

£ 1,000 Appeal now £128 15s 11d

YESTERDAY'S post brought £47 2s 8d, giving a total of £128 15s 11d. We have £871 4s 1d to raise by September 30 to complete the fund.

Miners, council workers and other sections of workers involved in struggle are expressing warm support for the Workers Press. We are now making plans, which we will announce very soon, in order to expand the paper to reach even wider sections of the working class.

Let's have a massive drive this weekend. Help us push the fund up to at least £250—send your donations to:

Workers Press
Appeal Fund,
186a Clapham High Street,
London, SW4.

What we think

Full support for one-day strike against unemployment

THE MOST important question facing the working class next to the wages struggle is unemployment.

The dramatic increase in unemployment since the Tories took power is certainly not an aberration in the economic situation, which will be quickly solved by some future reflation.

Anyone who accepts this is living in the same dangerous economic cloud-cuckoo land as the TUC.

Mass unemployment is the cornerstone of Tory policy. They hope to use it in the developing trade recession to cut costs by depressing wages and introducing Measured-Day Work, as well as intimidating groups of militant workers.

The sack and fear of the sack are the employers' only effective weapon.

Anti-union legislation without the demoralization and insecurity of chronic unemployment—as the Tory government in Australia found out in 1969—will be only marginally effective in intimidating the trade unions and holding down wages.

That is why the monopolies in the electrical engineering, shipbuilding and motor car (with integration of BLMC) and printing industries are undertaking massive rationalization measures with government assistance—as they did before the war in Jarrow and elsewhere—to set the stage for the impending struggles against the trade unions.

So the struggle against Measured-Day Work and job-evaluation and for straightforward wage increases is indissolubly bound up with the struggle for full employment.

And the struggle against unemployment cannot be conducted at the labour exchanges, as many reformists advocate, but must be integrated with the wages struggle and the fight against productivity.

Those like the TUC and the Stalinists who try to separate the struggle for full employment from the struggle for better conditions and higher wages are, in fact, sabotaging the struggle against the Tories.

Delegations to the DEP and confabs with Ministers only help to disarm workers and facilitate Tory plans for the corporate state.

What is needed is not talk and discussion with the architects of mass unemployment, but concrete action, nationally co-ordinated, to demonstrate the employed and unemployed workers' capacity and determination to fight unemployment and the Tories.

For these reasons we urge all trade unionists and unemployed workers to vigorously support the call of the S Shields and Kirby Trades Council for a one-day general strike against unemployment.

If the massive national demonstration and lobby of trade unionists in March 1965 made a powerful contribution to the Tories' downfall a year later at the polls, then a one-day national strike in the present period will be a powerful blow against Toryism and will prepare the path for a return of a government pledged to socialist policies.

Let there be no return to the hungry 1930s by a fight against unemployment and closures NOW!

Arab Revolution in danger

TREACHEROUSLY attacked by the feudal puppets in Amman and cynically betrayed by the bourgeoisie of Damascus and Baghdad the Palestinian war of independence has now reached its most crucial stage.

Fighting bitterly for every hill and wadi from Amman to Irbid, the Palestinian guerrillas, supported by fresh columns of fighters from Lebanon, now face the full fury of the Jordanian army and airforce attacks.

In Amman, where the clashes have been the most bloody, Hussein's armoured troops have gone over to the guerrillas, who claim to have 'all sensitive areas' of the city under their control.

Hard-pressed in Jordan, where Royalist-led tribesmen are being used against the guerrillas, the commando leadership has repeatedly appealed to the 12,000 Iraqi troops stationed near Amman to join the fight against Hussein.

The request has so far fallen on deaf ears. The Iraqi regime clearly fears involvement in a conflict that will rapidly spread from Jordan to the main Middle-East oil-producing countries, of which Iraq is one of the most important.

The Syrian government holds a similar position.

Background

In the background secret diplomacy continues.

Israeli Premier Mrs Meir, in New York for talks with world and US leaders, yesterday denied that her government had breached the cease-fire agreement with the Arabs.

She made it clear that the deal with Nasser and Hussein was still on, despite the hijackings crisis and the Jordan upheaval.

The Kremlin and Nixon intend to press ahead with their conspiracy against the Arab Revolution.

Showdown

Hussein's attempted showdown with the guerrillas undoubtedly has the approval of not only the US imperialists, but world Stalinism.

The Palestinians will fight against all this with undoubted courage and tenacity.

But the Jordan crisis has subjected the leaders of the Palestinian liberation movement to the most searching political test.

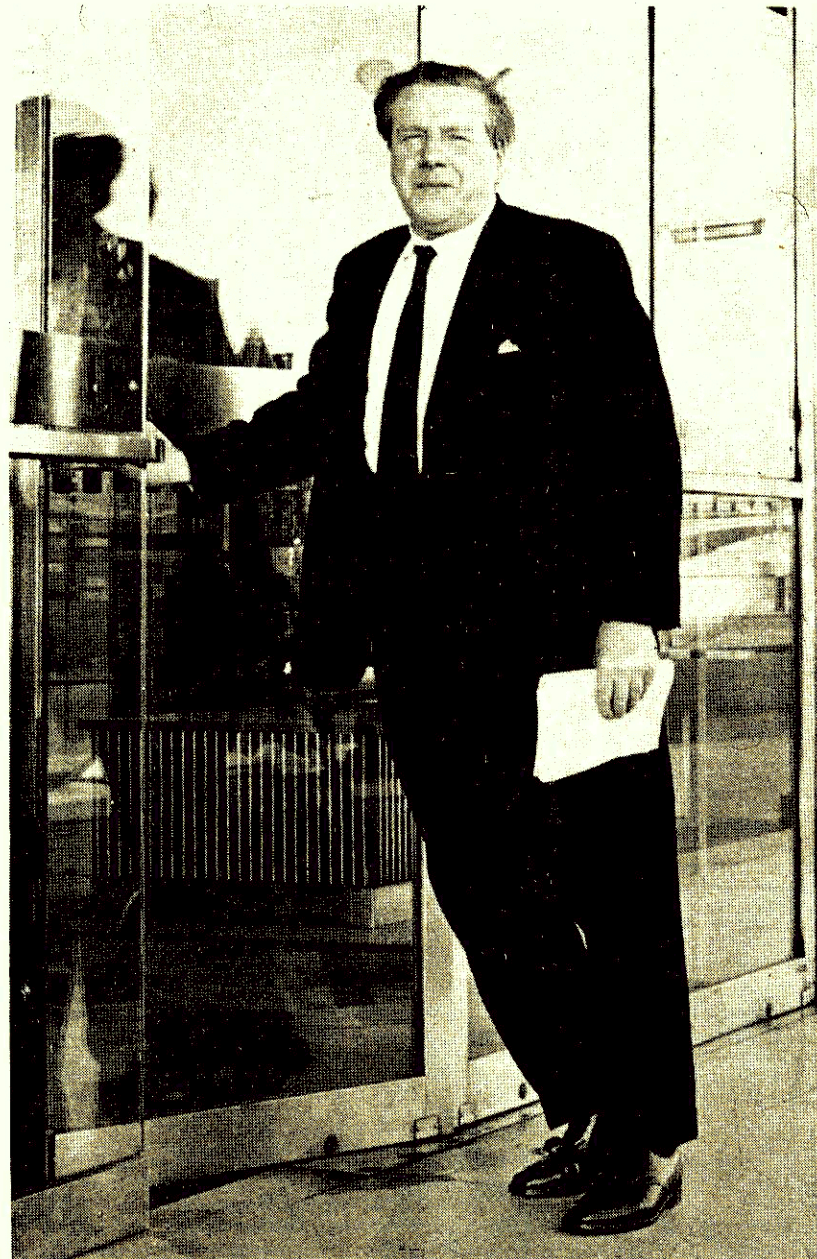
It exposes not only Al Fatah leader Yasser Arafat's openly conciliatory nature—he still refuses to call for the overthrow of the Hussein monarchy—but the adventurist, middle-class conceptions of the most radical leaders.

Revealed

When asked whether he was aware Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine activists

● PAGE FOUR COL. 7

BY ROBERT BLACK



Don't jump through
productivity hoop

Stand firm at Sankey!

BY DAVID MAUDE

UNION OFFICIALS will pull out all the stops today in a concerted bid to end the six-week-old pay strike at GKN-Sankey's Shropshire car-components plant.

They met the 120-strong joint shop stewards last night to push for a 'return-to-work' recommendation at this morning's key mass meeting.

Backing down before the government-steered refusal to meet the strikers' just claim, leaders of all five unions concerned—from the General and Municipal's Lord Cooper to the Transport Workers' Jack Jones and the Amalgamated Engineers' Hugh Scanlon—favour acceptance of Sankey's so-called '£2 to £7 6s, multi-stringed' offer.

They believe it will yield further pay improvements following a return.

Strikers' demands that their claim for an across-the-board, 'no strings' increase is given official support have been completely ignored. This is the sordid reality behind all talk of 'an offensive wages strategy' at last week's Brighton Trades Union Congress. Retreat before the Tories' productivity-dealing offensive against wages and trade union rights is fast turning into an ignominious rout.

Many GKN-Sankey workers were hoping earlier this week that union officials were beginning to change their attitude to the strike after last Friday's arrogant refusal by the company to negotiate with them directly.

Like G&M/WJ steward Bill Foster, who told Workers Press: 'I think they were disgusted on Friday—they must be seeing now you can't give Sankey's an inch!'

Such hopes have now been rudely dashed.

Far from becoming more determined to fight it out with the firm (and with the car bosses who have laid off 40,000 other workers in an attempt to isolate the Shropshire strikers), union leaders have waxed more and more enthusiastic about the virtues of the company's proposed job-evaluation scheme.

But despite the lack of detailed information about this deal touched on in today's special article on page 2, every GKN-Sankey worker knows that it is far from roses all the way.

ADMITTED

As company chairman H. Spencer Killick himself admitted in his letter to 'The Economist' last week, these proposals—accepted by national union officials and some shop stewards—'mean an award to individuals as from £2 a week to the highest-paid pieceworkers to £7 6s to the top craft skilled worker'. (Our emphasis.)

And last weekend's letter to pieceworkers from personnel director R. S. Aitken stressed that 'from December 1, 1970, all piecework jobs earning less than 15s an hour will be adjusted to ensure that on standard performance they can yield 15s an hour gross'. (Our emphasis.)

Because of sometimes as much as 20 hours a week 'down' (waiting) time in short-run jobs many pieceworkers believe that their pay will rise

● PAGE FOUR COL. 4

Council strikes before union deadline

If no satisfaction on demands

COUNCIL WORKERS will hold guerrilla strikes in major authorities if there is no progress on their claim before September 29, the date fixed for national official action.

E London union officials told a mass meeting of 200 council-men at Poplar on Wednesday that selective strikes involving all areas of Britain would be called if 'subsequent progress proved this necessary'.

But delegates who demanded a total national walk-out were warmly applauded, and the unions were criticized for not backing the recent one-day strikes in London.

Demands

The 770,000 manual workers are demanding:

- A £2 15s increase in basic rates with the same increase for women as a step towards equal pay.
- A 10 per cent 'penalty' rise for employees not on incentive bonus schemes.
- A third week's holiday after one year's service instead of seven years as at present.
- Improved service payment for full-time and part-time workers.

They are insisting that all the demands are met and that all increases should be across-the-board.

'Let us make no mistake about it, this is, in effect, a political battle because the Conservative government have said to the employers that their offer is a fair one and encouraged them to reject our demands,' Brian Connolly, E London district secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, told the meeting.

Previously they have said that they were not prepared to intervene in wages

● PAGE FOUR COL. 1

Hostages move by Tories

THE Tory government yesterday reaffirmed it would work with other governments concerned in attempts to secure the release of hi-jack hostages in crisis-torn Jordan.

TUC general secretary Mr Victor Feather seen entering Millbank Tower, London, yesterday for a meeting with Technology Minister Mr John Davies. They discussed Vickers' threat to close Palmer's ship repair yard at Hebburn on Tyne later this month.

RENEWED BATTLE IN S ITALY

BY DAVID BARNES

DEMONSTRATIONS and street battles against the police continued yesterday in Reggio Calabria—in the 'toe' of Italy—on the last day of a four-day general strike called against a government decision to place the 'capital' of the Calabrian region at Catanaro and not Reggio Calabria.

Rank-and-file co-ordinating committee secretary Terry Wilson addressing council workers on Wednesday.



Barricades were set up and oil poured on the roads to block the way to armoured police vans. The 'forces of order' attacked with tear gas and clubs, injuring scores of young people. Over 40 have been arrested.

The rioting follows similar outbreaks in July, when the city was paralysed for over a week.

The root cause is the chronic unemployment and poverty of the whole region, including Reggio.

Italy's new regional government will, of course, bring some employment and income with them. But the problems of Italy can never be solved even on a regional basis, and still less town by town.

Anger

This week's clashes bring to the surface the anger of southern workers and middle-class elements against the centre-left government's cynical neglect of the South and police brutality and corruption.

But they are being exploited by the region's capitalist politicians as a lever for their own ambitions.

E.C. calls ballot on miners' strike

BRITAIN'S 292,000 miners will shut their pits with official union backing for the first time since 1926 if two-thirds of them support yesterday's strike call.

They will march against a Tory government committed to fight their wage claim to a finish and against threats—voiced yesterday by National Coal Board chairman Lord Robens—that many thousands of them may lose their jobs.

Lawrence Daly, 'left'-talking National Union of Mine-workers' general secretary, announced after yesterday morning's meeting of his 26-man executive that a mandatory strike ballot would begin on October 12.

Result

The result should be known about a week later and work could stop soon after.

The executive are calling upon members to support the union by voting for strike action', Daly said.

But NUM vice-president Sid Schofield made clear that official action anticipating the ballot decision would be strenuously resisted.

Further details of the NCB's contemptuous reply to the miners' £5 claim were announced yesterday.

Half offer

The Board offered miners less than half what they were asking: between 37s 6d and 50s a week.

And Robens went out of his way to scotch any residual hopes that there would be an improvement before the strike deadline with a statement that 'to do any more than this would seriously and rapidly jeopardize the prospects of the industry'.

First shots in the inevitable propaganda campaign against the miners were fired by Robens yesterday afternoon.

A four-week strike would mean coal shortages 'by early next year', claimed the £20,000-a-year NCB chief.

The effects of coalfield disruption would be felt in the cold-weather period after Christmas.

But there was not the slightest likelihood of the NCB making the miners a better offer.

Along with other state-board chairmen, Robens was recently granted a £48-a-week pay rise by Tory Employment and Productivity Minister Robert Carr.

● See page four picture and special article on last week's NCB report.

NLF proposes new deal

THE S Vietnamese National Liberation Front representative at the Paris peace talks yesterday submitted a new series of proposals.

Based on the existing ten-point NLF programme, they called for total US withdrawal from the South and the removal of the present Saigon leadership.

However, the NLF delegate said that if the US agreed to withdraw all its forces and those of its allies by June 30, 1971, the guerrillas would stop attacking them and would undertake to discuss the release of prisoners.

This new deal has obviously been made under pressure from Hanoi and the Kremlin, which is anxious to come to terms with Nixon in both SE Asia and the Middle East.

ONE OF the Sainsbury's strikers arrested while picketing outside the firm's Blackfriars' factory on Wednesday, was remanded on bail of £50 yesterday by London magistrates.

Mr W. Ingram was charged with possessing an offensive weapon, assaulting a police officer, using insulting words and obstructing the footway.

The 2,000 Blackfriars' workers have been on strike for a week in protest against proposed redundancies at the plant.

Sainsbury picket bailed

● PAGE FOUR COL. 4

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21

The second of Two Trotsky Memorial Lectures

'Trotsky's fight against revisionism'

BEAVER HALL
GARLICK HILL

Near Lanson House tube

Starts 8 p.m.

Admission 2s

TROTSKY'S LAST WORDS
I AM CONFIDENT OF
THE VICTORY OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
GO FORWARD...

1965 THAT MEANS FORWARD TO
THE FIRST DAILY TROTSKY PAPER
1970 THAT MEANS ILL
THE WORKERS PRESS

Lecture given by HEALY (SLL national secretary)

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

The Pilkington
struggle and the
right to strike

Defeat the
proposed Tory
anti-union laws

St George's Hall, Lime St
LIVERPOOL

Saturday October 3

2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Credentials and visitors' cards 5s each from Conference Secretary, W. Hunter, 58 Leighton View, Liverpool 8.

Swindon engineers back glassworkers' conference

SWINDON district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers has called on the AEF executive council to support national blacking of Pilkington glass.

The committee will also be sending a large delegation to the October 3 conference called by the All Trades Unions Alliance to support the Pilkington workers and defeat the Tories' anti-union plans.

The AEF Walcot No. 1 branch in Swindon has also voted to send a large delegation to the conference.

Workers Press

The daily organ of the
Central Committee of the
Socialist Labour League

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • PUBLISHED FROM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY • NUMBER 256 • FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1970

PRICE 6d.

£1,000 Appeal now £128 15s 11d

YESTERDAY'S post brought £47 2s 8d, giving a total of £128 15s 11d. We have £871 4s 1d to raise by September 30 to complete the fund.

Miners, council workers and other sections of workers involved in struggle are expressing warm support for the Workers Press. We are now making plans, which we will announce very soon, in order to expand the paper to reach even wider sections of the working class.

Let's have a massive drive this weekend. Help us push the fund up to at least £250—send your donations to:

Workers Press
Appeal Fund,
186a Clapham High Street,
London, SW4.

What we think

Full support for one-day strike against unemployment

THE MOST important question facing the working class next to the wages struggle is unemployment.

The dramatic increase in unemployment since the Tories took power is certainly not an aberration in the economic situation, which will be quickly solved by some future refutation.

Anyone who accepts this is living in the same dangerous economic cloud-cuckoo land as the TUC.

Mass unemployment is the cornerstone of Tory policy. They hope to use it in the developing trade recession to cut costs by depressing wages and introducing Measured-Day Work, as well as intimidating groups of militant workers.

The sack and fear of the sack are the employers' only effective weapons.

Anti-union legislation without the demoralization and insecurity of chronic unemployment—as the Tory government in Australia found out in 1967—will be only marginally effective in intimidating the trade unions and holding down wages.

That is why the monopolies in the electrical engineering, shipbuilding, motor car (with integration of BLMC) and printing industries are undertaking massive rationalization measures with government assistance—as they did before the war in Jarrow and elsewhere—to set the stage for the impending struggles against the trade unions.

So the struggle against Measured-Day Work and job-evaluation and for straightforward wage increases is indissolubly bound up with the struggle for full employment.

And the struggle against unemployment cannot be conducted at the labour exchanges, as many reformists advocate, but must be integrated with the wages struggle and the fight against productivity.

Those like the TUC and the Stalinists who try to separate the struggle for full employment from the struggle for better conditions and higher wages are, in fact, sabotaging the struggle against the Tories.

Delegations to the DEP and confabs with Ministers only help to disarm workers and facilitate Tory plans for the corporate state.

What is needed is not talk and discussion with the architects of mass unemployment, but concrete action, nationally co-ordinated, to demonstrate the employed and unemployed workers' capacity and determination to fight unemployment and the Tories.

For these reasons we urge all trade unionists and unemployed workers to vigorously support the call of the S Shields and Kirby Trades Council for one-day general strikes against unemployment.

If the massive national demonstration and lobby of trade unionists in March 1963 made a powerful contribution to the Tories' downfall a year later at the polls, then a one-day national strike in the present period will be a powerful blow against Toryism and will prepare the path for a return of a government pledged to socialist policies.

Let there be no return to the hungry 1930s by a fight against unemployment and closures NOW!

Arab Revolution in danger

TREACHEROUSLY attacked by the feudal puppets in Amman and cynically betrayed by the bourgeoisie of Damascus and Baghdad the Palestinian war of independence has now reached its most crucial stage.

Fighting bitterly for every hill and wadi from Amman to Irbid, the Palestinian guerrillas, supported by fresh columns of fighters from Lebanon, now face the full fury of the Jordanian army and airforce attacks.

In Amman, where the clashes have been the most bloody, Hussein's armoured troops have gone over to the guerrillas, who claim to have 'all sensitive areas' of the city under their control.

Hard-pressed in Jordan, where Royalist-led tribesmen are being used against the guerrillas, the commando leadership has repeatedly appealed to the 12,000 Iraqi troops stationed near Amman to join the fight against Hussein.

The request has so far fallen on deaf ears. The Iraqi regime clearly fears involvement in a conflict that will rapidly spread from Jordan to the main Middle-East oil-producing countries, of which Iraq is one of the most important.

The Syrian government holds a similar position.

Background

In the background secret diplomacy continues.

Israeli Premier Mrs Meir, in New York for talks with world and US leaders, yesterday denied that her government had breached the cease-fire agreement with the Arabs.

She made it clear that the deal with Nasser and Hussein was still on, despite the hijackings crisis and the Jordan upheaval.

The Kremlin and Nixon intend to press ahead with their conspiracy against the Arab Revolution.

Showdown

Hussein's attempted showdown with the guerrillas undoubtedly has the approval of not only the US imperialists, but world Stalinism.

The Palestinians will fight against all this with undoubted courage and tenacity.

But the Jordan crisis has subjected the leaders of the Palestinian liberation movement to the most searching political test.

It exposes not only Al Fatah leader Yasser Arafat's openly conciliatory nature—he still refuses to call for the overthrow of the Hussein monarchy—but the adventurist, middle-class conceptions of the most radical leaders.

Revealed

When asked whether he was aware Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine activities

Council strikes before union deadline

If no satisfaction on demands

COUNCIL WORKERS will hold guerrilla strikes in major authorities if there is no progress on their claim before September 29, the date fixed for national official action.

E London union officials told a mass meeting of 200 council-men at Poplar on Wednesday that selective strikes involving all areas of Britain would be called if 'subsequent progress proved this necessary'.

But delegates who demanded a total national walk-out were warmly applauded, and the unions were criticized for not backing the recent one-day strikes in London.

Demands
The 770,000 manual workers are demanding:

- A £2 15s increase in basic rates with the same increase for women as a step towards equal pay.
- A 10 per cent 'penalty' rise for employees not on incentive bonus schemes.
- A third week's service after one year's service instead of seven years as at present.
- Improved service payment for full-time and part-time workers.

They are insisting that all the demands are met and that all increases should be across-the-board.

Let us make no mistake about it, this is, in effect, a political battle because the Conservative government have said to the employers that their offer is a fair one and encouraged them to reject our demands,' Brian Connolly, E London district secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, told the meeting.

'Previously they have said that they were not prepared to intervene in wages

● PAGE FOUR COL. 1

Hostages move by Tories

THE Tory government yesterday reaffirmed it would work with other governments concerned in attempts to secure the release of hi-jack hostages in crisis-torn Jordan.

RENEWED BATTLE IN S ITALY

BY DAVID BARNES

DEMONSTRATIONS and street battles against the police continued yesterday in Reggio Calabria—in the 'toe' of Italy—on the last day of a four-day general strike called against a government decision to place the 'capital' of the Calabrian region at Catanaro and not Reggio Calabria.

Barricades were set up and oil poured on the roads to block the way to armoured police vans. The 'forces of order' attacked with tear gas and clubs, injuring scores of young people. Over 40 have been arrested.

The rioting follows similar outbreaks in July, when the city was paralysed for over a week.

The root cause is the chronic unemployment and poverty of the whole region, including Reggio.

Italy's new regional government will, of course, bring some employment and income with them. But the problems of Italy can never be solved even on a regional basis, and still less town by town.

Anger

This week's clashes bring to the surface the anger of southern workers and middle-class elements against the centre-left government's cynical neglect of the South and police brutality and corruption.

But they are being exploited by the region's capitalist politicians as a lever for their own ambitions.

● PAGE FOUR COL. 1



TUC general secretary Mr Victor Feather seen entering Millbank Tower, London, yesterday for a meeting with Technology Minister Mr John Davies. They discussed Vickers' threat to close Palmer's ship repair yard at Hebburn on Tyne later this month.

E.C. calls ballot on miners' strike

BRITAIN'S 292,000 miners will shut their pits with official union backing for the first time since 1926 if two-thirds of them support yesterday's strike call.

They will march against a Tory government committed to fight their wage claim to a finish and against threats—voiced yesterday by National Coal Board chairman Lord Robens—that many thousands of them may lose their jobs.

Lawrence Daly, 'left'-talking National Union of Mine-workers' general secretary, announced after yesterday morning's meeting of his 26-man executive that a mandatory strike ballot would begin on October 12.

Result

The result should be known about a week later and work could stop soon after.

'The executive are calling upon members to support the union by voting for strike action', Daly said.

But NUM vice-president Sid Schofield made clear that unofficial action anticipating the ballot decision would be strenuously resisted.

Further details of the NCB's contemptuous reply to the miners' £5 claim were announced yesterday.

Half offer

The Board offered miners less than half what they were asking: between 37s 6d and 50s a week.

And Robens went out of his way to scotch any residual hopes that there would be an improvement before the strike deadline with a statement that 'to do any more than this would seriously and rapidly jeopardize the prospects of the industry'.

First shots in the inevitable propaganda campaign against the miners were fired by Robens yesterday afternoon.

A four-week strike would mean coal shortages 'by early next year', claimed the £20,000-a-year NCB chief.

The effects of coalfield disruption would be felt in the cold-weather period after Christmas.

But there was not the slightest likelihood of the NCB making the miners a better offer.

Along with other state-board chairmen, Robens was recently granted a £48-a-week pay rise by Tory Employment and Productivity Minister Robert Carr.

● See page four picture and special article on last week's NCB report.

Don't jump through productivity hoop Stand firm at Sankey!

BY DAVID MAUDE

UNION OFFICIALS will pull out all the stops today in a concerted bid to end the six-week-old pay strike at GKN-Sankey's Shropshire car-components plant.

They met the 120-strong joint shop stewards last night to push for a 'return-to-work' recommendation at this morning's key mass meeting.

Backing down before the government-steered refusal to meet the strikers' just claim, leaders of all five unions concerned—from the General and Municipal's Lord Cooper to the Transport Workers' Jack Jones and the Amalgamated Engineers' Hugh Scanlon—favoured acceptance of Sankey's so-called '£2 to £7 6s', multi-stringed offer.

They believe it will yield further pay improvements following a return.

Strikers' demands that their claim for an across-the-board, 'no strings' increase is given official support have been completely ignored.

This is the sordid reality behind all talk of an 'offensive wages strategy' at last week's Brighton Trades Union Congress. Retreat before the Tories' productivity-dealing offensive against wages and trade union rights is fast turning into an ignominious rout.

Many GKN-Sankey workers were hoping earlier this week that union officials were beginning to change their attitude to the strike after last Friday's arrogant refusal by the company to negotiate with them directly.

Like G&M's steward Bill Foster, who told Workers Press: 'I think they were disgusted on Friday—they must be seeing now you can't give Sankey's an inch!'

Such hopes have now been rudely dashed.

Far from becoming more determined to fight it out with the firm (and with the bosses who have laid off 40,000 other workers in an attempt to isolate the Shropshire strikers), union leaders have waxed more and more enthusiastic about the virtues of the company's proposed job-evaluation scheme.

But despite the lack of detailed information about this deal touched on in today's special article on page 2, every GKN-Sankey worker knows that it is far from roses all the way.

ADMITTED

As company chairman H. Spencer Killick himself admitted in his letter to 'The Economist' last week these proposals—accepted by national union officials and some shop stewards—'meant an award to individuals as from £2 a week to the highest-paid pieceworkers to £7 6s to the top craft skilled worker'. (Our emphasis.)

And last weekend's letter to pieceworkers from personnel director R. S. Aitken stressed that 'from December 1, 1970, all piecework jobs earning less than 15s an hour will be adjusted to ensure that on standard performance they can yield 15s an hour gross'. (Our emphasis.)

Because of sometimes as much as 20 hours a week 'down' (waiting) time in short-run jobs many pieceworkers believe that their pay will rise

● PAGE FOUR COL. 4

Sainsbury picket bailed

ONE OF the Sainsbury's strikers arrested while picketing outside the firm's Blackfriars factory on Wednesday, was remanded on bail of £50 yesterday by London magistrates.

Mr W. Ingram was charged with possessing an offensive weapon, assaulting a police officer, using insulting words and obstructing the footway.

The 2,000 Blackfriars workers have been on strike for a week in protest against proposed redundancies at the plant.

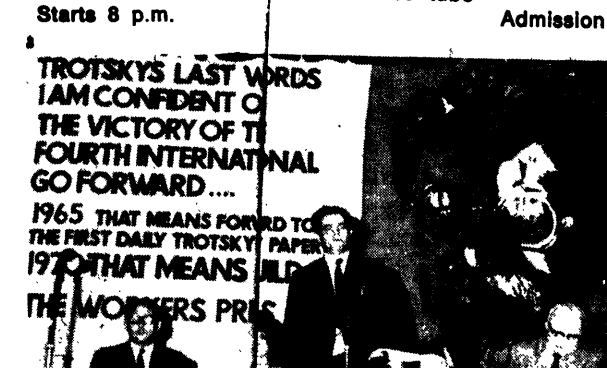
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21

The second of Two Trotsky Memorial Lectures

'Trotsky's fight against revisionism'

BEAVER HALL
GARLICK HILL
Near Anston House tube

Starts 8 p.m. Admission 2s



Lecture given by HEALY (SLI national secretary)

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

CONFERENCE

The Pilkington struggle and the right to strike

Defeat the proposed Tory anti-union laws

St George's Hall, Lime St
LIVERPOOL

Saturday October 3

2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Credentials and visitors' cards 5s each from Conference Secretary, W. Hunter, 58 Leighton View, Liverpool 8.

Swindon engineers back glassworkers' conference

SWINDON district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers has called on the AEF executive council to support national blacking of Pilkington glass.

The committee will also be sending a large delegation to the October 3 conference called by the All Trades Unions Alliance to support the Pilkington workers and defeat the Tories' anti-union plans.

The AEF Walcot No. 1 branch in Swindon has also voted to send a large delegation to the conference.

'It's tough at the top'...



PHOTO NEWS

From the Brighton TUC to the GKN strike at Wellington Shropshire

GKN steward Bill Foster looks across the Sutton Hill street where he lives with his wife and family: 'Sankey's can afford our claim'.



The Metropole—seafront Mecca of the gay Brighton scene. In this hotel the lured delegate can pay for osteopathy, 'irrigation' and underwater massage (?). Sir Harry Nicholas, secretary of the Labour Party, attended at a sumptuous celebration thrown by one of Britain's transport unions.



'We work hard,' says night-shift worker Mohammed Ayub.



'There is still poverty in Britain, there are still the problems of the low paid, the deprived families and the pensioners. There is still a need for more and better schools, and hospitals and clinics and better housing and more slum clearance,' Victor Feather writes in the 'Morning Star' of September 7.

Press operator Mohammed Atta at home with his children: 'His pay's not enough', he says.



The room was packed with a fair selection of conference celebrities. Gordon Norris, centre, Communist Party member and on the National Union of Seamen's Executive, circulates on Brighton's social scene.

... but it's tougher at GKN-Sankey!

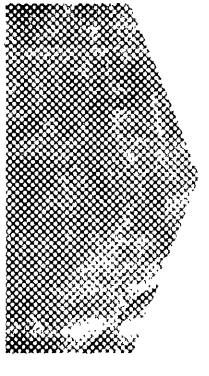
'Most subject is the fattest land to weed, and he, the noble image of my youth is overspread with them.' (Shakespeare, King Henry IV.)

THERE is a side of every Trades Union Congress that goes unreported by most newspapers. This is the frantic round of parties mounted by industrialists, the press and individual unions for the delegates, both powerful and insignificant. Every night they meet in the conference hotels to drink, eat and chatter. The gatherings contain a startling mixture of personalities and the small-talk, by unwritten agreement, is never reproduced. But to satisfy our own curiosity Workers Press toured the social scene on the last night of the Brighton Congress to see how Britain's captains of labour relax.

We made first for a seafront hotel favoured by those leaders who enjoy the casual atmosphere (a prominent boiler-makers' leader was one this year). For the affluent, a suite here costs 15 gns and reception considerably more. A thirsty gathering can swill back up-to £2 of liquor and beer per head, and at the 'do' of one of Britain's television and film unions we found approximately 100, which gave a drinks total of £200. Add to this 15s each for food and 10 per cent service charge and the grand total reaches around £300. With union dues at say 3s a week, this celebration polished off the equivalent of one week's subs from a factory of 2,000. We had by-passed the equally-generous parties thrown at the same venue by the British Steel Corporation and the British Oxygen Company. But this calculated risk was well rewarded—the union's reception was packed with a fair pick of conference celebrities.

The leader of one of Britain's big general unions stood in the centre clutching a cocktail glass of amber fluid. Further into the melee, Jack Dunne, secretary of the Kent Miners, talked with fellow Communist Party member Gordon Norris of the National Union of Seamen. Hovering from group to group, Bert Ramelson (CP industrial organizer)—cigar fixed in smiling lips, whiskey glass in hand—kept an eye on his industrial flock. 'Saw that piece on you in the "Sunday Times" Bert', someone says. Ramelson backed off to another corner of the room, smile now slightly strained. A leading 'left' MP for Yorkshire, speculated to one reporter on the reasons for the decline in the Labour vote, but took pride in the undiminished turn-out in his county. 'We certainly lost because of working-class abstentions. This is very serious and I'm here to help the party to rediscover its links with the unions, the roots of the Party. There is a new mood of militancy in the movement now and this is good. His brows darken. 'But there is a kind of militancy developing that I cannot countenance. These people at Sankey's. Here we have men who will not even listen to their own leaders, shop stewards elected by them off the shop floor. I tell you some of those Sankey people are rank Conservatives, as Conservative as the CBI who come to the Chancellor asking for more out of the kitchen.' But he claimed, the record of the left was a proud one. Didn't they warn Wilson of the dangers involved in the Housing Act—rents would rise because of it, our spokesman on housing told him this. 'But it takes great political courage to fight in office against all the establishment—the civil service, the bankers, the American bankers, the treasury advisers. I don't think he did this.' With these banalities ringing in our ears we decided to call it a day and quit the gay Brighton scene.

At the after-conference reception and cocktail parties many leading Communist Party members drink and jostle with 'lefts' of all varieties, the national press and trades union bureaucrats. Here Bert Ramelson, the Party's industrial organizer, keeps an eye on the flock at Brighton.



'WELCOME to Telford—Shropshire's new town for people on the move', boasts a red-and-black road sign as the A5 enters Wellington near GKN-Sankey's strike-bound car-components plant.

But Telford—the great new town now developing in E Shropshire for a population of 220,000 by the mid-1980s, according to its publicity—remains largely a gleam in the planner's eye as far as Sankey's 3,000 strikers are concerned.

And many of the claims made to lure labour to the area have already been broken, say workers who have moved there from Scotland, Merseyside, Yorkshire, London and even farther afield. These have joined the 'mass of broken promises' about pay, hours and conditions to fuel the six-week-old dispute.

We spoke this week to some of Sankey's 'rank Conservatives'—men who will not even listen to their own leaders—the comments, as reported above, are those of a 'left' MP attending last week's Trades Union Congress—as they waited for today's crucial mass meeting.

Sutton Hill estate, a 3s 4d bus ride from the centre of Wellington, was started in 1966 and families began to move into the first of its 1,233 densely-packed houses some two years ago.

Someone from more than half the families on the estate works at Sankey's, where present wage-rates range from 8s 7d to 11s 9d an hour, but where most production men earn only 9s 8d.

Both rents and transport costs on the estate have risen

substantially—rents by about 7s 6d in the last 18 months.

This has made the drive for higher pay even sharper.

With gross rents now ranging between £4 9s 6d for a two-bedroom terrace house and £6 2s for one with four bedrooms, many wives have been forced to seek work in the new factories opening on a nearby industrial estate—even then finding it difficult to make ends meet.

Central heating can cost between £2 and £3 a week over and above the rent.

'People on the move' is right, one GKN striker told us bitterly in the estate's public house.

'Come up here late at night sometimes and there's more removal vans than private cars—people have got behind with their rent and just have to take off'.

Arrears on all sorts of payments can, of course, pile up rapidly during a strike.

Besides the cost, other common grievances include the lack

of shops, facilities for children and other amenities.

Under-18s are often barred entry to dances at the local community centre and—with little money—are forced to kick their heels around the relatively isolated estate with nothing to do.

A trip to a dance-hall or cinema in one of the towns nearby leaves little change from £1 when transport costs are included.

Space inside Sutton Hill's 'Woodside-style' houses is at a minimum despite the quite imaginative design.

The largest bedrooms measure 15ft. by 9ft., with kitchens and small bedrooms at 10ft. by 7ft. Family tensions can develop quickly under such conditions.

'Most people stick it out—hoping things'll get better', striking GKN General and Municipal Workers' steward Bill Foster told us. 'But quite a number have moved out'.

G&MWU rank - and - filer Mohammed Younas, living with his wife and three children in the Regent St area nearer the centre of Wellington, drew attention to the difficult housing situation facing many GKN-Sankey workers—particularly immigrants.

A press operator at the plant, he is at present forced to live with his wife and three children in a single £2 10s-a-week room and, since the strike started, has had to keep them on a £7 12s weekly social-security payment.

But he is nevertheless determined to stick out for the full claim.

'I'm with the rest of the people working in the factory—after six weeks with no work we expect to win something', he said.

Night-shift worker Mohammed Atta, who preferred to buy his own house in the same area to chancing it on the council's housing list, complained of the long hours necessary to eke a living wage at Sankey's.

'If anyone has three or four kids', he told Workers Press, 'it's not enough money Sankey's are paying at present—maybe £25-

£30 for very hard jobs, long hours and working Saturdays and Sundays.'

'We're working very hard for this firm', confirmed wheel-shop metal-finisher Mohammed Ayub.

'They put a lot of coloured workers on the hardest jobs in the factory—and you can't refuse. Where I work the conditions are very noisy and hot; it takes a lot out of you. I must have lost two stones since I started working there.'

'Other factories in the area pay lower wages, but the work's not as hard.'

'Working always nights at Sankey's, they're paying me about £30-£35 gross for 50-60 hours a week—if I only work the four ten-hour shifts I could be taking home £17-£18 only.'

Like most rank-and-file union members, Ayub—a G&MWU cardholder—knew very little about the firm's proposed job-evaluation scheme.

In fact little about its detailed application is known by anyone outside the factory negotiating committee which helped management consultants Urwick Orr prepare it.

But from what has been revealed of the proposed job-evaluation system, Ayub stressed: 'Most people don't want it...'

'Union men and some of the shop stewards want us to go back, but the rest of the people know if we do now management will never give us a penny. In fact everybody's been getting fed up with the way union men always say "go back go back!"'

After also drawing attention to the harsh conditions in many parts of the Wellington plant, Bill Foster—who operates a 1,000-ton press built in 1908—summed up:

'For the company to claim they can't afford our claim is codswallop as far as I'm concerned.'

'They made £37 million profit last year, and donated £63,000 to the Tories.'

'As one steward said at our meeting last week, Heath's said employers have got to resist wages—it's a political battle. Here's just part of what's happening all over the country.'

With drinks and food service charge, the bill of fare at an average reception could polish off an entire week's union dues of a large engineering factory.



GKN strikers kill time playing dominoes—waiting for today's mass meeting—in Sutton Hill's only public house.



BOOK REVIEW

YEVGENY ZAMYATIN was a Russian naval architect who wrote books. His novel 'We' is the work of an expert draughtsman, sound, solid, technically inventive, but based upon the firm principles of the craft.

A former Bolshevik Party member, Zamyatin returned to his homeland after the historic October Revolution.

Having become the most fantastic country of all present-day Europe, post-revolutionary Russia will undoubtedly reflect this period of her history in a literature of fantasy, he wrote (p. 12).

Although this is scarcely the attitude of a man who, according to the Introduction of this edition, 'predicted Stalinism', it is not a complete description of the novel, which is neither a 'pure' fantasy, nor a simplistic 'glorification' of the first workers' state.

Trotsky (in 'Literature and Revolution') characterizes Zamyatin as one of the 'internal emigre' literary school in the Soviet Union. The ambiguity and indefiniteness of the author's attitude to the Revolution finds expression in this novel.

With imaginative skill, Zamyatin introduces us to life in 'The One State', a society existing 1,000 years hence, in which the most advanced technology is concentrated in the hands of a ruthless regime where the principle of 'the collective good', 'the triumph of all over one, of the sum over the unit' (p. 75) is all-prevailing.



Author unsure of 'The One State'

By Yevgeny Zamyatin Trans. from the Russian by B. G. Gurnee Jonathan Cape, 1970, 30s.

'Objectivity'

This society is described in the manner of the 19th-century 'realists', i.e. with an apparent total 'objectivity' and absence of any moral viewpoint or emotional response from the author.

However, the picture Zamyatin draws is clearly meant to be repellent to the normal reader, who is 'objective', has an ingrained morality, and emotions.

Here is a society in which individuality has been totally crushed. Life is predetermined by the ultimate development of the 'Taylor-system' (he is specific in this) of time-study.

Endless ranks of uniformly-dressed workers subject themselves to 'The Tables of Hourly Commandments'; each simultaneously digests his food with a pre-determined, 'synthetic' number of mastications; day follows night in pre-set routine.

Yet the writer, through skilful character delineation, is able to convince us of the appeal of this world to 'number' such as our narrator; here is a mathematician, a logician, a man who likes everything clear, rational and pre-packed, whose favourite classical reading is 'Time-Tables of all Railroads' (1).

In the second entry (p. 27) we feel this attraction: 'Sightlessly, in self-oblivion, the globes of the regulators rotated; the cranks, glittering, bent to right and left, a balanced beam swayed its shoulders proudly; the blade of a gouging lathe was doing a squatting dance in time to unheard music. I suddenly perceived all the beauty of this grandiose mechanical ballet, flood-lighted by the ethereal, azure-surrounded sun.'

The character of rocket-builder D-503, the narrator, is constructed over a scaffolding of insights and images. As he records his daily experiences in his 'diary', the character unfolds and develops before us, like a movie film.

His preference for clarity is his liking for cloudless skies 'how extremely primitive in matters of taste were the ancients, since their poets could find inspiration in those absurd, foppily-shaped, foolishly jostling masses of vapour...' (p. 26).

alignment, barging straight ahead, backing off, criss-crossing, acting contrary...

It is a novel of considerable technical achievement—but our criticism can unfortunately only be on the level of technical analysis; there is nothing below the glass superstructure, wreathed in mists... except glass foundations, sunk in shifting sand.

Yevgeny Zamyatin was one of a multitude of intellectuals and artists caught up in, whirled aloft, disturbed, shocked, attracted, fascinated, by the Russian Revolution.

Yet, like many of them, he is unable to really come to terms with the Revolution, see it in its total historic and social setting, with its full implications for the destiny of mankind.

External

This could only have been achieved through the conscious struggle to construct the Bolshevik Party, in the fight for dialectical materialism against the formal thinking and rationalism of the middle class.

Having renounced this task at an early date, Zamyatin could only see October and its aftermath as something external outside himself and his individual needs and problems. In this lies both the strength and weakness, artistically, of 'We'.

His full portrayal of D-503—whose fixed, rationalistic outlook is that of the middle class under capitalism—is a considerable achievement.

But the book is entirely dominated by this one character. The other people, and many events, remain outside, detached, obscured.

The revolution in the book is external, distant, on the western wall, its aims uncertain and its success in doubt.

Everything is seen through the eyes of the petty-bourgeois, trapped in between the convulsed strata of society; we gain a good insight into the nature of this vacillating layer at a time of social crisis; but we feel the need in the book for a fuller view, and above all a clearer attitude by the author to 'The One State'.

Is it a form of state capitalism, or fascism? Or does it represent the middle class's nightmare of the dictatorship of the proletariat?

Zamyatin seems uncertain himself. His equivocal attitude to the Russian Revolution brought him into conflict with the Soviet

authorities; Trotsky was unsparing in his criticism of Zamyatin's 'insularity'.

Yet he was free to publish his works; there was no question of this in the early years of the worker's state.

But by 1924, the bureaucratized state authorities refused publication in Russia of 'We', although editions had already appeared abroad.

Zamyatin's political weaknesses left him in no position to fight the Stalinists; a vicious campaign of distortion and lies was launched, which he outlined in his letter to Stalin (printed in the Introduction).

No doubt the centrists and conservatives gathered round Vissarionovich objected to seeing their vacillations during the Revolution so clearly delineated.

More important, Zamyatin clearly did not conform to the bureaucracy's ideal of a 'proletarian culture', needed to prop up the 'theory' that socialism was being built in Russia alone.

Although some of the ideas of 'The One State', such as mass lobotomy to produce human automatons, would appeal to sections of the Stalinists, it was too risky to allow such material into the hands of the Soviet masses.

Exile

Stalin knew he had nothing to fear from Zamyatin politically, and replied to his letter by granting exile, where the writer died in 1937. How different was the fate of hundreds and thousands of others, who went to the death camps and asylums for their principled Opposition.

But all the persecutions and repression have not silenced the Opposition, or broken the thread of continuity with October, woven now by the Fourth International into a mighty rope with which to politically strangle Stalinism.

And it is testimony to the growing strength and influence of the literary and political anti-Stalinist opposition in the USSR today, that the interest exists to make publication of this book possible at last in Britain.

IMPORTANT READING

Class & Art PROBLEMS OF CULTURE UNDER THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT Leon Trotsky

Available from New Park Publications 186A Clapham High St. SW4.

Behind the General Motors' strike

US Round-up

NMU leader Joseph Curran is greeted by the Nixons at the White House banquet.



DESPITE the claims of George Meany, the AFL-CIO president, the US working class is seething with discontent, and no where more so than amongst the 700,000 members of the United Auto Workers.

Voting figures for strike action against the 'Big Three' motor firms tell their own story.

90 per cent voted for a strike at General Motors, 93.6 per cent at Ford, 95 per cent at Chrysler and 98 per cent of all 'Big Three' carworkers in Canada (also covered by the UAW).

Returns also show something else: unlike UAW president Leonard Woodcock, most Ford and Chrysler workers couldn't give two hoots for the predicament of their boss.

Union leaders had argued that a strike in Chrysler would be unfair because of the firm's current financial problems, while Ford have just begun production of a new export model designed to clean out the European market.

Ford and Chrysler workers would rather clean out their own boss.

Such militancy does not spring from nowhere.

Take Detroit for example, the historical heartland of the US motor industry, and battlefield of many bloody strike clashes.

Novel

At the Ford Dearborn assembly plant, the management has devised a novel method for sacking militants.

Workers who go sick are sent notes by the firm to 'their last known address' after they have been out a week or so.

It often happens that the worker has changed his address without notifying Ford, so he never gets the letter.

When he checks back with the Ford doctor before re-starting work, he finds a firing slip waiting for him.

The reason? 'Failure to respond' to the note sent out while the worker was sick!

According to one Dearborn militant, up to 100 workers have been sacked in this way.

Workers don't forget or forgive such calculated humiliations.

And, because the union bureaucracies refuse to fight back, workers are often driven to commit heroic but individual acts of defiance.

Ike Jernigan worked at a Lockheed Los Angeles plant for six years. Working conditions were unsafe, the pace of work killing and the pay low.

As a Negro, he was discriminated against by both the company and International Association of Machinists' officials.

But Jernigan fought back. He helped form the Lockheed Employees Unity Association, a rank-and-file group working for better factory conditions.

Union leaders joined with the company to smash down this militant's organization.

Then Jernigan was sacked simply for wearing an 'African' style shirt.

Union officials refused to take up his case. Only after he appealed to the National Labour Relations Board did he get his job back.

Now he was constantly hounded by his foreman.

One July day in 1969, when he could endure the taunts no longer, Ike Jernigan pulled out a gun and shot his foreman dead.

He then strode into the office of the union and killed the local president and another union official.



UAW President Woodcock

tion of Machinists' officials. But Jernigan fought back. He helped form the Lockheed Employees Unity Association, a rank-and-file group working for better factory conditions.

Union leaders joined with the company to smash down this militant's organization.

Then Jernigan was sacked simply for wearing an 'African' style shirt.

Union officials refused to take up his case. Only after he appealed to the National Labour Relations Board did he get his job back.

Now he was constantly hounded by his foreman.

One July day in 1969, when he could endure the taunts no longer, Ike Jernigan pulled out a gun and shot his foreman dead.

He then strode into the office of the union and killed the local president and another union official.

Desperation

He now faces the gas chamber—with both the union leaders and Lockheed demanding that the sentence be carried out.

Chrysler's Eldon Axle Plant in Detroit recently witnessed a similar explosion, where a production worker, driven to desperation by the killing speed of the work, the foreman's provocations and union officials' indifference, killed two foremen and a fellow worker.

Chrysler workers cut the story of the incident out of the daily papers and placed it on foremen's desks all over the plant.

The strike against GM gives Detroit carworkers the opportunity to settle their accounts with the 'Big Three' in an organized way.

The inhuman work tempo on the lines cannot be combated by acts of individual terror, however heroic, but by the nationalization of the car monopolies under the control of those who work in them.

Labour Day celebrations

SEVENTY-FIVE American trade union bigwigs and their wives celebrated Labour Day by having dinner at the White House last week.

This is the first time this day, supposed to honour the working man, has been officially feted at the White House.

The guests included Maritime union president Joseph Curran, teamsters' president Frank Fitzsimmons, officials from most of the AFL-CIO unions—and half of Nixon's Cabinet.

AFL-CIO president George Meany and President Nixon toasted each other amicably and declared their solidarity on international policy and 'the American way of life'.

Champion

Meany, said Nixon, was 'like a pillar in a storm—strong, full of character, devoted to his church, devoted to his family'.

Meany, when his turn came, described Nixon as the champion of the best way of life 'the mind of man has yet devised' and in giving a run-down of

his associations with various presidents, and 'one thing they all have in common—they want to be the best president the nation has ever had'.

This cosy dinner marks a move to the right by the trade union bureaucrats who have traditionally supported the Democratic Party, which Meany says is now falling into the hands of 'extremists' like economist John Kenneth Galbraith.

The bureaucracy would be happy to oblige. George Meany has labelled strikes in advanced capitalist countries, like the US 'out-dated'.

But, as the auto negotiations have shown, co-operating with Nixon and the employers—while maintaining a stranglehold on the working class—is becoming more and more difficult.

In 1968 Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers until his death in May, was forced by the auto workers' militancy to break with the reactionary Meany's AFL-CIO and form the Alliance for Labour Action with the Teamsters' Union.

In fact, Leonard Woodcock, the new auto workers' union president, did not attend Nixon's dinner.

This should probably not be attributed to any principles on his part.

To be seen hob-nobbing with strike-breaker Nixon on the eve of the auto contract, might well have revealed his class-collaborationist position too clearly.

TV

TV and REGIONAL BBC and BBC 2 and REGIONAL ITV listings for September 10, 1970.

JUST OUT

STALINISM IN BRITAIN A TROTSKYIST ANALYSIS BY ROBERT BLACK

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.

Council

FROM PAGE ONE

struggles, but in this case they are clearly out to make us an example for the other public employees who want increases.

Promises

Despite the claim that the unions 'had everything under control', many men in the meeting were clearly wary of the officials' promises. Some, for example, recalled the dustmen's strike last October, which ended in a £2 10s increase in basic rates, but which the union steadfastly refused to make official.

Mr Terry Wilson, secretary of the rank-and-file coordinating committee, which has been officially recognized through the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, told Workers Press that the unions' good faith had yet to be tested.

'We are organized on the shop floor and through the committee are trying to get the provinces well organized. If the union leaders don't fight, then we will fight alone, like we did last year.'

Dundee pay strikers meet today

DUNDEE boilermakers will meet today to discuss the latest moves in their week-old strike against management attempts to rationalize pay structures.

The Rodd Caledon group wants to rationalize pay in their Leith, Burntisland and Dundee shipyards.

Over the last few months management have attempted to play one yard off against another by claiming a pay dispute in one rates out negotiations in another.

Moon—68 miles

LUNA 16, the unmanned Soviet moon probe launched last Saturday, is in orbit circling 68 miles above the lunar surface with all systems functioning. Tass news agency reports that its mission is to carry out exploration of the moon and near moon space.

As the miners prepare for pay battle, BERNARD FRANKS takes a more detailed look at last week's NCB report

Pit jobs come under mechanization chopper

COAL MINERS have not seen the last of the attacks on their jobs and working conditions. This is amply confirmed in the National Coal Board's annual report published last week.

Earlier this month, the government, through the Prices and Incomes Board, had its say on how the next stage in rationalizing the mines should take place.

Now the NCB has outlined in its annual report just how Tory policy is to be put into operation.

Though 92 per cent of deep-mined output is produced by power-loading machines, there will be no let up in the mechanization drive.

New, higher horsepower loaders are being tested along with heavy-duty

armoured flexible conveyors; these are to replace the more 'conventional' means of mechanization.

Difficulties which have arisen because coal is cut faster than it can be taken out of the pit are to be solved by provision of increased-capacity conveyors and specialized bunkerage and surface stockpile systems.

In some cases these have been designed by computers which simulate the operations and work out the most economical routes and storage amounts.

Other innovations include extension of open-cast mining, for which advanced equipment has been developed over recent years, and invention of an automatic vertical steering system.

effort has been devoted to increasing performance to match the increasing pace of face advance.

The introduction of Organization and Methods (O&M) techniques is said to have enabled economies in services ranging from mineworkers' transport to office typing.

Also, use of computers is to be extended from purchasing and stores work to the labour costs and payroll field.

The report puts the 1969-1970 manpower reduction at 23,045.

However, as recruitment of young workers has continued this is not the actual figure for those who have left or been dismissed from the industry, which stands at 46,097.

The number affected by mobility of labour (transfers etc.) is put at 18,545. Absenteeism, at 18.3 per cent, is the highest rate ever.

The NCB is particularly disturbed over the rejection of its 24-hour day, seven-day-week shift system by the 600 miners at Bevercotes colliery in Nottinghamshire last May.

But the report warns:

Investment

The report states: 'The last ten years have seen a substantial investment by the coal industry in mechanization. This has already brought large returns, but further large benefits still remain to be won.'

'The need, in future, is to concentrate management effort on obtaining the best possible utilization of the modern machinery now available.'

'This calls for the highest standards of management and of engineering expertise, for enthusiasm from the mineworkers and for the closest co-operation with the unions.'

This means that workers on the job must learn to run at top speed in order to keep up with the machines.

Method study plays a basic role in bringing about this speed-up. The report comments that a significant

Manpower

'The Board have not abandoned the concept of seven-day working where it would be to the advantage of particular collieries.'

As with the PIB, the NCB moans about the productivity drop (only a 2.1 per cent increase in 1969-1970 compared with 9 per cent in 1968-1969).

The reason for this gloom is that they are relying on a continually increasing production rate to make up for the amount lost due to systematic closures and sackings.

The Board hopes to extend its 'workers' participation' scheme to include apprentices and other young workers.

Encouraged

At present, some adult workers are 'encouraged' by possibilities of a pit closure to meet management and discuss how to increase productivity at so-called 'face-team conferences'.

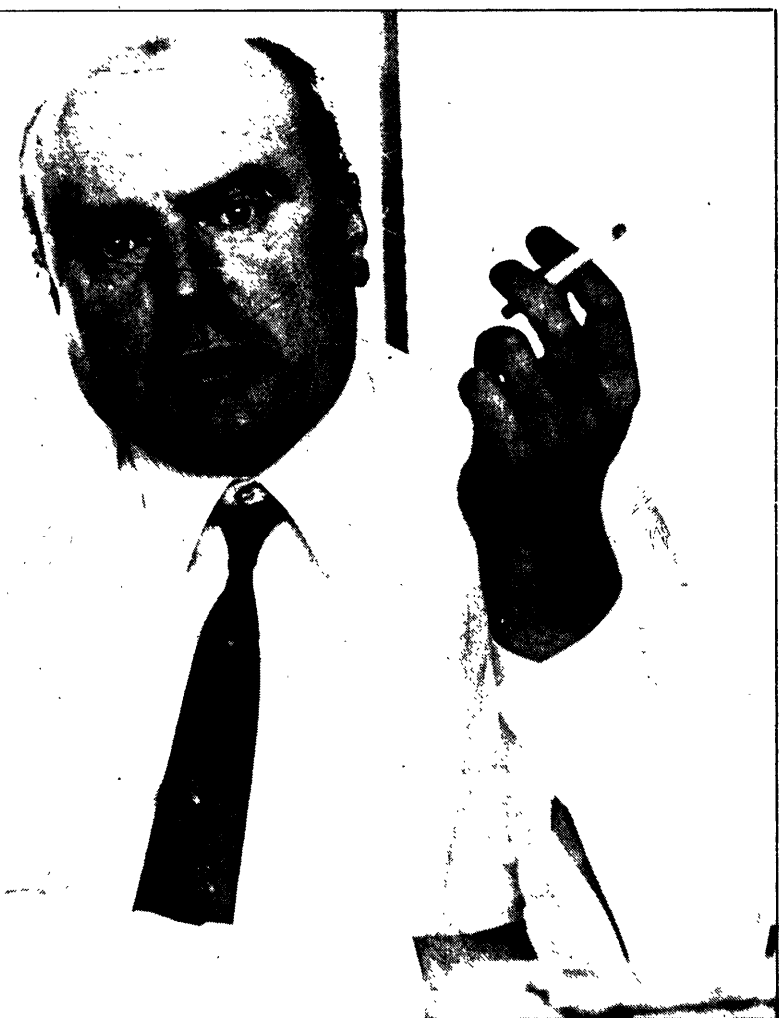
The Tory government and the NCB have their sights set on coal being produced by an extremely small number of highly-productive, highly-automated pits.

All forms of piecemeal work would be eliminated to ensure increased output does not warrant extra payment.

At the same time, use of time-study systems and round-the-clock shifts would ensure continuous, top-speed running of all machinery.

Fundamental

While miners have every right to fight for increased pay and shorter hours, this struggle needs to be linked to the fundamental issue: whether capitalism can be allowed to try and solve its crisis by utilizing the advances of science and technology purely for the purpose of extorting greater intensity of labour—and for the devaluation of jobs leading to the creation of mass unemployment.



Lawrence Daly, National Union of Mineworkers' general secretary, announcing his executive's decision to recommend strike action (see page one story) at a press conference yesterday.

Sackings follow Armstrong deal

WORKERS at Armstrong Patents factories in Beverley, Yorks, are operating an overtime ban in protest against redundancies caused by a productivity deal.

Since the deal was signed earlier this year, with the promise of no redundancies, 300 workers have left the two Armstrong shock-absorber plants and now the men have learned that management intend to sack a further 400; a fifth of the total labour force.

The pace of work in the factories since the deal was signed by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers and the Transport and General Workers' Union, has been described by one young employee as 'almost impossible'.

Armstrong's declared record profits of more than £1 million last year.

B'ham gas men can give lead

BIRMINGHAM gas maintenance workers who have been on strike for nearly two weeks are meeting today.

The strike, which involves the whole of the W Midlands, is in support of a £20 basic for labourers and a 25 per cent incentive guarantee for men not on incentive bonus—without strings.

It is expected that General and Municipal Workers' Union officials will recommend acceptance of the employers' offer in spite of strike leaders' rejection of it on Tuesday.

Lead

Other W Midlands gas maintenance workers will be looking to the Birmingham men for a lead because there will be later meetings held in Dudley, Wolverhampton and Coventry.

Rolls-Royce try to end 'blacking'

ROLLS-ROYCE is pressing draughtsmen nationally to undertake 'blacked' work from the firm's strike-bound Coventry plant.

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A thousand Coventry Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians have been locked out since July, following a £5-a-week pay claim.

But DATA divisional organizer George Hope said yesterday that the firm had been advised by the Employers' Federation to withdraw lock-out threats in the firm's other factories until after a central conference meeting on Wednesday.

The company had said that draughtsmen who refuse this

work are tacitly supporting the strikers and thus taking industrial action. Under these circumstances a 'guerrilla-strike' policy of restricting action to Coventry alone holds big dangers.

The management is refusing to budge from its 7-per-cent offer—about £2.5s to £3.15s. Meeting last weekend, DATA's executive committee issued an instruction that no individual factory was to accept this offer.

POSTPONED

But there are reports that requests for Derby draughtsmen to do Coventry work have been postponed because the union's branch there is to re-consider the 7-per-cent offer.

Next stage in the DATA wages battle will come at a central conference meeting between employers and unions in London next Wednesday, when the 7-per-cent offer will again be considered.

The Coventry strike committee is calling for a mass lobby by all Rolls-Royce DATA members from 3 p.m. and are themselves planning to send a large delegation.

EEC destroys dairy herds

A £20-MILLION scheme to cut back Common Market milk surpluses has been proposed by the European Commission on Agriculture.

Farmers will be paid £80 a head for the first ten cows taken out of production and then £35 per cow thereafter.

This payment would be on condition that the farmer disposes of his entire herd and promises not to return to dairy farming for at least five years.

The plan is an extension of last year's operation which included the slaughter of a quarter of a million cows at a cost of £1m.

It is not proposed to change the existing payment of up to £100 a head for withholding milk products from sale.

Agricultural authorities in a number of countries are reported to be concerned that in spite of the subsidies and reductions in the number of herds, milk production is increasing at a high rate.

Arab Revolution

FROM PAGE ONE

ties might spark off a world war, its leader, Georges Habash, replied:

'Oh yes. But let me assure you, this does not worry us. The whole world would stand to lose something in such a war, except for us. If that should be the only way to destroy Israel, Zionist and Arab reaction, we would in fact welcome the third world war.'

This statement, made to the W German magazine 'Stern', is already being used by the enemies of the Arab revolution to drive the Jewish workers in Israel behind their own ruling class.

Combined

Zionism's defeat is a task that can be carried out only by the combined efforts of Jewish and Arab workers and peasants.

By reviving this dangerous and adventurist Maoist line, Habash is in fact politically disarming the guerrillas and their supporters.

His middle-class pessimism on the capacity of the international working class to come to the aid of the Arab Revolution walls off the Middle-East liberation movement from its most powerful allies in the capitalist countries.

Also implied in Habash's statement is the reformist illusion that the Soviet bureaucracy (or possibly China) will intervene decisively on the side of the Palestinians against the Zionists and their US backers.

Committed

Israeli Defence Minister Dayan has stated several times that the Kremlin is committed to a deal with the US in the Middle East.

China simply does not have the military capacity to wage such a war even if its leaders intended to.

The utmost care must be paid to the problems and political development of the Jewish working class.

Ultra-left

Habash's ultra-left bragging about the nuclear destruction of Israel will not win Jewish workers to the guerrillas' aid, despite his previous statements that the guerrillas do not equate Jews with Zionism.

The Israeli ruling class is daily accumulating more debts from Jewish workers to pay for their war against the Arabs.

Mrs Meir has asked Nixon and other imperialist leaders for a further \$800m worth of credits to pay for US jet fighters and arms.

LETTER FROM JAIL

Blanco's jail conditions worsen

PERUVIAN TROTSKYIST Hugo Blanco, serving a 25-year sentence in the island prison of 'El Fronton', has issued a letter from the military regime's jail refuting the charges laid against him.

The letter was received in Britain by the Committee for Solidarity with the Victims of Repression in Peru.

Last week the authorities took away my typewriter by 'orders from above'. Officers had taken this measure because I used the machine to write articles on Agricultural Reform and Political Stories. This action is plainly contrary to the assertions of the government Information Office who state that I am a prisoner for having 'killed my fellow beings' (semejantes) and not for having defended the rights of the peasants.

I do not believe that they fear that 'I kill my fellow beings with a typewriter!'

There are some confusing matters in this information which I feel should be clarified. One is the declaration of the spokesman that police had died 'in doing their duty'. Does this mean that the defence of Gamonalismo (cruel feudal system) is their duty?

It would follow that these police were 'people like myself'. Does this mean that the peasants who were massacred by the police cannot be considered as my 'semejantes' (fellow beings)?

Why should the 'Information Service' which distorts facts and slanders a prisoner impose press restrictions?



Hugo Blanco: Typewriter taken away

Whilst Blanco wages his fight against the military government from jail, supporters of his cause staged a demonstration recently at the final meeting of the Congress of Americanistas in Lima.

Taking part in the ceremony was Peru's president Juan Velasco Alvarado.

The demonstrators clamoured for the release of peasant leader Blanco.

As the police closed in to arrest them, the Congress audience formed a cordon around them and the president was asked to call off the police.

President Alvarado is reported to have told Dr Torero, professor of the Language Faculty of the Agricultural National University, that the government was looking into the question of Blanco's release.

The bravery of Blanco and the determination of his supporters is in sharp contrast to the servile position of the Peruvian Communist Party which earlier this year gave its support to the Vargas military regime, stating that 'a number of important radical measures' had been introduced!

EXPLAINED

The explanation for this support was given by Jorge Del Prado, Peruvian Communist Party general secretary, in the pages of the 'Morning Star', daily paper of the British Communist Party, on May 12 this year.

The British labour movement must refer to such a counter-revolutionary action and call for the immediate release of Hugo Blanco and all the militants now imprisoned in Peru.

● NEXT WEEK: Workers Press publishes two lengthy articles by a special correspondent on the present situation in Peru.

WEATHER

London area, SE England: Rather cloudy, mainly dry. Wind SW, fresh to strong. Near normal. Max 19C (66F).

Central southern England, E Midlands: Mostly cloudy, dry at first, but perhaps occasional rain in afternoon. Evening Wind SW, fresh to strong. Near normal. Max 19C (66F).

W Midlands, central northern England: Mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain and drizzle and fog patches, becoming brighter with occasional showers. Wind fresh to strong SW, local gale over hills. Near normal. Max 17C (63F).

SW England: Mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle and hill and coastal fog patches. Wind fresh to strong SW, local gale over hills. Near normal. Max 15C (59F).

NW England: Cloudy with rain or drizzle and hill and coastal fog patches, becoming brighter with occasional showers. Wind SW, strong or gale, becoming westerly fresh. Near normal. Max 15C (59F).

Edinburgh and Glasgow area: Mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain and hill fog patches, becoming brighter with sunny intervals and scattered showers. Wind fresh SW, strong or gale. Near normal. Max 16C (61F).

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Trotsky Memorial Meeting

GLASGOW

Partick Burgh Hall (nr Merkland St underground)

7.30 p.m.

Admission 2s.

'Trotsky and the coming English Revolution'

Speaker: G. Healy (SLL national secretary)

Sunday October 4

Leon Trotsky's last words:

'I am confident of the victory of the Fourth International'

Go forward!

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Full subscription £10 a year (Posted daily) £2 10s for three months

OR

Two editions you select (For any two days £1 for three months) £4 a year (For any two months) £4 4s a year

Post to: Circulation Organizer, Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4. (Tel: 01-720-2000)

I would like to subscribe to Workers Press for

Name.....

Address.....

LATE NEWS

TROOPS BID TO SEIZE COMMANDO HQ

Beirut, Thursday—Bedouin troops of King Hussein's armoured brigades were locked in fierce battle with Palestinian commandos in Amman as they fought to capture the supreme commando headquarters.

A Fatah commando spokesman said the defenders had knocked out several tanks as the troops pushed down side streets leading to the Central Committee headquarters.

He did not add if the 27-man committee was in the building.

The whole area is under heavy tank and rocket fire. Columns of smoke rising above the city shake to continuous gunfire as the life-and-death struggle is fought out.

Mortar-bombs have hit the British Embassy, machine-gun

SOVIET SCIENTISTS IN SPAIN

A delegation of top Soviet scientists flew to Spain yesterday to take part in the General Assembly of the International Council of Scientific Unions.

The team included Vinogradov, vice-president of the UR Academy of Science and Peter Kaptisa, the leading Soviet cybernetics expert.

Refered as a newspaper at the PO Office, Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4. Price by Post £1.00 (incl. P.T.). 18 Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.