

THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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Tories to destroy basic trade union rights

Blacklegs' charter

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- ABOLITION of right to picket a scab's house.
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BY DAVID MAUDE

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It aims to strike blows at the working class while balancing between the increasingly desperate big monopolists and a more and more treacherous trade union bureaucracy.

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strike leaders for contempt if they challenge its orders. It was also being made clear at Westminster yesterday that leading shop stewards, organizers of identifiable workers' organizations unregistered with the new Registrar of Trade Unions and the funds of such bodies would be subject to actions for damages.

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Carr attacks Dec. 8

EMPLOYMENT Secretary Robert Carr lashed-out yesterday against the growing industrial army that will strike over the Tory anti-union laws next Tuesday.

Launching the Industrial Relations Bill in London he said the strike 'is being represented as a spontaneous protest.

In fact however, it is being deliberately organized by a body called the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trades Unions, whose activities are prominently recorded in the newspaper of the Communist Party.

'The TUC is opposed to this strike and Mr Victor Feather has firmly said so. Everyone in Britain should be aware of these facts,' added Carr.

BY MICHAEL BANDA

Take December 8 beyond 'protest' Make leaders fight for General Strike

A MOTLEY ARRAY of reactionary forces is now being gathered to stop, undermine and discredit the December 8 stoppage.

While the employers fight December 8 with legal injunctions, the trade union bureaucrats are trying their damndest to frighten and demoralize backward workers.

They exaggerate the strength and power of the Tories and urge workers to keep the movement within 'constitutional' lines in order to paralyse and betray it.

The TUC itself is not to re-call until mid-March when the Bill would be two-thirds through parliament.

PREPARATION

The Tories are using the breathing space to create more unemployment, hardship and demoralization as a preparation for the passing of the anti-union laws.

While the Fabians and bureaucrats prattle about 'law and order' and 'class peace', the Tories have been busy hacking away at the social services, housing, education and a host of other rights of the working class.

In Palmer-Hubburn, in the Mersey docks, in BAC and now in Harland and Wolff, the Tories are consciously preparing to sacrifice the jobs of thousands of workers on the altar of profitability and so-called 'financial independence'.

And what do the TUC and Labour Party do to stop the murder of industries and jobs? Mrs Barbara Castle sternly warns workers against December 8 and applauds the TUC's toothless 'propaganda campaign'.

If she thinks workers' actions will prevent the return of a 1965-1970-style Labour government, which attacked workers and supported the Vietnam war, she is quite right.

That is certainly not the wish of the millions of workers who are preparing to do battle with the Tories.

SOCIALIST

Most workers committed to strike on December 8 feel that the defeat of the anti-union laws demands the defeat of the Tory government, its resignations and the return of a Labour government with socialist policies.

Mrs Castle, who has already tasted trade union hostility, knows this. That is why she opposes, together with Mr Carr, the December 8 stoppage.

This hostility is also reflected in the utterly reformist attitude of the Communist Party, the Liaison Committee — and Moscow, which is viciously opposed to any demand that December 8 be extended into a campaign for the TUC to call a General Strike to force the Tories to resign.

This is why British CP secretary John Gollan, in his letter to Keith Joseph on pensions, can accept the legitimacy of people earning £20,000 a year and why the 'Morning Star' can uncritically welcome Archbishop Ramsey's statements.

Instead of pointing out to workers the grave danger constituted by the TUC's line and mercifully exposing reform-



AEF and DATA members from Elliotts, Lewisham, vote to stop on December 8

DECEMBER EIGHTH

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

Meeting

The postmen have shown the way to defeat the anti-union laws! Make the trade union leaders fight the Tories! Force the government to resign!

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8, 5 p.m.

The Lecture Hall Central Hall Westminster

Speakers:

- G. HEALY (National Secretary of Socialist Labour League)
- A. THORNETT (Deputy Senior Steward Morris Motors, Oxford)
- G. CAUGHEY (Chairman Pilkington's Rank and File Committee)
- T. SWEENEY (Chairman London Councilworkers' Liaison Committee)

Chairman: A. WILKINS (ATUA Secretary)

Admission 2s

Cloak of silence on Leyland talks

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The ADO 28 range therefore must be a winner if the company is to avoid serious financial difficulty.

Widespread strikes as Basques go on trial

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MD & HB future discussed

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BAC sackings soon?

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Some of the Belfast men lobbying parliament yesterday.

leadership meant during the General Election by 'strengthening' union leaders... against their members.

Unions with 100,000 members would be liable for fines of up to £100,000 for industrial action dubbed as 'unfair' by the new National Industrial Relations Court—with status equal to the High Court—or Industrial Tribunals.

All unions' rules will be subject to approval by a government-appointed Registrar of Trade Unions and Employers' Organizations.

Intervene

While under present law, the government has to declare a state of emergency before it can call in troops against workers, it would have new powers to intervene if the Bill goes through in any dispute which might threaten 'the national health, safety or economy'.

The Tories make little attempt to conceal that their main objective is to remove from strikers what protection the labour movement struggled to win for them under the 1906 Trade Disputes Act.

While going out of their way to stress that the legislation is not aimed against union leaders or officials, they lay heavy emphasis on the new Industrial Relations Court's power to jail unofficial

The government told Belfast union leaders yesterday that the city's Harland and Wolff shipyard, which lost £4 million last year, should 'stand on its own two feet'.

Andrew Barr, chairman of the Belfast Confederation of Shipbuilding Unions said that Trades and Industry Minister Nicholas Ridley had told the six-man union delegation that the yard had been insolvent since the summer and the wage bill had been paid by the government.

But Mr C. Kerr, ASTMS chairman at Harlands, told Workers Press yesterday that he felt the government was not prepared to put any more money into the firm.

Other Harland delegates who also flew to London to lobby yesterday's talks expressed fears of outside takeovers and were unanimous in demanding continuation of local control.

Takeover fears have deepened after Ridley's admission that the government had 'no objections in principle' to foreign buyers.

The 12,000 Harland workers

Power men to work to rule

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The Great Transport strike, 1912.



'THE MANCHESTER MARTYRS' by Paul Rose Lawrence and Wishart, 25s.

THE YEARS around 1867, when the events described in this book took place, were of great importance in the development of the British working class. After the great defeat of Chartism in 1848, the struggle for better wages and conditions took on a qualitatively different form. The 'New Unions' — the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, founded in 1851, and the new Trades Councils after 1860—were able to win substantial wage increases even though their leadership was bought off under conditions of successful imperialism. These victories threw the capitalist economy into a grave financial crisis in 1866 and a witch-hunt was prepared. Attempts to blow up non-unionists were alleged; and Applegarth, the carpenters' leader, managed, classical opportunist that he was, to ask for a government commission of inquiry into the affair. This was granted, but with terms of reference directed against the whole trade union movement. The ruling class was also disturbed by the founding of the First International, under the aegis of Marx and Engels, in 1864.

HIS STORY

And it is ignoring these turbulent events, which provide the key to an understanding of this period, that Mr Rose, a 'left' labour MP, supporter of Civil Rights in Ireland, and friend of the Stalinists, tells his story. For him, the 1867 events may be seen only in the context of Irish nationalism, Catholic religion, and middle-class radicalism. However, this is, in essence, his story. The Irish Fenian movement was founded in the US in 1867. It was dedicated to the struggle for national independence against the English colonialists and recruited many of its most dedicated supporters from Irish emigrés in the United States, many of whom had fought in the Civil War.

PERHAPS this book's most important theme is the long and bitter nature of the struggle to establish and defend trade union legality.

Documents selected to illustrate this subject clearly show the rise of the bourgeois legal system as a response to the workers' struggle to organize as a class against the employers and their state.

So the book should be read with the anti-union strategy of the present Tory government very much in mind.

The documents help to destroy the Fabian and academic myth that trade union rights were gained in a gradual, evolutionary fashion.

They also show that the trade unions did not win complete legal immunity while they continued to rely on the highly dubious sympathies of the Liberal Party and the middle-class radicals.

The establishment of a mass-based working-class party—the Labour Party—was necessary before the trade unions could win the rights for which their members had been fighting for a full century.

CLASS BATTLES

And the Labour Party itself arose only after a series of class battles which went far beyond the legalistic, reformist outlook of the 'Model Union' leaders, based on the skilled workers.

Legal recognition of trade unions in Britain is often dated from 1824, when the Combination Acts outlawing workers' organizations were repealed.

This victory is usually attributed to the tactical skill of the radical Francis Place. In fact, under the Combination Act of 1825 and under common law, almost any act by a trade unionist was still open to a conspiracy charge.

The full legal status of trade unions was never achieved through merely parliamentary channels.

The inequality of the worker before the law was exposed by barrister Geoffrey Lushington as late as 1867 in his comments on the Master and Servant Act of that year:

CONTRACT

'If the Master break the contract . . . the operative may summon him before a justice and recover his wages to the extent of £10 . . . in the event of distress proving insufficient the master becomes under the general statute liable to imprisonment.

'But at any time he has only to pay what is due in order to procure his release.

'But if the operative breaks his contract the master may sue a warrant for his apprehension under that warrant, the operative may be apprehended in bed, may be denied information as to the cause of his apprehension; and opportunity to communicate with his friends may be manacled, and upon conviction may be sentenced as a criminal to three months imprisonment with hard labour at the treadmill' (pp. 15-16.)

Between 1850 and 1870, a permanent trade union bureaucracy began to develop inside the so-called 'Model Unions' (models from the standpoint of the employer) which drew their main support from the skilled 'labour aristocracy'.

These leaders attempted to ease the legal restrictions on trade union activity by presenting a 'respectable' image.

They were encouraged by the Liberal Party at this time the main party of the industrial capitalist class, and upon whose good offices they relied for the repeal of anti-union laws.

'BRITISH TRADES UNIONISM 1850-1914'

Lloyd Evans. The Archive Series, General Editors C. P. Hill and G. H. Fell. Published by Edward Arnold, 1970.

EVIDENCE

The 'Model Unions' tried to function purely as friendly societies. This is apparent in their union rules and is well brought out in the evidence they gave to the 1867 Royal Commission on Trade Unions.

The rules of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers insisted 'our object is not to do anything either indiscreet or illegal'.



Robert Applegarth

Its members were to be of 'good moral character', while the 'general usefulness' of the union lay in its ability to pay sickness and unemployment benefits. (p. 18.)

In his evidence to the same Royal Commission, Robert Applegarth of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners also emphasized the friendly benefits paid by his union.

William Allen of the ASE stressed the near impossibility of his members resorting to strike action within the framework of the union rules.

ARBITRATION

John Kane of the National Association of Iron Workers suggested in his evidence that

strikes could be avoided if local arbitration courts were set up.

The net gain of this cringing before the employers and the government was the 1871 Trade Unions Act, which while making strikes lawful, rendered anything done in pursuance of a strike a criminal act, as it had been before.

The Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act of 1875 did eventually remove the charge of conspiracy from strike action, but reinforced existing penalties against workers who attempted, by picketing and other means, to dissuade their fellow workers from blacklegging.

Full legality for trade unions and strikers was, in fact, never won by the class-collaborationist leaders of the 'Model Unions' or their allies in the Liberal Party leadership. (Many of the 'Model Union' leaders were also Liberals.)

'NEW UNIONS'

It was only gained through the organization of the mass of unskilled workers into 'New Unions' relatively free from the old craft prejudices and illusions in the Liberal Party.

The final step in this process was the formation and growth of the Labour Party as the mass party of the trade unions.

Finally, in a period of unprecedented working-class militancy, the Liberals were compelled, again under great pressure from the Labour Party, to pass the 1913 Trade Union Act which permitted the use of Trade Union funds for political purposes with the saving 'contracting out' clause.

While Havelock Wilson of the National Amalgamated Sailors and Firemen's Union (which scabbed on the General Strike of 1926) insisted that his tactics were conciliatory in every way, Will Thorne of the Gas Workers' Union in his memoirs stressed the connection between 'New Unionism' and the struggle for socialism.

Middle-class horror at the turn the new trade unionism was taking revealed itself in a letter to 'The Times' on October 28,

1897. Commenting on the engineering strike of that year, it said:

'They are not fighting for legitimate trade unionism but for socialism disguised under that name.' (p. 48.)

TAFF VALE

The precarious legal standing of trade unions right up to the 20th century was pinpointed by the Taff Vale Judgement of 1901.

The Taff Vale Railway Company successfully prosecuted the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants for calling a strike and thus encouraging men to break their contracts with the company.

Damages of £2,300 were paid by the union, the judgement putting a huge question mark over the entire future of trade unionism, especially its more militant wing.



John Burns

The formation of the Labour Party, already heralded by the creation of the Labour Representation Committee the previous year, was greatly accelerated by the attack on the trade unions embodied in the Taff Vale judgement.

Over 50 Labour MPs were elected to the 1906 parliament, the rapid electoral rise of the just formed Labour Party scaring the Liberals sufficiently to secure the passing of the Trades Disputes Act later the same year.

The Act finally abolished the law of conspiracy as applied to trade unions and for the first time safeguarded the right to 'peaceful' picketing.

COURTS USED

One of the book's last documents show how the capitalist Law Courts were still used to attack the unions, despite the 1906 Act.

In 1909 the Law Lords upheld

the appeal of Osborne, a railway 'servant', who was being used in a Tory campaign against trade union subscriptions to the Labour Party.

Time and again the history of British trade unionism has demonstrated that even the most modest demands of the working class could only be secured through class struggle.

Parliamentary manoeuvres and pacts with the 'liberal' section of the ruling class never established legal immunity of the trade unions, as these documents show.

COLLABORATED

Furthermore, the trade union bureaucracy and the middle-class radicals collaborated after each advance of the working class to drive the movement back towards reformist channels of action and methods of thinking.

By relaying capitalist ideology into the workers' movement, they blunted its understanding of the need to develop its independence as a class towards the revolutionary struggle for political power.

With all these limitations, the formation of the Labour Party by the trade unions was nevertheless a qualitative step forward from which the British working class has never retreated, despite all the repeated betrayals of the reformist Labour leaders.

The Labour Party's formation stemmed from the fight to defend the basic organizations of the British working class—the trade unions.

But today, trade unions cannot be defended by any except revolutionary means.

As Trotsky insisted in one of his last writings, 'Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay':

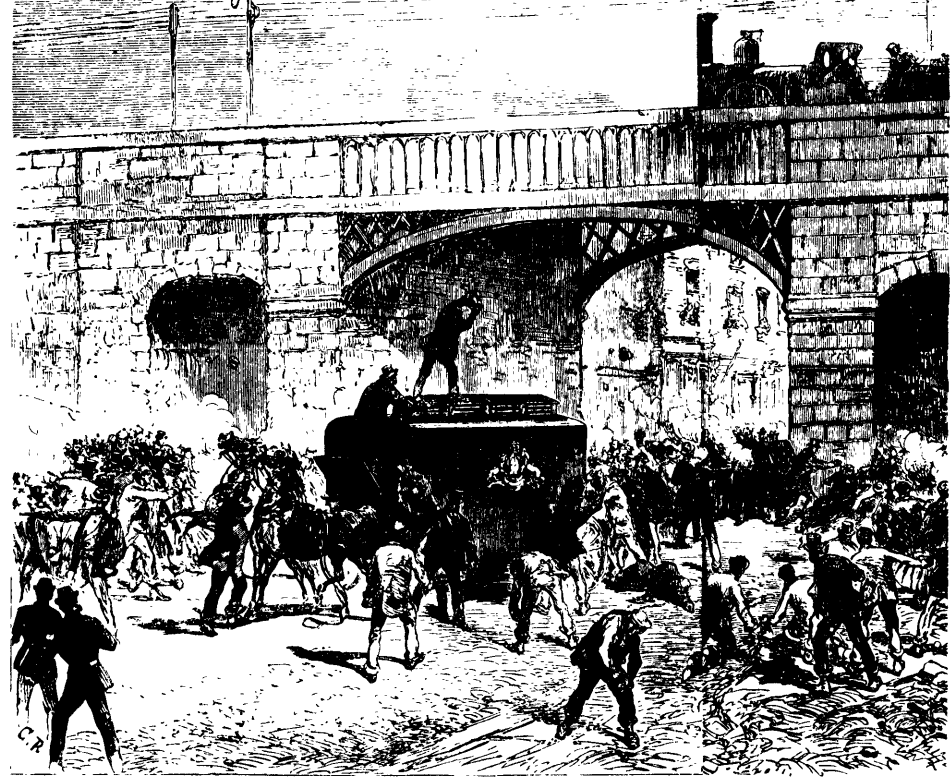
'... the independence of trade unions in the class sense, in their relations to the bourgeoisie state, can, in the present conditions, be assured only by a completely revolutionary leadership, that is, the leadership of the Fourth International.

'This leadership, naturally, must and can be rational and assure the unions the maximum of democracy conceivable under the present concrete conditions.

'But without the political leadership of the Fourth International the independence of the trade unions is impossible.' (From 'Marxism and the Trade Unions', published by the Socialist Labour League, price 3s 6d.)

How BOOKS British trade unions developed

REVIEW BY BILL BOWRING



The 'smashing of the van'. A Fenian bid to rescue Irish rebels being taken to trial in Manchester.

dates for trial. Twenty-two arrests were made immediately, some of them ludicrous; they included a 'highly respectable' surveyor who resembled Kelly, and a Royal Marine on leave, who had been nowhere near the crime, but who was Irish.

THE ARRESTED

What is most interesting, however, is the social composition of those arrested. They were mainly from the working class, labourers and skilled men.

Rose, of course, is struck by the numbers of middle-class elements involved — 'The social composition of those charged... reveals a wide spectrum from labourers to men of some education, willing to risk their liberty and lives in a cause which was openly revolutionary and akin to treason. . . The agrarian system or personal suffering were therefore less important than a strong sense of national solidarity with their fellow countrymen captured by the police. However, looking through the list, one is forced to the conclusion that the main appeal is to the working class and small tradesmen.' (My emphasis.)

Allen, Larkin and O'Brien — after a trial where the transparent falsity of most of the evidence was surprising even for those men of naked class terror — were hanged in public.

Rose's narrative concentrates

mainly on the various and sickening ministrations of the Catholic church, as well as on the genuine heroism of the accused.

But far more important for Marxists, for those who wish to understand the historical roots and development of the consciousness of the English working class, is the response of English workers to the trial.

INABILITY

We are not interested, except in so far as it throws light on the complete inability of English middle-class radicalism to come to terms with the main conflicts in society, in the reaction of these radicals, on which Rose dwells, to the trial. Here is just one example from 'Reynolds News':

'The world now sees that the aristocratic tiger has his old thirst for blood. Our Tory rulers still believe in terror, in torture, and in death. The rulers who have not the brains to devise beneficent reforms, have the heart to shed blood; the men who cannot comprehend how the affections of a warm-hearted race are to be gained by kindly treatment and equitable laws, have unbending faith in the efficiency of hanging as a remedy for sedition.'

It is, of course, the pure and unadulterated language of all left-talkers and merchants in fine and fiery phrases; misidentify the

class enemy, in order to mislead — then lay the way for collaboration and betrayal.

However, Marx, in a letter of April 1870 to Meyer and Vogt, which Rose does not mention, puts the Irish question in its true perspective:

'England, being the metropolis of capital, the power which has hitherto ruled the world market, is for the present the most important country for the workers' revolution, and moreover the only country in which the material conditions for this revolution have developed up to a certain degree of maturity. Therefore to hasten the social revolution in England is the important object of the International Working-men's Association (the First International).

UNDERSTANDING

'The sole means of hastening it is to make Ireland independent. Hence it is the task of the International everywhere to put the conflict between England and Ireland in the foreground, and everywhere to side openly with Ireland.'

'And it is the special task of the Central Council in London to awaken a consciousness in the English workers that for them the national emancipation of Ireland is no question of abstract justice or humanitarian sentiment but the first condition of their own social emancipation.'

Surely this is the key to an understanding of the events described and the English working class, or at least the most advanced sections of it, did not stand idle at the time of the trial.

A meeting of the International took place which attracted sufficient attention to be reported in 'The Times' of November 21. Its proceedings are of great interest, since they demonstrate both the political bankruptcy of the English trade union leadership and the great interest and concern, as well as effective action taken by the international working-class movement and advanced sections of British workers.

The President, Beccles, condemned the Fenians' tactics while supporting their objectives; the general feeling among the trade union leaders was that the Fenians could not expect the support of English and Scottish workers unless they gave proportional assistance in the 'reform agitation'.

Whereas, as Marx so clearly put it, the reality, in terms of the objective needs of the British working-class movement, was precisely the other way round.

And this was recognized among other, more internationalist, sections of the International. Eugene Dupont, secretary for France, pointed out, at the same meeting:

'... the English working class who blame the Fenians commit more than a fault . . . they have the same enemy to defeat — the territorial aristocracy and the capitalists.'

WITCH-HUNT

All the same, this was not the end of working-class action against the anti-Fenian witch-hunt. On November 2, 1867, in a letter to Engels (yet another letter not mentioned by Rose), Marx was able to say:

'... The trial of the Fenians in Manchester is just what one expected it to be. You will see what a row "our men" have made in the Reform League. I did everything I could to provoke this demonstration of English workers for Fenianism.'

And on November 21 a meeting of about 25,000 workers on Clerkenwell Green decided to draw up a petition of protest to the Queen.

As was inevitable, given the quantitative insignificance of the Marxist movement at that time and the weakness and opportunism of its English trade-union hangers-on this protest was presented in all the old forms, still alive so many years after the utter defeat of Chartism.

The resolution read:

'At a meeting of workmen

... this evening a resolution was unanimously passed that as Mr Hardy, the Home Secretary, had declined to meet a deputation . . . a deputation should wait upon the Queen at Windsor Castle on Friday morning to ask that her majesty would be graciously pleased to accept such a memorial herself . . . They wish it to be distinctly understood that they do not wish to trespass on the privacy of their noble and well-beloved sovereign; but as hard-working men they hope the Queen will so honour them. Towards their Majesty they have the most devoted affection and loyalty.'

Such were the depths to which the advanced sections of the English working class could sink. But an understanding of the material cause of such behaviour, and of the underlying forces which govern the movement of classes in society, is necessary if we are to gain any insight into the often contradictory consciousness of the modern working class, and able to seize opportunities for intervening in the class struggle in order to be able to develop revolutionary consciousness among workers.

And even the Clerkenwell workers met with angry resistance from the London lumpen-proletariat, the 'mob'.

Their action, even though it had the form of the old Chartist movements, had a new content, and one which is very much in the forefront of the struggle for Marxism and the revolutionary party today.

That is the struggle for an international consciousness among workers, as the only way to defeat the attacks of international capitalism.

In spite of all Mr Rose's nationalist-religious manderings, this is the main lesson of this book.

The fight of Irish youth and workers against the armed British imperialism in N Ireland is in no way separate from the struggle of advanced British workers against anti-union laws and cuts in their standard of living.

The guns now firing on the Irish worker, will be turned tomorrow on his British comrade.

Without the struggle for internationalism, there can only be defeat and death for the working class.

Advertisement for 'MARXISM and the TRADE UNIONS' by Leon Trotsky, featuring a globe and text: 'Trade unions in the epoch of imperialist decay. Communism and syndicalism.' Includes contact information for NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH STREET, LONDON, S.W.4.

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US Round-up

A NEW VERB FOR YOUR DICTIONARY

'TO FRAG'

THE DROP in morale of US forces in Vietnam has been pinpointed by 'Newsweek' columnist Stewart Alsop.

He reports the verb 'to frag'

has been added to the enlisted soldier's vocabulary. The word means to use a fragmentation grenade to cool down any officer or NCO too eager to make contact with the enemy.

Alsop comments 'No doubt

the number of men who have been fragged is small, but the word itself tells the story'.

Stories of commanders forced to plead with their infantrymen to go on patrol are now legion.

Alsop writes: 'That the whole Army in Vietnam is in danger of going plumb to hell is further attested by a small flood of letters from Vietnam stimulated by a couple of recent pieces in this space.'

Unemployed under fire

NIXON'S so-called welfare bill is now bogged down in Congress.

The Bill has been accompanied by some of the most underhand political horse-trading ever seen in an assembly not famous for adherence to principles.

Nixon's strategy was to try to please both liberals and right wingers with the Bill, but he ended by doing neither.

For the liberals Nixon included a guaranteed annual income, but to appease the right he limited the payment to the starvation level of \$1,600 a year for a family of four.

This compares with the government's own estimate of \$10,000 a year for the needs of a similar family.

The President's slogan 'move the unemployed off the welfare rolls on to the payrolls' was also exposed as false.

To discipline and demoralize the unemployed the Bill provided a \$300 penalty for any welfare parent who refused to accept suitable employment or training.

The shock given Nixon by the San José stoning by unemployed and students will probably result in more proposals of this kind.

In bargaining for support for the Bill, Nixon aides turned down an offer of support from one western Republican which was conditional on Indians getting only half the guaranteed income.

But they did agree to increase the penalty for refusing to take any job demanded by the state to \$500.

A sergeant wrote: 'Leaders, like myself, of small combat units are under enormous pressure to do anything "to avoid contact with the enemy".'

Another soldier wrote with bitter feeling: 'I am a combat infantryman, a draftee, a loser.

'The few times we go to the rear we are treated like scum by the clerks and jerks... I would rather shoot my commanding officer than the enemy.'

Officers and NCO's who insist on ordering troops into the field are commonly "fragged"—hit by a grenade, rolled under their tent flaps.

Alsop reveals another reason for the troops' resistance—the Army's recruitment system.

In effect the Army has been promising men who enlist—as against being drafted—that they will not have to fight in Vietnam.

Those enlisting can choose their 'MOS' or military occupational specialty and only 2.5 per cent choose the infantry.

Because of this system about nine out of ten infantry riflemen are hostile draftees.

According to figures confirmed by the Pentagon as accurate, draftees get killed at nearly double the rate of enlisted men.

Alsop concludes: 'There are risks, of course, in an accelerated withdrawal, but the greatest risk of all is inherent in the constant deterioration of discipline and morale in our Army in Vietnam.'



Workers League members selling their paper, the 'Bulletin', to Linden, New Jersey carworkers on their way to vote against the General Motors deal.

Stalinists cover up for GM sell-out

THE GENERAL MOTORS settlement has met overwhelming opposition among sections of the United Auto Workers' Union especially from areas such as Tarrytown, Linden, Fremont and Baltimore.

More than 20 per cent of General Motors strikers opposed the contract in the final ballot and wanted to continue the strike.

UAW president Woodcock is now trying to push through agreements covering thousands of local disputes and to introduce the same settlement at Ford and Chrysler.

Woodcock's supporters have

pleaded for forgiveness for Woodcock: 'with due credit for what the UAW negotiators achieved, rank-and-file criticism is justified on these grounds...'

Such criticism is a cover and completely fake.

'Daily World' said as little as it could about rank-and-file opposition to the settlement. The Stalinists try to confine all opposition to 'criticism'.

They are desperate to maintain an alliance with the 'progressive' wing of the bureaucracy as the cement of a broader alliance with liberal capitalist politicians like Lindsey and Fulbright.

This policy, known today as the 'anti-monopoly coalition', is the direct descendant of Stalin's 'People's Front' of the 1930s which paved the way for the victory of fascism in Spain and Germany.

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Lindsay swings the axe

IN OCTOBER this column reported Mayor Lindsay's announcement that he would impose on New York's 300,000 city employees 'payless paydays', pay cuts, a job freeze and lay-offs to offset city revenue losses caused by the economic crisis.

He has begun by axing 500 provisional (temporary) city workers in the first mass lay-off of the city has seen since the Depression.

Deputy Mayor Aurelio, member of the city's new 'productivity panel', said that more lay-offs were likely.

The sackings have cut the ground from under the feet of union leaders who shrugged off the 'payless paydays' threat as a mere manoeuvre during pay negotiations.

All their pious reassurances that the conditions of the 1930s could not return have been exposed.

More important, the sackings explode the alliance between labour leaders and capitalist politicians like the so-called liberal-Republican Lindsay.

Unprecedented opportunities are opening up for building the Labour Party and breaking the working class from the two main capitalist parties.

For example, Victor Gotbaum, head of District Council 37 of the Social Service Workers' Union, won the council's endorsement for Lindsay's re-election in 1969.

'The administration has not laid off a single civil service employee'. It is unlikely that there will be a repeat performance.

Mersey port moves will ruin jobs and investors

THE DEFEAT in parliament on Tuesday of Eric Heffer's request for a bridging loan to save the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board is a salutary lesson to all those who, like Mr Heffer, imagine that pressure and persuasion will make the Tories retreat.

If anything, the statements from the Tory benches in the course of the debate showed that the government was singularly unimpressed by the pleas of Labour spokesmen about jobs in the docks.

Government spokesmen treated the whole affair with the same callous disregard that characterized pre-war Tory governments in their dismantling of industry in Jarrow.

Referring to the anxiety and uncertainty which government action would create in Liverpool, Mr John Peyton mockingly replied:

NOT IMPROPER
'I don't think that anxiety in these circumstances is wholly improper or to be deplored...'

Dismissing nationalization as of no importance or help to the 'health, stability and efficiency of the port', he proceeded to insult the industry and intelligence of Merseyside workers by telling the House that the only way out for Liverpool would be for the port to acquire a new 'reputation for quick turn round and a first class service'.

Peyton's choice of the Mersey Board shows clearly the intention of the government to use the working class as scapegoats for the crisis.

As the 'Daily Telegraph' blurted out editorially on Wednesday:

It is entirely realistic to combat inflation by, among other policies, relying on the competitive process. The government's refusal to save the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board from bankruptcy is a welcome sign that this policy will be pursued in earnest.'

INFLATION
Or as the 'Economist' (November 28, 1970) editorial snarled in relation to the Pearson report on the docks:

'The port of Liverpool may have to default on some of its loans and close down some uneconomic docks on the

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Mersey. It is very important that the government should remorselessly allow this to happen, and that the resulting unemployment should be recognized as the first fruit of what will befall other industries that accept Pearson-like inflation.

Increase wages — and be damned!

The workers are not the only people who will feel the whip of Tory insecurity and austerity on the Merseyside.

The appointment of a receiver and new management over the Mersey Board by the government meant that the Tories, as Mr Dell, Labour MP, pointed out, would be carrying out the 'cheapest take-over bid in history' and would be ruining hundreds of middle-class investors who had loyally supported the Tories in the past.

Mr Dell expressed the growing dilemma of the petty bourgeois renters succinctly:

SAVINGS
'On Merseyside this kind of investment had been regarded in the same terms as that with a local authority and people had put their savings in it.

'The government should consider the effects on other ports and on the credit of local authorities. They could not have given a greater blow to savings than the Bill. They would not be forgotten on Merseyside.'

And what did Mr Peyton have to say to his erstwhile supporters in the middle-class?

'He fully realized the seriousness of the matter for bond-holders, particularly when they happened to be people of small possessions. "But if a major operation such as the Port of Liverpool drifts in to these difficulties, there will be inevitably quite widespread difficulties" ("Daily Telegraph", December 2, 1970).

C'est la vie!

Having cynically exploited middle-class fears about inflation and their anti-social prejudices in the election, the Tories are now preparing to

BBC 1

9.38-11.55 a.m. Schools. 12.55-1.25 p.m. Maes a mor. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Basil Brush show. 5.25 Ask Aspel. 5.44 Magic roundabout: 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 EUROPE THIS WEEK.
6.20 TOMORROW'S WORLD.
6.45 THE VIRGINIAN. 'Star Crossed'.
8.00 DAD'S ARMY. 'A. Wilson (Manager)'.
8.30 MARY HOPKIN IN THE LAND OF RHYMES.
9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.
9.20 HOLIDAY.
9.45 24 HOURS.
10.15 MARILYN MONROE. 'Some Like It Hot'. With Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon. Two jazz musicians who witness the St Valentine's Day Massacre dress up as girls and join an all-girl band to try to escape from the gangsters who are after them.
12.10 a.m. Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except:

Midlands. E Anglia: 6.00-6.20 Midlands today. Look East, weather. 12.12 News, weather.
North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.20 Look North, weather. 12.12 News, weather.
Wales: 1.30-1.45 Ar lin mam. 6.00-6.20 Wales today, weather. 6.45 Heddiw. 7.05 O Iein Iein. 7.30-8.00 Bachelor father. 12.12 Weather. Scotland: 6.00-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 8.30-9.00 Current account. 12.12 News, weather.
N Ireland: 6.00-6.20 Scene around six, weather. 10.15-11.45 Harry Cavan's world cup. 12.12 News, weather.
SW, South, West: 6.00-6.20 Points West. South today, Spotlight SW, weather. 12.12 News, weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL.
7.05 p.m. LIFE IN OUR SEA. 'Small Worlds'.
7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.
8.00 TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.
8.30 EUROPA. South America.
9.00 GEORGE IV. 'A King in the Country'. With George Hamilton IV and guests Salena Jones, Brian Goble and Brian Brocklehurst.
9.20 THIRTY-MINUTE THEATRE. 'Vaughn On Crime'. With Olive Swift.
9.50 REVIEW. 'The Knot Garden'.
10.40 NEWS ON 2 and weather.
10.45 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

11.00 a.m. Schools. 3.00 p.m. Racing from Sandown Park. 4.10 People to people. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Bugs Bunny. 5.20 Timeslip. 5.30 News.
6.03 TODAY.
6.30 PEYTON PLACE.
7.00 WHEEL OF FORTUNE.
7.30 THE BOLD ONES. 'Crisis'. New medical series with E. G. Marshall, John Saxon and David Hartman.
8.30 ON THE BUSES. 'The Canton Girl'.
9.00 THE ADVENTURES OF DON QUIXOTE. 'Paradise Destruct'.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 POLICE FIVE.
10.40 TALES OF UNEASE. 'Bad Bad Jo Jo'. With Roy Dotrice.
11.10 FRIDAY FILM. 'House of Numbers'. With Jack Palance. A homicidal maniac in San Quentin prison conceives a plan for his escape.
12.40 a.m. PARTICULAR CHURCHES.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 11.00-3.35 London. 4.00 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.10 Pinky and Perky. 4.25 Ghost and Mrs Muir. 4.35 Lost in space. 5.30 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Cheaters. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Report. 7.30 Dangerman. 8.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'Wolf Man'. With Claude Rains and Lon Chaney Jr. 11.40 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.58 News. 4.00 Gus Honeybun. 4.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 7.00 Missa Westward 71. 11.45 Faith for life. 11.50 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 11.00-2.55 London. 3.15 London. 4.15 Pinky and Perky. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.50 Robin Hood. 5.20 Timeslip. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 6.35 Out of town. 7.00 London. 7.30 Department S. 8.25 London. 8.55 Hawaii five-o. 9.50 Weekend. 10.00 London. 10.30 Thriller: 'The Devil's Disciple'. With Burt Lancaster, Laurence Olivier, Kirk Douglas and Janette Scott. The American War of Independence. 12.05 News. 12.15 News. Action 70.

HARELECH: 11.00-4.10 London. 4.18 Women only. 4.40 London. 4.55 Bugs Bunny. 5.20 16 that fact. 5.30 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report West. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Man with the Gun'. With Richard Mitchum and Jan Sterling. Clint Tollinger is a freelance lawman nicknamed the 'town tamer'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Whirlpool'. Tom Jones. 11.55 Weather.

HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.16-4.18, 6.01-6.35 Report West.

HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 and HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 5.20-5.50. Ar y sora. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 6.18-10.11.00 Welsh scene.

ANGLIA: 10.58-4.15 London. 4.25 News. 4.35 Romper room. 4.55 London. 5.50 London. 6.00 About a Girl. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Music match. 7.30 On the buses. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 10.30 'The Haunting'. With Julie Harris, Claire Bloom, Richard Johnson and Russ Tamblyn. A group of people investigate a supposedly haunted New England mansion. 12.30 Living word.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 London. 3.35 Desorization. 3.49 Horoscope. 3.52 Women today. 4.10 Pinky and Perky. 4.40 London. 4.55 Land of the giants. 5.50 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 From a bird's-eye view. 7.30 Department S. 8.25 London. 9.00 Marcus Welby MD. 10.00 London. 10.30 Don Quick. 11.30 Midland member. 11.45 Object in view, weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Ev. 7.30 Laredo. 8.30 London. 10.30 Deadline. 11.00 Film: 'Grill on the Run'. With Eflon Zimbalist Jr., Erin O'Brien and Edward Byrne. A detective comes to the rescue of a girl who has just witnessed a murder.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00 London. 4.15 Pinky and Perky. 4.30 Matinee. 4.55 Land of the giants. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Wendy and me. 7.00 Wheel of fortune. 7.30 On the buses. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 10.30 Yorkshire. 11.00 Edgar Wallace. 12.10 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 London. 4.55 Thunderbirds. 5.50 London. 6.01 Six-O'one. 6.25 Put it in writing. 6.35 Film: 'A High Wind in Jamaica'. Anthony Quinn and James Coburn. Five children are hunted, captured by pirates. 8.25 London. 9.00 East of Eden. 10.00 London. 10.30 Don Quick. 11.35 Whirlpool.

TYNE TEES: 11.00-4.15 London. 4.35 News. Thunderbirds. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.30 Avengers. 7.30 On the buses. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 10.30 Movie: 'Hell's a City'. With Stanley Baker and Billie Whitelaw. Manchester. 12.15 Tides of uncase. 12.45 News.

BORDER: 1.38 London. 4.10 News. 4.12 Nanny and the professor. 4.40 London. 4.55 Land of the giants. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Wheel of fortune. 7.30 On the buses. 8.00 Man in a suitcase. 9.00 London. 10.30 'House on Haunted Hill'. With Vicent Price, Carol Ohmart and Richard Long. Frederick Loren rents a haunted house for one night so his wife can have a haunted house party. 11.55 News, weather.

SCOTTSIDE: 11.00-2.55 London. 3.40 Dateline. 3.50 Horoscope. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 Pinky and Perky. 4.25 Music match. 4.55 Joe 90. 5.20 Car-toon cavalcade. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Ask George Kidd. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 Love, American style. 8.25 McCue's music. 9.00 Man in a suitcase. 10.00 London. 10.30 Point. North. 11.00 Don Quick. Road report.

SALT talks marking time

THE Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) in Helsinki are marking time, with the Soviet negotiators refusing to say if they are willing to cut back the development of their giant SS-9 missiles armed with 25-megaton warheads.

The Russians are particularly eager to prevent the construction of the US 'Safeguard' antimissile system, authorized recently by Nixon.

In fact, 'Safeguard' is a 'thin' system, which would be almost ineffectual against a Soviet attack, but has been justified on the grounds of its alleged adequacy against any attack that the Chinese may be able to launch in the near future.

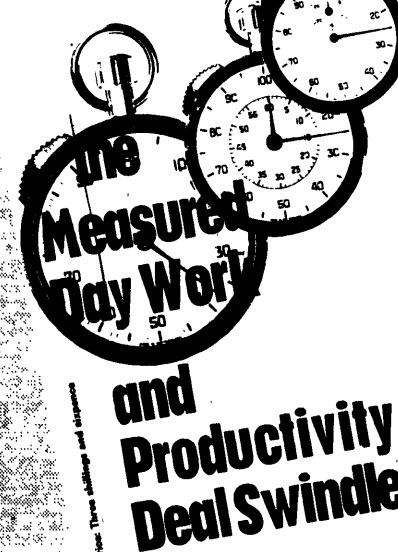
At present Soviet ABMs are mainly concentrated around Mos-

cow, but it is feared that an ABM race would place an intolerable burden on the economies of America and the USSR.

Sources suggest that Nixon would agree to reduce or abandon 'Safeguard' provided the SS-9s are removed. The Helsinki negotiations—the third round of SALT which began in the Finnish capital 13 months ago—are due to be adjourned later this month.

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Charter of Basic Rights

WORKERS at airports and aircraft factories throughout Britain are now facing a Tory drive to run down the industry and sell nationalized air routes to private operators.

On Wednesday the government decided not to back the British Airbus project and there are now no big airliner projects being led by British industry. This will mean big redundancies at BAC plants at Weybridge, Bristol and Hurn in Hampshire.

On the airports workers face a loss of employment to the second-force private airline which will take over routes developed by BOAC and BEA.

This, fear workers at London's Heathrow airport, will be a prelude to wholesale denationalization.

At the centre of the storm over these Tory moves at Heathrow is Michael Davies, an ETU steward.

Workers Press talked to Michael about the Draft Charter of Basic Rights which, amongst other things, demands nationalization under workers' control if sackings are threatened and seeks to defend all nationalized industries.

THE CHARTER will raise the consciousness of the workers because they will see that it is a series of very basic demands for the protection of workers' wages, standard of living and working conditions.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Discuss the proposed draft of the Charter of Basic Rights

BRISTOL: Friday, December 4, 8 p.m. Old England pub, off Cheltenham Rd.

LUTON: Friday, December 11, 8 p.m. AEU House, 396 Dunstable Rd.

DAGENHAM: Monday, December 14, 8 p.m. Marsh Green School, New Rd.

ACTON: Monday, December 14, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Acton High St.

WEST LONDON: Monday, December 14, 8 p.m. Prince Albert pub, Balfe St, NW1.

SOUTHALL: Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Bridge Rd.

SW LONDON: Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Prince's Head, Falcon Rd, Clapham Junction.

SE LONDON: Thursday, December 17, 8 p.m. Artichoke pub, Church St, Camberwell Green.

OLLETON: Saturday, December 5, 1 p.m. The Plough Inn, 'Lessons of the Miners' Strike', Speakers: Yorkshire miners.

GLASGOW: Sunday, December 13, 7.30 p.m. Kingston Hall, Paisley Rd.

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LATE NEWS

WHEN IN ROME... TUC general secretary Victor Feather yesterday attacked next week's threatened strike against the Industrial Relations Bill...

FEATHER did not think the action would help the TUC. 'It may in fact be helpful to the government,' he claimed, answering questions after a four-day visit as guest of Italy's predominantly Roman Catholic trade union confederation CISL.

CLEANERS SACKED All night cleaning staff at Companies House, a Board of Trade office in central London, were sacked yesterday by their employers, the Strand Cleaning Company. The nine women, eight of whom are in the Transport and General Workers' Union, recently applied for union recognition from the company.



US storm brewing over new Vietnam evidence

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

A STORM is brewing in the United States after a December 1 TV programme exposing government intelligence operations against civilians engaged on anti-Vietnam-war protests.

These operations included surveillance of the Republican and Democratic Party National Conventions in August 1968, including eavesdropping on Senator Eugene McCarthy, who sought the Democratic nomination as a 'peace' candidate.

Anti-war demonstrations over the past three years have been under detailed surveillance and agents have been planted as infiltrators. Senator Edward Kennedy has asked Defence Secretary Melvin Laird for an explanation of under what authority this work was carried out, and has described the operations as 'military forays into civilian life'.

Meanwhile the Vietnam war forces itself into United States political life relentlessly. The 'veterans' inquiry into United States war crimes, convened in Washington, has this week heard a continuous story of barbaric torture and political assassination.

Mountain

This mountain of evidence puts the current court-martial of Lt William Calley for crimes at My Lai in its true perspective.

It is absolutely clear that the My Lai massacre was a minute part of the genocidal war against the whole Vietnamese people carried out as policy by the US imperialists. Mr Kenneth Osborn, 25, a language student, told the 'veterans' inquiry how as a CIA employee in Da Nang in 1968, he had twice been ordered to 'terminate with prejudice' (i.e. assassinate) Vietnamese who had worked with the CIA.

One of these was marked down for elimination because he had failed to state that he was married when he had taken up work as a CIA interpreter. Osborn also stated that a Chinese woman agent who had worked with him had been shot dead in the street by a US Army captain because she 'knew too much'.

Ear torture

Osborn reported further that in the interrogation camp of the Third Marine Amphibious Force near Da Nang he saw a marine officer... insert a wooden dowel into the canal of the ear of a prisoner and force it in little by little as he was interrogated at night. 'The dowel entered the brain and killed the subject—the interrogation was counted a loss'.

A Marine lieutenant had told Osborn that this torture was used whenever other methods failed. Noyzel, who served as a sergeant with the Special Forces, said that at the Can Tho camp prisoners were left all night in a room, with an eight-foot long python in order to break their resistance.

Prisoners were pushed out of helicopters in flight, and others were thrown bound into flooded paddy-fields. Mr Edward Murphy, former intelligence sergeant and CIA liaison officer, spoke of a village where he saw children separated and led away from their mothers, who were then told 'tell us about the Vietcong or we will kill the kids'.

The US troops even went to the extent of returning to the women with a bag dripping with blood, said falsely to be that of a child inside.

Lethal place

Mr Peter Martensen, former sergeant and prisoner-of-war interrogator at the American HQ at Lon Binh, stated: 'You don't rock the boat in Vietnam, it's a very lethal place to be. Also you feel everybody else is doing it.' The intelligence investigations in the United States are only a mild indication of the incalculable fact that US imperialism does today in Vietnam it will do tomorrow to defend itself against US workers.

That is the meaning of the attacks on democratic liberties in every advanced country. Nothing could expose more clearly the unity of the struggle of the colonial peoples with that of the working class in Europe and America.

WEATHER

APART from the possibility of cloud and rain in the S England and Wales at first, all districts will have showers and bright periods. Showers will be more frequent in the W and occasionally of sleet and snow in the N. Temperatures will be near normal, rather below in the N. Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Changeable with rain at times in the W areas. Temperatures near normal in S, a little below normal in N.

The riot that never was

Press incitement at Holland Park comprehensive school

CAPITALIST press outcry about incidents at Holland Park comprehensive school, London, earlier this week had a politically sinister taste.

From some of the reports of alleged window-smashing and 'rioting' it appears that all hell had been let loose in this experimental school.

'School rebels', 'hooligans', 'militant hooligans', and 'rowdy skinheads' were some of the expressions used about those who were supposed to have been on the 'rampage'—mainly first- to fifth-year children at the school.



School governor Mrs Anthony Wedgewood Benn said stories were exaggerated

'STRIKE' About 400 of the total 2,600 pupils had stayed out in the playing grounds and staged a 'strike' against what they thought was the



Holland Park comprehensive school pupils in the school grounds during Mrs Benn's visit

attack on the system of comprehensive education. 'There have been problems at Holland Park before...' editorialized the 'Evening News' (December 2) and went on to draw the conclusion that 'in a non-selective school that is almost inevitable'.

INCITED

The Tories were desperately trying to prove that the eruption in the school was due to the comprehensive system and not to the appalling conditions in which some of the children live.

A statement by the Inner London Education Authority mentioned evidence held by the deputy headmistress showing that reporters had in fact incited the children to riot by bribing them with cigarettes and giving them objects to throw.

Support for this allegation came in a statement issued by the sixth form which stated that despite 'the degrees of exaggeration that have been indulged in by the press... the school has functioned normally'.

Writing in yesterday's 'Sun', Henry Russell Douglas appeared to find what he

considered to be the solution to the 'smashing' time. 'Eton is also a large school and a showpiece. Eton has also had its movements of pupil power, notably one-and-a-half centuries ago.

JAUNDICED

The Eton incident ended in a mass fogging. The Holland Park one won't. The jaundiced speculation and misrepresentation by the capitalist press have been used to distort a genuine protest by pupils deprived of a teacher who they respected and admired.

French unions agree claims

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE'S largest Stalinist-led trade union organization the CGT has reached agreement with the Catholic-influenced CFDT on a programme of common claims.

Canadian repression detailed

A TOTAL of 3,068 police raids were carried out and 453 people were arrested in Quebec between October 16, when the War Measures Act was invoked by the Trudeau government, and November 24, the Canadian parliament was told yesterday.

Ten convicted Quebec 'terrorists' have been transferred from Quebec city prisons to the maximum security wing of the St Vincent de Paul penitentiary in Montreal.

Prisoners there are held incommunicado and all doors are locked by remote control. It has been the scene of big riots. 'Against this background... on Wednesday the new Public Order Bill demanded by Trudeau to replace the War Measures Act.

Smithfield and Heathrow out Dec. 8

A MASS meeting of Smithfield meat market workers voted yesterday to support December 8 strike action by a two-thirds majority.

The meeting was held in the centre of the market and there were angry scenes when Transport and General Workers' market organizer Len Smith was escorted by a police sergeant to a nearby Snow Hill station in connection with obstruction of the highway.

Some 200 workers from the 600-strong meeting stood outside the station chanting 'We want Len' and 'Let him out' until Mr Smith emerged after five minutes. There was no charge.

No concessions

They well know that the employer will not and cannot make such concessions. In a joint statement they have called for 'vigorous development of action on the claim', referring to 'negotiations at all levels' and the need to 'explain the demands made in every firm, section and region'.

Smithfield and Heathrow out

Dec. 8

workers. The one-day strike won't be sufficient. Our full forces haven't yet been mobilized.

TWO HUNDRED airport stewards yesterday effectively scotched Fleet Street-inspired reports that a retreat over the December 8 strike was under way among airport workers.

At a meeting called by the Air Corporations Joint Action Committee, they not only endorsed all previous decisions to strike on Tuesday, but also laid plans for bringing out those weaker sections that were not yet committed.

'I should be very surprised if any aircraft move on Tuesday,' said committee chairman Ian Stewart.

Soviet press attacks on musicians and scientists

SOVIET scientists and musicians are again under attack.

In a 'Pravda' statement yesterday, the head of the Composers' Union called on all musicians to 'safeguard Soviet music in every way from alien ideological influences'.

And in Wednesday's 'Pravda', Viktor Silin, head of the Party Committee at the Lebedev Physics Institute in Moscow, also made an attack on 'some-

one who parades his "non-Party" attitude plainly, and simply lays open his flanks to the enemy'.

This is generally assumed in Moscow to be a veiled reference to Academician Sakharov, the so-called 'father' of the Soviet H-bomb. He has recently been openly critical of Soviet scientific and cultural policy.

Berlin bartering

WARSAW PACT leaders returned home yesterday after a summit meeting in E Berlin whose terse final communiqué appeared to gloss over the major issues of relations with Bonn and the Berlin question.

The final communiqué—issued on the eve of the NATO powers' meeting which opened in Brussels yesterday—made only the most general reference to 'the strengthening of security and the development of peaceful co-operation in Europe'.

The NATO meeting made it clear that it expects the Soviet and E European Stalinists to come to terms over Berlin before entering joint Warsaw Pact-NATO discussions on 'security'—ie, on joint anti-working-class measures.

The Ulbricht regime in E Germany is extremely worried by Soviet attempts to reach agreement with Britain, France and the United States over Berlin, because it fears the Soviet Union may make important concessions on the status of W Berlin.

Not GFR As 'Der Morgen', newspaper of the Liberal Democratic Party, one of E Germany's three official Stalinist parties, recently stated:

'Everybody knows that W Berlin is not and never will be a part of the German Federal Republic [W Germany].'

'Neues Deutschland', the leading official paper, also maintains that 'The GDR will agree to talks with the Federal Republic only on condition that the latter gives up all its activities in W Berlin and recognizes the GDR'.

Of all the E European Stalinist regimes, Ulbricht's is the most dependent on the Soviet Union as it completely lacks any popular base outside a narrow circle of bureaucrats. The Soviet Union is at present involved in four-power talks over the Berlin question.

Chile textile firm taken over

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

CHILE yesterday nationalized the large Teofilo Yarus textile company, which has not paid its 1,400 workers since September.

Pedro Vuskovic, Economy Minister in the recently-formed left-wing coalition under President Allende, said the expropriation had also been made because the plant was abandoned by its owners. The company had capital valued at around £2,500,000. OFFICIALS from Chile and China are currently meeting in Paris to negotiate the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

This step is in line with the foreign policy of the new Allende government. Already it has signed a trading agreement with N Korea and re-opened diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Hussein has long history of talk with Israelis

KING Hussein of Jordan flew into London yesterday morning for talks with the British Tory government as part of his 20-day world tour.

Chief aim of the trip is to solicit imperialist support for his reactionary regime, still threatened by the Palestinian guerrilla movement despite Hussein's attempts to suppress the Palestinians in a bloody civil war earlier this year.

Fresh evidence of long-standing secret contracts between Hussein and the Israeli leaders has come to light, following recent revelations about Israeli support for Hussein against the comandos.

The Spanish daily 'Madrid' at the weekend published a series of diplomatic documents which, according to the newspaper, prove that in 1967 there were 'contacts and negotiations between King Hussein and Israel after the end of the six-day war'.

The first document is dated October 11, 1967, and is an urgent letter to the Jordan ambassador in Washington telling him to make 'immediate contact with Secretary of State Dean Rusk to put pressure on the Israeli government' over its Palestine policy.

There is also a letter from the Jordan Prime Minister to his ambassador in Rome, dated October 10, 1967, ordering him to make contact with the Italian Minister of Information and Culture with a view to his putting pressure on the press 'not to publish anything about the secret contacts between King Hussein and his representative and the Israeli authorities'.

Taken in line with recent information about secret contacts between the two sides since the Jordan civil war, these documents make it very doubtful whether Hussein has any intention of honouring his pledge to Egyptian premier Sadat in Cairo this week that he would take steps to strengthen the front against Israel.

Bill

FROM PAGE ONE Unions salting away funds to finance what it fears may be dubbed 'unfair' action, since the Registrar can make it impossible by virtue of his powers over union rules—for funds to be held in such a way.

Tory leaders are keen to avoid accusations that they have bent to pressure from the confederation of British Industry and other employers' organizations to give more 'teeth' to the proposed Registrar than were contained in its original proposals.

It is a fact, however, that the Bill provides for him to refer breaches of unions' rules as approved by him to the NIRC if remedial action is not taken.

This would give the government and the judiciary almost stranglehold powers over rule-books.

No trade unionists can contemplate this Bill going on the Statute Book.

Union leaders must immediately be forced to mount an all-out official General Strike action to defeat it—and force the government to resign.

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