

## The fight against Tory anti-union laws

# Liverpool Trades Council

## again shows the way

**What we think**  
**There is no middle road**

DESPITE the pressures from such disparate sources as Nixon's National Security Council, the Commonwealth governments and the liberal-pacifist-protest movement in Britain, Mr Heath's government is determined to supply the S African racists with arms.

When the Prime Minister leaves for Singapore today he will do so armed with a mandate from his cabinet which expresses clearly the class obligation of British imperialism to defend its interests and its S African janitors with every means. Whether Mr Obote resigns from the Commonwealth or Mr Kaunda walks out of the conference will make little or no difference to Heath's decision to uphold the letter and spirit of the Simonstown Agreement.

The alternative to such a policy for Heath would be the collapse of the Vorster regime, the expropriation of the massive capital investments of British imperialism in gold and diamond mining and the ruin of Smith's apartheid ambitions in Rhodesia.

It would mean the rapid liquidation of the last remnants of Empire and would inevitably stimulate massive movements in Britain against the Tories.

As in Britain, so in the Commonwealth, the middle ground of 'consensus' politics has been rapidly transformed by the Tories into a no man's land where diplomacy, compromise and conciliation lie buried.

Mr Heath, as a very class-conscious Tory, sees no separation of home and foreign policy. That was why on the eve of his departure to Singapore, he reaffirmed his faith in Tory policy to curb wage increases, social services and trade unions.

For Heath this is just as important as the supply of arms to Vorster and Botha. No amount of protest will deter him from carrying through these measures which, for the Tories, are unopposable and imperative.

**A BIG ANTI-TORY demonstration has been called for next Tuesday by the Liverpool Trades Council.**

The council's call contrasts sharply with the retreat from the fight against the government's Industrial Relations Bill by the 'left' MPs, the union leaders and the Communist Party alike.

It reaffirms the demand — unanimously endorsed by 20,000 workers at Liverpool's Pier Head on December 8 — that the Trades Union Congress call a General Strike to force the Tories to resign.

Speaking with some emotion to the Bexley Supper Club on Monday night, Tory leader Edward Heath pledged that there would be no turning back by the government from its anti-working-class policies.

The country had called too often in the past for relaxation of firm policies, he said.

### Urgency

In a bid to screw up the courage of the fainter-hearted employers for what top ruling-class circles recognize must be a major confrontation, he insisted:

'This time I detect a sense of urgency.'

Yet after six-and-a-half months of Tory onslaught against every working-class right, the 'Tribune'-ite MPs can only summon up a call for... a petition to parliament.

Ever-thoughtful reformist Tottenham MP Norman Atkinson suggests that if this were organized on a factory-by-factory basis, each factory would no doubt wish to send people to London to associate themselves with the protest.

So he and his forelocking friends humbly suggest that the TUC organize a demonstration and lobby of MPs against the Bill, to which delegates can be sent from different parts of the country.

They specifically deny that they are calling for a one-day national strike.

### Apology

Ignoring both the government's rapid-fire plans to push through the Bill and the massive erosion of living standards proceeding apace under Heath, they try to channel popular anti-Tory feeling into a worthless apology for a protest.

Needless to say, the 'Tribune' statement — made by men who themselves refused to lift a finger against the Wilson leadership between 1964 and 1969, despite numerous demonstrations and lobbies urging such a course — was heavily boosted by yesterday's Stalinist 'Morning Star'.

Its front-page lead on their call contains not a scrap of comment, although Salford MP Stan Orme was quoted as saying the campaign should be stepped up.

BY DAVID MAUDE

### After the Devey affair

## The silent men of King St

BY GERRY HEALY

**THE DEVEY AFFAIR** has once again revealed the Communist Party leadership as a shameful gang of political cowards, worthy representatives of the Stalin school of falsification.

During the lifetime of Stalin they not only supported every brutal deed which he organized, they went out of their way to falsify the teachings of Trotskyism by the foulest lies and slander.

On December 8 they returned once more to this vomit when Bert Ramelson, so-called industrial organizer of the CP, lyingly accused the Workers Press of having 'scabbed' on the one-day strike.

When we gave him the opportunity to justify this lie publicly, he remained silent.

### Bolt

Whilst Ramelson was slandering the Workers Press, a leading industrial member of his Party, a man with whom he had the closest contact, a man who was the secretary of his Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions in Sheffield, like a bolt from out of the blue accepted a pay-off of £3,000 from one of the biggest groups of employers in the country, and a seven-week-old strike came to an end.

In doing so, he accepted a basic principle of the Tory

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## Bank staff bears brunt of decimal change-over

BY MARTIN ZARROP

**WITH LESS** than six weeks to go to Decimal Day, Britain's bank employees are calling for strong action to back their claim for adequate 'changeover' pay.



Brian Sharp, chairman of the banks' decimilization working party.

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## £1,250 January Fund starts at £55

**EVER-GROWING** numbers of trade unionists are taking up the call for January 12 to be the start of a General Strike to make the Tory government resign.

Our Make the Tories Resign rally at Alexandra Palace on February 14 comes at a most decisive time.

The Workers Press will go all out to mobilize hundreds of thousands of youth, housewives, OAPs and trade unionists everywhere to make this important political event an outstanding success.

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We need all the support you can give us. We are raising an extra £1,000 which is needed for organizing the Rally. Help us by collecting the January Appeal Fund early this month. Take weekly collections at your factory or place of work. Raise support in your trade union branch. Carry the campaign far and wide throughout the labour movement. Post all your donations to:

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

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## HEATHROW WORK-TO-RULE GOES ON



By an industrial correspondent

CLIVE JENKINS of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (left) seen with Transport and General Workers' national officer John Cousins (right) speaking to pressmen after top-level joint union talks at Heathrow on the airport work-to-rule yesterday.

The meeting decided to intensify the work-to-rule following management's refusal on Monday to consider any increase on their 41-per-cent pay rise offer.

The unions have not yet named the pay-rise figure they are demanding, but are believed to be seeking around 7 per cent.

Continuation of the 31-week-old dispute is likely to cause further chaos at London's Heathrow and other airports, which are still recovering from the passenger log-jam earlier this week when freezing fog delayed thousands of passengers.

## Robens' resignation official

THE RESIGNATION of Lord Robens as Chairman of the National Coal Board was officially announced yesterday.

Mr John Davies, Secretary for Trade and Industry, said Lord Robens had been invited to continue in office for a further five years.

But after 'full considerations' he had told Mr Davies he did not wish to serve. He was prepared to remain in his post for six months while arrangements were made for the appointment of a successor.

Robens is believed to have told Coal Board members he took the decision, after 10 years as NCB chief, because he could not get satisfactory government assurances about future policy towards the industry.

## BOAC's jumbos still grounded

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

THE HEATHROW meeting of BOAC pilots has rejected the Corporation's latest pay offer in the dispute which has kept the airline's jumbo-jets grounded for eight months.

Monday night's meeting endorsed the action of the pilots' council in rejecting BOAC's offer of £9,000 for senior pilots flying all aircraft, including the giant Boeing 747s.

The latest offer was about £4,500 less than the original demand for senior captains, first class, on the jumbos, and £2,400 less than an offer rejected by the pilots some months ago.

The Corporation offered to make the £9,000 wholly eligible for pensions and were prepared to accede to the pilots' request for three pilots on jumbo flight decks for a six-month trial period.

BOAC's three jumbos are grounded at a cost of £18,000 a day and three more are due for delivery in March. FLIGHTS out of Paris on three airlines were again disrupted yesterday as pilots and cabin crew continued a strike which began on Monday.

Only about one-tenth of Air France's international flights departed and these used planes chartered from other airlines.

The strikers are demanding a new contract governing pay and working conditions.

COMMUNIST Party member Mr Ken Brett was re-elected assistant general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers' engineering section yesterday. He polled 42,179 votes against Coventry right-winger Harry Clarke's 25,502.

## Firemen set for all-out strike

LEADERS of 27,000 firemen may issue a national strike call over their pay claim at their delegate conference next week, militant members of the Fire Brigades Union told the Workers Press yesterday.

Militants expect that either resolutions for a national stoppage or selective stoppages in areas with big fire risks will be passed.

This will meet opposition from their 15-man executive who will meet on Thursday to discuss a possible escalation of present emergency-calls-only protest.

I understand that overtime bans and bans on shift working will be considered, in preparation for recommendations for further action they will be putting to the delegate meeting on Tuesday next week.

### 100 PER CENT

But militants in the union claim that support for strike action will be near 100 per cent.

They point out that firemen in Scotland, N Ireland, Newcastle, Liverpool, Coventry and parts of London have already come out for a national or selective withdrawal of labour.

The firemen are demanding a substantial pay rise.

So far employers under government pressure have offered what amounts to a 35s increase on the present rate of £27 10s for 56 hours.

### FEELING

Many militants however want the £38 a week earned by firemen in airports.

Ken Bonter, union secretary of London 'H' Division, which

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

covers a wide area of SE London, said that men in his area were ready to strike.

'We will be supporting the call for strike action on Tuesday. I am 100 per cent certain it will go through. I know the feelings on the union's district committees in the provinces.'

We have the assurances from firemen's stewards on airports that they will support us in any action, they are very sympathetic with our struggle for a decent wage for decent hours,' he said.

Newcastle firemen are the latest to call for full-scale strike action and in Liverpool off-duty men will march in full uniform to the town hall on Friday where they will hand in a petition on the wage claim to the Lord Mayor.

Mr H. S. Burgess, secretary of the Liverpool FBU told the Workers Press that the Liverpool men 'certainly were not ruling out strike action.'

'We will listen to what the executive council has to say on Tuesday and make up our mind then, but we strongly feel that something more militant has to be done,' said Mr Burgess.

In London yesterday a spokesman for the FBU said that it was 'quite obvious' that the government had intervened to stop the employers awarding an 'inflationary' increase.

### INSTRUCTION

'The Home Secretary called the employers side of the National Joint Council for the service and I'm sure he instructed them not to offer what this government considers to be an excessive rise.'

He said the union has been prepared to recommend a 10 per cent increase to its members, but not one that includes the already agreed two-hour reduction in basic hours as the employers were insisting.

At present provincial firemen earn £16 2s for a 46-hour week rising to £21 8s after seven years' service.

In addition they receive £1 6s 10d for two hours a week of compulsory overtime, plus £4 15s 10d for an eight-hour-a-week bonus shift.

This means a fireman earns £22 4s 8d in his first year of service rising to £27 4s 4d after seven years.

They have been operating the present emergency-calls-only service since the end of September.

**YOUNG SOCIALISTS**

**MAKE THE TORY GOVT RESIGN!**

**MASS RALLY FEBRUARY 14**  
**ALEXANDRA PALACE**  
Wood Green N22 at 11 a.m. - 11.15

For more details or a ticket please write to YS national secretary John Simmance, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4.

Please send me more details/a ticket. I enclose cheque/postal order for £1.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_





