must all down tools and show we really mean business.

**What do you think can be done to build a new leadership?**

It's obvious isn't it. The Labour Party can't do the job. We need a new party. The Labourites shout loud but do nothing. They help the Tories more than us.

I was in the Communist Party of Great Britain. They do nothing but lead you up the wall. Their policy is to go forward and then come backwards.

The Communist Party has created a lot of confusion among workers. It is cowardice or something else—maybe even a deal with the Tories.

Nobody can say where the CP stands today.

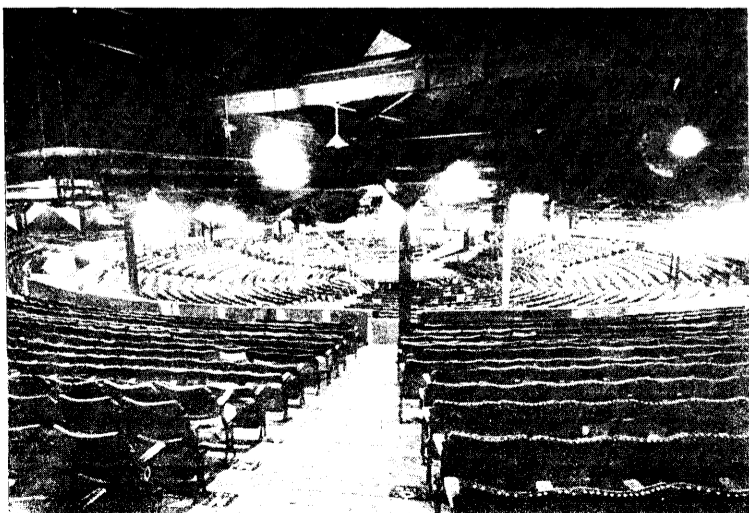
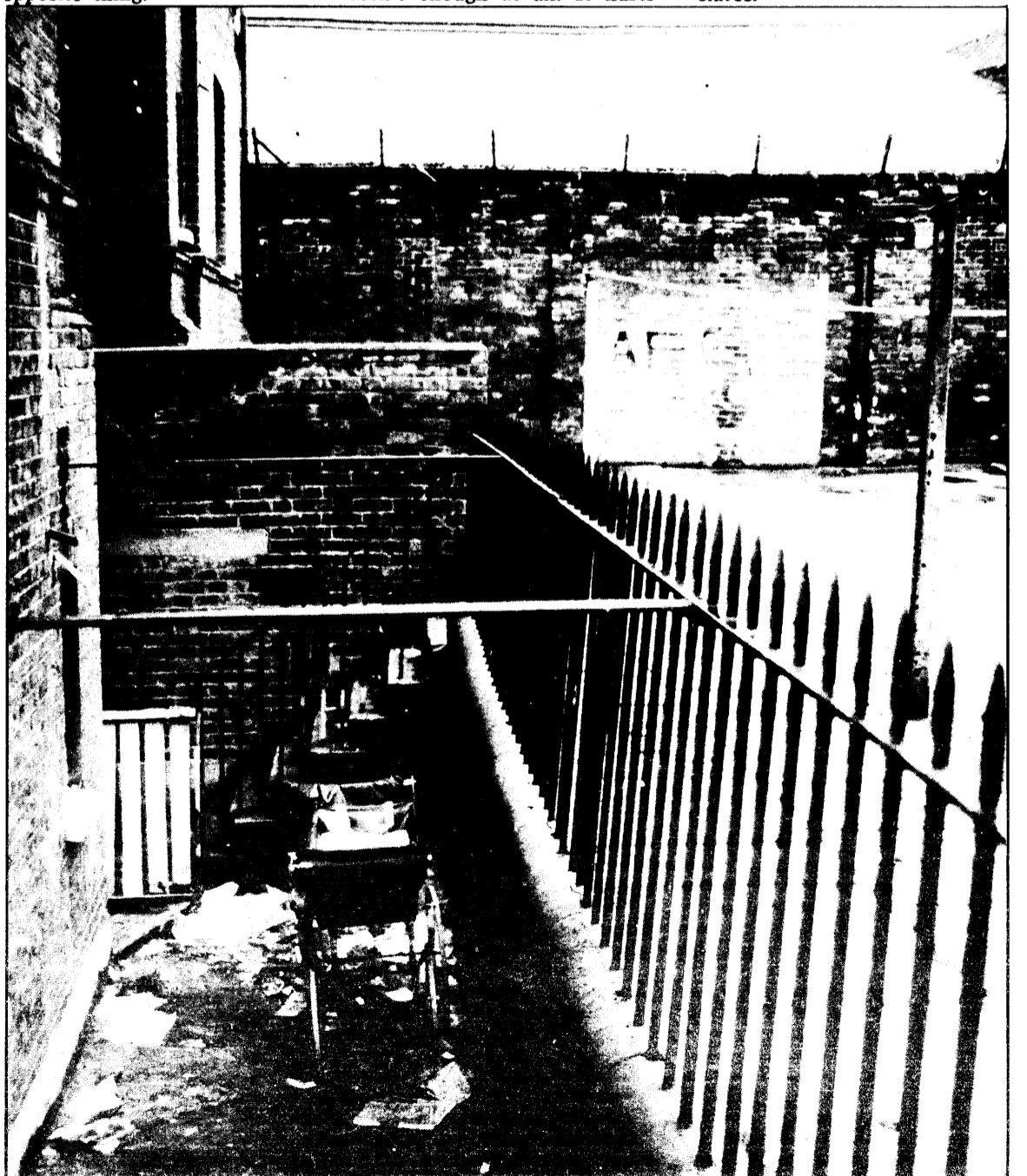
**Are you in favour of a mass rally of trade unionists to build this leadership?**

The conference at Belle Vue this Sunday is a step forward. Many people are ignorant, they are pathetic. They have had contact with the CP and lost confidence in the workers.

This conference will help to open people's eyes. It will make them aware of the situation. If the Tories get away with it now, the British workers have had it. They really will have had it, like the workers in Spain.



Above: Alf Williams. Below: East London housing—'The Tories want workers to be poorer so that they can be made into slaves.'





'It was really the dispute at Chrysler (above) that first started me thinking about the Tories . . . They are putting prices up and trying to tell us what wages we can have.'

**Jim Anderson** is a young production worker at Chrysler's Ryton plant, Coventry.

**Do you think it is possible to get rid of the state pay laws without getting rid of the Tory government?**

No. Definitely not.

**Do you think the Labour and trade union leaders want to force the Tories to resign?**

I very much doubt it. The Labour government was the first to try to bring in an Industrial Relations Act and now the unions are all talking to the Tories—except Scanlon. It will be Jones' turn to be pulled out next. The Labour Party could have called on the trade unions to mobilize for a General Strike.

In Chrysler there were a lot of arguments and grievances over May Day when there was a one-day strike. People didn't

mind striking but not for a day.

**Would you like to see a movement built which would make this government resign?**

Yes. A major concern at the moment should be to build an alternative leadership—to try and give it a firm foundation within the next two years so that when a Labour government comes to power we will be there ready. I don't think we can use the Labour Party as a sort of puppet government.

If they can't fulfil their commitments to the people who voted for them I agree that they should get out of the way.

**What experiences have you had that make you believe that getting rid of this Tory government is an urgent task?**

It was really the dispute at Chrysler that first started me thinking about the Tories. The

government could have taken over this company when Rootes went bankrupt, but instead they let the Americans have the whole lot.

Then there's the Industrial Relations Act. You've got to work within the confines of what the government says and that's never been known before.

Look at the 'fair rents' Act. When I was down in London I was paying £6 for one room with a bed in it. If you vote Tory you're voting for your boss.

**What do you think of the TUC's collaboration with the Tories over the pay laws and Phase Three?**

It's terrible. Anybody who has negotiations with this government is not a working man. If they could improve on what's been forced on the trade unions all well and good, but I can't see how they can.

This government has set out to say 'We're going to do this and that' and they've done it. They've brought in laws.

We've got a pay rise coming up but we're stuck with £1 plus 4 per cent.

The AUEW have come to their senses. They should have forced Scanlon out of the talks a long time ago. The Tories are trying to put the working class down. They are putting prices up and trying to tell us what wages we can have. You can't talk to people like that.

**The Communist Party and others describe Jones and Scanlon as 'lefts' and refuse to expose their collaboration. What do you think of this?**

The Communist Party don't fight for the working man. Russia and China prove this. Working men are kept down there too. It's more or less dictatorship.

We've got several at Ryton. They support protests and sell papers and that's all they do. There are no discussions or trying to talk you over. They just sell you a paper and that's it.

**The basic democratic rights of the working class are under attack. What can be done to unify people in defence of these rights? Are protests and one-day strikes enough?**

A one-day strike is no good. There has got to be an indefinite General Strike until all the laws the Tories have put through have been repealed or they get out altogether.

**Are you in favour of a mass rally of trade unionists at Belle Vue to build a new leadership?**

I'm definitely in favour of it. If we don't build an alternative leadership, what else have we got? Working-class blokes vote Labour but then the Labour Party carries out Tory policies. That's no good.

In the next two years we have got to go out and get support and really build up.

# OPPOSE WHITELAW'S GUN-POINT POLL

Statement from the Central Committee of the Workers League, Irish section, International Committee of the Fourth International



Tory Prime Minister, Heath and the very regime which deprives Ulster supremo, Whitelaw: Chiefs of Irish workers of their rights.

**The Workers League declares complete and unequivocal opposition to the Northern Ireland Assembly elections to be held on June 28.**

We warn all Ulster workers that these elections are a fraud which will enable the British imperialists to use the fiction of Proportional Representation in a bogus Assembly to conceal the betrayal of the reformists, Stalinists and Official Republicans as well as the Bonapartist veto of supreme Whitelaw.

None of the outstanding questions in Ulster—unemployment, wretched housing, economic destitution and political oppression, will be solved by this election.

On the contrary imperialism's position will be consolidated by this electoral farce while repression against Catholic and Protestant workers will be intensified.

The considerable increase in Ulster Defence Association provocation and military repression in the Catholic ghettos of Belfast and Derry is an inescapable part of Whitelaw's preparations to ensure victory for a new puppet regime to replace Stormont.

Similarly, the increase in the number of bombings and unexplained assassinations over the past two weeks which directly serve Whitelaw's ends must be regarded with deep suspicion by every class-conscious worker.

Despite talk of 'Committees of Assembly' and a 'representative executive' the new regime will be nothing more than a new form of direct rule wherein Whitelaw will have sole power to select the heads of department who will constitute the new executive.

As the local government elections have shown, the forthcoming Assembly elections will leave the political power of the reactionary Unionist-Tory bourgeoisie intact.

The power of the Unionist bourgeoisie will be greatly enhanced by the implementation of the Diplock Commission recommendations. These proposals which supersede the Special Powers Act will legalize the most vicious aspects of imperialist repression and deprive Ulster workers of their basic democratic rights.

**No class-conscious worker, no honest Republican, no principled socialist can give the slightest support to these elections.**

The Workers League calls on all workers to boycott these elections, to reject the reformist leaders of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, Northern Ireland Labour Party and the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association

and prepare in unity with British and southern Irish workers a joint struggle to smash the White Paper and force the Tory government to resign.

Because of the direct subordination of the new Assembly to Whitehall and, with it, the relegation of Ulster to the status of a Crown colony, every struggle against the new regime created by the elections will be a direct challenge to Heath and poses, more sharply than ever before, the vital necessity for the unity of British and Irish workers in a common struggle to defeat and appropriate imperialism.

This requires, principally, the creation of an all-Ireland Marxist party which will fight uncompromisingly for the unity of Protestant and Catholic workers against the reactionary puppet regimes north and south and for a democratic-socialist Ireland purged of the reactionary influence of clericalism and the Orange Order.

The Workers League rejects with contempt the reformist-revisionist plea that sectarianism is irrevocably embedded in the consciousness of Ulster workers and the implicit assumption that imperialism is invincible because of the religious divisions.

On the contrary the present situation of the Protestant workers demonstrates vividly that the crisis of imperialism threatens the privileged position of Protestant workers as much as it does the disaffected Catholics.

The callous sacking of 2,500 steel workers in the recent Belfast shipyards dispute and the refusal to grant social security to the strikers is a sombre warning to the Protestant working class that the 'British connection' does not stand above considerations of profit and 'efficiency' for the capitalists.

Paradoxically, the reactionary power of sectarianism is today being undermined by the policies of those forces which invoked its help in the past. Because of the severe inflation unleashed by the breakdown of the monetary system and the rapid decline in the profits of the shipbuilding industry—despite generous grants from the Exchequer—the employers are unable to make Ulster shipbuilding viable without the most stringent application of the Tory Counter-Inflation Act and the most intense forms of job-evaluation.

Wage-cutting and increased exploitation of the shipyard workers is the sinister prospect concealed behind the present crisis in Belfast's shipyards.

Despite all attempts by the Orange Order and the Loyalist Association of Workers, as well as McGarvey of the



Boilermakers' Society to persuade the workers to return, there still remains a potentially explosive situation which is straining the loyalty of Protestant workers to breaking point.

**The laws of the class struggle, even in Ulster, cannot be thwarted by sectarian rhetoric and bullets.**

In the south the coalition of Labour-Fine Gael cannot endure because it is based on the shakiest of economic and political foundations.

While small farmers and businesses are threatened with bankruptcy under the EEC, the wages and savings of industrial workers are being consumed by a raging inflation and the unprecedentedly heavy incidence of indirect taxation.

A government crisis is inevitable and a major confrontation with the unions—over the National Wage Agreement—cannot be long postponed. The demands of the Central Bank and the Federated Union Employers for an incomes policy à-la-Heath is clear proof that the Irish bourgeoisie is determinedly seeking a war with a section of workers.

The attacks of the Irish bourgeoisie can be fought only by the ideological tempering of the Marxist cadre in an all-

out struggle against the policies and ideas of the reformist and petty-bourgeois nationalist and terrorist groups.

The Workers League in particular calls on Irish workers to reject completely the opportunist leadership of Irish Stalinism which, for over 50 years, has held back the development of socialist consciousness in the Irish working class and prostituted its interests to imperialism and the native capitalists.

Nowhere is this anti-working class reformism more clearly expressed than in the recent comment of a leading Irish Stalinist, Edwina Stewart, on the role of the British army in the publication 'Marxism Today':

'We need a change in the role of the British army; they must be returned to barracks at once, and only used to prevent sectarian outbreaks.'

This is the authentic voice of Stalinism whose perfidy towards the Irish people is only exceeded by its reformist fawning before Heath. Instead of a principled class opposition to Heath, Irish Stalinism, with the overt support of King Street, is determined to convert the Irish working class into a pawn in its political chess game with imperialism.

In the words of Mrs Stewart:

'The British government have a peaceful and democratic solution to their hand, and we ask the British people to change the policy of their government'. ('Marxism Today', June 1973).

This revolting and cynical display of opportunism is accompanied by a spurious campaign for a fake Bill of Rights from the very regime which, under successive commissions of inquiry, White Papers and bureaucratic enactments has deprived Irish workers of many of their cherished rights.

If Stalinism has been able to betray the working class, it has been able to do so because of the total bankruptcy of the Official Republicans in particular. Their capitulation to imperialism is now complete.

Provisionals implies support for the arrest, torture and internment of young militants by the British army. Neither the exploitation of the Connolly charisma nor the fake socialist demagoguery can hide the fact that Official Republicanism—like every petty-bourgeois tendency under imperialism—is rapidly being transformed into a counter-revolutionary agency of the

imperialist ruling class.



Bernadette Devlin (left), who has re-emerged from many months of silence to sustain the sinking credibility of the Republicans. Edwina Stewart (right), who calls on the British people to change the policy of their government. Above: Police hold back crowds of Protestant workers during Civil Rights demonstrations by Catholics. 'The laws of the class struggle, even in Ulster, cannot be thwarted by sectarian rhetoric and bullets.'



Edwina Stewart (right), who calls on the British people to change the policy of their government. Above: Police hold back crowds of Protestant workers during Civil Rights demonstrations by Catholics. 'The laws of the class struggle, even in Ulster, cannot be thwarted by sectarian rhetoric and bullets.'

Their total pessimism and helplessness was clearly shown at Bodinstown where McGiolla and McMillan talked about being 'on the verge of sectarian disaster and sell-out' and said that 'the people (?) of the 26 counties have washed their hands of the "troubles of the North" fearful that the awful violence there will overspill and engulf

imperialist ruling class. This is not just false impressionism but a vile slander on the southern working class that serves to cover up the Officials' own total capitulation.

The Workers League unhesitatingly denounces the unprincipled intrigues of the SDLP which, together with Stalinism and the Official IRA, constitute an important ancillary pillar of imperialism.

It is true to say that without this species of middle-class reformism, Whitelaw could not have reconstructed the medieval constitutional and legal structure of Ulster. What Whitelaw thinks today, the SDLP does tomorrow.

Its latest decision to abandon its demand for an end to internment as a precondition for participating in elections is entirely in line with its history of spineless middle-class radicalism. Nowhere in the British Isles is there a more chilling example of a party reeking in demagoguery, totally bereft of principles and unashamedly prepared to use Catholic workers and internees as election fodder to facilitate their rise to 'power' in the impotent institutions of the post-Stormont era.

No statement on Ulster is complete without a condemnation of the grotesque pacifist-reformist-protest masquerade of Bernadette Devlin, who has re-emerged from many months of silence to sustain the sinking credibility of both wings of Republicanism. Devlin is the archetype for the protesters of the Pabloite Revolutionary Marxist Group and the Militant Group who kowtow alternately to Stalinism and nationalism—while maintain-

ing a consistent hostility to Marxism. Their hostility to the revolutionary party based on Marxism leads them—in the case of the RMG—to support the worst anti-Trotskyist slanderers of the extreme Catholic elements of the Provisionals (as for example the gross distortions and lies of the Andersonstown 'Volunteer' paper of the local branch of Sinn Fein).

The latest example of the hostility of these elements to the Workers League is the intervention of the leadership of Sinn Fein (Kevin St.) and People's Democracy to stop some of their own members speaking at a Workers League meeting in Belfast against the Assembly elections, against which neither movement has mounted any campaign.

The 'Militant', true to its social democratic patronage and tradition, advocates the counter-revolutionary idea of a 'third force'—trade union defence guards supplementing the UDR and the British Army—while saying nothing about a struggle to force Heath's government to resign.

The state-capitalist Socialist Workers Movement called on workers in the May issue of its paper the 'Worker' to vote for Republican Club candidates on the spurious grounds that 'they were trying (!) to express a position that is anti-imperialist and in some sense (!) socialist'.

A similar position was advanced by the League for a Workers Republic who claimed that by participating in these fraudulent elections the Clubs were representing 'to a limited extent the anti-imperialist aspirations of the working class'. This complete capitulation to petty-bourgeois nationalism is the inevitable outcome of the equivocal position of this group (which describes itself as Trotskyist, and has joined forces with the OCI) on the international, theoretical and political conquests of the Fourth International, established in the struggle of the International Committee against Pabloism.

Significantly the LWR has said not a word about what attitude workers should adopt towards the Assembly elections and appears to have 'dropped' this 'irritating' question.

None of these groups offer a viable revolutionary policy or perspective for Irish workers for raising their consciousness from nationalism to socialism.

The bankruptcy of these groups, the mortal danger of Stalinist and reformist betrayals of the Irish working class and the unprecedented crisis of Irish and British capitalism demand, imperatively, the resolution of the crisis of proletarian leadership by the forces of Irish Trotskyism.

We say unequivocally that the political conditions for a major advance for the forces of the International Committee in Ireland are exceptionally favourable and that only a party which bases itself on dialectical materialism, the theory of Permanent Revolution and the organizational principles of Bolshevism can lead the Irish working class out of its present impasse.

**WE DEMAND**

● Release all political prisoners; withdraw British troops now.

● Force the Tories to resign; smash the White Paper.

● Boycott the Assembly elections.

● Build the revolutionary party.



Left: Bernie Steer, CP member and docks shop steward with T&GWU chief, Jack Jones. On the docks the CP has confined struggles to single issues and isolated sections of workers.

wide layers of the working class and unalterably leading to one final conclusion: the conquest of power by the proletariat. ('Transitional Programme' SLL 1970 pp 14-15.)

The narrowness is all Ramelson's in seeing these demands as 'tasks beyond the level of political achievement'. Their very purpose is to bring the working class onto the political arena and away from narrow trade-unionism.

The tasks are 'beyond' workers only in the sense of being beyond their previous experience, but without this there could be no development at all. Workers would continue for ever repeating the same old trade union experiences under this CP formula.

Essential new knowledge can only be gained from plunging into the class struggle itself, from the objective movement of class forces. Ideas cannot be learned in a contrived one-sided way, at a speed dictated by the Communist Party.

Equally, 'political objectives' cannot be determined on the basis of how much support could 'at present' be got for them.

To proceed in this way is to succumb to spontaneity.

What Ramelson is really saying is that the mobilization of a General Strike is beyond the capability of the working class, beyond their level of political achievement.

This reveals the lack of confidence in the working class lying at the heart of the counter-revolutionary philosophy of Stalinism.

This lack of confidence at the theoretical level leads to contempt for the working class in practice, as witnessed by the frequent unity between the Stalinists and the right wing. For example at last September's TUC Congress, Communist Party delegates voted to allow the bureaucracy to enter collaborationist talks with the government to introduce the pay laws.

The Stalinists are ascribing to the working class an unwillingness and unpreparedness to challenge for state power, which in fact are their own failings. They are blaming the working class for their own weakness, which is the weakness of all middle-class strata.

History shows that in all great struggles, the middle class has no independent position but will go over to the strongest side in a crisis. The middle class depends on the bourgeoisie and acts as its spokesmen and administrators.

It is a characteristic of the petty-bourgeoisie to surrender without a fight to the ruling class. It is in their class nature as appendages of the bourgeoisie.

## Leaders compromise

Stalinism grew out of precisely these attitudes prevailing among some sections of the leadership of the Soviet Union in the early 1920s who following Lenin's death, abandoned the world revolution out of fear of the strength of imperialism.

So it isn't the working class that it not ready to take on the Tory government in a General Strike; it is Ramelson himself.

The only thing that in fact holds back the working class from a revolutionary confrontation with the ruling class is its own leaders, whether Labour Party or Communist Party, and their determination to compromise the fight.

But things cannot stay this way for long. The old ways of fighting, of purely trade union struggle ending always in a compromise, are being made obsolete by the quickly-

maturing economic crisis of capitalism.

With their own position in the world rapidly worsening, the British capitalist class have been forced to bring in new laws which now make agitation for a wage demand a criminal offence.

By putting the full force of the law, and therefore the full authority of the state, behind resistance to a wage struggle or a fight for trade union rights, the Tories are turning these ordinary demands into revolutionary demands which pose the question of political power.

To plead with the Tory government to change its mind over the pay laws, the rent Act, rising prices, or any other issue; or to expect mere pressure to make them give way is to foster an illusion. The capitalist class are being driven to step up exploitation by the inflationary crisis and trade war. They face extinction otherwise.

The only demands which are at all realistic are precisely those which challenge the Tories' political power itself; such as the demand for an end to all landlordism, and the scandal of high rents and housing shortage, by nationalizing without compensation and putting under workers' control every scrap of land and property in Britain except owner-occupied houses and small farms.

The developing crisis brings these transitional demands more and more onto the centre of the stage. The ruling class is forced to withdraw the concessions made under reformist pressure in the post World War II period of the Bretton Woods inflation. The Tories now substitute class offensive for compromise.

## The demand for a united fight

On the docks, for example, the National Dock Labour Scheme has been seriously eroded because the struggles over the Devlin and Jones-Aldington Reports, container depots, unregistered ports, supplementary dockers, and other issues have all been conducted as single issues and confined to isolated sections of workers by the CP.

The demand by the Socialist Labour League for a united fight by dockers, lorry drivers, and container depot workers for the nationalization of the whole port transport industry under workers' control and without compensation is increasingly seen as the only answer to 'immediate struggles' on the docks as well as raising a transitional demand which will pose the question of political power.

Similarly on the question of basic democratic rights. The two major trade unions have been fined by the National Industrial Relations Court, the rent Act pushed through, strike pickets arrested, and free negotiations for wages made illegal. Single-issue protest politics of 'Kill the Bill' and 'No Wage Freeze' have been unable to prevent these things.

The SLL correctly identified Tory policies from the moment this government got into office in June 1970 as an unprecedented attack on working-class rights, made inevitable by the crisis and based on new laws, which could only be defeated by a General Strike to force the government to resign.

But this demand must of necessity start with 'only a minority' in support. If it were otherwise, it would mean the working class were spontaneously revolutionary and Marxism would never have been historically necessary.

Ramelson's real concern, however, is not whether ideas have minority support. His aim is to keep the working class away from revolutionary ideas altogether.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

# REVOLUTION OR REFORM

## Part 1. Ramelson opts for the peaceful road of stagnation

By ROYSTON BULL

**Bert Ramelson, industrial organizer of the Communist Party, has attacked the Socialist Labour League in an article in the CP's paper 'Morning Star'.**

Without mentioning the SLL by name, Ramelson has made accusations about League policies under the headline: 'Ultra-left tactics hold back advance'.

'To impose upon the rank-and-file movement political objectives which at present only a minority could be got to support would be to completely narrow it—to the joy of the right wing,' Ramelson writes.

'It is the negation of leadership in developing class struggle to narrow participation by imposing tasks beyond the level of political achievement.

'This not only makes it more difficult to achieve successes in immediate struggles, but hampers the revolutionary movement in its efforts to help workers learn from their experience in struggle the need to change society'.

This is essentially a Menshevik position against which Lenin conducted an all-out struggle from 1903 onwards. Lenin understood that if wor-

kers learned from their 'experience in struggle' alone, they would never rise beyond the level of spontaneity.

The Bolshevik position was that the Marxist theory of revolutionary leadership had to be brought into the working class's practice, not by imposing it, but in a necessary conflict with workers' spontaneous action. Only this conflict can produce the consciousness needed for the working class to transform itself into the ruling class.

Spontaneously, the working class will always fight against capitalism. It has done this in Britain for over 200 years, since long before political parties of the working class were formed.

But without revolutionary theory, the working class could go on for another 200 years and never take the powers away from the capitalist class.

## Revolutionary cadres

Ideas must be brought into the labour movement which go beyond workers' immediate trade union experience of fighting for extra money or in defence of trade union rights. This requires training revolutionary cadres within the trade union movement.

Ramelson states that:

'The involvement of workers in struggle on issues of struggle [sic] helps to develop political appreciation of the nature of capitalist society and can indeed change rebels into revolutionaries.'

But this will never happen unless the question of power is made the central issue.

It is only by taking revolutionary demands into practice that the working class will make a real advance in their understanding. By making bringing down the Tory government the main demand, the working class sees its real enemy clearly, and learns from this.

Ramelson is guilty of the most 'narrow' thinking in dividing 'immediate struggles' off from 'the revolutionary movement's efforts to help workers learn from their experience in struggle the need to change society,' quoting his Menshevik formula.

There is no dividing wall between them and only an out-and-out reformist, posing as a revolutionary, could invent one.

Transitional demands are precisely those which express the immediate needs of the working class but which challenge the existing political framework if they are to be carried out.

Trotsky described transitional demands as 'stemming from today's conditions and from today's consciousness of



## WORKERS NOTEBOOK

### Strikes and all that . . .

Members of the Territorial Army in Lancashire have been interested in a new development that has been taking place.

They heard recently of a new, second battalion, being formed from their regiment, which the officers had already joined, and men were being asked to transfer to.

Curious about the new unit's purpose, one man ventured to mention it to one of the officers he happened to encounter socially, and ask what it was all about.

The officer murmured something vague about 'all these strikes and that . . .'

### Speaking out

Soviet broadcasts have been notably silent about the Watergate scandal, passing it over in news for internal consumption and ignoring it in most foreign programmes.

Strangely enough there was one exception. There were a number of commentaries in the Quechua language beamed to listeners in the Andean region of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

Their main theme was to contrast corruption in US elections—'which casts shame on US democracy'—with the honesty of the elections for the Supreme Soviet in the USSR.

Kremlinologists must be intrigued to know why of all Radio Moscow's listeners only the Quechua speaking people were privileged to learn about the Watergate affair, which was described as the most spectacular espionage case in modern times involving Nixon's top advisers.

## LESSONS OF UCS

REFORMISM ON THE CLYDE

REFORMISM ON THE CLYDE

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# THE ACCOUNT BOOK ARTISTRY OF WALL STREET



Mr and Mrs Arnholt Smith (right) at the \$2,000-a-couple Nixon campaign dinner in 1968. Smith is alleged to have appropriated \$17.5m.

Weis Securities is a much-respected brokerage house on Wall Street. It has stood there since 1927. That's 46 years' service oiling the machinery of US capitalism.

Last week it went bust. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) closed it down. The thousands of investors were stunned.

The SEC later revealed it had taken this abrupt action because Weis had attempted to prevent a collapse by illegally borrowing 30 times the amount of its existing capital.

What happened to Weis is the continuation of a series of failures and scandals which have hit 'the Street' in the past few months. The uncertainty prompted one broker to comment: 'Things are getting a bit windy. You just don't know who to trust around here any more.'

Take the case of the broker and the Swiss banker indicted by a Federal grand jury ten days ago. They conspired to buy \$67m of stock entirely on credit. The indictment named Swiss banker Johan Paravicini of Berne and Louis W. Pemberton, a registered representative of Lehman Brothers Inc., one of the most prestigious names on Wall Street.

Among the stocks they purchased were chunks of Polaroid, Fairchild Camera, Glen Alden, Motorola, IBM and Southern Union Gas.

It's no wonder that an SEC official told the 'Bulletin', the newspaper of the Workers' League in the United States: 'We're being besieged by telephone calls from people who are worried about their investments.'

Particularly alarming for shareholders is the Weis collapse. Only a month ago there was nothing to indicate serious financial difficulties. When its books were inspected in April 1972 the firm seemed to be enjoying the effects of the Wall Street 'boom'.

But beneath the genuine artistry of the account books lay gigantic losses. Last February, the officers of the firm—with the approval of Weis chairman Arthur J. Levine—monkeyed with the books by debiting bank loans and crediting several income accounts. Within several weeks of that adventure, Weis reduced another bank loan of \$2m without paying it but taking the income on the money.

These actions concealed the fact that Weis Securities had borrowed 30 times its existing capital. The revelations have meant an unmitigated disaster for many of the firm's 55,000 customers. Each account is covered by a maximum of \$50,000 in securities and \$20,000 in cash.

'There is no guarantee that any Weis customer who has invested beyond that amount will ever see his money again,' an SEC officer said.

The SEC has been active elsewhere. Charges have been brought against Bausch and

Lomb, listed by 'Fortune' magazine as the 536th largest corporation in the country with assets of \$161m.

This follows allegations that B&L illegally gave inside information to select investors that the firm was suffering major financial difficulties. While this information was kept from the share-buying public, insiders unloaded their stock in a hurry.

On March 16, it was the most heavily traded stock on the New York Stock Exchange—348,00 shares—and its price fell from \$145.125 to \$137.

Another major share manipulation is being brought to light in the trial of Jack L. Clark, the former chairman of Four Seasons Nursing Centres of America Inc. He has pleaded guilty to the first charge of a 65-count indictment which alleges that he and leading officers of the firm 'doctored' the earnings and financial projections in order to wildly inflate its stock price.

The affair broke in 1970 when Four Seasons—then the hottest thing on the share market—suddenly went bankrupt, taking investors to the cleaners to the tune of \$200m.

On the West Coast the SEC has further big investigations underway. Take financier C. Arnholt Smith, a close social and political friend of President Nixon. He is charged with looting the assets of his Westgate California conglomerate.

The indictment estimates that Smith appropriated about \$17.5m for his personal use. He began his career in

gambling, passed through real estate and then onto banking—it has been the natural progression of so many 'financiers' created by the post-war inflationary boom. Nixon owes his political career to men like Smith, who have backed his campaigns since 1948.

Overshadowing all these scandals is Equity Funding, the highflying insurance brokers which dissolved, taking with it \$120m in assets.

Robert Loeffler, trustee in bankruptcy, told the investigating judge: 'The financial statements available have not only the same fascination of fables, but also about the same relationship to reality.'

In the face of the bogus insurance business written by Equity managers and the multi-million dollar losses, it is the height of absurdity for Judge Pregerson to say: 'The purpose of these proceedings is to keep Equity Funding alive and not to rehabilitate it. I'm not here to conduct funeral services but to oversee the reorganization of this company.'

But that is exactly what Pregerson is doing—even if he doesn't know it. With each financial failure, with each business scandal, the capitalist system is seen very clearly to be in its death throes.

A creeping death is passing through its limbs as a direct result of the break-up of the inflationary boom: those businesses based on this mythology of value are being called to account—and many of them can't!

**TODAY'S TV**

**BBC 1**

9.42 Schools. 12.55 Llywbrau'r Wlad. 1.25 News. 1.30 Mr Benn. 1.45 Wimbledon. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Robinson Crusoe. 5.40 The Wombles. 5.45 News.  
**6.00 YOUR REGION TONIGHT.**  
**6.15 WIMBLEDON.**  
**6.55 FILM: 'Fun in Acapulco.'** Elvis Presley, Ursula Andress, Trapeze artist with a conscience runs to Acapulco.  
**8.30 BURKE SPECIAL.**  
**9.00 NEWS.**  
**9.25 WARSHIP. 'Funny They All Say That.'** PO Willows (Tony Selby) has a bright future, but his past holds a dark secret.  
**10.15 NIGHT MUSIC.** Kenneth McKellar and Roddy McMillan.  
**10.45 MIDWEEK. 11.30 NEWS.**  
**11.35 BEFORE THE ARK.** Did the Dinosaurs leave some descendants?

**ITV**

9.30-9.40 Schools. 9.42-9.57 Schools. 10.00 Children to children. 10.30 At your service. 11.00 Wild life theatre. 11.25 Galloping gourmet. 11.50 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Witches brew. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Open golf. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Golf. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Wait till your father gets home. 5.50 News. **6.00 NEWS. 6.35 CROSSROADS.**  
**7.00 FILM: 'Gunfight at Dodge City.'** Joel McCrea, Julie Adams. Bat Masterson, gunman and gambler, becomes a lawman.  
**8.30 THIS WEEK.**  
**9.00 MISS TV TIMES.**  
**10.00 NEWS. 10.30 CINEMA. 11.00 GOLF.**  
**11.30 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.**  
**11.45 NIGHT GALLERY. 12.15 WHO CARES?**

**BBC 2**

11.00-11.25 Playschool. 2.00 Wimbledon.  
**7.30 NEWS.**  
**7.35 FOLLOW THE RHINE.** Johnny Morris.  
**8.00 WORK IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD.**  
**8.30 PLAY: 'Two Women.'** Part I of four parts of dramatization of Alberto Moravia's adventures of a woman and her daughter in wartime Italy. Margaret Whiting and Jenny Twigg.  
**9.25 HORIZON. 'The Rat Man.'** Edward Fox plays an obsessive neurotic patient of Mr Sigmund Freud.  
**10.15 MATCH OF THE DAY.** Wimbledon.  
**11.00 NEWS. 11.30 REAL TIME.**



Alberto Moravia's novel about 'Two Women' fighting for their survival in wartime Italy has been dramatized in four parts for BBC 2. It starts tonight.

**REGIONAL TV**

**SOUTHERN:** 10.00 Enchanted house. 10.10 Yoga. 10.35 Simon Locke. 11.00 Danger Man. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Challenge. 7.05 Dr in charge. 7.35 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 London. 11.30 News. 11.40 Spyforce.

**ANGLIA:** 11.00 Cartoon. 11.10 Gourmet. 11.35 Shirley's world. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 Golf. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 Houndcats. 5.20 Whipsnade. 5.50 News. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Swordman.' 8.30 London. 10.30 Gardening. 11.00 Golf. 11.30 Cinema. 12.00 Epilogue.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 10.45 Saint. 11.35 Gourmet. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 Golf. 4.25 Lost in space. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 McCloud. 8.30 London. 11.30 Gardening. 12.00 Spyforce.

**CHANNEL:** 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 4.20 Lottery. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.55 Osmonds. 5.20 Doris Day. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.10 Lucy. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Sullivan's Empire.' 8.30 London. 11.33 Scotland Yard mysteries. 11.55 Half a minute. News, weather.

**WESTWARD:** 9.30 Schools. 9.55 Rovers. 10.25 Cartoon. 10.45 Unknown land. 11.15 Danger man. 12.05 London. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.58 News. 1.00 London. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.55 Osmonds. 5.20 Doris Day. 5.50 News. 6.00 Diary 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Sullivan's Empire.' 8.30 London. 11.30 News, weather. 11.33 Scotland Yard mysteries. 11.55 Faith for life.

**HARLECH:** 9.30-9.57 Schools. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 Golf. 4.25 Pretenders. 4.55 Elephant boy. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 News. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.05 Film: 'Kung Fu.' 8.30 London. 10.30 Secret Mendips. 11.00 Golf. 11.30 Journey into Unknown. 12.30 Weather.

**ULSTER:** 12.05 London. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 Golf. 4.23 News. 4.25 Primus. 4.50 Joe 90. 5.30 Gourmet. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.10 Doris Day. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Hunted.' 8.30 London. 10.30 Documentary. 11.15 What's it all about. 11.35 Cinema.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 Schools. 10.00 Play Tennis. 10.30 Ed Allen. 10.55 Hammy Hamster. 11.05 Wildfire. 12.05 London. 4.25 Skippy. 4.50 Houndcats. 5.20 Doris Day. 5.50 News. 6.00 Calendar. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Crimson Kimono.' 8.30 London. 11.30 Dancing.

**GRANADA:** 9.30 Schools. 9.55 Hammy Hamster. 10.05 Passing parade. 10.15 Film: 'A Date with Judy.' 12.05 London. 4.20 Bush boy. 4.50 Houndcats. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.30 Partridge family. 7.00 Film: 'Dentist on the job.' 8.30 London. 11.45 Chicago teddy.  
**TYNE TEES:** 9.25 Ordination of women. 9.30 Schools. 10.00 Play tennis. 10.30 Ed Allen. 10.55 Hammy Hamster. 11.05 Wildlife. 12.05 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Let's face it. 3.00 Golf. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 Stingray. 5.20 F. troop. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Crimson Kimono.' 8.30 London. 11.30 Police call. 11.35 News. 11.50 The

man who never was. 12.20 Greatest fights. 12.35. Lectern.  
**SCOTTISH:** 10.55 Gourmet. 11.20 Bellbird. 11.35 One northern summer. 12.00 Ba-bar. 12.05 London. 2.30 Datelines. 3.00 Golf. 4.25 Saint. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Shirley's world. 7.00 Film: 'The Crimson Kimono.' 8.30 London. 11.30 Gardening. 12.00 Late call. 12.05 To see ourselves.  
**GRAMPIAN:** 11.15 Saint. 12.00 Round-up. 12.05 London. 5.20 Julia. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Men.' 8.30 London. 11.30 Police. 11.35 Department S. 12.25 Meditation.

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**SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES**

**Liverpool**

given by Peter Jeffries  
**Sunday July 8**  
 Chartism, yesterday and today  
**Sunday July 15**  
 The Revolutionary Party and the British working class

at

**Stanley Halls**  
 Upper Parliament Street  
 3 p.m.

**Manchester**

given by Peter Jeffries  
**Sunday July 8**  
 Chartism, yesterday and today  
**Sunday July 15**  
 The Revolutionary Party and the British working class

at

**Black Lion**  
 Blackfriars St/Chapel St  
 near Salford Bus Station  
 7.30 p.m.

**Leicester**

lectures given by Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee)  
**The Socialist Revolution in Britain:**  
 3. The state and revolution. Reformism and revolution in Britain. The fight for democratic rights today means preparing for working-class power.

**Sunday July 8**  
**Stockingfarm Community Centre, Stockingfarm**  
**7.30 p.m.**

**I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE**

Fill in the form below and send to **NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.**

Name.....

Address.....

# Fertilizer alone cost \$999 at San Clemente \$2m public money spent on Nixon's own houses

**MORE THAN \$2.2m** of public money has been spent to improve President Nixon's private homes at San Clemente, California and Key Biscayne, Florida, since he took office.

Details of the huge sums spent at the request of the Secret Service, which is charged with protecting the President, have been revealed by government accountants in Washington.

This is not the first time Nixon has been found blurring the distinction between his own private property and public funds.

His career to date is pock-marked with scandals about money, including his gifts from wealthy Californian businessmen, which nearly cost him the vice-presidency in 1952.

Other murky episodes include a loan from Howard R. Hughes; the purchase of a piece of land at a low price from the Teamsters' Union pension fund, whose trustee is James Hoffa, and the financing of his house at San Clemente, which has still to be cleared up.

According to government accountants of the General Services Administration the government has spent \$703,367 of taxpayers' money on the complete restoration of Nixon's San Clemente property.

At Key Biscayne, the total amount of public money spent to date is \$1,180,522. Other money has been spent on doing up the houses of Nixon's pals in the area.

Among the bills paid by the government at San Clemente were:

Stain entrance gates, other painting \$312; replace stairs and landing on walk to beach, \$1,950; build wall around entire 24.6-acre estate; \$57,582; install new furnace-heating system \$13,500; provide landscaping and sprinkler system, \$76,000; pave driveway, \$7,515; picture frames, \$6.83; roof tiles, \$3,200; move trees, \$3,278; fertilizer, \$999; tree trimming, \$575 and 'landscape maintenance', \$25,524.

## GRANDIOSE

There was also \$4,843 to furnish the 'President's office' at his home in San Clemente.

However, Nixon has already been provided—at taxpayers' expense, naturally—with a separate office in the grounds of the house at San Clemente.

The renovation and development of Nixon's property at Key Biscayne was, if anything, even more grandiose. Money spent there included \$4,786 for removing a wall and planting a hedge; \$3,050 for demolition and plant-

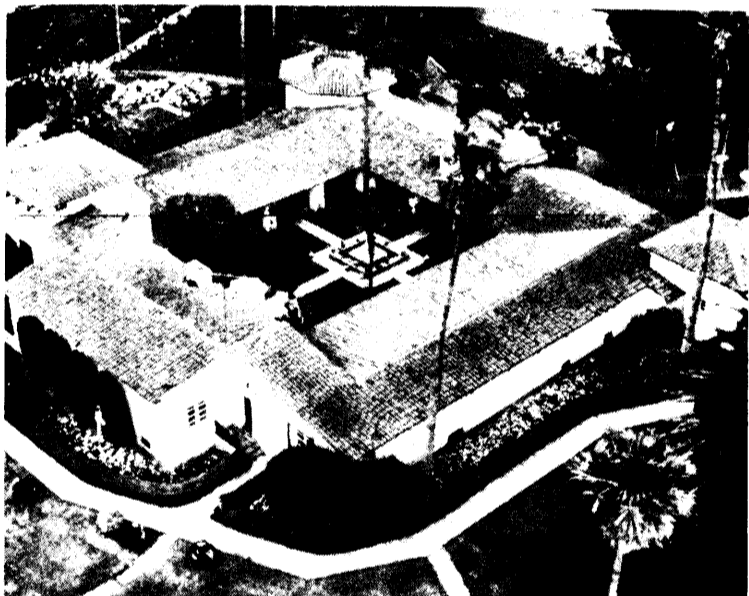
ing of trees; and \$42,293 for paving, landscaping and installing cables and lights.

Also, a septic tank, \$1,995; a flag pole, \$587; repair of beach erosion, \$2,000; an ice-making machine for the Secret Service detail, \$621.50; a swimming pool cleaner, \$475 and two golf carts, \$3,580. There was also a sum of

\$78,872 spent on 'repair and maintenance, presidential complex area'.

The sums quoted by the Agency do not include all the items of public expenditure at the Nixon mansions. For example, the largest single expenditure of taxpayers' money, a helicopter pad, is not listed.

Nixon and his wife Pat with his big buddy, self-made millionaire Bebe Rebozo. The Long Island 'Newsday' says its editor and a reporter were investigated following an article about Rebozo—confirming a claim made by John Dean in his Watergate evidence. (See story on right.) Bottom: The 'western White House' at San Clemente, modernized at public expense.



This pad was built for alleged security reasons by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1969. Its purpose was to ensure the President could walk directly into his house rather than take a two-mile drive from the existing helicopter field.

Most of the money that paid for Nixon's home improvements was allocated under a law passed after the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy in June 1968. This says that all government agencies must give support to the Secret Service when asked.

## INVENTIVE

According to Jack Warner, assistant to the director of the Secret Service, the service takes the view that any situation that threatens harm to the President should be corrected immediately.

This includes planting or transplanting trees 'to obscure possible lines of fire', cutting out dead grass that might provide a fire hazard or installing a fan to create a draught in the presidential fireplace.

Or, as they say in San Clemente (and Key Biscayne), next to a willing taxpayer an inventive Secret Serviceman is a president's best friend.

## Tax probe because they wrote of Nixon

THE LONG ISLAND 'Newsday' claims that the income tax returns of its editor and top investigating reporter were checked after the paper ran a series critical of President Nixon's friend, Charles 'Bebe' Rebozo.

The paper's revelation came after former White House lawyer John Dean told the senate Watergate committee that the White House had a tax audit done on a writer he did not name.

Dean cited this as an example of White House use of government agencies against political opponents.

The Pulitzer prizewinning 'Newsday' said intensive checks were done by the inland revenue department on the tax returns of editor David Lavanthol and reporter Robert Greene, who had headed a six-month inquiry into Rebozo's land dealings.

Greene said he had to pay a \$100 accountant's bill. 'I'm going to try to get that money back from Nixon,' he said.

'Newsday' also said that its White House correspondent, Martin Schramm, was the only regular daily paper correspondent at the White House to be denied permission to accompany President Nixon to China.

'Newsday's' series, published in October 1971, alleged that Rebozo, a Florida businessman, received 'kid-glove' treatment in real estate dealings with the Federal government. It also alleged President Nixon sold shares in a real estate investment for twice what other stockholders were getting.

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

**CAMBRIDGE: Thursday June 28, 8 p.m.** Mawson Hall, Mawson Road, off Mill Road. 'Forward to ATUA Conference on July 1.'

**FELTHAM: Thursday, June 28, 8 p.m.** 'The Three Horse Shoes', High Street. 'The struggle for the Revolutionary Party.'

**LANCASTER: Thursday June 28, 7.30 p.m.** The Trades Hall, Fenton Street, near the Post Office.

**FELTHAM: Thursday, July 5, 8 p.m.** 'Three Horse Shoes', Feltham High Street. 'Report-back from the Belle Vue rally and conference'.

## SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

### Barnsley

Given by Gerry Healy  
National Secretary  
of the  
Socialist Labour League

**Sunday July 8**

Theory and Practice of  
Marxism

**Sunday July 15**

Role of the  
Revolutionary Party  
at

**The Red Lion  
Worsborough  
Near Barnsley  
7.30 p.m.**

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## Deep anger over Lords 'illegal immigrants' move

THE COMMUNITY Relations Commission should resign in protest against the House of Lords decision on illegal immigrants, an Asian leader said yesterday.

Dr Dhani Prem, chairman of the Standing Conference of Asian Organizations in the United Kingdom, said the Lords ruling has caused deep anger among Asians.

'I call upon the Community Relations Commission to resign in protest as a body. They never

enjoyed the confidence of immigrant communities. Now they know that even the government does not take them seriously.'

The Lords decided that the 1971 Immigration Act had retrospective powers to deport any immigrant who entered Britain illegally over the past ten years.

It has been estimated that up to 10,000 immigrants face expulsion because of this reactionary and discriminatory ruling.

Dr Prem said there was still time for the government to avoid a serious confrontation by deleting the retrospective clause.

'If they do not act soon the Standing Conference will call upon the immigrant communities, as well as our friends in the British community, to take all constitutional measures necessary.'

## Vote on Equity register

THE NEWLY-ELECTED Equity Council voted by 20-4 at its first meeting to reverse the outgoing Council's decision to de-register the actors' union and to defy the annual conference decision earlier this week when by 198 votes to 102, it was re-

solved to de-register immediately.

In a statement, the Council says it believes de-registration would be contrary to the best interests of the members. It decided, however, to hold a fresh referendum on the issue.

## Bulk-buying leads to bulk-selling of shares

YESTERDAY morning 38-year-old John Apthorp climbed aboard his private jet and flew to Brussels to check on the price of the sprouts over there.

He was due to fly back late yesterday having cornered the market in sprouts and other fresh vegetables. Apthorp's game is that he freezes them and sells them in bulk.

On Tuesday he became a millionaire twice over when his company went public on the London Stock Exchange.

Bejam, which he started five years ago, runs a series of frozen food firms. The 2,750,000 shares opened at 72p. In fast and furious buying the price soared to 125p and closed at 117p.

It was 'pandemonium, fine, fullblooded and old-fashioned', said the 'Daily Mail's' City editor, Patrick Sergeant.

'I haven't really had time to think about what has happened,' said Apthorp as the share fortune mounted. 'We are expanding at such a fast rate.'

Apthorp is a JP and Tory councillor for Barnet.

**CIRCULATION**

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# Bribery 'infected' Yorkshire and north-east councils

FURTHER police investigations of corruption in local government will be launched as a result of the Leeds bribery case.

During the trial, which ended yesterday, the ex-Mayor of Pontefract, Maurice Byrne, wrote the names of four men—councillors and officials—on a piece of paper and handed it to the judge. This has now been passed to police who are looking into corruption on councils in the Yorkshire area.

Yesterday Byrne was sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment on charges of receiving corrupt payments. His associates, Anthony Joseph Flannery, received four years, and William Starling was given 12 months.

Mr Justice Waller told them: 'You three men have been convicted of charges of corruption, which, as has been said, is an evil which undermines and destroys commercial morality.'

'Where local authority contracts are concerned, it defeats the interest of the public because, as emerged in this case,

## SAYS JUDGE

sub-contracts are not given solely on their merits, but because of bribes that were paid.'

The judge told Byrne, Flannery and Starling that 'sub-contractors had to pay bribes to one or more of you, either to get on the list of tenderers or to get the tender or, when they had put in a price that was too high, had the opportunity of reducing it, being told what the lowest tender was'.

The judge went on: 'How widespread it is in the building industry in the north east, I don't know. It was said by you, Byrne, to be widespread.'

'It does at least appear in this case that it only started in early 1967, and so far as I am concerned it is sufficient to say that thereafter it obviously took place on the widest possible scale.'

It was 'a terrifying fact that the total figure which was paid out by sub-contractors and the architect in this case was £9,450, if my arithmetic is right, and there were additional cash payments as well.'

'It is quite appalling that that should happen in this country.'

'You, as a management team for a large contractor, were a source of infection which spread it appears into various parts of Yorkshire and Durham.'

It required a team 'because it presented less risk, by using the words public relations as a cover, using you Byrne as the collector and using you Flannery as the manager, able to make the decisions but needing some support from Allen and Starling, in, I accept a lesser degree.'

'It is a very unpleasant duty to have to send to prison three hard-working men who, in varying degrees, have achieved positions in life; who have not been in any kind of trouble before and who, in at any rate in one of your cases, has positively been of benefit to his fellow man.'

'The sentences I must pass are not merely to punish you for what you have done, but to make it clear to all the seriousness of the offences that were committed and, however much you may regret it now, the evil nature of your conduct.'

## Prosecution tells trial

# Large picket always open to arrest

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN MOLD, FLINTSHIRE

THE PRESENCE of workers at large picketing incidents could leave them open to arrest for intimidation or making an affray, it was claimed in the building workers' conspiracy trial here today.

Maurice Drake, QC, for the prosecution, said under the long-established law on intimidation it was not necessary to prove violence, but merely that the presence and conduct of the accused caused workers to stop work.

Similarly with the charge of an affray, the prosecution only had to show that the accused were 'present, adding to the numbers and encouraging a show of force'.

Mr Drake was opening the case against eight building workers charged after incidents at Brenig Reservoir in Denbigh on September 11 during the building workers' strike.

On intimidation they are all charged under the Conspiracy and Protection of Party Act of 1875.

Mr Drake said there was no attempt to undermine the right to take industrial action. 'I say this at the beginning of the case, lest it be suggested by anyone that this case involves an attack on the right to picket.'

He said that the building workers paid two visits to the site.

On the second occasion—September 11—two busloads of 50 or 60 had entered the site and split into two groups. One went to a drilling rig and pushed it over and the others picked up rocks and hurled them at machinery and windows causing approximately £100 damage.

The court heard that it was not until November that the police began interviews with the accused which led to their arrest. In some cases pictures were used to identify the defendants.

The first witness for the prosecution, Mr H. A. Roland, site engineer at Brenig, agreed under cross-examination that the damage on the site was only superficial.

He said that he first met the striking building workers on April 23 when an agreement was made between them and the contractor to stop work on the site.

In return the strikers said they would not put a picket on the gate. But Mr Roland said work was restarted the following Tuesday.

Asked whether it was clear that the damage was aimed at management and not intended to frighten men on the site, Roland said he could not say. **The hearing continues.**

## Talks team not discussed by TUC

THE TUC General Council allowed the whole question of the collaboration with the Tory government, and the barring of Hugh Scanlon by the AUEW from taking any further part in them, to go by without comment, general secretary Victor Feather said yesterday.

The six-man Downing Street team will meet tomorrow, probably without Scanlon, to discuss tactics for the next meeting

with premier Edward Heath.

But the Economic Committee will make the final decision, subject to General Council approval, about replacing the engineers' president or not.

Meanwhile Pay Board chairman Frank Figgures revealed that Phase Three of the pay laws will intensify the onslaught on the standard of living of the working class.

Low pay, Figgures said, could

become 'a slogan without real substance'. Whether anything could be done about low pay depended on whether the higher-paid were prepared to see their differentials reduced.

'Judging from an outsider's seat, I should doubt whether there can be as much flexibility as many would like, if we are not to saddle ourselves with a general increase that would be unaccountably low', he added.

## FUND NEEDS £538.74 IN THREE DAYS

THE BATTLE is on. Yesterday's post raised £288.67, leaving us still £538.74 to raise by Saturday. If we keep up this pace, we will do it. So don't let a moment go by. Raise everything you can and rush it immediately to us.

As building workers stand trial in defence of their basic rights, the whole of the trade union movement must stand firmly behind them.

Workers Press remains the only daily paper to take up the struggle to defend these rights. Now we must use our paper to extend this fight throughout the working class with an enormous campaign to force this Tory government to resign.

Back us up all the way. Help us raise extra amounts over these last three days—make sure we complete our £1,750 target in time. Rush every donation to:

Workers Press June Appeal Fund  
186a Clapham High Street  
London SW4 7UG



THE 70 staggers who are on strike at Cammell Laird's, Birkenhead, were out picketing again yesterday. The staggers are demanding the right to choose their own shop stewards. They have been denied

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS this right by management who have been backed by the Merseyside Confederation of Shipbuilding Unions. Confederation official Bill

Crighton has condemned the staggers action which he says is against other workers at the yard. The staggers have bitterly denied this and they have been backed by the Cammell Laird labour force.

## Confed puts in £10 claim

LEADERS of 3 million engineering workers yesterday voted unanimously to lodge a claim for an increase of up to £10 and a five-hour cut in the working week.

The claim, which will be lodged when the present agreement runs out on August 25, would, if seriously fought for, breach the Tory government's state pay laws.

The skilled men's rates, at present £22, will be raised by a further £3 on August 25. The present unskilled rate of £17.50 will be increased to £20.

Hugh Scanlon, who remained silent during yesterday morning's debate at the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union's conference on the TUC-Tory talks, warned the delegates of the 'seriousness' of the situation they would face in the autumn.

They might not only be up against 'what would be the government's attitude if the talks fail', he said, but the consequences of a possible deal on pay.

It was not possible for delegates to vote for the ending of talks and then ignore the implications of a vote for £10 claim, he said.

## UNION REVOLT AGAINST TALKS

FROM PAGE ONE

moved by the engineers, instructed the CSEU executive to reject Phase Two of the pay laws. And it instructed it 'to press the TUC not to participate in any discussions with the government on any form of wage freeze'.

The engineers' section also wanted a declaration that the CSEU 'will not be bound by any decisions arising from talks between the TUC, the CBI and the government which would place restrictions, voluntary or imposed, upon the free collective bargaining of wages and conditions'.

In itself, of course, this does not bar union chiefs from participating in talks.

But in moving the resolution, Reg Birch, AUEW executive councilman, made clear that following last week's decision of his own union it did mean no talks.

Workers must not be forced to accept responsibility for capitalism's crisis, he said. The unions should have no truck whatsoever with the government. 'We ask you to join with us that we should use our full

authority in this body to press the TUC to refrain from participating in any discussions with this government.'

Moss Evans, T&GWU national organizer, moved his union's motion, declaring 'total opposition to government intervention in wage bargaining' and calling on affiliated unions to support this policy.

The T&GWU was not being 'mealy-mouthed', he claimed. But while it was not unsympathetic to the AUEW motion, its own conference had not yet had the opportunity to debate its policy.

Since the T&GWU was only affiliated to the CSEU for 25 per cent of its members, it could not commit the other 75 per cent without a full debate.

Danny McGarvey, boiler-makers' leader, said that it had been the TUC which asked for the talks in the first place.

He opposed the AUEW motion and called for support for the weak-kneed T&GWU resolution.

He said union leaders were 'doing a job of work' at Downing Street.

Construction engineers' leader,

Socialist Labour League and International Marxist Group  
JOINT MEETING  
**Defend Basic Democratic Rights Support Shrewsbury 24**  
FRIDAY JULY 6, 8 p.m.  
Acton Town Hall High Street, Acton  
Collection will be made for Shrewsbury 24  
Speakers:  
DAVE JACKSON (Chairman Shrewsbury Defence Committee)  
BOB PENNINGTON (IMG)  
GERRY HEALY (SLL)