

Miners' strike can bring down Tories

ALL MOVEMENT of coal throughout the country is now well on the way to being completely stopped after just five days of the miners' solid strike.

Backing for miners

CASTLEFORD miners and their wives marched 150-strong to nearby Ferrybridge power station, Yorkshire, yesterday to get coal movements blocked.

Headed by the Wheldale strike committee's red banner and calling for unity of all workers around the miners' fight, they shouted 'General Strike! Tories out!' and carried placards saying: 'Our fight is your fight' and 'Don't move coal'.

The strikers are hoping for more backing from Castleford Trades Council which meets tonight.

In Doncaster, the miners are being supported by local railwaymen who say they will not move any coal from the pits.

If the miners fall on 7 per cent there is not much chance of our union winning a decent rise, ASLEF branch secretary Martin Hicks told Workers Press in a personal capacity.

But he was worried about the TUC's failure to support the miners more wholeheartedly.

Three weeks ago ASLEF requested the TUC to get the transport unions and the NUM to meet. The TUC is supposed to have said it wasn't necessary.

'The TUC is literally doing a 1926 at the moment,' he said.

Coal stocks in S Wales are so low that there will be no regular picket at the pithead, lodge officials said yesterday.

But where fuel is available at open-cast sites, the NUM says the rush of volunteers to man picket lines has been so great they've had to be organized on a rota basis.

Thousands of miners have moved in every coalfield to picket power stations and solid-fuel plants as well as the collieries.

Railwaymen and dockers have begun to seal off all supplies of coal from ports like Southampton, Cardiff and Middlesbrough.

The solidarity and militancy of the miners has dispelled completely the hopeful predictions of the capitalist press that high coal stocks and isolation similar to that suffered by the postmen would defeat the strike.

Expressed here is the potential of a great mass movement against the government, which has grown since the postmen's strike because of unemployment, rapidly-rising prices and the Tory rush into the Common Market.

The big question now is what policy and leadership will take this movement through to victory and remove the Tory government?

Every worker must be on his guard; the stronger the solidarity among the ranks, the more the union and labour leaders will take fright and look for a formula to sell out.

Miles Behind

The trade union leaders are miles behind their members. The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, under Hugh Scanlon could have planned national action of its members against the employers and the government on their own wage claim. Instead its policy-making committee voted this week to abandon the claim at national level.

On the same day, the TUC 'inner cabinet' took its notorious decision not to call unions together to discuss solidarity action with the miners.

'The trade union bureaucracy is more attached to its official positions and its relations with the capitalist state than it is to the interests of its members. In a show-down it will take the side of the government.'

The TUC and Labour

leaders should be mobilizing the whole working class for united political and industrial action to secure a General Election, but they fear the working class.

They do not want to be placed in government by a mass movement which will insist on policies of nationalization under workers' control and without compensation.

The same fear animates the Communist Party leaders, who are desperately trying to challenge the strike movement by obscuring its political implications. Listen to the 'Morning Star':

'Back Down'

'If the resources of the Labour Party and the TUC were also thrown into this fight, combined with solidarity action by trade unionists, the government and the Coal Board would be compelled to back down in double quick time' (January 12, 1972).

This attitude is politically cynical, dishonest and reactionary.

On Tuesday, the 'Star' deliberately covered up the strike-breaking role of the TUC with the headline 'Don't cross picket lines—TUC call'.

Now it glibly talks about the TUC resources being thrown into the fight and still refuses to condemn the treachery of these bureaucrats.

What is worse, however, is that the 'Star' once again tries to con the miners into believing that the Tories can be made to 'back down', and that we can have our Tory cake and eat it too.

This is a colossal lie. If the strength of the working class can make the Tories back down then it can just as easily make them resign.

Will the union leaders answer these questions as their ancestors did in 1926, when the General Strike was called off and the miners were starved back to work?

Parallel

Will they do what miners' leader Robert Smillie and others did in 1919, when the then Prime Minister Lloyd George sent for them before a threatened strike by the Triple Alliance of miners, railmen and transport workers.

He told them frankly that the Triple Alliance was strong enough to defeat the government—a clear parallel with today—continuing:

'But if you do so, have you weighed the consequences? The strike will be in defiance of the government of the country, and by its very success will precipitate a constitutional crisis of the first importance.



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Other miners' clashes occurred in Fife, where miners from seven pits mobbed private convoys carrying coal to Kirkcaldine power station on the Firth of Forth.

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Willie McDougall, member of the Scottish miners' executive, was in charge of the operation. He said the use of private contractors had begun because drivers in the Transport and General Workers' Union had refused to shift supplies.

Mr McDougall said: 'We won't stop at any time. We will have to consider mounting a picket at night.'

The Electricity Board action exposes their boast that stocks are high. They are bringing in supplies from old closed mines and the few privately-owned pits in the Lothians area because the position is so desperate.

The action by the men plus the 'black' put on coal by the T&GWU and the rail

PRODUCTION of Morris Marina cars halted at the British-Leyland assembly plant at Cowley, Oxford, yesterday after a stoppage involving inspectors in the assembly-works paint shop.

The inspectors walked out after the cancellation of a meeting called to discuss paint shop manning arrangements.

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Engineer drivers in ASLEF are in the front ranks of official support.

Leslie McNaught, secretary of the Scottish divisional council of ASLEF, told me: 'We have been told by our executive to give the miners maximum support. We are interpreting this as meaning that no coal is to be moved.'

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A six-man deputation from the National Union of Mineworkers headed by full-time official Jack Lee from Barnsley and area councillor Arthur Scargill later saw union representatives at the Coalite plant.

George Morral, Transport and General Workers' Union secretary, assured the delegation that lorries with non-union drivers would not be loaded by his members at the plant.

Union members have been refusing to cross the miners' picket line.

Mr Chapman's injuries fortunately proved less serious and he was released from hospital after treatment for cuts and bruises.

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More engineers back our jobs campaign

ENGINEERS in Leicester are the latest workers to support the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work march and campaign which culminates with a rally at London's Wembley Pool on March 12.

The city's No. 17 Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers branch say they 'fully back' the campaign for the right to work, which is being taken away by the 'vicious' Tory government.

The CAV shop stewards' committee, Fazakerley, Liverpool also supports the Right-to-work marches and will donate £20. This decision followed a meeting at which a member of the YS national campaign committee explained the nature of the campaign.

TOTTENHAM No 7 AUEW branch has voted to support the Right-to-Work campaign and promised a substantial donation to the campaign fund.

Their resolution of support is being put before the Haringey Trades Council and the Enfield AUEW district committee.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Right to work campaign begins

We will be marching from
GLASGOW FEBRUARY 5 — LIVERPOOL FEBRUARY 19
SWANSEA FEBRUARY 19
To a mass rally at
EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY on MARCH 12

WANTED URGENTLY

Loan of vehicles—road-worthy vans, cars (reasonable hire will be considered)

Accommodation

Cooking equipment

Tinned food

Finance

Brass/jazz bands

Please tick box where applicable.


NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

Please complete above form and post to:
Clive Norris, national secretary
Right-to-Work campaign
186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.
Or phone 01-822 7029.

EXCLUSIVE



MINER'S union secretary Lawrence Daly was expecting the TUC to organize transport-union solidarity with his members' strike, he reveals today.

In part one of an exclusive interview printed on page two of today's Workers Press, he says the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers would like the support of other unions to make the battle 'short, sharp and victorious'.

If the Tories try to make an example of the miners, he would be 'in favour'... if they are determined to smash us, to call upon the whole of the trade union and labour movement to escalate industrial action to a point where it would be possible to defeat the Tory government.'

He gives his views on nationalization and agrees that workers' control in the mines is now on the agenda.

ON PRODUCTIVITY, he argues that no deals should be signed if they make miners work harder.

Daly told staff reporter Stephen Johns that the miners expect unions at home and abroad to prevent any bid by the government to break the strike through coal imports.

IN TOMORROW'S Workers Press, he condemns the Polish government for exporting stocks to Spain while the Asturias miners were on strike against Franco's fascist government.

He says the union has written to the Polish government drawing attention to the fact they are offering coal on the W European market.

Engineers slam 'stab' against miners

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

ENGINEERS continued to slam union chiefs' abandonment of their national pay claim as 'a stab in the back for the miners' yesterday, although the decision to pull out union members in the pits was welcomed.

At Wilson and Mathieson in Leeds, convenor Dick Mitchell said that the national committee of his union had struck a blow against the miners.

'The decision to refer our pay claim back to local level not only lets the miners down, it lets our members down as well.'

He said: 'If claims are going to be thrown back to local level, what are we paying national officials for? What are they there for? It's a retrograde step.'

He thought Workers Press was 'exactly right' to describe the decision of the

Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers as stabbing the miners in the back.

'And the TUC decision to give "general sympathy", instead of mobilizing supporting action, is useless,' he added. 'If this strike doesn't get support, it will be a repetition of the postmen's strike. The Tories will pick us off piecemeal.'


A similar view came from Gershon Jones, now working at the Jaguar factory in Coventry, but until 1964 a miner at Coventry colliery.

'He was sacked for his part in 1964 sit-down strike in the mine.'

'The TUC decision on the miners' fight is disgusting', Gershon said.

'They're leaving the miners on their own.'

'If we had all supported the postmen last year we would not have been in this position this year.'



Dick Mitchell

'The AUEW decision not to fight their national wage claim is a complete let-down of the miners.'

'All the unions should come out in support of the miners. This individual effort is no use to the working class—the Tories must be thrown out.'

Chris O'Connor, AUEW convenor at Bird's Eye, Kirkby, near Liverpool said 'the decision was a retreat—leaving the miners in isolation to fight a battle we should be involved in.'

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BY CLIFF SLAUGHTER

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'But if you do so, have you weighed the consequences? The strike will be in defiance of the government of the country, and by its very success will precipitate a constitutional crisis of the first importance.'

'For if a force arises in the state which is stronger than the state itself, then it must be ready to take on the functions of the state, or withdraw and accept the authority of the state. Gentlemen, have you considered, and if you have, are you ready?'

Robert Smillie, recounting the story to Aneurin Bevan, concluded: 'From that moment on we were beaten and we knew we were.' Today there must be no flinching from the task of mobilizing in every coalfield to win solidarity from all trade unionists, of building the alternative leadership to defeat the Tory government and of electing a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.



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BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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Two hurt on picket

A SAVAGE incident occurred outside the gates of Grimethorpe Coalite plant near Barnsley, Yorkshire, yesterday when two miners were knocked down by a lorry which drove into their picket line.

Both men are married with children and has worked in the pits since he left school. Pickets who saw the incident chased after the lorry which drove away rapidly without stopping.

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Mujib proclaimed

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Gen Vang Pao's Meo guerrilla army, isolated at its base in Long Cheng on the Bolovens plateau, expects a final assault by the besieging liberation forces at any time.

The base is virtually indefensible. Its ammunition dump is destroyed and air communication has been almost entirely cut off.

Laotian army defences are in ruins as a result of the NLF's rapid advance.

North of the Plain of Jars, Laotian troops have been driven out of Phou Cum, leaving only one outpost in the country's north-eastern region.

South-west of the Plain the town of Sam Thong was also abandoned in haste on Tuesday as the NLF advanced. And in the southern 'pan-handle' of Laos, Bang Nhek, another important strategic point, has also been evacuated.

The Americans' main fear, however, is that the liberation armies will launch their biggest offensives in S Vietnam over the Lunar New Year (Tet).

Fighting near Saigon has already been reported and US sources describe the current dry-season offensive as the most intensive ever.

It seems clear that the Vietnamese communists, fearing a deal over their country between president Nixon and Mao Tse-tung when they meet in Peking next month, are preparing a heavy military blow against the Americans to coincide with the Peking talks.



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PHONE NUMBER

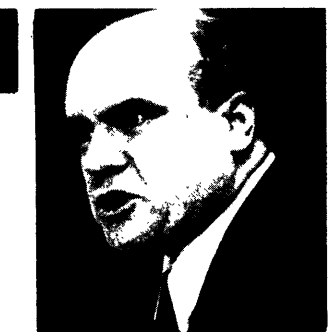
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EXCLUSIVE

MINER'S union secretary Lawrence Daly was expecting the TUC to organize transport-union solidarity with his members' strike, he reveals today.

In part one of an exclusive interview printed on page two of today's Workers Press, he says the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers would like the support of other unions to make the battle 'short, sharp and victorious'. If the Tories try to make an example of the miners, he would be 'in favour... if they are determined to smash us, to call upon the whole of the trade union and labour movement to escalate industrial action to a point where it would be possible to defeat the Tory government.'

He gives his views on nationalization and agrees that workers' control in the mines is now on the agenda.



On productivity, he argues that no deals should be signed if they make miners work harder. Daly told staff reporter Stephen Johns that the miners expect unions at home and abroad to prevent any bid by the government to break the strike through coal imports.

IN TOMORROW'S Workers Press, he condemns the Polish government for exporting stocks to Spain while the Asturias miners were on strike against Franco's fascist government. He says the union has written to the Polish government drawing attention to the fact they are offering coal on the W European market.

Engineers slam 'stab' against miners

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

ENGINEERS continued to slam union chiefs' abandonment of their national pay claim as 'a stab in the back for the miners' yesterday, although the decision to pull out union members in the pits was welcomed.

At Wilson and Mathieson in Leeds, convenor Dick Mitchell said that the national committee of the union had struck a blow against the miners.

'The decision to refer our pay claim back to local level not only lets the miners down, it lets our members down as well.'

He said: 'If claims are going to be thrown back to local level, what are we paying national officials for? What are they there for? It's a retrograde step.'

He thought Workers Press was 'exactly right' to describe the decision of the

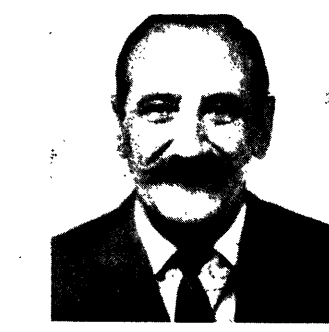
Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers as stabbing the miners in the back.

'And the TUC decision to give "general sympathy", instead of mobilizing supporting action, is useless, he added. 'If this strike doesn't get support, it will be a repetition of the postmen's strike. The Tories will pick us off piecemeal.'

A similar view came from Gersham Jones, now working at the Jaguar factory in Coventry, but until 1964 a miner, at Coventry colliery.

He was sacked for his part in 1964 sit-down strike in the mine.

'The TUC decision on the miners' fight is disgusting', Gersham said. 'They're leaving the miners on their own. If we had all supported the postmen last year we would not have been in this position this year.'



Dick Mitchell

'The AUEW decision not to fight their national wage claim is a complete let-down of the miners.'

'All the unions should come out in support of the miners. This individual effort is no use to the working class—the Tories must be thrown out.'

Chris O'Connor, AUEW convenor at Bird's Eye, Kirby, near Liverpool said 'the decision was a retreat—leaving the miners in isolation to fight a battle we should be involved in.'

IRELAND: BACKGROUND PART THREE

JACK GALE continues the history of class struggle in Ireland.

THE TERRIBLE Irish famine of the 1840s devastated the country and brought class antagonisms to a head.

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'This state of affairs is due to famine, emigration and clearances; continual oppression has artificially turned the Irish into an utterly impoverished people.'

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'"Strong measures" are to be seen in every corner of the country. The government meddles with everything and there is no trace of any so-called self-government.

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He wrote: 'The bleak look of the bibulous Prussian policeman is developed to its highest perfection among the Irish constables, who carry carbines, bayonets and handcuffs . . .

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The potato was the staple food of all the Irish peasantry, but it was not all they produced. They also grew grain crops and kept cattle; these, however, had to be sold to pay the landlord his rent.

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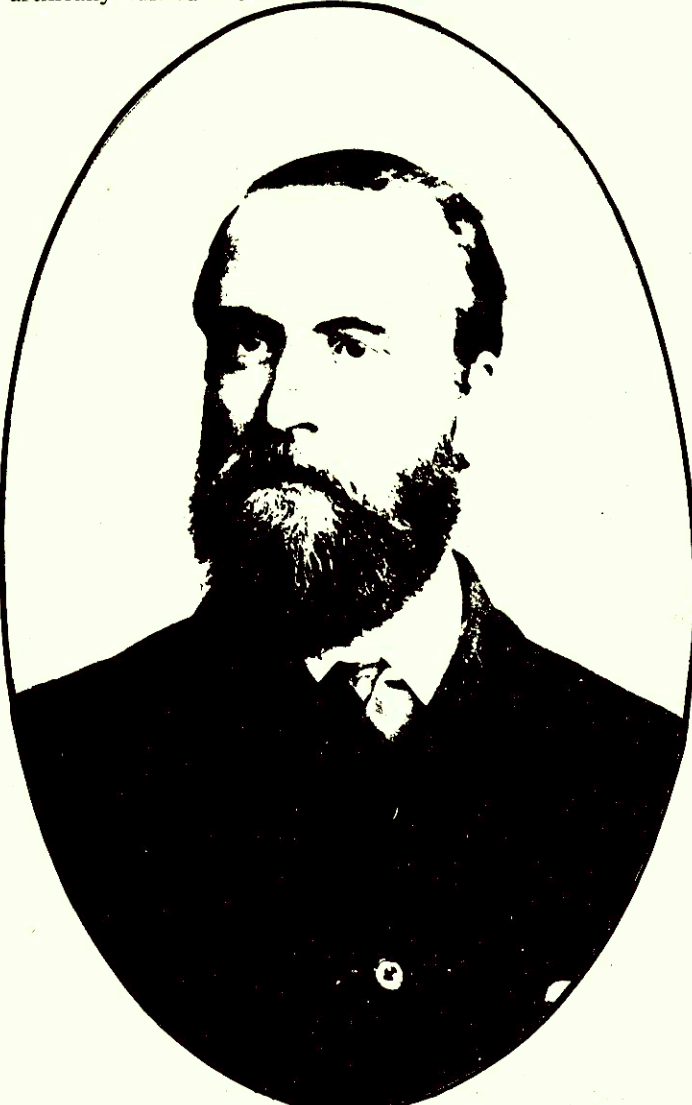
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The Young Ireland leaders, however, clung to a nationalism which rejected revolution at a time when the people were arming themselves ready to fight.

At their conference in February 1848, they defeated Mitchel and specifically declared that there was harmony of interest between landlord and tenant, and that all their activities would be henceforth restricted to parliamentary campaigns.

Meanwhile the Pope of Rome was also doing his bit for the cause.

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With Mitchel's departure, the remaining Young Ireland leaders disarmed the workers and peasants even when they came arm in hand to free those same leaders from arrest!

(Some of the moderate leaders were also exiled, but were given plenty of opportunity to 'redeem' themselves—one such, Charles Gavan Duffy, became the Prime Minister of Victoria, Australia.)

Thus the Young Ireland movement collapsed.

The next stage in the development of the Irish movement was the formation of the 'Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood' (known as the Fenian Brotherhood) in 1857.

The first impulse for this organization came from America, where many Irishmen had emigrated and were reinforced by many who had been exiled to Australia.

Determined

The Fenian Brotherhood, led at its inception by John O'Mahoney and James Stephens, administered oaths, procured arms and drilled. This military section was the Irish Republican Army, the first commander of which was General Cluseret, later to be Commander-in-Chief of the Fédéraux in the Paris Commune.⁸

The Fenian Movement was linked from its inception with one of the most determined working class struggles in Irish history—the fight of the bakery workers for a 12-hour day and the abolition of night work.

(Karl Marx, in 'Capital', quotes from the report of the parliamentary commission which investigated this dispute: 'The committee believe that work beyond 12 hours has a tendency to undermine the health of the working man, and so leads to premature old age and death, to the great injury of families of working men thus deprived of the care and support of the head of the family when most required.')⁹

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Because of its links with the working class, Fenianism was hated, not only by the landlords and the employers, but also by the Catholic clergy and the middle class, both Protestant and Catholic.

Moreover, the absentee English landlords were being joined in greater and greater numbers by the so-called 'gombeen men', the Encumbered Estates Act of 1849 had created a new class

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Irish tenants found themselves not only owing rent to the old landlord, but frequently paying heavy interest on loans from these new speculators.

The bitterness engendered throughout Ireland by these conditions led to the Fenian uprising of 1867, which was brutally put down. After this, Fenianism was driven underground but continued as a secret organization engaged in terrorist activities.

The 'official' Home Rule organization, however, continued—first of all in the guise of the Home Rule League, led by a Protestant lawyer, Isaac Butts.

Butts has been accurately described as 'a scrupulous respecter of the forms and dignity of the House of Commons (whose) appeals to English opinions were tactful and restrained', while his organization was 'a moderated and inoffensive body aiming at a moderate and inoffensive measure of self-government for Ireland.'¹⁰

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As Lyons says: 'The very gravity of the land crisis was enough to give him pause. Davitt and other responsible leaders might counsel peaceful measures, but who could tell how far a desperate and destitute peasantry might go?'

'Might not the land agitation become in grim earnest what it was soon to be called—a land war?'

'And, if so, what place was there for a parliamentary leader in a convulsion of this kind?'

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Top: Starving peasants attack a potato store during the famine of 1846. Above: A battering ram being used in an eviction.

'Might he not either lose control of the land movement or else be swept into illegal paths which would cut him off once and for all from constitutional methods?'

'On balance the risk of letting the movement pass into other hands was probably greater than the dangers involved in putting himself at its head.'¹¹

Thus, Parnell—yet another 'great Irish patriot'—sought Home Rule as part of a bargain, his side of which was to hold back the Irish masses.

As Connolly points out: 'The rising tide of revolt in Ireland compelled the Liberal Party to give a half-hearted acquiescence to the demands of the Irish peasants, and the Home Rule-Liberal alliance was consummated.'¹²

The 'half-hearted acquiescence' was Gladstone's Land Act of 1881, the much-vaunted reforms of which were soon undermined by rising prices.

The 1880s were bad throughout the British Isles.

In 1886, unemployment rates rose as high as 22 per cent in some industrial areas and there were riots in industrial cities throughout Britain.

In 1881 the Irish Land League called a rent strike and its leaders, including Parnell, were gaoled. The same year, the Secretary of State for Ireland, Lord Cavendish, was murdered in Phoenix Park.

Evictions

Parnell, however, signed the 'Kilmarnham Treaty' by which he secured his release from Kilmarnham Prison, was allowed to re-enter public life and, in return, undertook to 'use his influence against outrage and intimidation in Ireland.'¹³

By this time, the position of Irish tenants and farm labourers was desperate.

Bad harvests in the late 1870s were compounded by cheap agricultural imports into Britain from America. Between 1880-1882 there were over 200,000 recorded cases of pauper families; over 7,000 families evicted; and 6,000 convictions for 'agrarian outrages'.

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But the official movement was moving further and further away from the masses. Although the Irish constituencies returned 85 nationalists to Westminster in 1885, Parnell refused to support the Land League's 'Plan of Campaign' to force rent reductions.

Parnell, in fact, set up the Irish National League, tightly controlled by the inner circle of his Parliamentary Party, in an attempt to undermine the Land League and to impose on the Irish movement a middle-class, 'respectable' character in close alliance with the church.

But despite the collaborationist policies of their official leaders, the Irish masses fought on.

Landlords and their agents were executed, evictions resisted, rents withheld, people who accepted tenancies of land from which others had been evicted were 'boycotted'. (The word 'boycott' came into existence after this treatment was meted out to one Captain Boycott who took over such land after an eviction.)

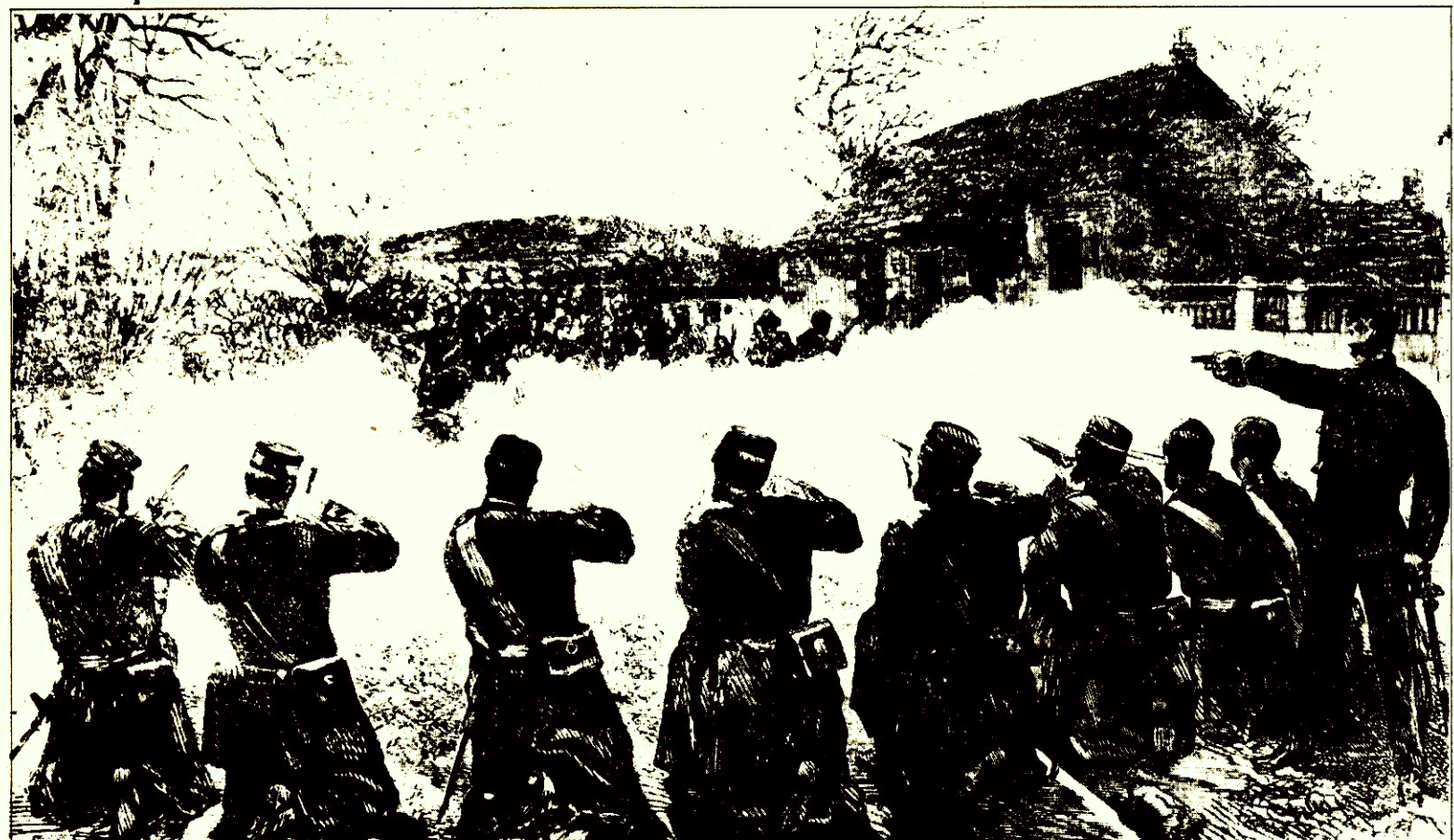
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14. Joan Haslip, 'Parnell: A Biography'.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



Police troops fire on advancing Fenians at Tallaght, Co Dublin, in the 1867 insurrection. In this way the Fenian uprising was brutally put down.

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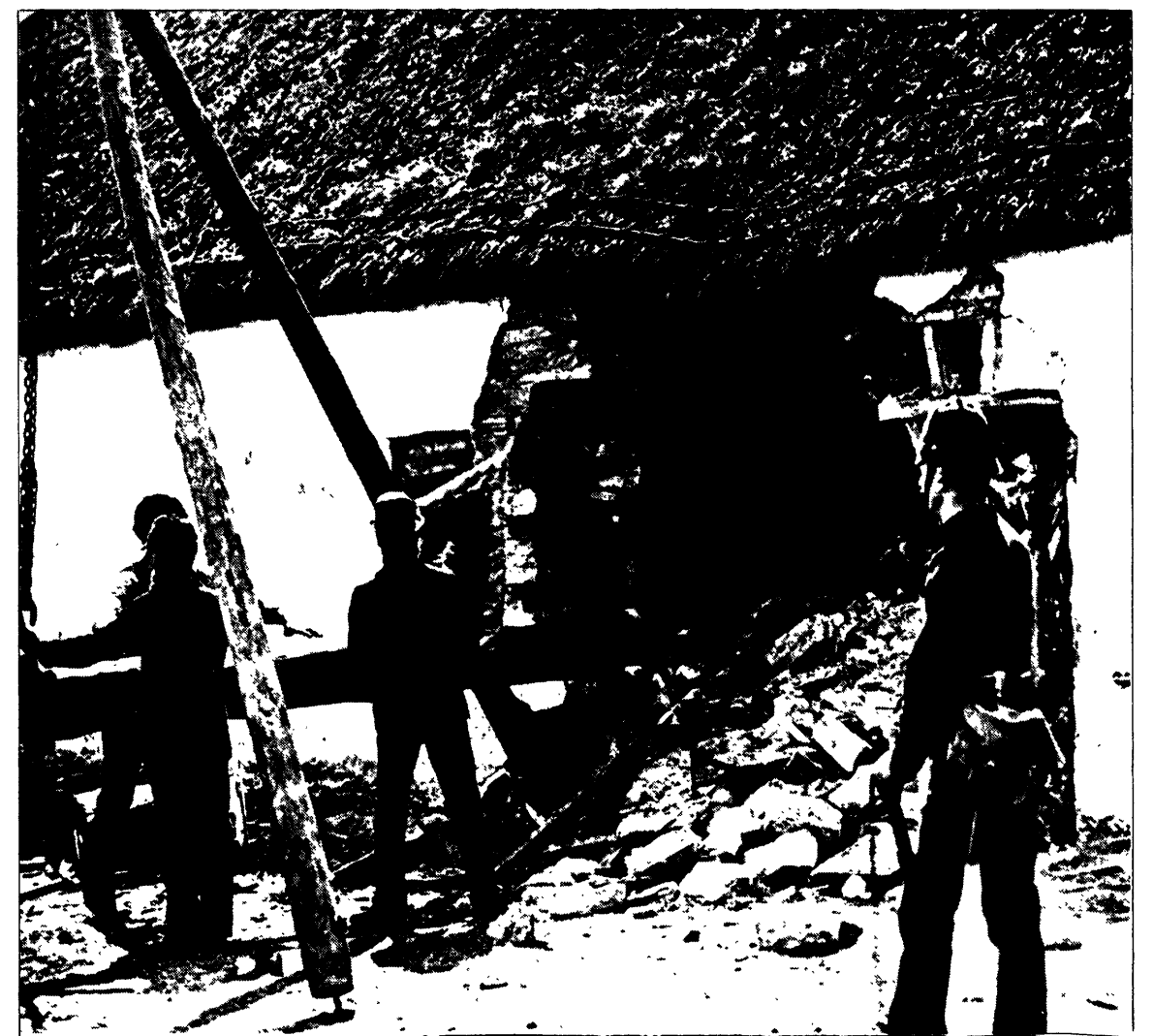
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14. Joan Haslip, 'Parnell: A Biography'.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



Police troops fire on advancing Fenians at Tallaght, Co Dublin, in the 1867 insurrection. In this way the Fenian uprising was brutally put down.

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With the US ruling class in unprecedented crisis turning its attacks onto American workers, DANY SYLVEIRE reports on the chaos and pessimism of the Pabloite YSA as revealed at their recent convention.

INTERNATIONAL youth NEWS

A balancing act that cannot last long

HOUSTON, Texas was the scene of the 11th Annual Convention of the American Young Socialist Alliance.

The YSA is the youth movement of the revisionist Socialist Workers' Party, which is in political sympathy with the Pabloite 'Unified Secretariat of the Fourth International'.

Holding the alliance's usual December 28-January 1 convention in Houston meant they could also have a meeting in support of the SWP's campaign for Mayor of Texas—thus enabling them to draw local press coverage.

And the convention itself was dominated by the fact that 1972 is election year.

The election gave the YSA grounds for considerable pessimism, however.

It would be 'successful in channelling people away from mass action... we must be prepared for smaller demonstrations... many will drop into inactivity', said national executive member Andy Rose in his political report.

This pessimism flows from the total lack of any analysis of Nixon's August 15 measures in this, the period of the greatest economic crisis in the history of world capitalism.

The YSA has turned away completely from the thrust forward of the American working class, reflected in a call by trade union leaders for a General Strike against Nixon's wage freeze.

Rightward

Instead, it will be orientated towards the forces attracted to the Democratic Party through intervention in its youth conferences.

On every issue the YSA has turned to the right.

Its national-executive resolution 'Strategy for Black Liberation' states:

'Pan-Africanism represents today not only the cultural and social linkage of African-Americans to the African continent, but an indication of the internationalism of African-Americans.'

'It represents the solidarization of oppressed African-Americans with the struggles of African people and people of African descent for liberation from imperialism and capitalism.'

'Pan-Africanism can mean the linking up of the struggle of black Americans for liberation with the struggle of Africans for liberation.'

It can mean developing a revolutionary strategy on the American continent that can facilitate the destruction of American imperialism, this being the best way to speed the African revolution.'

The YSA has completely submerged itself into every right-wing, petty-bourgeois tendency around it in fear and hostility to the working class.

Three-quarters of the agenda was given over completely to discussion on women's liberation, gay liberation, the election campaign and nationalism.

This complete abandonment of Marxism and Trotskyism now plunges the YSA into irrevocable crisis.

Attendance was down by several hundred on the 1970 convention at New York, and the Houston gathering was also smaller than the 1969 convention at Minneapolis.

At its height those attending numbered just under 700, but

at the majority of sessions not more than 500 were present. There were hardly any black or Chicano (Mexican) youth present.

To maintain its rightward turn the YSA leadership had to suppress—by threats of expulsion and disciplinary measures—opposition of any kind in the convention.

Thus the left-wing, which had become increasingly vociferous in recent years, was silenced throughout the 1971 convention.

Most of the main reports and discussion centred on an attack on what was described as 'ultra-leftism' or 'sectarianism'.

Where previously the 'ultra-lefts' had been cynically brushed off, this time the YSA leadership



The YSA has completely submerged itself into every right-wing, petty bourgeois tendency.

was faced with constantly having to confront them—exposing their real fear.

Mirta Vidal, YSA Chicano Liberation Director and national executive member, was unable to confront the theoretical issues in her reply to the discussion on the Chicano struggle. She left the platform after the first five minutes.

The YSA and the whole 'Unified Secretariat' are now unable to evade the complete explosion of their revisions of Marxism. The end of 27 years of boom now exposes the real nature of this epoch of capitalism in its death agony.

However to make a turn to the right the YSA has to attempt to cover its tracks in order to maintain any kind of credibility.

Therefore it holds up its history—the past relations of the SWP with Trotsky—to prevent any challenge from the ranks to its sharp move away from Trotsky and all that he fought for.

The leadership also now begins to talk about the class struggle and the working class, which previously was not even part of its vocabulary.

This attempt to do a balancing act cannot succeed for very long. The YSA cannot bring behind the banner of Trotskyism its complete degeneration and rightward turn to gay liberation and drug taking, on which several resolutions were put forward.

With the American working class about to come on to the scene in massive struggles during 1972, the crisis in the YSA must come to the surface as never before.



Lawrence Daly is the first miners' chief to lead an official pit strike since the General Strike of 1926. He and his executive are facing the hardest political battle within the labour movement since the days of the 1920s. Here he tells STEPHEN JOHNS how they are facing up to this challenge.

STEPHEN JOHNS: The strike has begun on an unprecedented note of bitterness on the part of the miners, the NCB and the Tory government. Everyone has made the point that this is a showdown with the government and its pay policy. In the light of this how are the miners going to win their struggle?

Lawrence Daly: Well the miners are certainly angry and bitter at the miserably offer that the Coal Board have made. We are all convinced that this is a result of a direct instruction from the government in pursuit of their restrictive wage policy. We are determined to defeat that policy and we recognize therefore that this is not only a battle against the National Coal Board but against the government. The withdrawal of the latest offer by the Coal Board has intensified the feeling of bitterness and has resulted in every area, where meetings have been held, giving a unanimous rejection to the wage offer.

SJ: I want to go back to the example of the postmen who also started off their nine-week strike with a feeling of solidarity and militancy. According to their own leadership they were forced back because the TUC and other unions did not give the help that might have been expected. You are facing an even greater political battle. What help are you looking for from the trade unions and the TUC?

LD: We are seeking with the assistance of the TUC the co-ordination of all workers and all trade unionists engaged in the transport of coal or fuel that could be used as a substitute to coal. We want to ensure that these supplies are not moved so that there will be virtually overnight a paralysing effect of the economy, that will compel the coal board to come forward with a very much bigger offer.

SJ: In this kind of battle it's going to be a defeat for the government or the miners—can you envisage this without support or

*The TUC in fact refused to co-ordinate transport unions to help the miners.

industrial action from other unions—I'm thinking in terms of a General Strike.

LD: I could not envisage a short-term struggle ending successfully for us without the support of the other unions and that is why we will be pressing for that when we expect to meet them tomorrow afternoon (Tuesday). On the other hand if there is any weakening of support from other unions we are still reasonably confident.

Although it will take some time longer for the reduction in coal supplies to make its impact on the economy—but nevertheless the government, by the miners' action, will be compelled to yield. But naturally we would prefer that the struggle is a short, sharp and victorious one.

SJ: Do you envisage the government yielding on this strike without it being turned out of office?

LD: I think it is conceivable that the government be compelled to recognize the justice of the miners' case as a consequence of supporting actions from other unions and the direct action of the miners, without necessarily reaching the stage of them being turfed out of office, desirable though that is.

SJ: If the government make it clear—as indeed they did in 1926—that they are determined to smash the miners as an example to all other workers, would you yourself feel it necessary to escalate the action and call on the trade union movement to unite in industrial action to get the government out and defeat it?

LD: Yes, indeed this has been my view over the question of the Industrial Relations Act from the beginning. It has also been my view, as I said in my speech at Birmingham, on the question of unemployment. There is one slight difference at the moment—whether there will be any change of policy due to the development of the situation as far as the NUM is concerned it's difficult for me to say. But at the moment every area has agreed that the miners should ensure that there are supplies of coal to hospitals, old people's homes, old aged pensioners and so on. It would be difficult on the one hand to do that and say at the same time that the hospital staff should come out to support our strike. Nevertheless I would be in favour, if the government displayed a deter-

A Workers Press interview

Lawrence Daly: 'It's a battle against the government'

mination to hold fast on the offer which they control, if they indicate they are determined to smash us, to call upon the whole trade union and labour movement to escalate industrial action to a point where it would be possible to defeat the Tory government.

SJ: I want to go on to the question of nationalization. On vesting day 25 years ago there were great hopes and aspirations over nationalization. What do you think nationalization has meant for the miners?

LD: Nationalization has taken the form of a highly centralized and bureaucratized structure that to every miner has been a disappointment. On the other hand no miner—at least no miner in his senses—would dream of going back to the days of private ownership. What we do feel is that the miners have not been given the full benefits they have put in, in terms of production, the past 25 years. That's why the miners are so determined to gain an improvement in wages and conditions, but secondly are questioning the whole structure of the nationalized industry, recognizing that it is really a form of state capitalism. They are insisting on the socialization of the industry with democratic control at every level.

SJ: When you say demo-

cratic control do you mean workers' control? Is it time the miners and their leaders demanded workers' control in the pits?

LD: I agree in principle with the democratic control of the industry, or workers' control if one cares to use that phrase. In practice the miners' union is not even back to the stage of demanding what they were demanding in 1919 which, although it was actually a scheme of 50-50 control between the employers, who would be the state, and the representatives of the unions I am not satisfied this joint control is the right answer to the problem. The miners' union so far has not really challenged the structure that was established in 1947 where effective control remains with the management. So while the miners' union have not got to the stage of working out an alternative system of control, I think this has to come. We should have a system in which the miners—with regard to the interests of the rest of the working class will have a decisive say in their day-to-day working lives and in the conditions which affect their long-term conditions and security.

SJ: Would you be in favour of the Labour Party adding to its programme for the nationalized industries,

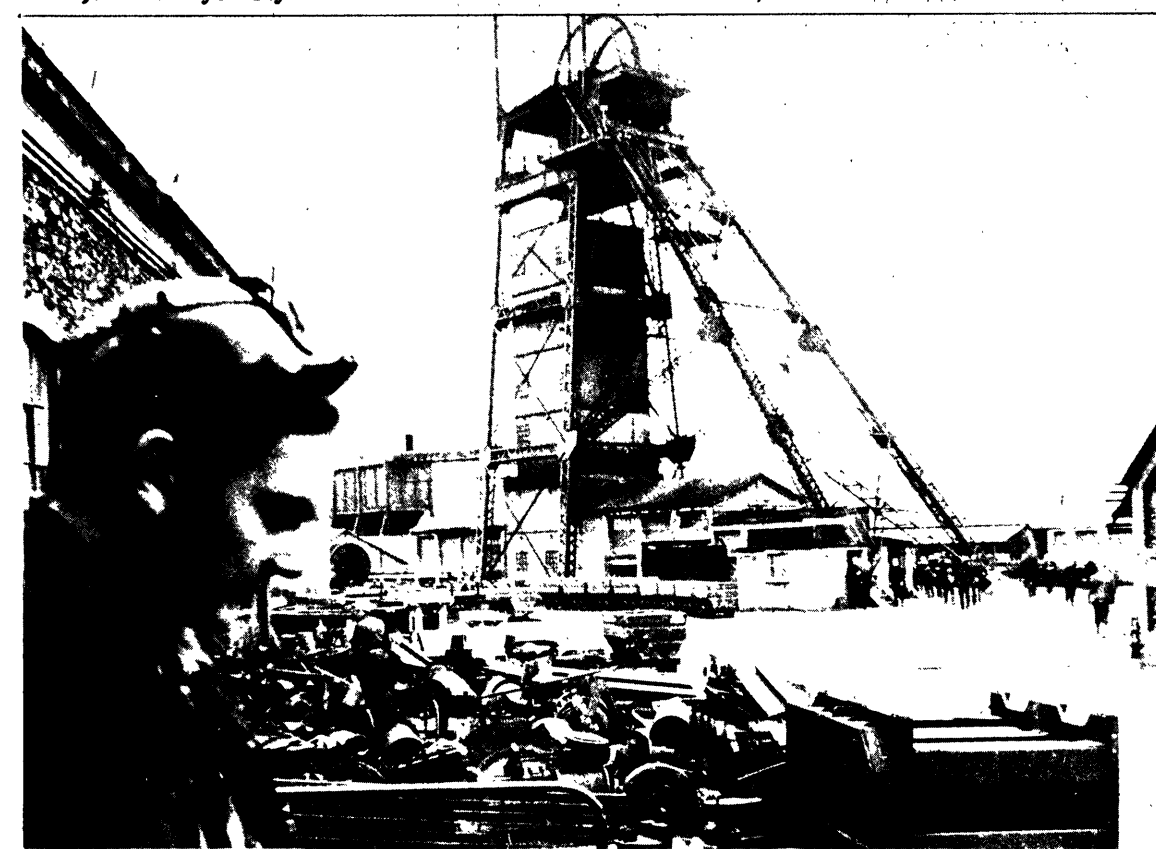
including the mines, a proposal to introduce workers' control?

LD: It depends on what is meant by workers' control. The technicians as well as the pick and shovel miner claim that they are workers. Some of the people who move from the coal face on to supervisory jobs claim that they are workers. It's a question of working out a detailed scheme under which all those who are contributing to the production of coal and its distribution have the democratic right to decide the policies for the industry. Some people call it industrial democracy, some people call it democratic control and some people talk about workers' control. In my view it's not enough to advance workers' control as a slogan. I think sooner or later that we have got to work out in detail an alternative scheme of control which retains democratic decision making in the hands of the workers in the industry.

SJ: You would want to see a Labour government doing this?

LD: I certainly would.

Tomorrow, in Part Two of this interview, Lawrence Daly answers questions on productivity in the mines, coal imports and the Industrial Relations Act.



Oakdale colliery, S Wales. Miners leaving the pits as the strike begins.



BBC 1, 9.20, Play for today: 'Still Waters'.

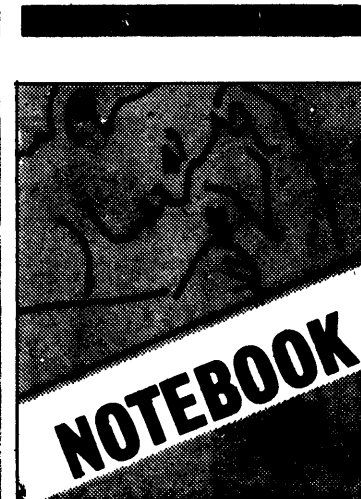
BBC 1
9.38 Schools. 12.55 Tresarn. 1.30 The Herbs. 1.45 News, weather. 2.05 Schools. 3.45 Conflict at work. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Dr Dolittle. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News, weather.
6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.50 TOM AND JERRY.
7.00 OWEN M.D.
7.25 TOP OF THE POPS.
8.00 THE BRIGHTON BELLE.
8.30 HOLIDAY 72.
9.00 NEWS, weather.
9.20 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'Still Waters'. Margery Mason, Bryan Pringle, Richard Pearson.
10.15 EUROPEAN SKATING.
10.45 24 HOURS.
11.30 PEOPLE LTD.
11.55 Weather.

All regions as BBC 1 except:
Wales: 2.30-2.50 Schools. 6.00-6.50 Wales today. 6.50-7.15 Heddlu. 7.15-7.25 Tom and Jerry. 8.00-8.30 Week in week out. 11.57 Weather.
Scotland: 2.30-2.50 Around Scotland. 6.00-6.50 Reporting Scotland. 11.57 News, weather.
N Ireland: 1.00-1.25 Close-down. 6.00-6.50 Scene around six. 11.57 News, weather.
England: 6.00-6.50 Look North, Midlands today, Look East, Points West, South today, Spotlight South West, weather. 11.57 News, weather.

TODAY'S PROGRAMMES

BBC 2
11.00 Play school. 6.35 Rosla and After: for teachers. 7.05 Open University.
7.30 NEWSROOM, weather.
8.00 EUROPA. Young people in eastern Europe.
8.30 THE SHADOW OF THE TOWER: 'Power in the Land'. James Maxwell as Henry VII.
9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK: Tony Bennett.
10.10 NEWS, weather.
10.15 WORLD CINEMA: 'The Mind of the Child'. Michel Tarrazon.
10.40 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.
ITV
10.20 Schools. 1.10 Painters. 1.40 Schools. 2.32 Yesterdays. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.10 Tea break. 3.40 Yoga. 4.10 Mad movies. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Atom Ant. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.
6.00 TODAY.
6.30 CROSSROADS.
6.55 FILM: 'RETURN OF THE SEVEN'. Yul Brynner, Robert Fuller, Warren Oates.
8.45 SEZ LES.
9.15 THE NEXT WAVE? Today's college reviews.
10.00 NEWS.
10.30 CINEMA.
11.00 EUROPEAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS.
11.50 NOT JUST AN ART FACTORY.
REGIONAL ITV
SOUTHERN: 3.35 Horoscope. 3.40 Tea break. 4.10 Houseparty. 4.23 Cartoon. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Joe 90. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day 8½ day. 6.30 Junkin. 7.00 Film: 'A Pair of Briefs'. 8.45 London. 11.50 South news. 12.00 British Museum. 12.30 Weather.
ANGLIA: 3.40 Newsroom. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Rupert. 4.25 Tea break. 4.55 Bush Boy. 5.29 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads.
7.00 Dick Van Dyke. 7.30 Film: 'Barbados Quest'. 8.45 London. 11.50 Living and growing.
ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Family affair. 4.40 Rupert. 4.55 Lift off. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The spy with the cold nose'. 8.45 London.
HARLECH: 10.20 Schools. 3.50 Holidays abroad. 4.15

Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Huckleberry Finn. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.10 Film: 'The wackiest ship in the army'. 8.45 London. 10.30 Gallery. 11.00 Skating. 11.15 Weather.
HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Sport West.
HTV Wales as above except: 5.20-5.50 Dibyn-Dobyn. 6.01-6.18 Y Dydd.
HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales.
GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Schools. 3.38 Grampian news. 3.40 Dick Van Dyke. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 London. 6.00 Grampian news. 6.10 Lesley Blair. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Last Hunt'. 8.45 London. 10.30 British Museum. 11.00 Skating. 12.00 Evening prayers.
ULSTER: 10.20 Schools. 1.40 Schools. 4.00 Yoga. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Tommy. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Dr Simon Locke. 7.30 Film: 'The Shark Fighters'. 8.45 London. 11.50 What's it all about?
GRANADA: 10.58 Schools. 3.40 Another world. 4.05 News. Here's Lucy. 4.35 Once upon a time. 4.50 Arthur. 5.15 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Newsday. Police file. 6.20 Peyton Place. 6.55 Film: 'The truth about spring'. 8.45 London. 11.50 British Museum.
YORKSHIRE: 11.00 Schools. 2.33 Face the press. 3.00 Pied Pipers. 3.05 Matinee. 3.35



Fraud tops the charts

THE FASTEST growth sector of Britain's crime business (and the economy?) in 1971 was fraud. 'The amount of money involved was enormous and it is more prejudicial to the nation's economy than any other type of crime,' a senior Fraud Squad officer said the other day.

It is forecast that within a decade fraud would top the crime charts.

Last year the 85-man section of the joint Metropolitan and City Company Fraud Department dealt with 280 cases and had a record number of arrests.

But it seems the fraud game has become more sophisticated over the years.

In earlier years the main Fraud Squad business was to investigate 'fiddling the books' by hitherto honest businessmen trying to prop up failing concerns.

In 1971, however, the trend of 'professionalism' continued, with more criminals planning ahead and taking over legitimate businesses with the intention of defrauding.

Last year Scotland Yard smashed a number of gangs specializing in 'long-term frauds', where companies were obtained to use their good names to get delivery of huge quantities of goods to overseas addresses or to provincial warehouses.

Anyway, the efforts of the nation's money-guardians has apparently cost the fraudsman a drop in profits during the year, from £3.25m to £2.2m.

Anyhow, the efforts of the nation's money-guardians has apparently cost the fraudsman a drop in profits during the year, from £3.25m to £2.2m.

Mao should watch out

MEMO to Chairman Mao: if a stooped old man wearing pebble spectacles appears on your doorstep begging entry, turn him away.

It could well be Lord Thomson of Fleet, the multi-millionaire newspaper baron. Thomson owns 'The Times', 'Sunday Times', 'Scotsman', 'Western Mail' and 'Belfast Telegraph' to name just a few.

In Toronto last week Thomson gave this unvarnished speech: 'There is no limit to the business opportunities in Asia.'

He said he had never been invited to China but added 'If I were invited I would jump on the next plane.'

The business opportunities in a country of almost 800 million people were almost beyond imagination, he said.

Many people will remember Thomson's visit to Moscow in the early 1960s. He frightened the life out of Khrushchev by putting in a bid for 'Pravda'.

Calendar news. 3.45 Women today. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 The Lone Ranger. 5.20 London. 6.00 6.55 Film: 'Houdini'. 8.50 Calendar. 6.30 Smith family. London. 10.30 Yorksport. 11.00 Skating. 11.50 Drive-in. 12.20 Weather.

CHANNEL: 10.20 Schools. 1.40 Schools. 4.05 Origami. 4.18 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.22 Nanny. 4.50 Joe 90. 5.20 London. 6.00 Channel news, weather. 6.10 What's on where. 6.15 Farming news. 6.20 Sports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'No name on the bullet'. 8.15 This is your life. 8.45 London. 11.50 British Museum. 12.20 News, weather.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.45 News. 12.15 Faith for life. 12.20 Weather.

SCOTTISH: 11.00 Schools. 1.40 Schools. 3.30 Once upon a time. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline: early. 4.55 Bush Boy. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Dateline: Thursday. 6.15 A Place of her own. 7.00 Film: 'The George Raft story'. 8.45 London. 11.50 Late call. 11.55 Peter Sarstedt special.

TYNE TEES: 11.00 Schools. 2.32 Face the press. 3.05 Pied Piper. 3.10 British Museum. 3.35 Newsroom. 3.45 Women. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Tournament. 7.00 Film: 'Abandon Ship'. 8.45 London. 10.30 Sportstime. 10.55 Police call. 11.00 Skating. 11.50 Drive-in. 12.15 News. 12.25 Yours faithfully.

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No say for Ovambos, but Strike cracks racist slave-labour scheme

BY JOHN SPENCER

Stewards agree River Don hive-off

SHOP stewards at the River Don steelworks in Sheffield have recommended acceptance of British Steel Corporation proposals to hive off part of the nationalized plant to the privately-owned Firth Brown's.

A meeting of more than 1,000 steelmakers at Sheffield City Hall on Tuesday afternoon heard their stewards recommend:

- Implementation of the first round hive-off;
- Three-shift working in the River Don machine shop; and
- A reduction of 400 men over three years with a great deal of rationalization.

Ignoring the loss of hundreds of jobs, convenor Ernest Webster boasted: 'We've achieved more than anybody yet.'

Communist Party members Cliff Wright chairman of the joint shop stewards' committee, and Herbert Howarth, then faced a barrage of questions.

They admitted that no pay rate for three-shift working had been agreed and that the River Don smelting works could be closed.

One worker from the floor pointed out: 'Fifteen hundred men have already been sacked. How many more will go is not stated.'

Howarth replied: 'Stop moaning about hive-off. We have won a victory. We've gone as far as we can. Let's go in there and fight.'

And Wright said: 'They intend making a profit out of the drop forge area. If you have your job, you're all right.'

With these leading Stalinist spokesmen arguing for acceptance of denationalization, the Communist Party's role at River Don is fully exposed.

They have used the men's preparedness to fight in a purely opportunist way, portraying the first stage of BSC's long-term attack as a temporary victory.

Powell hits at Bangla Desh workers

ENOCH Powell yesterday demanded that citizens of Bangla Desh living in Britain be considered virtually as aliens.

Harping on his old right-wing theme of 'nationality', Powell said he could see no reason why Bangla Desh citizens should be treated as British subjects in the UK.

'History does not make them so; sentiment and allegiance do not make them so; reason and commonsense do not make them so,' he told a Tory luncheon at Smithwick, Birmingham.

By Powell's reasoning the Bangla Desh citizens would apparently lose even the restricted rights afforded them under the Commonwealth 'Immigrants' Act.

JAPAN last year suffered its first decline in steel production in nine years because of the prolonged domestic business slump, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation announced yesterday.

The nation's crude steel production in 1971 totalled 88,560,000 metric tons, a decline of 5.1 per cent from the record output of 92 million tons in 1970.

OVAMBO contract labourers in SW Africa, whose solid strike has crippled the country's commerce and industry over the past month, will not be allowed a direct voice in negotiations to end the contract-labour system.

A spokesman for the S African government in Pretoria announced on Tuesday that the contract-labour system is to be replaced by agreements between the S African government and tribal authorities in Ovamboland.

The government is to meet the Ovambo chiefs at Grootefontein, in the barren North of SW Africa, which is administered from Pretoria.

The entire Ovambo labour force of about 13,000 went on strike a month ago against the system which ties them to one employer, restricts them to certain areas and separates them from their families for long periods of time.

The system is one of virtual slave labour, where the workers are herded into barracks and robbed of all rights.

The S African government's decision to negotiate only with the stooge 'tribal' administration means that the workers have no right to negotiate their own conditions.

The fact that the S African government is picturing the Grootefontein meeting as a triumph for the 'principle of tolerant consultation' and a victory over 'agitators who were exploiting the situation and the simple innocence of the Ovambo workers'.

The fact that the S African racials have been forced to promise abolition of their slave-labour system is, on the contrary, an enormous step forward in the fight against apartheid, and a vindication of the Ovambos' courageous strike.

But it remains to be seen whether the Ovambo labourers, who will have no direct say in the Grootefontein talks, will recognize any agreement reached there.

POLICE reinforcements were flown from Pretoria to Ovamboland yesterday to protect the public for intimidation, according to S African police commissioner-general Gideon Joubert.

The reinforcements flew to Ondangua, the Ovambos' main town. They are the second wave of police sent into the territory since the strike began.

Joubert said ominously that they would protect those Ovambos 'who had been forced to go on strike and wished to return to work'.

The reinforcements flew to Ondangua, the Ovambos' main town. They are the second wave of police sent into the territory since the strike began.

The nation's crude steel production in 1971 totalled 88,560,000 metric tons, a decline of 5.1 per cent from the record output of 92 million tons in 1970.

The federation also said Japan produced 78,120,000 tons of rolled steel products and 63,820,000 tons of pig iron in 1971. They were down 4.8 per cent and 5.1 per cent, respectively, from the previous year.

News of the steel slump came as Japanese and American officials met in Washington to discuss US demands for trade concessions.

NOTTINGHAM

Pickets out for 'political show-down'

ALL MINERS hate the pits—those places where men crawl like animals and lives are taken cheaply.

In every mining village slag heaps are a perpetual reminder of the main factor in people's lives.

Most families have suffered a loss in one way or another. Maimed limbs, silicosis, disablement—the pit's exacting toll is shared evenly.

John Musgrove was just 18 years old when he lost his right leg in an accident at Thoresby colliery in North Nottinghamshire.

'It was in 1943 when we were all under pressure to increase output because of the war.'

was sent out of the fitting shop where I worked to the pit bank to run tubs of coal on to the chair. I was inexperienced at that job.

'I went to step on the chair to push an empty tub against the full ones, something I'd seen other men doing.'

'LACERATED'

'Suddenly the seven-ton tub went down and I nearly went down the shaft with it altogether. It fractured my right leg in a dozen places below the knee and the safety gate lacerated my arm.

'The manager cut the leg off—it was nearly off anyway.'

John was in 'Spencers' Union' at that time, the union formed by those who wouldn't join the General Strike in Nottinghamshire.

The only compensation he got from Thoresby colliery's owners was the pittance of 7s 6d a week—such was the estimated price for losing a leg at the pit through no fault of your own.

He went back to Thoresby in 1944 on the surface as a machinist-improver.

'What was January 1, 1947, like—the day the mines passed into public ownership?' 'It felt as if a weight had been lifted off our shoulders. We thought it was our industry and we were quite prepared to make sacrifices to get it going again,' said John.

'But now there seems to be much more administration than there was under private enterprise. The relationships between men and management are the same but not so harsh.'

POLITICAL

'The Labour government should cut clerical costs and also charge private industry the full price for their coal.'

'This strike we're in now is a political issue. They're using this strike to make an example out of us for the rest of the working class in Britain.'

It looks like running up to another show-down if the miners stay out so will powermen and engineers. If that carries on there'll be a General Strike.

Eckli Barker, a member of the strike committee at Oller-ton colliery, Nottingham, said miners should stand out for the full claim.

'If they offered another £1 Gormley would accept it, he warned. But if we are going to go back for that, we needn't have bothered coming out at all.'

'The general feeling of all these lads here is that we're out now and we'll stick out for the lot.'

Tories must fall, says Devlin

BERNADETTE DEVLIN, MP, said on Tuesday's Radio 4 programme 'It's Your Line' that socialists should work together to bring down the Conservative governments in Ulster and Britain and work towards the creation of a socialist workers' republic.

She also said she visualized a united Ireland as a secular state. It would be owned, run and controlled by the people, she said.

Children, irrespective of religion, class or grading, would have equal opportunities.

During a discussion on the possibility of reunification, Miss Devlin said unity was not won by the unity of masters or parliaments.

'The only unity which can bring about peace is the unity of the working classes.'

During the same programme another member of the panel, Mr Roy Bradford, Ulster Development Minister, said he found only two cases of alleged discrimination in unemployment last year.

Bradford said that a statement by John Hume, MP, that no one could be a Stormont minister without being a member of the Orange Order, was 'utter nonsense'.

OLDER miners are held in a kind of special reverence in mining towns, and they have a special story to tell.

They tell of endless struggle with the old owners of the pits, of Black Friday 1921 and of the betrayed 1926 General Strike. But they also applaud the

strikers' determined effort to win and stiffen their resistance to sell-out.

Filing from the Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire coalfields, PHILIP WADE and JACK GALE talk to some of these men—and one of the younger strike leaders.



Miners from Oller-ton pit, Notts, on picket

'Today they can't afford to lose'

BITTER memories — and grim determination to win — form the message older miners have for the strikers of today.

We met Frank Land, now 71, in Erington Workmen's Club, Castleford. He worked at Wheldale pit until he was

forced to retire with failing eyesight caused by the sweat running off his forehead.

He started as a miner in 1913, earning 1s 3d for an eight-hour day.

'In 1921 it was never a strike—they locked us out.'

'We were out for 14 weeks. I got 10s relief for my wife and kid. That was more than what we got at the pit in any case.'

'We stood out by ourselves and we lost; they cut the pay and put an extra half-hour on the day,' Frank told us.

'In 1926 we were out from May to November and we were sold out.'

'In the end we had to pay back all our relief money. I went to prison for three weeks in 1929 because I couldn't pay my rent.'

'But there's no comparison with this strike.'

'Today the lads have more to lose. They've had mortgages and the like.'

'The men today want something, but if other workers don't come out and support

them then God help this country.'

'And remember I'm drawing more on my old-age pension now than I ever earned in five weeks down the pit,' said Frank.

His friend Percy Bond, now 70, worked in all the pits in the Castleford area.

'In 1926 we had nothing. We used to go to every shop in the town for a few bits for the kids' soup when they came home from school.'

'But our leaders weren't strong enough. Men like A. J. Cook and Herbert Smith sold us out.'

'In the end we went back on worse terms than when we came out.'

'We returned on less money and more hours. We lost everything.'

'But I think they'll win this one,' said Percy, who spent years paying back the relief he got during the 1926 strike.

'The oldest man in the club was 81-year-old Joe Williams, a former underground worker at Fryston colliery. The first strike he remembers taking part in was in 1903.'

YORKSHIRE

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'The oldest man in the club was 81-year-old Joe Williams, a former underground worker at Fryston colliery. The first strike he remembers taking part in was in 1903.'

'His latest efforts will be particularly appreciated by the leaders of the British CP, who faithfully supported every action of Stalin against the Soviet working class and have now to this day retracted their slanders against the Bolshevik leaders murdered by Stalin.'



MINERS' STRIKE — DAY FIVE

MIDLANDS miners often live shoulder to shoulder with industrial workers of the big car, engineering and electrical factories which sprawl above ground throughout the area. They are confident and determined to win. In fact the militancy of the pay struggle in the factories—and the lessons of their setbacks and sell-outs—infuses the miners' attitudes.

Here two of them talk to Workers Press.

It's a battle to the end,' say 20-year men

MARTIN WALSH, from Coventry colliery, has worked in the pits for 22 years.

'As far as Coventry miners are concerned this strike is a battle to the end,' he told Workers Press. 'The other unions must support us.'

'We think the TUC has betrayed us.'

'It was the Tory government which told the Coal Board not to give us more than 7 per cent. They must be got out; the working class must force them out.'

'A Labour government must nationalize all industries, give control to the working men of all such nationalized industries, stop paying the ex-landlords royalties and stop paying compensation to the old owners.'

'Then the working men will be proud to work in this country.'

Fifty-seven-year-old John Mills, from the same pit, thought that if the NCB had offered £3 there would not have been a strike.

'But we really work in the pits.'

'Any job there ought to be the top paid of all industries.'

DISGUSTING

'We are only asking for about £5 a week underground and £9 a week raise on the surface, yet this is refused and the Queen got £1,000-a-week rise! It is disgusting in a so-called democratic country.'

Twenty-three years a miner, John 'certainly didn't agree with the TUC decision.'

He added: 'I'm sure there just has to be a General Strike to get the Tories out.'

workers press

READERS' MEETINGS

Meet Editorial Board speakers. Discuss your ideas for the expanded paper	SHEFFIELD Sunday January 16 7.30 p.m.
NEWCASTLE Thursday January 13 7.30 p.m. 'Bayhorse', Westgate Rd Speaker: Alex Mitchell	YS Premises Western Works, Portobello Speaker: Stephen Johns
LEEDS Sunday January 16 3 p.m. Community Centre Quarry Hill Flats Leads 1 Speaker: Stephen Johns	GLASGOW Monday January 17 7.30 pm Room 1 Partick Burgh Lesser Hall (Nr Merikland St Tube Stn.) Speaker: Stephen Johns

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Make the Tory government resign!	Keighley Workingmen's Club. 'The miners' strike'.
Return a Labour government pledged to restore full employment and repeal all laws against the unions!	SE LONDON: Thursday January 13, 8pm. Deptford Engineers' Club (opposite New Cross Station). Support the miners.
LUTON: Thursday January 13, 8pm. Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Rd. 'Support the miners'.	COVENTRY: Sunday January 16, 11 a.m. Golden Eagle, Keresley, nr Coventry. 'The miners' strike and the fight against the Tories.'
CORBY: Wednesday January 19, 8pm. Civic Centre. The 'Right-to-Work' campaign.	SW LONDON: Tuesday January 18, 8pm. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.
N LONDON: Thursday January 13, 8pm. Town Hall, Edmonton. Miners' pay struggle.	CROYDON: Thursday January 20, 8pm. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd, E Croydon. Support the miners.
KEIGHLEY: Thursday January 13, 7.30 p.m.	

Socialist Labour League
Special course of lectures
In line with decision of ATUA November 6 conference to build revolutionary party.

TUESDAY JANUARY 18
Essential Marxism
TUESDAY JANUARY 25
Economics and Politics
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 1
Historical Materialism today
Lecture Room 1
Digbeth Hall, Digbeth
BIRMINGHAM, 8 p.m.

given by
G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

LATE NEWS

MINERS are planning to picket six coal ships at Newport, Cardiff and Swansea docks to prevent cargoes going to power stations and steel plants.

The ships are expected at the ports in the next few days.

Mr Dai Francis, general secretary of the Wales miners, said: 'We have the full co-operation of members of other unions who will be responsible for the transportation.'

WEATHER

A FRESH SW airstream covers the British Isles, between a low NW of Ireland and a high over Europe.

All areas will have showers and sunny spells. Some of the showers are likely to be heavy especially in the W, merging at times to give several hours of rain.

In E areas the showers will be rather isolated giving long sunny periods.

Temperatures will be near or a little milder than normal for mid January but frost is likely at night.

Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Some bright intervals at first but becoming mostly cloudy with rain at times and snow on mountains. Temperatures falling below normal except in the NW.

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