

Whilst Vietnamese die

LEFT M.P.s GO ON TALKING

BY MICHAEL BANDA

LAST NIGHT'S Commons foreign affairs debate, like all previous debates on Vietnam, promised to be a fraud and a farce designed to save the consciences of the 70 'left' MPs while letting Wilson

STOP WILSON'S VISIT TO NIXON

Reg Birch signs petition



REG BIRCH, executive councillor of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and

Foundryworkers, seen yesterday signing the petition against Wilson's visit to Washington.

DAVE FERGUSON, chairman of the Centrax strike committee and secretary of the Newton Abbot Trades Council, has signed the petition demanding the cancellation of Wilson's visit to Washington.

THIRTY-THREE pupils at the Northfield Secondary School, Dunstable (Bedfordshire) have signed a petition drawn up by the Young Socialists condemning the atrocities committed by the US forces in Vietnam and demanding that Wilson's visit to Nixon in January, which symbolizes Wilson's support for the war, should be stopped.

EIGHTEEN teachers and technicians at Stockwell Manor School, South London, have signed a similar petition.

THE FOLLOWING resolution was passed overwhelmingly at a general meeting of Sheffield University Students' Union:

This UGM declares its disgust at the brutal massacres carried out by US troops in 'Pinkville', Vietnam, and its total opposition to the

MERSEY DOCKERS STRIKE

NINETY-EIGHT dockers struck work yesterday at Liverpool's Toxteth dock because of a dispute over cargo discharging.

In another section of the port 280 dockers returned to work after a strike on Friday over a claim for handling tin ore.

make his sinister trip to Nixon.

The motion submitted by the 70 MPs piously calls on Wilson to dissociate completely from US policies and to strive for a settlement of the war based on the 1954 Geneva Convention.

The cowardly unprincipled nature of this opposition is succinctly summarized in 'The Times':

'Those Labour MPs who vote on the adjournment motion to register their disagreement will claim an amnesty from punitive measures on the ground that they are merely demonstrating in support of party policy.' (Our emphasis.)

'The Times' then adds: 'Thus, with the opposition and the majority of their backbenchers with them, the government have nothing much to fear.'

'The Times' might as well have qualified this with the comment that Wilson had nothing to fear at all from the 'left' MPs' resolution—even if it were carried.

Such a resolution does not commit the government to do a single damn thing to help the Vietnamese people to win victory over the US forces in Vietnam.

Sanctify

More: By evoking the 'spirit of Geneva', which led to the dismemberment of Vietnam in 1954, the 'lefts' are merely sanctifying imperialist diplomacy and a settlement which—as every socialist knows—was forced down the unwilling throats of the Vietnamese by the Russian and Chinese bureaucracies in collusion with Britain and France.

The US imperialists, as the Labour 'lefts' know very well, are not bound by the terms of 'Geneva', because they were not signatories to it anyway.

The purpose of this elaborate farce is given away by 'The Times' when it states (December 8, 1969):

'Mr. Wilson will not agree to their main demand . . . but he is likely to be more critical of American policy than in the past.'

'Certainly, few Labour MPs expect him to express the unwavering support for American actions which has been given by Mr George Brown . . . How charitable can the 'lefts' become?'

First they shout about sacking Brown (November 22). Then they talk about 'disowning' him (November 25).

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Soviet-W. German 'non-aggression' talks begin

AFTER much early confusion, it was confirmed yesterday that talks between the Soviet and West German governments on a non-aggression pact have begun.

WEATHER

London area, SE and Central Southern England, E and W Midlands: Mainly dry, dull at first with mist or fog during the morning. Bright periods in the afternoon. Wind light NW. Near normal. Maximum 8C (46F).

Channel Islands, SW England: Cloudy. Locally slight drizzle on hills and coasts. Wind NW light or moderate. Mild. Maximum 11C (50F).

ing fog. Wind light or moderate, westerly. Mild. Maximum 7C (45F).

Edinburgh, Glasgow area, Ireland: Cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle, extensive hill fog. Wind moderate or fresh, westerly, becoming strong at times in the North. Near normal. Maximum 7C (45F).



Car unions meet in Paris

GREAT PROMINENCE has been given by sections of the Fleet Street press to last week's three-day international car conference in Paris.

Union leaders and shop stewards from 14 countries are reported to have come to a working agreement on six main items of policy. What lies behind this agreement?

The conference's final declaration expressed determination to overcome any efforts by the employers 'to play the workers in different countries off against each other through the use of lower wages and social benefits'.

'We cannot strike in sympathy with our British colleagues because our laws prevent that,' the head of West Germany's main engineering union told the 'Sunday Times'.

'But we can prevent motor manufacturers transferring work from Britain to Germany.'

So far, so good.

Three unions were represented in the eleven-man British delegation.

Led by the Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers' (AEF) Mr Hugh Scanlon and the Transport and General Workers' (T&GWU) Mr Moss Evans, the delegation is reported to have seen the conference as providing ammu-

tion for their campaign for parity of earnings and lay-off pay.

The six-point programme agreed at the conference, however, scrambled important demands like those for a standard 40-hour week throughout

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Big S.W. march backs Devon strikers

MORE THAN 1,500 workers marched through the streets of Newton Abbot, Devonshire on Saturday to demand higher wages for all workers in the area.

In a lively demonstration, workers kept up the slogan shouting of 'We want more' and 'Wage freeze out' throughout the entire march.

Painted banners demanding more wages for workers in the South-West were prominently displayed.

The march, organized by the strike committee at Centrax where 1,000 have been on

strike for four weeks, was a resounding success.

Many workers had travelled considerable distances from the surrounding area to give their support to the strikers and to join the fight for higher wages.

They insist that the LTB broke the agreement and that the LTB must therefore renege it.

About Trades Union Congress intervention they are not so sure. Said Don Cook yesterday:

'There may be some possible advantages for us in discussions with Feather.'

DANGERS

There are dangers here. Basic questions—the union leaders' wholesale collaboration with productivity deals and their agreement with the government to stop strikes—are raised.

Maintenance men must demand that Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers' executive councillor Reg Birch carries out his own advice to yesterday's meeting and demands that the union's leaders extend the strike.

● See picture page four →

Tube engineers' rally Warning of productivity dangers

BY DAVID MAUDE

LONDON'S tube maintenance strikers continued their dispute into its twelfth determined week yesterday with a mass rally in Westminster.

On Thursday, strikers will consider plans to extend their strike.

'A number of people gave indications of what support they will give', said strike committee chairman Don Cook, yesterday.

'We're going to reorganize our methods as from Thursday.'

Several speakers at yesterday's meeting emphasised that national questions were raised by the dispute, which is over the alleged breaking by the London Transport Board of an eleven-year-old agreement for recruiting craftsmen at its Acton railway workshops.

Behind the LTB's intransigence on this issue, the maintenance men feel, are attempts to force through the terms of productivity deals on the railways with the help of the more amenable National Union of Railwaymen (NUR).

Yesterday's meeting clearly indicated that many other sections of engineering workers also appreciate this threat.

MONEY BACKING

Workers at London Rank Precision Industries factories are to donate an hour's pay to the strike fund.

The strikers are still firmly resisting attempts, stepped up since the intervention of the Department of Employment and Productivity some weeks ago, to turn the dispute into an inter-union wrangle with the NUR.

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Briefly

BRS STEWARDS ACCEPT OFFER: British Road Services shop stewards, representing 22,750 drivers and loaders, yesterday voted—60 per cent to 40 per cent—to accept the management's offer of £1-a-week on the basic rate and another £2 for productivity concessions.

The strikers have been pressing a claim for a £4-a-week rise in the basic rate and, until last Thursday night, had refused to discuss productivity until this demand was met.

The union negotiators, led by the T&GWU, backed down on this and worked out the joint basic rate-productivity formula.

An immediate return to work is not certain as some London stewards walked out of the meeting before the vote was taken and many stewards were dissatisfied with the size of the offer and the strings attached.

GUARDS WIN BONUS CLAIM: Under an agreement reached by the British Rail Board and the National Union of Railwaymen, guards will now receive overtime paid on their mileage bonus.

Southern Region guards threatened a series of one-day stoppages two months ago to back their claim.

GLC RENTS APPEAL: The legality of the GLC rent increases is to be challenged in a test appeal by a council tenant to be heard in the Court of Appeal in the middle of January, next year.

Last month Judge Moylan granted eviction orders against three GLC tenants—three of several thousands—who have been refusing to pay the rent increases imposed over a year ago.

About 230,000 GLC tenants, all facing further rent increases in 1970, will be affected by the decision.

FORD STRIKE ENDS: Production at Ford's Halewood (Liverpool) transmission plant resumed yesterday when 50 grinders and cutters ended their unofficial strike.

The strike began on Thursday over a grading claim on which talks are now to continue.

PARIS PEACE TALKS: US Secretary of State William Rogers has said that there are no plans to name an immediate successor to Henry Cabot Lodge, who recently resigned as chief US negotiator at the Vietnam peace talks in Paris.

'Barring a breakthrough in Paris', US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird announced that the US would stress the shifting of the military burden to the forces of the Saigon government.

This indicates fading hopes in the talks by the Nixon administration.

A National Liberation Front spokesman has proposed that if the US agrees to an unconditional withdrawal from Vietnam over a period of six months, there could then be discussions of 'guarantees for safety during the withdrawal'.

GREET WORKERS PRESS



at public meetings

See the film of the first issue being prepared and printed and the film 'Young Socialists, 1969'

LIVERPOOL

Sunday, December 14, 7.30 p.m.
Shaftesbury Hotel, Mount Pleasant

SHEFFIELD

Sunday December 21, 7.30 p.m.
Industries Exhibition Centre
Carver Street (behind City Hall)

Speakers
MIKE BANDA (Editor of Workers Press)
SHEILA TORRANCE (National Secretary of the Young Socialists)

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETING
Czechoslovakia, persecution of Soviet intellectuals and the Communist Party Congress
Monday Dec. 15, 8p.m.

HOLBORN ASSEMBLY HALL
John's Mews off Northington Street
(nearest tube Chancery Lane)
Speaker: G. Healy (national secretary, Socialist Labour League)
Chairman: M. Banda (Editor, Workers Press)

STOP WILSON'S WASHINGTON VISIT!

FOR THE DEFEAT OF US IMPERIALISM IN VIETNAM!

DEMONSTRATION SUNDAY JAN. 11

ASSEMBLE: Speakers' Corner (Marble Arch), 2 P.M.

MARCH: via Oxford Street, Regent Street, Trafalgar Square past Downing Street.

MEETING: Lyceum Ballroom, near Aldwych, 4 P.M.

Atspsces Young Socialists

Lowest-paid

Workers from the three Centrax light engineering factories in Exeter, Newton Abbot and Heathfield are among the lowest-paid in Britain—some workers earn as little as £9 10s. for 40 hours! Operators take home a basic wage of £12 with little more than 30s. bonus.

The strike committee are claiming an immediate increase right across the board to bring them into line with Bristol—an increase which would mean an extra 4s. an hour.

The management in turn have offered a miserable productivity agreement which received workers' contempt when they burned it outside their strike headquarters recently.

Senior steward Hughie Gallagher told the Workers Press: 'The management have attempted to split the solidarity of the strike by sending letters to every worker individually.'

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THE AUTHORS of 'Class and Colour in South Africa, 1850-1950' were both leading members of the Communist Party of South Africa before it was banned by the 1950 Suppression of Communism Act.

Mr H. J. Simons lectured in African law and government at Cape Town University up to 1964 when he was expelled by the government from the University.

Mrs R. E. Simons (Ray Alexander) was a leading trade unionist until banned in 1953 and was 'elected', as a European, to be a 'Native Representative' in 1954, on the basis of the anti-African Native Representation Act of 1936.

A law of parliament stopped her from taking her seat in the all-white parliament.

They have written a book of 700 pages filled with much useful, interesting and important material.

It is the most comprehensive account to date of the history of the South African Communist Party, for this, essentially, is what the book is mainly about.

Despite the views and, possibly, the intent, of the writers, this book is the most revealing self-indictment to date of the so-called Communist Party of South Africa, a Party which, for a long time has had, and at the moment has particularly close ties with the Communist Party of Great Britain.

The British liberal theory

THE opening page begins with a typical idea, long fostered by the liberal apologists of British imperialism, namely that apartheid and all its evils are a recent creation of the Boers and not, therefore, as it was, the creation, mainly, of British imperialism, for whom the Boers act merely as exposed agents, hiding the role of their real masters.

The authors say '20 years of unbroken rule by Afrikaner nationalism have all but destroyed the hope of a peaceful revolution' (p. 7) as if this was ever a possibility in a fascist 'slave colony' like South Africa.

They say that South Africa 'has been turned into a police state under the control of a white oligarchy which uses fascist techniques' (p. 8) as if

A REVIEW OF 'CLASS AND COLOUR IN SOUTH AFRICA' IN THREE PARTS

BY N. MAKANDA

it was not a police state under the pro-British segregationist, Smuts, or the British conquistador, Cecil Rhodes.

This has long been proved by books like '300 Years, a History of South Africa' by Mnguni (Cape Town, 1952). This was the first anti-apartheid history written from the viewpoint of the oppressed.

The authors choose not even to mention it, presumably because it came from the Non-European Unity Movement which opposed the segregationist policy of the CPSA (Communist Party of South Africa) with respect to 'native representation', Popular Fronts with the anti-Boer Liberals and in working the Industrial Conciliation Act in the unions which the CPSA thereby helped to divide along racial lines.

Unlike certain other CPSA writers, however, the Simons did not plagiarize from '300 Years', which has been used, among others, by the Africa Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR as a source-book.

Nevertheless, this 'oversight' is not in keeping with the objectivity in many parts of 'Class and Colour'.

The influence of British liberal historians appears in the first section of the book dealing with the 19th century.

It repeats the liberal theory that the 1836 Boer Trek was caused mainly by the British 'abolition' of slavery in 1834 (p. 17), whereas '300 Years' and another Unity Movement history, 'The Role of the Missionaries' (Cape Town, 1953) showed clearly that the Boers trekked because they failed on their own to conquer and dispossess the Xhosa in the Eastern Cape, a task that was later, as the authors themselves show, albeit very inadequately, undertaken and completely not by the Boers, but by the British.

Dealing with the conquest of the Zulu of Natal, the authors refer to this as a struggle 'between Afrikaners and Zulu' (p. 18), whereas the British had already entered the Natal

field by that time (1837-1842).

They also say that the Boers trekked from Natal because Napier, the British Governor at the Cape, 'decreed strict equality before the law of all persons in Natal' (p. 18) when proclaiming Natal a British colony.

This is false—the Napier proclamation gave the Africans (Zulu) no rights at all and led to the strictest land and franchise laws, so strict that no African had the vote, let alone the right to stand for 'parliament', in Natal.

This theory gives the impression that the trek was due to the Boers' hatred of British liberalism, whereas the 19th century British conquest and occupation of the Cape and Natal is one of the bloodiest chapters in the history of British colonial expansion.

The Simons say 'Cape liberalism stood for racial tolerance' (p. 20).

They speak of the British immigrants as merely absorbing 'the racial prejudices of the older white inhabitants' (p. 20), whereas the British immigrants were one of the main sources of racial prejudice and discrimination.

Again, this implicitly pro-British and ostensibly anti-Boer theory is an old one in the British liberal histories of South Africa.

Its absorption by the Simons is one of the intellectual by-products of the Popular Frontist collaboration of the CPSA itself with the liberals spawned by British imperialism.

The section on 19th century liberalism is, not accidentally, one of the weakest in the book.

At the same time, it fails almost totally to deal with the large-scale wars of dispossession and the epic resistance of the Africans who were dispossessed in a series of wars paralleled only by the conquest of India by Britain.

Earlier histories like '300 Years' thoroughly exploded the liberal-created myth of 'Cape liberalism' and it is a pity, to say the least, that the

Simons were out of step with this elementary step forward in the rewriting of South African history.

Cecil Rhodes

EVEN Cecil Rhodes, a major architect of modern apartheid, comes off rather lightly, for the authors blame the Afrikaner Bond of 1879 for increased racial practices rather than treating them as part of the Rhodes-spun British web of laws and practices from the time of the Kimberley diamond mines and, later, the Rand gold mines.

Both of these were opened up by British capital which, together with labour aristocrats mainly from Britain, created most of the network of labour concentration camps known as compounds, the industrial colour bar and the 'bantustan'-type reserves (rural reservoirs of cheap labour).

It was in this period of the mining revolution that the basic colour-bar structure of South Africa was elaborated, economically and politically.

Yet the authors pay little or no attention at all to the work of Rhodes in his 1894 Glen Grey Act, which created what the Boers now call the 'bantustans', nor to the equally important pioneering segregationist work of Theophilus Shepstone in setting up the first significant reserves (in Natal) and in using the conquered chiefs as media of 'indirect rule'.

Would it be unfair to attribute this omission to hindsight, since the CPSA was later to work much of the political machinery set up by Rhodes and Shepstone?

In the sections on the diamond and gold mines, the Simons make a study of the British workers who came to South Africa in the final quarter of the 19th century.

'Some were staunch trade unionists and ardent socialists', they write. 'White working men set in authority over African peasants, despised them and also feared them as potential competitors' (p. 32).

Later, they often use the term 'socialist' and also 'class-conscious' (p. 56) for anti-African, racist workers, as though a socialist could be a racist or a racist a socialist.

Although they argue against their own terminology, it remains strange (yet perhaps not so strange) for Jack Simons, anyway, for he may remember a leading member of the CPSA saying in the Cape Town Railway Institute in 1940, when the CPSA was 'anti-war' and flirting with the Nationalist Party, that 'if you scratch under the skin of an Afrikaner

nationalist (racialist) you'll find a socialist'.

Or has he forgotten?

The authors' treatment of the role of the missionaries, who have long been understood in the liberatory movement to have been prime agents in the conquest, dispossession and subsequent subjugation of the Africans, and prime movers of educational segregation, is pathetic, to say the least.

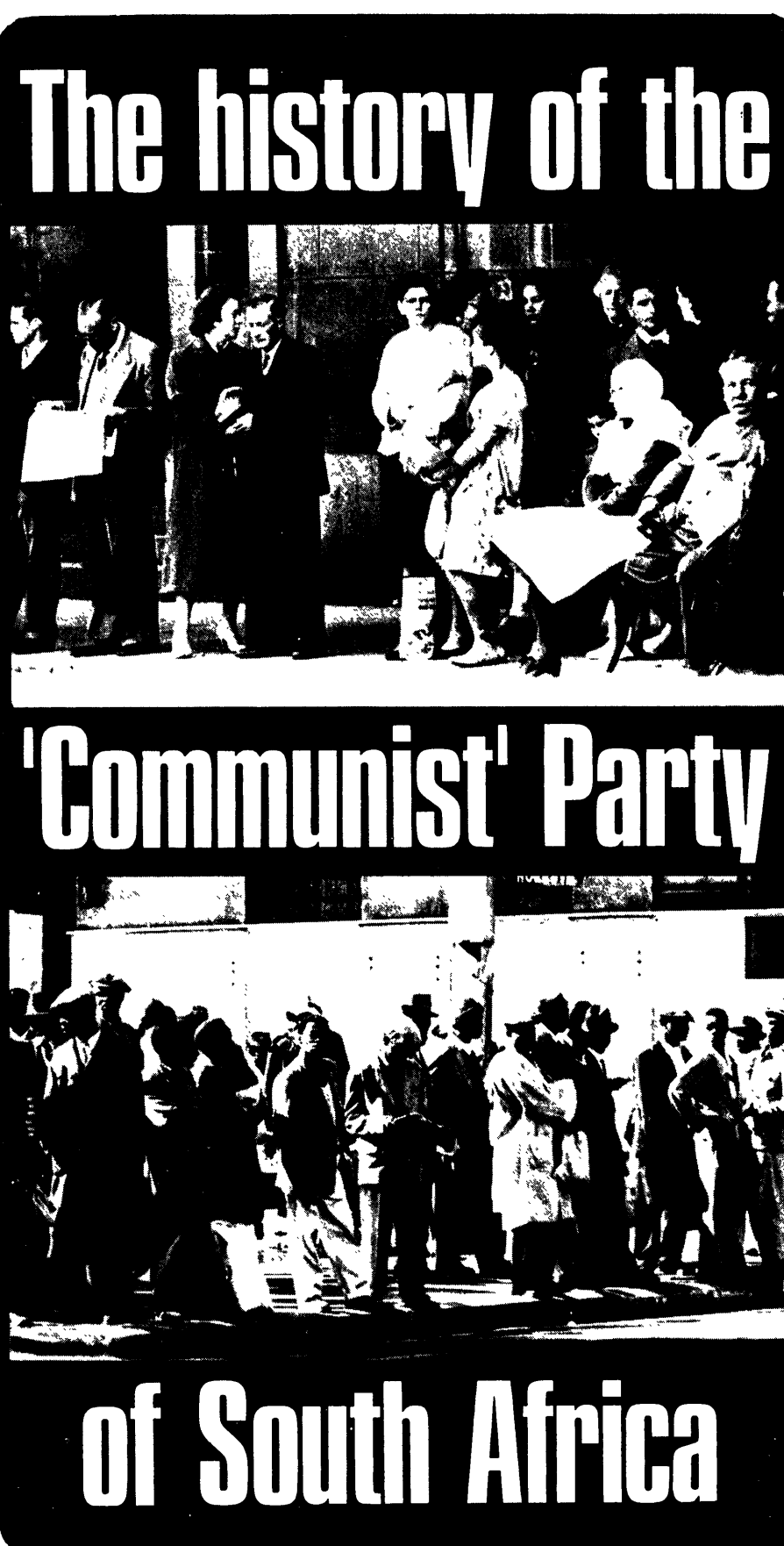
But then the real analysis of the missionaries has come from those who stood for non-collaboration and not from those who repeatedly collaborated politically with them.

They still collaborate in the Anti-Apartheid Committee in London, with the Anglican Church, one of the main and one of the oldest institutions of racial discrimination, both in church and school, in South Africa.

It is thus perhaps not surprising that the Simons were unable to reveal missionaries like John Philip as pioneers of segregation, rather than 'a bearer of British culture as well as a teacher of the gospel' (p. 47).

White labour

ONE of the most valuable sections of the book is made



up of the chapters dealing with 'White Labour'.

The Simons do not hide the role of founder-members of the CPSA who were also, at various times, leaders of the white workers.

Among these was W. H. ('Bill') Andrews—leader, before the first war, of the engineers' union.

Giving evidence to the Mining Commission in 1908, Andrews declared that 'the coloured races, if unchecked, would rise to the top and endanger the state itself' (p. 88).

He came out strongly for an industrial colour bar against non-white workers.

Andrews and other 'socialists' 'certainly excluded the African from their vision of the ideal commonwealth' (p. 59).

Andrews and some of those who thought like him became founder members of the CPSA soon after the Russian Revolution.

Even in the time of Lenin and Trotsky and long before the Stalin regime the CPSA was born with the birthmark of racialism.

And this came, at the time, from the racialists emanating from social democracy, in particular from the British Labour Party.

The South African CP owed its first congenial defect to the British Labour Party and the chauvinists in the British trade union movement of the time.

At the same time, the South African Labour Party, an offshoot of the British Labour Party, took a leading role in the all-white parliament in introducing colour-bar laws for factories and mines.

The 1910 Act of Union, the basic constitution of apartheid to this day, was passed in the British Houses of Parliament without dissent.

The fundamental colour bar of South Africa was created by the British parliament, with the support of the Labour Party.

Andrews and other Labour Party leaders in South Africa wanted the Act amended, with a 'separate "Native and Coloured Assembly" having only advisory power, to block the extension of the Cape's "coloured franchise", and confine the vote to adult whites, subject to retention of their rights by existing coloured voters in the Cape' (p. 109).

No non-European was ever to be allowed to sit in parliament.

This was the stand of the South African Labour Party, and, in principle and in their voting, of the British Labour Party.

And it was the stand, too, of founder members of the CPSA.

Another founder member of the CPSA, S. P. Bunting, was a Labour Party member of the

League (ISL), a forerunner of the CPSA.

Their anti-war stand had nothing in common with the internationalism of Luxemburg, Liebknecht, Lenin, Trotsky and others who fought the war as an imperialist one, but the Simons fail to draw this conclusion.

During the war Bunting considered the white workers more objectively and decided that they 'had been corrupted by racialism. "Slaves to a higher oligarchy, the white workers of South Africa themselves in turn batten on a lower slave class"' (p. 189), he wrote in 1916 in 'International'.

His views were not shared by Andrews and many others who, with him, set up the CPSA after the October Revolution.

Nor did he hold to his clear formulation of 1916 consistently.

Nor did 'International', which, in March 1916 'blamed capitalism for breaking down the "ethnological tendency" to a "natural social apartness of white and black"' (p. 193).

The idea was that after a 'revolution' there would be 'apartness'. This is, literally, 'apartheid', the official creed of the government of today in South Africa.

The 'anti-war' 'International' opposed mixed marriages editorially (p. 194).

When it opposed the African Peoples' Organization and the African National Congress as 'petty-bourgeois' and 'nationalist' it did so not from the point of view of anti-imperialist internationalism, but from the viewpoint of the corrupted white Labour aristocracy, the social basis of social democracy.

The Russian Revolution

IN 1917 Andrews came out for separate 'parallel' unions for coloured and African workers.

And even in the midst of the Russian Revolution, which Andrews, Bunting, Jones and other ISL leaders hailed, ISL candidates were standing for all-white elections on the basis of the disfranchisement Act of Union of 1910.

At the same times they engaged in 'parallel' activity among coloured, Indian and African urban workers.

And 'Andrews continued to be a source of strength among white workers' (p. 210).

For some time after its support of the Russian Revolution the ISL 'had no coloured or African members' (p. 210), and the ISL continued to reject the struggle against colour discrimination as the central transitional struggle in South Africa.

They used the question of the 'class struggle' to avoid and evade the national-liberatory struggle, like certain early white 'socialists' in America during the anti-slavery struggle, which Marx wholeheartedly supported.

In practice their 'socialism' remained racialism, its opposite.

The ISL continued to regard the white workers as 'advanced' and as the 'vanguard of revolution' (p. 211).

So as not to antagonize the white workers, ISL statements 'condemned the use of violence and even strikes as instruments of social change' (p. 211).



The Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA) covered up for British imperialism when it claimed 'apartheid' was the recent creation of the Boers, while, in reality, the Boers were merely acting as servants to British imperialism. Above: General Smuts (centre) surrounded by Boer commandos in 1902.

By our industrial staff
WORKERS at Imperial Chemical Industries' plants up and down the country are rapidly coming to realize the grim reality behind the fine talk as the management gets down to the job of implementing its new weekly staff agreement (WSA).

The agreement, signed in July by representatives of nine unions (including Hugh Scanlon of the AEF, Leslie Cannon of the Electrical Trades Union, Dan McGarvey of the Boilermakers, and J. Miller of Transport and General Workers' Union) gives sweeping powers to the ICI management to implement flexibility, job evaluation, Measured-Day Work-type payments systems and reductions in the workforce.

Couched in the carefully bland language beloved of work-study experts and pub-

I.C.I. DEAL: GRIM REALITY BEHIND FINE TALK

lished as a series of glossy pamphlets by the company, the agreement spells out the massive concessions made by the union leaders in return for . . . a 6.8 per cent wage raise.

The present company-wide agreement grew out of an earlier deal which allowed ICI to commence 'trials of proposals on manpower utilization and payment structure'.

This scheme, known as MUPS, was introduced for a trial period in various key plants to sound out the ground for the overall introduction of productivity proposals.

Though the MUPS deal met with resistance in some of the company's plants, ICI decided it was safe to go ahead with the next stage.

The WSA sets out what the next stage involves. The aim of the agreement, the preamble states, is 'to develop and obtain maximum efficiency in the company's operations by more effective use of people, plant and material . . . employing each person to the full extent of his time and capabilities and by

eliminating unnecessary and wasteful practices'.

In return for fixed annual salaries (the rates to be determined by job-evaluation), together with overtime payments (at overtime rates fixed slightly above the normal hourly rate) and certain special payments, the unions have conceded 'some' flexibility between craft employees and between craft and non-craft employees.

Since decisions as to the degree of flexibility are to be taken locally, this in practice gives the management a free hand to impose as much flexibility as they can.

In line with government policy—and perhaps in preparation for introducing 'disciplinary' agreements later—union membership is to be made compulsory.

The agreement states that there 'will be no enforced redundancy at any location as a direct result of this Agreement and any necessary reductions in numbers of people will be achieved by normal turnover or other locally agreed means'. (Our emphasis.)

In other words, the onus of preventing redundancies

now falls entirely on the local union officials and shop stewards.

Already workers at the Pontypool ICI factory fear the workforce may be cut by more than 20 per cent. Similar fears have been expressed by workers at the Huddersfield plant.

The method to be used in the plants to determine workers' annual 'salaries' under the new scheme fall into the familiar pseudo-scientific work-study pattern.

Union leaders and management agree 'that the results of work-measurement and method-study techniques appropriate for establishing and maintaining correct manning levels at standard performance (in work-study terms) . . . need to be openly used and applied in each situation'.

Jobs will be graded by 'a specially selected team of Company or inter-Divisional assessors' trained in the assessment procedure in the course of the MUPS trials.

In the usual manner of such assessments, 'points' are allocated on a scale under four headings: mental; personality; physical; and skills and knowledge requirements. Typical of



Cecil Rhodes: Major architect of apartheid.



Early members of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1919 organized massive strikes of African workers and launched the first anti-pass campaigns.

The ISL had to 'avoid a blood bath by preaching industrial unionism... This would ensure peaceful change without "such evils as the white workers justifiably fear"' (p.211), wrote the 'International' in December, 1918.

What this had in common with support for the Russian Revolution is more than difficult to imagine.

1922 anti-African strike

THE INDUSTRIAL Socialist League in Cape Town, similar to the International Socialist League in Johannesburg, published the 'Bolshevik' before the two led to the founding of the CPSA.

Before the latter was formed, the African and Coloured workers had begun to form militant, anti-colour bar unions and the African National Congress (ANC) had launched an anti-pass campaign, while African and Coloured workers came out in massive strikes.

The early 'communists' largely turned their backs on these historic developments, which were greatly inspired by the Russian Revolution.

When white workers scabbed on African strikes in 1919, Bunting condemned them, but Jones and Andrews 'defended the white workers' (p.223).

When the ISL celebrated May Day in 1919, Andrews regretted the absence of Africans and Coloured' (p. 224).

The ISL brochure carried pictures of Lenin, Trotsky, Liebknecht and Luxemburg, but few of their real ideas.

The first major non-European trade union, the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union (ICU) was formed almost entirely independently of the ISL's of Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Nor did they have a significant hand in the strike of 70,000 African miners in February, 1920.

But when the white workers came out in a strike against the employment of African miners in skilled jobs, the early 'communists' came out in full force, as if it was the start of the long-heralded 'revolution'.

Nominally the CPSA was proposed in September 1920 and in January 1921 accepted the Communist International's 21 conditions of membership, with a reservation on clause 3, (on illegal work) so as to enable the Party to take part in (all-white) parliamentary elections (p.261).

The CPSA itself was set up in Cape Town in July 1921, with Bunting as treasurer, and Andrews as secretary-editor.

'All the delegates and members of the executive were whites' (p.261).

'The party's first manifesto appealed mainly to the white working man' (p.261).

The first test of the CPSA came soon afterwards, with the white miners' strike in favour of the mining colour bar and against the African miners, in 1922.

In November 1921 the 'International', organ of the CPSA, said that the white miners were 'perfectly justified in fighting to keep up the numbers and pay of holders of blasting certificates' (p.276). (Colour bar certificates reserved for whites only under the Mines and Works Act of Smuts.)

The Simons comment: 'This unqualified approval of the oldest and most significant colour bar on the mines revealed the decision of the communists to back the white workers against the Chamber in all circumstances' (p.276).

The Chamber of mines favoured 'letting cheap African labour do a restricted number of jobs previously reserved for whites. The CPSA did not think of supporting the African miners against the Chamber's multifarious colour bars. The Trades Hall in Johannesburg was the headquarters of the CPSA and also became the HQ of the 'militants' leading the white workers. Bunting called on African workers to support the white workers and said that 'colour bars were "of course unfair", but they served the interests of all workers "to the extent" that they helped keep up higher wages and the number of those drawing on them.

The abolition of the colour bar would benefit only a small handful of Africans', he said adding, 'security for the white man, on the other hand, lay not in retaining the colour bar but in raising the wages of Africans' (p. 281).

In January 1922 the CPSA offered its services to the strike committee.

The strikers came out with the slogan 'For a white South Africa'.

The Forsburg commando (anti-African vigilantes) hoisted a Red Flag and carried a banner 'Workers of the world, fight and unite for a white South Africa' (p.285).

The CPSA supported the slogan 'critically' (p.285).

The CPSA supported this policy of racialism with their Popular Front of 1922-1923 and later. It revealed, thereby, the depth of the influence on it of 'white South Africa' and British social democracy.

In this period the CPSA, while backing white Labour and white nationalism, helped to confuse the members of the great African-Coloured Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union (ICU).

The ICU members had hailed the Russian Communist Revolution, yet here, in South Africa, was a Communist Party which was openly on the side of the 'white' oppressor his parties, and, thereby, against the non-European oppressed and workers.

Moreover, the 'International', organ of the CPSA, attacked the ICU for being against the industrial colour bar as a defence of wage-rates, saying that 'The immediate, partial demand for the retention of colour bars was consistent with the movement's long-range aims' (p.290).

After Smuts put down the strike with the use of bombers, and gave the white workers a place in the sun, recognising them as allies in the struggle for a 'white South Africa'.

Seventy-eight strikers were killed and 30 Africans were killed by strikers themselves.

After the end of the 'strike', Bunting wrote a pamphlet, 'Red Flag', which continued to defend the colour bar on the mines.

In its first major practical test, in 1922, the CPSA had stood on the side of apartheid and against the African workers, no matter what excuses it made for its betrayal.

This emerges fairly clearly from Chapter 13 of the Simons' work.



In 1960, African workers expressed their hatred for the apartheid laws of the capitalist class by launching a nationwide pass-burning movement.

Popular Front with Nationalists

THE WHITE miners' strike of 1922 was followed by the Labour-Nationalist Coalition, which replaced the Smuts government.

Major concessions were made in order to bring the white workers into the 'United White Front' against the non-European, and new apartheid laws of labour, land and the compounds and reserves (Bantustans) were passed by the Labour Party-Nationalist regime.

Under cover of the Communist International's directive to form 'proletarian united fronts', the Communist Party formed the opposite, a Popular Front, not with the parties of the oppressed, but with two of the parties of the Herren-volk oppressors, namely, the Labour Party, representing the colour-bar white workers, and the Nationalist Party, representing the white farmers and small businessmen.

'Andrews, Shaw and Dunbar', write the Simons, 'appeared on platforms with Labour and Nationalist party leaders' (p.302).

The 'International' of June and July 1922 regarded this as a step towards a 'peoples' government'. Essentially it was no different from the present Vorster apartheid government of South Africa.

Even reformist leaders of the coloured people, like Dr Abdurahman, write, after Smuts had bombed and killed African peasants at Bondelzwart, South West Africa, and at Bulhoek, Eastern Cape, that the Nationalists would 'treat the Africans in no different manner.

Indeed, the 1922 strike, supported by the CPSA, increased the flood of racialism which, in turn, guided and was directed by the ruling Nationalist and Labour Parties, as Smuts' party had done before.

The CPSA supported this policy of racialism with their Popular Front of 1922-1923 and later. It revealed, thereby, the depth of the influence on it of 'white South Africa' and British social democracy.

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bar (p. 307. 'International', May 18, 1923).

Further, at its April 1923 Congress, the CPSA voted by a two to one majority to apply for affiliation to the anti-African Labour Party (p.309).

The pro-Nationalist line of the CPSA was taken up by a section of the ICU leadership under Klement Kadalie (who in turn was guided by British Labour and trade union and also Liberal advisors).

The Nationalist Party, using the Popular Front, gave money and printed an election issue of 'Workers Herald', the ICU paper.

Kadalie's short-lived faith in 'his people's most bitter enemies' (p.319) was increased by the collaboration of the Communist Party itself with these enemies of the African people.

This collaboration was seen as a result of a directive from Moscow, which had, in fact (this was before the triumph of Stalin) advocated the opposite policy.

There was a revolt of E. Roux and others against the policy of collaboration with the Labour Party and Nationalists, and the YCL was formed, with one of its aims to bring Africans into the Party.

E. S. ('Solly') Sachs, in the ICL since 1917, a leading Party member, and a trade union leader of a segregated all-white union, with a separate branch for coloured members, was among those who opposed a change in policy.

He defended separate organisations for the Africans. Roux's group won the day but in 1924 were defeated when Andrews and others won a motion at the Party Congress of December 1924 to again apply to join the Labour Party.

Although at its January 1929 conference the Party eventually adopted 'the principle of complete equality of races' and called for a 'Workers' and Peasants' Republic' independent of Britain, (p. 352), this was little more than groups in the coloured and African unions and even 'bourgeois organizations' had previously spoken about and even advocated.

Nor did it put an end to the CPSA's colour bar policies.

CPSU against African union

THE ICU had an estimated African membership of 120,000 by 1927. Although estimates varied, it was recognized as the biggest industrial union of African workers which has ever existed in South Africa.

After the attempt of Hertzog to corrupt it, it was heavily persecuted.

Kadalie's own nationalism, sharpened by the anti-African

policies of the CPSA, led him closer to the main ideological influence on the CPSA in this period: British social democracy.

He moved into the maws of the ILO at Geneva and elsewhere.

He was 'taken in hand' by Fenner Brockway and the British ILP.

The Amsterdam (Second) International accepted ICU membership in January 1927.

The International Federation of Trade Unions, run by social democracy, welcomed him in Paris. Grimshaw and Creech-Jones, of the Labour Party's 'colonial' (imperialist) section, 'revised' the ICU constitution.

Despite this the British TUC would not accept Kadalie as a fraternal delegate to its annual conference 'for fear of offending white trade unionists in South Africa' (p.362).

In the face of wage and anti-segregation strikes of farm workers in Natal, of Natal coal miners in May 1927, of railway workers, of 30,000 diamond workers in the 1928 and of other African workers, the BICU leadership adopted more and more a British Labour Party and Fabian reformist line.

Kadalie admitted, in December 1927, that his new 'constitution' was 'based on the model of the best modern trade unions in England' (p.365), and Champion, one of his rivals, said: 'Our Kadalie was full of English ideas'.

Among his advisers were British 'socialists' and 'liberals', like Mrs Ballinger (later a 'Native Representative') and Miss Winifred Holtby.

Finally, after Lord Oliver, Labour peer, had wished to see 'the ICU relieved of its communist propagandists' (p.360), the British ILP and Walter Citrine sent William Ballinger of the Motherwell Trades Council to 'organize' the ICU.

There is a saying in South Africa that Ballinger did 'organize' the ICU—out of existence, with the policy of British social-democratic reformism, paternalism and collaboration with apartheid.

'Ballinger became the ICU secretary, president and national council all in one' (p.375).

By the end of the 1920s British social democracy had helped to reduce South Africa's biggest and most militant African trade union to a shambles and a memory.

The CPSA's criticism of the reformism of the ICU did not put it in practice to the left of the British Labour Party. (The beginning of being 'left' in South Africa was and is to be against colour discrimination and other forms of imperialism.)

For when the ICU applied to join the TUC in South Africa in December 1927, Ben Weinbren, an executive member of the TUC and a leading 'communist', said:

'We were all scared that he would swamp us, so we rejected the application' (p. 369) ('Forward', January 1, 1944).

Andrews, of the CPSA, was among the TUC members who examined the ICU application in a memo to the TUC of December 28, 1927.

The memo was approved by 58 to two by the TUC's segregationist leadership.

Apartheid white labour approved the memo of a leading CPSA member because it was basically in line with their own anti-African policy. Moreover, Andrews himself 'drafted the memorandum' (p.369).

Andrews was then secretary-editor of the CP.

'When the test came', wrote the Simons, 'he made his stand on the issue of white labour solidarity' (p.370).

Once again the CPSA had betrayed the African proletariat of South Africa.

tv column

SOFTLY, SOFTLY

By Frank Cartwright

WHILST broadcasting experiences its greatest crisis, those who own or control it are trying every move open to preserve their interests and power and to ensure that radio and television continue to serve the class masters.

One astonishing feature of the struggles at the BBC is the rapidity with which both workers and management, quiet for so long, are now passing through the phases of conflict.

From protest to strikes, to government inquiry—all in a few months. The weapons employed by the bourgeoisie vary very little, but they never hesitate to use them—however obvious.

In the November 11 edition of the BBC house magazine, 'Ariel', which is sent to every worker in the Corporation, a message from the Director-General is prominently featured at the front.

Headed 'Pay dispute with the ABS', it goes like this: 'By the time this issue of "Ariel" appears, the Court of Inquiry set up by Mrs Barbara Castle to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the recent dispute with ABS will have completed its hearing.

'Its report should be out in a few days. Industrial action of the kind that took place during October is bound to leave an aftermath of problems—for the ABS as well as for the BBC.

'But I hope that on both sides we can concentrate on building for the future rather than exchanging recriminations. We need the best possible staff representative machinery in the BBC.

'It will help to achieve this if we can all let bygones be bygones.'

Thames Television, made his carefully-prepared pitch.

Rather than argue crudely for more profit, or 'a fair return on capital invested in this most important industry', as it's called, Lord Shawcross took the line that programmes are bound to suffer unless the companies can retain more of their income.

He was at pains to point out that commercial television is no longer a goldmine and clearly indicated a coming deterioration in output, 'unless the government does take prompt action'.

The crisis is real enough. Some of the 15 franchise holders may be going into the red after only the second year of the current contracts.

The Independent Television Authority has estimated that during the coming year the programme companies will receive £100 million income from advertising. Costs are put at £60 to £62 million, leaving £36 to £38 million surplus.

The government levy plus corporation and income taxes, will take nearly £35 millions.

That leaves, according to the estimate, between £3 and £5 million to be shared amongst the contractors. This is a shortage of profits.

And commercial television, need we add, is run purely and simply for profit. Consequently, in Scotland, Grampian has cut its contractual obligations to provide local interest programmes by 20 per cent.

Elsewhere, instructions to producers to cut costs are now normal.

The big five, Thames, Granada, ATV, London Weekend and Yorkshire, producing 60 per cent of all network programmes, are considering forming a joint production consortium. The move towards mergers on this scale is always a sign of crisis.

Smaller companies like Scottish TV and Grampian are planning a sales link, whilst Westward and Channel TV have already reached agreement in this way.

Yorkshire and Anglia are said to be discussing ways to share facilities and thus some money.

Meanwhile, Forte's and British Lion (Britain's third largest film production and distribution company) are buying substantial stakes in Thames Television.

All round there is a flurry of defensive activity. One point which no doubt has a bearing on these activities; on June 16 Mr Stonehouse made a firm promise that the levy will be reviewed if profits for the industry fall to the estimated £5 million.

Clearly, the companies are going to hold him and the government to that promise. Last week's statement about the new committee of inquiry makes that clear.

In 1976 the present franchises run out and the BBC's charter comes up for renewal. By then more stop-gap measures will have been tried and also found wanting.

No longer without solution is possible without socialist ownership and control.

Current programme output makes that quite clear. An increasing desperation in the schedules is showing through.

The 'TV Times' makes interesting reading. A 'Coronation Street' birthday pull-out souvenir, a full-page picture of Eamon Andrews who returns tomorrow, would you believe it, with 'This Is Your Life'.

The only interesting shows mentioned are the last of the Kestrel plays for London Weekend Television.

The BBC is in no better state. There the situation shows in a different way. Last week brought a perfect example of it.

The programme 'Softly, Softly—Task Force', like all current police series, is dedicated these days to creating the new image of the law as efficient, productive, relentless and always ready for change.

Last Thursday's episode was no exception in its emphasis on the mobility, cleverness and upstanding natures of the coppers and detectives concerned.

The programme ended with a shot of Stratford Johns looking delighted at the way his force had conducted themselves.

The news followed... New Scotland Yard announced that four detectives under investigation in the current allegations of corruption had been suspended. One of them is from the new regional crime squad on which 'Task Force' is modelled!



Frank Windsor (left) and Stratford Johns as the heads of the police 'task force' in BBC's 'Softly, Softly', a programme aimed at boosting the law's image.

B.B.C.-1

- 10.25-11.55 a.m. Schools. 1.00 p.m. Bob Yn Dri. 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45-1.53 News and Weatherman. 2.00-4.00 Rugby Union: Oxford v. Cambridge. 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Animal Magic. 5.20 Wacky Races and Space Kidettes. 5.50 News and Weather. 6.00 London-Nationwide. 6.45 Z Cars. 7.05 Tomorrow's World. 7.30 Harry Worth. 8.00 Cilla. 8.50 The Main News and Weather. 9.10 Strangers in a Town: Documentary about Wolverhampton. 10.00 Rugby Union: Oxford v. Cambridge. 10.30 24 Hours. 11.05 Viewpoint. 11.30 Weatherman.

All regions as BBC-1 except at the following times:
 Midlands and East Anglia: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Midlands Today. Look East. Nationwide. 10.00-10.30 Farming Club. Forum. 11.32 News Summary-Weather.
 North of England: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Look North. Nationwide. 11.32 News Headlines. Weather.
 Northern Ireland: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Scene Around Six. Weather. Nationwide.

TODAYS TV

- 10.00-10.30 Speak Your Mind. 11.32 News Headlines. Weather. Scotland: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Reporting Scotland. 9.10-10.00 A Song Of Greal and White. 10.00-10.30 Quizburgh. 11.32 News Headlines. Wales: 5.20-5.50 p.m. Teletel. 6.00-6.45 Wales Today. 6.45-7.10 Headw. 7.10-7.30 Z Cars. 8.00-8.25 One Of The Family. 8.25-8.50 Ryan A Ronnie. South and West: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Points West. South Today. Spotlight South-west. Weather. Nationwide. 10.00-10.30 Free For All. Peninsular. Open House. 11.32 News Headlines. Weather.

B.B.C.-2

- 11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School. 1.15-1.45 p.m. Medicine Today. 7.00 Britain's Role In The Seventies. 7.30 Newsroom and Weather. 8.00 Floodlit Rugby League: Wigan v. St. Helens. 8.45 Jazz Scene. 9.10 'Blithe Spirit': film of Noel Coward's play.

- 10.45 Europa. 11.20 News Summary and Weather. 11.25 Line Up.

I.T.V.

- 2.25 p.m. The Pony Club Christmas Rally. 3.25 More Best Sellers. 3.55 Face Of The Earth. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Paulus. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News from ITN. 6.03 Today. 6.05 Branded. 7.00 The Tuesday Film: 'Second Chance' with Robert Mitchum, Jack Palance. 8.30 Cribbins. 9.00 Happy Ever After: 'Party Piece' with Rachel Roberts, Peter Bowler. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 If The Village Dies: Documentary about an Indian village. 11.30 How About You? 12 midnight A Question Of Human Rights.

All independent channels as London ITV except at the following times:
 CHANNEL: 11.00 a.m.-12.10 p.m. Schools. 4.15 Castle Haven. 4.40 Z Cars. 6.00 Channel News and Weather. 6.10 Channel Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Movie: 'My Six Loves'.

- 11.25 Channel Gazette. 11.30 Commentaries et Previsions Meteorologiques. Weather.

- SOUTHERN: 2.25-3.25 p.m. Pony Club Christmas Rally. 4.00 Survival. 6.00 Day By Day. 6.45 The Tuesday Film: 'The Secret Partner' with Stewart Granger, Haya Harareet and Bernard Lee. A man with a murky past is blackmailed. 9.00 Hatfield. 11.30 Southern News. 11.40 Katie Stewart Cooks. 12.05 a.m. Weather. The New Liturgy.

- WESTWARD: 11.00 a.m.-12.10 p.m. Schools. 4.01 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.13 Westward News Headlines. 4.15 Castle Haven. 4.40 The Guy Honeyburn Show. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Movie: 'My Six Loves' with Debbie Reynolds. David Hansen and Cliff Robertson. Romantic comedy. 11.55 Faith For Life. 12.01 a.m. Weather.

- HARLECH: 2.25-3.25 p.m. Pony Club Christmas Rally. 4.46 It's Time For Me. 6.01 Report. 6.20 Batman. 6.36 Crossroads. 7.00 Peyton Place. 7.55 Mr & Mrs. 11.30 Mickey. 12 midnight Weather.

- Harlech (Wales) as above except: 4.24 p.m. It's Time For Me. 4.29-5.55 Crossroads. 6.01 Y Dydd. 6.26 Castle Haven. 6.51-7.00 Report. 10.30-11.15 Dan Sylw. 11.15 Mickey. 11.45 Weatherman.

- ANGLIA: 2.25-3.25 p.m. Pony Club Christmas Rally. 4.10 Castle Haven. 4.35 Anglia Newsroom. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Western Movie: 'Apache' with Burr Lancaster and Jean Peters. 7.00 Star Movie: 'My Six Loves'.

- ATV MIDLANDS: 4.00 p.m. News Headlines. 4.02 Houseparty. 4.15 Your Star Showcase. 4.40 Diane's Magic Theatre. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Western Movie: 'The Hard Man' with Guy Madison, Valerie French, Lorne Green. 11.30 Play With A Purpose. Weather.

- ULSTER: 4.30 p.m. Romper Room. 4.50 Ulster News Headlines. 6.00 UTV Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Midweek Movie: 'Will Any Gentleman' with George Cole. 11.30 Play. 11.45 Weather.

- YORKSHIRE: 3.00 p.m. Play Better Golf. 3.30 All About Riding. 4.11 News Headlines. 4.13 The Tingha and Tucker Club. 4.25 Katie Stewart Cooks. 6.00 Castle Haven. 6.55 'Last Holiday' with Alec Guinness. A man spends his last few weeks at a fashionable seaside hotel. 9.00 Hatfield. 11.30 The Man Who Never Was. 11.45 Late Weather.

- TYNE-TEES: 4.00 p.m. North East Newsroom. 4.11 News Headlines. 4.13 Paulus. 4.25 Mad Movies. 4.53 North East Newsroom. 6.00 Today At Six. 6.30 Where The Jobs Are. 6.55 Castle Haven. 7.00 The Tuesday Films: 'Come On George' with George Formby and George Withers. 11.30 Late News Extra. 11.47 The Season Of Advent.

- SCOTTISH: 4.20 p.m. Scotland Early. 4.30 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland News. 6.30 Raw Deal. 7.05 The Name Of

This Saturday
Young Socialists
GRAND XMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, December 13
CORN EXCHANGE
LEEDS
Doors open 12 noon

ABERDEEN

Labour council tries to break dustmen's strike

SEVENTY Aberdeen dustcart drivers, members of the Scottish Commercial Motormen's Union, are now entering their fourth week on strike. They are determined to win their demand of £3-a-week pay rise without strings.

The Labour-dominated Aberdeen Town Council resolutely refuse to concede their demands.

The effect of their strike has been complete suspension of refuse collection and gritting of the ice-bound roads.

The Council tried to break the strike before the heavy snowfalls by encouraging people to take their own refuse to the municipal dump.

Pressure

With the onset of snow and frost, increasing pressure has been put upon the dustmen, especially through the local press, to return to work. In the so-called 'interests of the community'. So far, however, the militancy of the men has remained unimpaired.

Donald Dewar, local Labour MP and a staunch supporter of Wilson, is reported to have raised the question at government level—that is, of gritting the roads.

LEFT MPs

FROM PAGE ONE

Now they talk about 'dis-association' only in order to get Wilson to 'disown' Brown and say a few sanctimonious phrases about the massacres!

Retain whip

Then—they hope—they can gracefully retire to the backbenches safe in the knowledge that, having bared their consciences to the world and their backsides to the working class, they are certain of retaining the Labour whip!

After this sordid performance it will be business as usual.

Wilson will go to Washington with the blessings of the left and the right (including Gollan and King Street), make an equivocal statement in public like his speech on the European summit and give Nixon all the assurances he wants in private.

These assurances—we can be sure—will concern not the Vietnam war and Britain's 'peace-keeping' role in South-East Asia—but particularly and most important, the savage attacks on public expenditure and domestic credit expansion which are being demanded by the US-dominated IMF.

The Wilson-Nixon talks, we declare, are a foul conspiracy against the British working class and the people of Vietnam.

Wage cuts

We say: Those MPs and their friends, like Gollan, who support Wilson's trip to Washington, under no matter what disguise, are in fact supporting wage-cutting in Britain and repression abroad.

They are, like it or not, helping the Tories to return in 1970.

We remind them that the evil forces who are directing the war in Vietnam will think nothing of intervening with the same lethal weapons in favour of their Tory and right-wing allies in the event of a social revolution in Britain.

If they can accept such a prospect with equanimity they are less than human and worse than traitors.

If they don't—then they should withdraw their worthless resolution and resign.

● Demand of Wilson that he cancels his trip.

● Call on the working class to demonstrate its opposition to Wilson's visit and the Vietnam war.

● Demand that Labour recognize the NLF unconditionally as the only legal government in South Vietnam and give technical and military aid to the NLF.

● Demand the withdrawal of all US and British forces from South-East Asia.

● Repudiate all agreements with US imperialism—economic and military—nationalize the banks and industries under workers' control.

'Morning Star' refuses to report GRANGEMOUTH SET-BACK

THE STRIKE at BP's Grangemouth refinery site, which began in mid-September, has ended.

Described by one striker as the biggest in a long list of sell-outs perpetrated by his union's leaders, the settlement returns only half the site's sacked boiler-makers to their jobs. This was accepted at a mass meeting last Friday by 172 votes to 156.

The voting was conducted by ballot on the insistence of Amalgamated Society of Boiler-makers' officials.

This enabled men who wanted to go out and get other jobs to vote for a settlement, whatever the terms, at Grangemouth.

And after listening to the terms agreed by their officials nobody wanted to work again on the site!

Of the 500 boiler-makers who took strike action in September only 253 have been offered their jobs back (200 out of 300 welders and 53 of the original 137 planters).

The rest, with the agreement of the union's leaders, are 'surplus to requirements'.

'Open' job

The boiler-makers who work on the site will now be expected to accept and abide by the site agreement signed on July 1, 1968.

Under provisions applying only to them, they must accept the special practices introduced during the strike. Boiler-makers' work is now an 'open' job at Grangemouth and can be done by any other trade.

Blame

The great weakness of the strike has been the failure of the dustmen to strike in support of the drivers. The blame for this can be laid squarely at the door of the union leaders of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

At a recent meeting the union leaders insisted on the dustmen accepting an offer below the men's wage demands.

The decision to accept this was imposed upon the dustmen without a vote. There is strong feeling among dustmen that they have been sold out.

This is in line with the union bureaucracy's policy of keeping workers divided on a separate union basis, instead of fighting for inter-union unity essential for victory.

There must be a campaign throughout the Aberdeen labour movement for full support for the dustcart drivers.

Libyan leaders under pressure to oust Britain

NEGOTIATIONS on the removal of British bases began yesterday in Libya between officials of the two governments.

Under the 1953 treaty concluded between the Tories and the recently-deposed King Idris, British imperialism was granted the use of a base at Tobruk and the large airfield at nearby El Adem.

One of the new Libyan regime's main policies which won it popular support was the call for the removal of all foreign military bases.

If it acts on this question now, it is because of the pressure of the Libyan workers and peasants for complete national independence from imperialism.

Shipyard militant sacked after strike

FOUR HUNDRED Aberdeen shipyard workers have returned to work after being on strike for a week against the sacking by John Lewis and Son of a shop steward and apprentice.

But both workers still remain sacked.

The sacking was a clear case of victimization of the steward, John Macconnachie, for his militancy.

He is a member of the National Committee of the AEF.

The return to work was engineered by local union officials, who presented the 17-man strike committee with a formula for a return to work.

This was accepted by the committee and by a mass meeting of the strikers on Friday, November 28, in the Beach Ballroom, all obviously believing the terms meant that the two men would be reinstated.

Still sacked

It was only after the meeting that the officials told the steward and the apprentice that the formula, in saying

of the site agreement, which provides for interchangeability between crafts.

Then came intervention by the Trades Union Congress, which was used by the ASB as a cover for calling off all militant action.

Even TUC officials are believed to have been shocked by the deal's terms.

Sympathy for the boiler-makers, however, is hardly the point.

What is the point is the threat contained in each and every one of these productivity deals.

Such deals, furthermore, are supported by the trade union leaderships, by the Communist Party and directly sponsored by the Labour government.

The silence of the Communist Party and the 'Morning Star'—which on Saturday hailed the 'peace formula'—can only add the rotten stench of Stalinism to the deal forced down the Grangemouth men's throats.

Are Communist Party members in the ASB and Communist Party stewards in Clyde factories supplying the site going to let this pass?

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S.W. march

FROM PAGE ONE

The productivity agreement enclosed is a complete farce and was only strung together since we made our claim.

He added, 'We intend to extend this campaign throughout the South-West with more marches in other areas.'

'We intend to give support to the 15-week-old strike for union recognition of T&GWU fishermen. New! We want to see the wages of the whole South-West raised.'

ATUA meeting

At a 30-strong meeting organized by the ATUA after the demonstration, Bill Hunter, a steward from Lucas-CAV, Liverpool, outlined the issues that faced the strikers.

After congratulating the strikers for organizing such a march, uniting so many sections of workers, he said, 'You must not stop here, but see yourselves as part of a much bigger movement in the working class.'

'The employers, facing international competition, are planning big attacks.'

'The Wilson government has consistently raised in its publications the question of productivity agreements.'

'These agreements are the thin end of the wedge designed to cut down on wages and labour.'

He warned workers to beware of the Scanlons and the Joneses who fight to force such agreements on workers and added 'The decisive question in the unions today is a leadership that will expose these people. This you must face up to.'

The meeting passed a resolution to extend support for the strike to other workers.

Through pickets

At the beginning of October the boiler-makers were battling it out with the police on the picket line.

Officials of the PTU, CEU and AEF instructed their members to pass through the picket lines and do the boiler-makers' work under Clause 6

that they would be 'regarded' as back in employment, did not mean they were back at work and that was still up for negotiation with the employers.

Automation workers to ban overtime

WORKERS at Willesden's Associated Automation factory may ban overtime for two weeks in January to press their claims for a 1s-an-hour increase in pay for all hourly-paid workers and equal bonus pay for women.

A large minority at Friday's mass meeting, however, called for a 24-hour strike rather than an overtime ban.

They felt the ban would have little or no effect.



Leaders of the London tube maintenance engineers' strike committee at yesterday's Central Hall, Westminster, rally which decided to continue their strike against the LTB into its 12th week. Chairman of the strike committee Don Cook is seen on the left of the three tubemen's leaders nearest the camera.

ROME 200 in march against C.P. expulsions

TWO HUNDRED Italian Communist Party members demonstrated outside the offices of the Rome area federation of their Party on Friday night, in protest against the proposed suspension of five supporters of the opposition 'Il Manifesto' group.

Among the demonstrators were ten secretaries of Rome Party sections together with members active in the recent strike struggles in the Rome area.

Opposition has also broken out on a wide scale in Turin, where militant workers in sections of the Fiat plant, particularly in shops 55 and 56, have openly come out against the Stalinist strike strategy of confining action to limited and partial stoppages.

Tension

The main capitalist daily paper in the north, the 'Corriere della Sera' rejoiced in its issue of last Saturday

Police strikers face trial

THE public prosecutors of Florence and Catania (Sicily) are bringing charges against all policemen in their districts who took part in the Italian general strike of November 19.

The Tuscan policemen are accused of 'collective abandonment of public offices, posts and works', offences which are punishable by up to two years imprisonment.

Kissed corpse

This action against the striking policemen contrasts with the hero's funeral given to the policeman killed in a clash with Milan strikers on the same day.

His funeral was attended not only by hundreds of fascists but also by the Italian prime minister who publicly kissed his corpse.

The sheer power and size of the current strike wave in Italy has had its impact on the rank and file in the police force, some of whom are drawn towards solidarity actions with the working class, others to fascism.

The charges brought against the former group prove where the sympathies of the police chiefs and the law courts lie.

Wildlife killed by chemicals?

SCIENTISTS investigating the deaths of seals, sea birds and fish have begun research on chemicals dumped in the Irish sea.

One under close scrutiny is PCB, a synthetic lubricant used in the paint and plastics industry.

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Court threatens to extradite Robert Williams

DECEMBER 15 will be Robert F. Williams' second hearing in the Randolph County Court, Detroit, Michigan.

The militant black leader is fighting attempts to extradite him from Michigan to the State of North Carolina, where he faces trial on a trumped-up kidnapping charge.

Michigan's right-wing governor Milliken has already signed extradition papers. All that stands between Williams and extradition is a temporary restraining order which prevents the extradition being carried out.

The history of Williams' case goes back to 1955, when he returned from military service in the Marine Corps to his home town of Monroe, North Carolina.

Set in the centre of Union County, Monroe is stronghold of the racist Ku Klux Klan.

The racist terror against Monroe County's black inhabitants was at that time brought sharply into focus by two incidents which caused a widespread outcry.

MILITIA

In the first, a black mother of five, who worked as a maid in an hotel, was kicked down on a flight of steps by a white guest.

During this period she did not bother to attend for trial—of course, he was not penalized for this.

In the second case, a black woman eight months pregnant was assaulted by a white man who abducted her from her house, beat her up and attempted to rape her.

The white man was freed because he was 'just drinking and driving some car'. This was the background to the formation, under Robert F. Williams' leadership, of a militia to combat the unrestrained terror of the white racials.

The militia was able to successfully hold off the Klan.

At the same time, Williams organized the campaign for the release of two young boys, sentenced to 14 years in prison for kissing a white girl.

Despite US press attempts to hush up the case, the campaign was successful and the two boys were released.

During this period the Ku Klux Klan made several abortive attempts to assassinate Robert Williams.

'KIDNAPPING'

The 'kidnapping' for which Williams is being held in Chicago took place in the summer of 1961. The KKK had chosen the weekend of August 25-26 as the date for their final attempt to smash the militia and kill Robert Williams.

Numbers of local blacks were arrested, together with 'Freedom Riders' who had been marching through the town. The black ghetto was in an uproar.

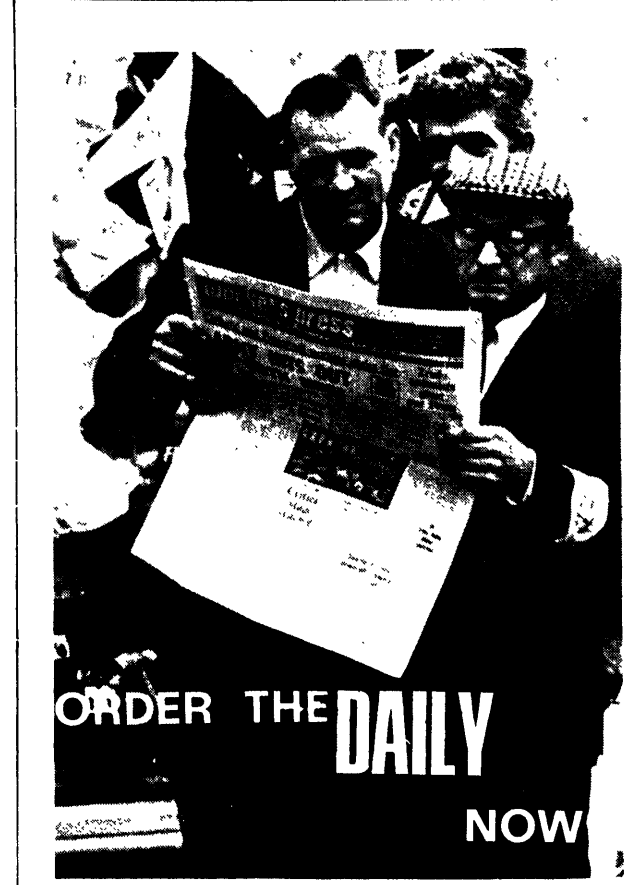
Three hundred of the militia turned out to defend their homes against the planned KKK attack. A white couple, Mr and Mrs Bruce Stegall, driving through the black area, were held by the militia, some of whom wanted to put them to death. Williams interceded and allowed the Stegalls to telephone the authorities from his house. The Stegalls returned home and thought nothing more about the incident until the police picked them up and coerced them into charging kidnapping. Robert Williams and his family were forced to flee the country.

He was able to escape to Cuba, where he lived in political asylum until 1962. In 1966 he moved to China, where he stayed until May 1969. From China, he went for six months to Tanzania then flew to London, where the Labour government held him in Brixton prison as an unwanted alien. All he wanted to do was get back to Chicago, but the US airlines at first refused to fly him out there. Eventually, he left London by plane for Chicago.

FOUR JAILED

While he was in exile, four of his friends were convicted on the alleged kidnapping charge and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from five years to 20 years. The four are now free—they were released after a North Carolina Supreme Court ruling that the trial was invalid because black jurors were systematically excluded from jury duty.

The North Carolina racialists have made it clear that if the Chicago court delivers Robert Williams into their hands they will make sure he is jailed for a long time if not lynched out of hand. Protests and messages of support should be sent to The Committee to Aid the Defence of Robert F. Williams, Box 666, Detroit, Michigan 48206, USA.



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