

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY MARCH 30, 1972 ● No. 727 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## UNION COURT IN ACTION

# T&GWU FINED £5,000

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

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The drivers of the two lorries and their T&GWU branch secretary appeared before the court on witness summonses issued late on Tuesday night.

After hearing counsel instructed by Heaton's, affidavits from the firm's joint managing directors and the evidence of the three St Helens men, the court ruled that there had been deliberate action by union officials to breach its orders.

In giving the verdict of the five-man court, president Sir John Donaldson said that the NIRC existed not just to protect one particular law, but the whole system of law.

Failure to comply with an order of the court demonstrated a contempt for all law and for freedom under the law, he said. 'Therein lies the seriousness of the present proceedings.'

He cited three occasions on which the T&GWU had had the opportunity to appear before the court, but had chosen not to do so.

The union had been strictly within its rights in taking this course of action, he said. It might, however, have been wiser to take a different course.

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It said: 'In accordance with the TUC advice, we will not be participating in the proceedings and will therefore not be in attendance on March 29.'

The court president commented sharply that in the context of contempt of court such a reply must be 'almost without precedent'.

He hinted that while on this occasion the decision to attend or not attend had been left to the alleged contemnor's good sense, it might not be in the future. 'He may be required to attend as the court may see fit', he said.

Sir John continued: 'On the evidence, no attempt whatsoever was made by the union to prevent this breach of the court's order.'

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of this hearing and offer any explanation whatsoever in mitigation.'

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The court president pointed out, however, that whether or not the dispute was settled did not affect the issue of contempt.

Full hearings of both the Heaton's order and a similar one granted to Bishop's Wharf Ltd, of Warrington, on Monday will take place on April 12. It is in that action that the issue of unfair industrial practice under the Industrial Relations Act will be decided.

## Women join engineers' sit-in



WOMEN workers at the British Steel Corporation's works, Openshaw, Manchester, are pictured above on Tuesday after voting to sit-in. They will do their stint — apart from night shift — in occupying the factory.

The Openshaw workers are among the nine

engineering plants in the Manchester area who are continuing their factory occupation in support of the engineering pay claim. They are engaged in a pitched battle with the local employers for better wages and holidays.

Men at a tenth factory, Joseph Robinsons, of Sal-

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Meanwhile 3,500 workers at Ferranti's two Manchester factories went on a one-day strike yesterday as part of the campaign.

## Rail talks break up

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The ASLEF, footplate-men's executive met yesterday afternoon and split on industrial action while

BY PHILIP WADE

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At the same time an official 'failure to agree' has not yet been registered.

'It doesn't look so good at all,' said Ray Buckton, ASLEF general secretary,

after yesterday's break-down.

'I'm very disappointed we've reached this impasse in the negotiations. But I'm still hoping. It was up to the executive to plan the next move', he added.

NUR general secretary Sir Sidney Greene said: 'An extra 50 [on railmen's basic] would make it a good settlement'.

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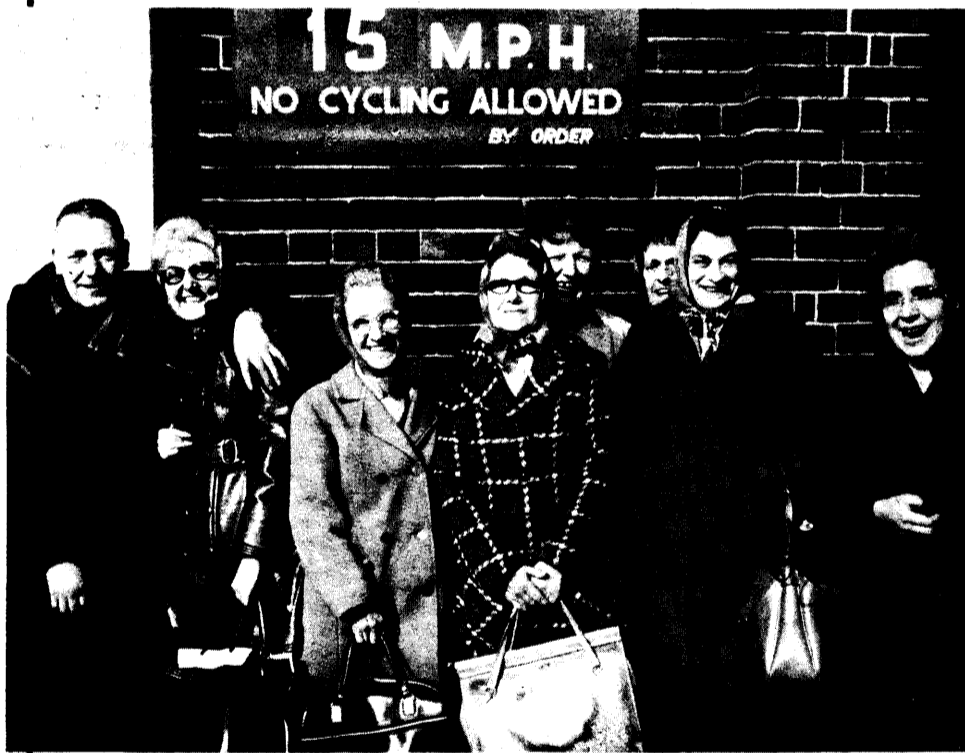
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AROUND THE WORLD

# ANOTHER US CASH THREAT

BY JOHN SPENCER

PAUL VOLCKER, US Treasury undersecretary, delivered another sharp ultimatum to the rest of the capitalist world at a Paris meeting of financial experts on Tuesday.

While the Organization for Economic Corporation and Development heard Volcker's statement, Nixon's government announced its second steepest balance of payments deficit in history, and the Commerce Department released figures showing a deepening trend towards recession in the US.

Volcker told the Paris delegates, representing ten of the top capitalist nations, that they had better get their 'philosophy' straight on a new monetary set-up to replace the shattered post-war system based on convertibility between the dollar and gold.

He did not think such a settlement could be reached by autumn, by which time many bankers fear another currency crisis with the possibility of a dollar devaluation.

He made it clear that America will not restore convertibility at least until the other countries had made sufficient concessions to bring the US balance of payments back into surplus.

Last month, the US trade deficit widened to \$587m from January's total of \$318m and December's \$273m. This is the worst set of figures since the all-time record of \$821m last October.

To overcome this massive deficit, the European and Japanese employers would have to sacrifice exports to the US and open their markets to US goods and capital investment.

The sacrifices they made in the December 18 currency realignment have only simulated the American monopolists' appetite for further concessions.

Volcker demanded to know who would take over the US role now there were multiple centres of economic power rather than a single dominating country.

Who would provide the matching deficits to sustain other countries' trade surpluses and maintain the International Monetary Fund as the world policeman, he asked.

Paper schemes like the Special Drawing Rights system envisaged by Tory Chancellor Anthony Barber were useless if the other capitalist countries would not agree to finance a 'substantial period of US balance of payment surpluses,' Volcker said.

The European governments and central banks were ignoring the underlying issues in favour of a preoccupation with 'surface mechanics', he added.

The underlying issue behind Volcker's tough talk is the growing recession throughout the capitalist world pushing every state into an intensified struggle for markets.

The Commerce Department's industrial index, released yesterday, shows the smallest rise for five months, indicating that production and investment in the US are falling rapidly.

## KKK active in Florida

KU KLUX KLAN activity is on the increase in Florida, the Jewish community services organization B'nai B'rith said yesterday.

The organization's Anti-Defamation League said there were 22 simultaneous cross burnings on Saturday night, most of them in the S Florida area.

The chairman of the League's Florida board, Jack Kassewitz, refused to speculate whether the Klan activity was inspired by pro-segregationist Alabama governor George Wallace's resounding success in the Florida presidential primary two weeks ago.

## HUSSEIN TO GET MORE US AID

A 25 PER CENT increase in United States military aid to Jordan is almost certain to follow King Hussein's Washington visit.

In talks with the White House and States Department on Tuesday, Hussein asked for an additional \$15m in military aid.

He also explained to president Nixon's advisers his treacherous plan for a Jordanian take-over of Palestinian lands on the Jordan West Bank.

The US is reluctant to support this plan openly because its Israeli allies have already publicly rejected it.

Behind the scenes, however, it is the subject of intensive diplomatic manoeuvring aimed at



finally settling the Palestinian question by delivering the Arab inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied West Bank into the hands of their chief Arab enemy, Hussein.

America's military aid to Jordan already totals about \$45m and the additional sum demanded by Hussein will strengthen his army against the Palestinians and enable US imperialism to take an even firmer grip in the Middle East.

# Horrific weapons to replace GIs

TROOPS could be replaced in Vietnam by an 'automated battlefield', relying on people sniffers, spider mines and silent button bomblets.

Information on the horrific new weapons the Americans are preparing is revealed by French journalist Alain Jaubert, scientific editor of 'La Recherche', Paris, in yesterday's issue of 'New Scientist'.

Jaubert says that sensors to detect people will be dropped by air—those like the people sniffer, which is sensitive to infinitesimal quantities of ammonia and can detect human perspiration at considerable distances.

Other devices include:

● **MAGID**, which can pick up minute changes in the earth's magnetic field caused by a man carrying a rifle or a spade. Signals from these and other sensors are picked up by pilotless aircraft and processed by two computers in Thailand.

The computers then send information to field commanders who call on anti-personnel weapons delivered by aircraft. The computers can communicate direct to mines on the battlefield.

**SPIDER** mine, hardly bigger than a ping-pong ball, shoots out eight nylon threads and anyone who touches a thread explodes the mine.

**SHRIKE** missiles explode near the ground and fire 10,000 four millimeter steel cubes which penetrate deeply and are difficult to detect by X-rays.

**BUTTON** bomblets are filled with white phosphorous which can kill by poisoning as well as by burning.

**GRAVEL** mines, which look like leaves or pieces of cloth, but can blow a foot off.

**CANNON** shells explode to release shrapnel balls, each of which bounces and then explodes releasing 600 small fragments at the height to hit the chest or head of an average Vietnamese.

At the other end of the scale is a giant 15,000-pound bomb, filled with a new explosive whose shock waves can annihilate all animal, plant and human life in an area more than a mile across.

## BANGLADESH TO TRY COLLABORATORS

SEVENTY-THREE special tribunals have been set up in Bangladesh to try thousands of people accused of collaborating with the Pakistan occupation forces last year.

The tribunals set up under the collaborators (special tribunal) order, issued recently, will provide 'expeditious and fair trials'.

They will be headed by sessions judges and will sit in various parts of the country including Dacca where there will be 11.

The exact number of people

## WHAT WE THINK

# ONCE AGAIN: INDIVIDUAL TERROR AND MARXISM

THE KIDNAPPING of three British military hostages in Turkey is a desperate attempt to save Deniz Gezmiş and his three comrades awaiting death in the military regime's prison. But it is no substitute for mobilizing the masses in action to save the lives of these three young guerrilla fighters.

The regime's premier, Nihat Erim, has announced that he will not give in to 'blackmail' and his government 'will never compromise' with the guerrillas. In other words the three men will hang, even if it costs the lives of the auxiliaries of British imperialism in Turkey.

With so much blood already on its hands, the Turkish military regime will not balk at the death of three British technicians in order to crush the resistance of the youth and the working class.

Marxists are opposed to individual terror and kidnapping not out of moral scruple, but because it cuts across the basic task of mobilizing the mass of workers and oppressed people against their oppressors.

Trotsky wrote that: 'Individual terrorism in our eyes is impermissible—precisely for the reason that it lowers the masses in their own consciousness, reconciles them to impotence, and directs their glances and hopes towards the great avenger and emancipator who will someday come and accomplish this mission.'

The revolutionary overthrow of the military regime remains the only way to stem the tide of blood which the dictators are shedding in Turkey. The revolutionary action of the masses cannot be substituted by individual terrorist actions, however heroic, born out of frustration and despair.

The young guerrilla fighters have been betrayed into these desperate actions by the counter-revolutionary treachery of Stalinism, which collaborates with the Turkish military regime. Podgorny, the Soviet President is due to pay a 'goodwill visit' to the dictatorship in a fortnight's time.

This betrayal is compounded by the Pabloite revisionists, like the parlour pink 'heroes' of 'Red Mole', who advocate individual terror in Ireland, Argentina, Turkey and Quebec. These people are aiding the Stalinists to strangle the Turkish working class with their anti-Trotskyist and reactionary terrorist theories.

## TURKISH MARTIAL LAW EXTENDED

THE TURKISH military commander of Istanbul Gen Faik Turun has announced a new clamp down on people he calls 'anarchists and communists'.

Earlier the Istanbul martial law command revealed that since martial law had been proclaimed almost a year ago 3,214 cases against 'anarchists' had been investigated and prosecutions

against 1,977 people opened.

At the moment 292 people, including 13 women, were being held in prison either under arrest or as convicted prisoners.

Searches during the year had led to the seizure of 2,663 weapons, about three million rounds of ammunition and large quantities of explosives and other prohibited weapons, the announcement said.

## Daley's murder squad

POLICE in Chicago kill more people than police departments in the four other largest US cities according to a two-year survey published yesterday.

Chicago's first citizen is Mayor Richard Daley, the man who

vigorously defended the 1969 police massacre of demonstrators in the city.

Marshall Patner who headed the investigation of police killings said: 'I would say they are a trigger-happy society of policemen . . . they are clearly undisciplined from the top.'

During 1969 and 1970 Chicago police were reported to have killed 79 civilians, 59 of whom—75 per cent—were black.

The figures were contained in a report of the Chicago Law Enforcement Study Group—a joint research project of North Western University's Centre for Urban Affairs, and 12 civic organizations.

The group charged that in 28 of the police killings there was 'substantial evidence' of police violations of administrative standards, and in 28 cases of a violation of criminal statutes.

'In ten of these cases there is substantial evidence that the policeman involved should have been criminally liable in connection with the death,' Patner told a press conference.

arrested as collaborators after the surrender of the Pakistani troops to the Indian army last December is not known but about 10,000 people are believed to be in Dacca jails alone. They include Bengalis and Urdu-speaking Biharis.

The Bangladesh government has also announced that it will try about 15,000 of the Pakistani prisoners of war now being held in India on charges of committing various crimes during last year's military crackdown on the East Bengalis. No date or procedure has been announced.

## Actors demand deregister conference

**MORE THAN 400 members of Actors' Equity have signed a petition summoning a special general meeting on April 23 to demand the union's deregistration under the Industrial Relations Act.**

The decision to register came as a surprise announcement earlier this month. It was a reversal of a previous decision of Equity's general council and contravenes the TUC's non-registration policy.

Within a week of the about-face by the general council a number of actors prepared a petition within the union's rank and file to call for a special conference.

The resolution for discussion at the emergency meeting quickly accumulated 428 signatures from employed and unemployed actors. It reads as follows:

'We the membership of Equity deplore and condemn the unprincipled action taken by the Equity Council to register our union under the Tory government's Industrial Relations Act. This is an abject betrayal of their declared policy of total opposition to this legislation which we, the membership, overwhelmingly supported, recognizing that any state interference in our democratic rights as an independent union must be opposed, and especially the state interference by a government which has always been, and declares itself to be, the government of employers.'

'We are engaged in a struggle to live and work under conditions when our industry is in total crisis and our livelihood threatened by mass unemployment. All our voices, all our strength, are needed to fight these conditions. Registration robs us of our strength and leaves us prostrate in the hands of the employers and their representatives in parliament.'

'At the Blackpool conference of the TUC the decision was taken by delegates representing millions of workers and professional people to defeat the government's intentions by coming off the register. Thousands of us in Equity have petitioned, marched, demonstrated in response to the council's policy of total opposition.'

'We therefore instruct the Council to deregister immediately and to demand of the TUC leaders that they carry out their task to mobilize all unions to defeat the Industrial Relations Act in its entirety.'

The first result of this resolution is that it has seriously disrupted an attempt by the union leadership to seek registration by referring the decision to a 'yes' or 'no' referendum.

Such a vote would not allow the widest discussion on the implications of the breach in trade union solidarity and the implications of registration.

One actor told Workers Press:

'The fact that the National Union of Seamen has been suspended by the TUC does not seem to worry Equity. Until now our union has gone through the motions of alliance with the policies of the TUC, the Confederation of Entertainment Unions and the Federation of Film Unions, while at the same time trying to get a "special case" deal with the Tories.'

The special conference has been called for April 23 at the Adelphi theatre, Strand.

Association rules state the meeting must be convened within four weeks of the request being made; this is in fact within FIVE weeks. Apparently the delay is because Equity general secretary Gerald Croasdel has to attend the International Federation of Actors in Latin America, where the main topic for discussion will be the growing poverty and unemployment amongst Latin American theatre workers, the interference by governments through laws, imprisonment and censorship of the free expression of ideas and of the right to organize by trade unionists to protect their rights.

# Herbert's bankrupt? 'Moonshine' says boss

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

**WITH BANKRUPTCY staring it in the face, the Alfred Herbert machine-tool group is trying to explain away its huge losses.**

Britain's largest machine-

tool manufacturer, the firm has just announced losses for the year totalling £4.24m. But the chairman, Sir Richard Young, told the financial press that mutterings about bankruptcy 'are just moonshine'.

He said the company is 'very relaxed about liquidity'.

He agreed, however, that 'we

can't go on at the current level until kingdom come'.

How long to kingdom come can't be long.

Sales last year were 20 per cent lower at £37.72m and the trading loss was £2.24m against a profit of £1m in the year to October 1970.

The group also made a £1.28m provision against the possibility of having to write-off its 44 per cent stake in Herbert-ingersoll,

a joint venture set up five years ago with the US-owned Ingersoll Milling Machine Company.

In his annual report, Young says there will be no let-up in the closing down of unprofitable sections of the group.

Company sites have already been cut by 15 to 11 and manpower reduced by 3,190 to 8,279.

Another 1,000 jobs are at risk at the company's Churchill Machine Tool plant at Altrincham, near Manchester.

A decision on whether, or how soon, to transfer the Churchill production to Coventry will be made in August.

Young said the rigorous slimming of the group 'has led to an altogether healthier hard core to the business'.

And he added: 'The best course for the company is being kept under constant review.'

## Confrontation over Mersey containers

BY DAVID MAUDE

**NATIONALIZATION under workers' control must be an immediate and not long-term objective of Britain's port-workers following the containers row which has blown up on Liverpool docks.**

Whatever the original intentions of either party to the row, the state, in the shape of the National Industrial Relations Court, has now entered decisively into the argument.

A defensive action by dockers and road-transport workers on Merseyside has been transformed into a tense confrontation between the state and the biggest union in the country.

In the background of this issue lurk the world trade slump, the port employers' plans to slash their labour force by more than 7 per cent this year and two years of employer-government planning to attack dockers' rights.

It is no accident that all these issues should be sparked together through the growing supply of some big, expensive, reinforced-metal boxes for carrying cargo—containers.

Containerization allows a potentially vast increase in the tonnage handled by a port.

Figures compiled on the US W Coast before the present trade slump showed each individual docker shifting 13 to 18 times more cargo per hour under the system than with conventional manhandling methods.

To give just one example: a fully-loaded container ship carrying 296 truck bodies below and 140 on deck—a total weight in their containers of 6,500 tons—turned round in 40 hours compared with the five-and-a-half days the same loads would have taken previously.

The comparison in man-hours was 850 as against 11,088.

The capital costs of servicing a container berth are in the region of ten times those for conventional cargo ships. In order to realize this investment, the employers have to push ruthlessly for more rapid turn-round times and drastic cuts in the work force.

A single 20-foot container alone costs about £1,000, but it carries 15 to 20 tons at a time



**A container being loaded at Liverpool docks**

and takes an absolute minimum of labour to load or unload.

The rate of job-loss resulting from containerization and other new cargo-handling methods over the last ten years on the New York waterfront alone is estimated by the men's union at 1,000 a year. And it is not just dockers' jobs which suffer.

Sir Andrew Crichton's OCL-ACT consortium claimed at one state that nine container ships would replace 40 conventional vessels.

This trend, repeated in other branches of sea transport, and the current trade slump means rising unemployment among seamen.

The slump has turned everything on its head—driving the employers forward internationally into war against dockers and seamen.

It is this which provides the motive-power for the present dispute.

## ICI'S SALES DROP

IMPERIAL CHEMICALS' sales for the first two months of 1972 have been 'considerably below expectations' chairman Jack Callard said in London yesterday.

And he warned that if the ICI's profits for the first quarter of 1972 were to recover, much depended on Tory Chancellor Barber's Budget to expand demand for the products of the chemical industry.

He said ICI's exports had been hit sharply by US moves to protectionism, which had not only restricted that market, but led to large quantities of low-priced goods previously destined

for the US coming into Britain from Japan and elsewhere.

Callard said ICI suffered a permanent loss of business as a result of the miners' strike and this would further depress the company's profits.

THE MICKLEOVER Transport plant in Park Royal, London, has announced it is to close. Owned by Unigate, the firm employs 300 men. It is believed it still has orders for 650 field ambulances—150 more will be made at the plant and 500 subcontracted.

### ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

**N LONDON: Thursday March 30, 8 p.m.** Bricklayers Arms, Tottenham High Rd., N17 (off White Hart Lane). 'Report back meeting from Wembley. The Scarborough conference'.

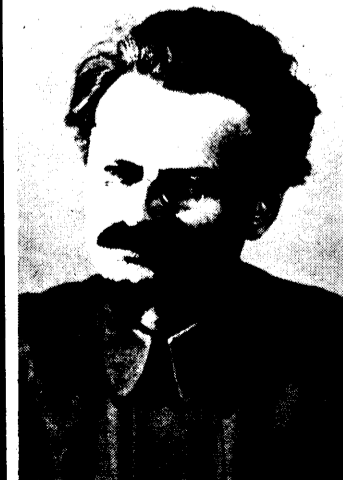
**S EAST: Thursday, March 30, 8 p.m.** Deptford Engineers' Club, nr. New Cross Station. 'Report back from Wembley Pool'.

**WANDSWORTH: Thursday March 30, 8 p.m.** Selkirk Hotel, Silkirk Rd, Tooting. 'Empire Pool and building the revolutionary party'.

**ACTON: Tuesday April 4, 8 p.m.** Mechanics Arms, Churchfield Road. 'Empire Pool and building the revolutionary party'.

**EAST LONDON: Tuesday April 4, 8 p.m.** Aberfeldy Pub, Aberfeldy Street, nr. Blackwall Tunnel. 'Building the revolutionary party and the fight for docks jobs'.

## BOOKS



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# BEHIND THE ENGINEERS' PAY CLAIM

A three part series by DAVID MAUDE  
Workers Press Industrial Correspondent

## PART 3

Militancy ran high at the Saltley coke depot as 20,000 Birmingham engineering workers joined picketing miners from all over the country to force its closure.

'This will go down in British trade union history,' Arthur Scargill, a leader of the Yorkshire miners, told the cheering crowd as police shut and padlocked the depot gates. Later that day the Tories ordered the Wilberforce inquiry.

History will also record, however, that just four days earlier the trade union leaders had knifed even more powerful solidarity action.

By the casting vote of Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union secretary Frank Chapple, negotiators for Britain's 115,000 power workers had accepted a pay settlement of 7½ per cent.

The two representatives of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers at the talks—the 'left' Bob Wright and the Communist Party member John Foster—were careful to let it be known that they had voted against in the six-six tie.

Voting with the engineers had been one electrician, plus the three representatives of the Transport and General Workers' Union. The accusing finger was pointed at Chapple's two faithful EPTU sidekicks and the four men from the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

This line-up, however, was only the last act of the tragedy; had Wright and the other AUEW 'lefts' fought the abandonment of their national pay claim a month earlier, the power climb-down would not have been possible.

That such voting figures—normally a closely-guarded secret—should come out at all was in itself significant.

It was clearly felt by the engineers that something dramatic was needed to stem the mounting criticism of their January decision seen at Saltley and elsewhere.

Meanwhile a second current of opposition was also rapidly building up inside the AUEW.

A decision to institute postal

balloting for general officers' jobs, which had been pushed through by the national committee against executive advice, was becoming increasingly unpopular.

Militants felt it threatened the key role of branches in the union structure.

They pointed out that 71 branches had already been closed down in 1971—the biggest figure for any year since 1939.

The trend, it was felt by more and more rank-and-filers, was clear. A desperate right wing was trying to hold on to their shrinking power-base by bringing the AUEW into line with Chapple's EPTU, with which merger talks were in progress.

In place of the present 2,000 factory-based or local branches the right wanted 1,000 regional branches with elected, but full-time branch secretaries.

In a postal ballot, all the pressure of the mass media would be brought to bear on the union member as an individual. The specific weight of the trade union activist would be drastically reduced.

Another change in rules means that any general officer who has held down his job for two terms and is over 60 does not have to seek election.

Thus AUEW president Hugh Scanlon, executive member Reg Birch and others are already in for life. So is the right-winger Jim Conway if he wins the forthcoming contest for the general secretaryship.

One decision taken by the January 5-7 executive meeting of all four AUEW sections, which also ratifies abandonment of the national pay claim, was the drawing-up of a common set of rules.

The Communist Party faction in the technical and supervisory section is known to favour the replacement of its rank-and-file executive with a leadership which works full time. Militants fear they could form a powerful axis with Scanlon for changing the face of the technicians' and constructional sections.

All these issues raise the question of democratization.

But, as Leon Trotsky insisted in the uncompleted article 'Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay', drafted shortly before his murder in 1940, the struggle for trade union demo-



Saltley coke depot, February 10: engineers join picketing miners in action that forced the gates to close

cracy 'presupposes for its realization the complete freedom of the trade unions from the imperialist or colonial state'.

These words have the sharpest possible relevance to the struggles around the issue of engineering pay, which this week open up in earnest in the key Manchester district.

On the one side are ranged the Tory government and the engineering employers, who, despite a 7.4-per-cent increase in profits last year, now face a disastrous slump in overseas orders of 21 per cent.

On the other—albeit timidly—stand Scanlon and the same AUEW executive which in January abandoned the national claim.

Despite increasingly rapacious statements from his opponents, Scanlon has been talking recently about reducing the 'abrasiveness' between government and unions.

We have already touched briefly on the exports position of the engineering industry. Let us look at a few more of the statistics which are stiffening the employers' resistance.

The 7.4 per cent profits rise last year was itself only half the increase over the previous 12 months.

But in 1971 shareholders still received £76m, the return on capital was still 14 per cent and assets still exceeded £2,000m. Now home orders, too, are down. In the first quarter of this year they dropped by a profit-threatening 6 per cent.

The industry's already-shrunken labour force is operating at between 15 and 20 per cent below capacity.

On Tuesday, February 15, as thousands of striking miners lobbied their MPs at Westminster, leaders of the Engineering Employers' Federation held a hush-hush meeting with senior Ministers on the power crisis.

As Workers Press was subsequently able to reveal, they demanded government per-

mission to dismiss millions of workers, deprive them of lay-off pay and slash their redundancy entitlements.

The Tories hedged. Within two days, Lord Wilberforce's inquiry had offered the miners £4.50-£6.

But as the miners balloted on the offer, EEF president Denby Bamford insisted that member-firms still had 'no alternative but to resist extravagant claims—especially at this time.

With Tory premier Edward Heath applauding in the audience at the Federation's annual dinner, Bamford declared that the unions had not 'sidestepped' this resistance by their plant-bargaining strategy.

The following day he was at it again.

'If the unions are out to test the fibre of our unity,' Bamford told a meeting of the EEF general council, 'we should leave them in no doubt as to its durability.'

So what now in engineering?

The Labour 'lefts' on the AUEW executive—and their supporters in the ranks of the union—are now seriously worried by the consequences of the January 4 decision. Under pressure from a group of senior shop stewards in the motor industry recently even Scanlon was prepared to concede it 'might have been a miscalculation'.

Like the Communist Party, however, the 'lefts' are not prepared to take an iota of responsibility for the confusion caused in the ranks of the engineering unions by their actions.

This is not to ignore the serious differences that have been opened up in the CP by the January 24 decision to abandon the national claim.

One leading left-wing official of the AUEW claims the party is 'completely divided' on the issue.

In the Manchester district, prominent CP members of the union have expressed keen disappointment with the plant-

bargaining strategy.

Both ex-national committee member Bernard Panter and district secretary John Tocher are understood to be opposed to it, but feel that their job is now to swing the area 'over to the offensive.

In Sheffield a fortnight ago the CP-dominated AUEW district committee split 50-50 on a proposal to back the greater Manchester action which began on Monday.

The casting vote against came from CP veteran and AUEW national-committee member Herbert Howarth.

Officially the CP policy is to 'make the best of a bad decision'.

But it maintains bitter hostility to the struggle for a principled, revolutionary leadership in the unions, preferring to blame engineering workers for alleged apathy.

Taking their line from Reg Birch, the Maoists have swung into enthusiastic support for the January 4 vote.

Perhaps the clearest expression of this came at a recent stewards' meeting convened by the N London district committee of the AUEW. There Ted Roycraft, one of the assistant district organizers, described it as 'the best and most democratic decisions ever taken' by the union.

Mike Cooley, the Maoist president of the AUEW technicians' section, says he is aware of the dangers of plant bargaining but made only marginal criticisms at the key combined-section executive at Selsdon when it was discussed.

The Socialist Labour League alone has consistently opposed this strategy from the left.

Yet when the AUEW national committee meets again on April 17, there is every chance of a new claim being drawn up which will bury that drawn up last year.

The next three weeks will be crucial.

CONCLUDED



Frank Chapple of the ETU (right) with AUEW 'left' Bob Wright

# UNREST IN W GERMANY'S ARMED FORCES

The W German bourgeoisie is becoming increasingly worried about the growing lack of discipline among young conscripts in the Bundeswehr.

The whole matter has been taken up by Fritz-Rudolf Schultz, parliamentary Ombudsman of the W German armed forces.

In his annual report he openly and consciously makes the whole question a central political issue.

Herr Schultz's report lays the blame for falling discipline on the Social Democratic government's policy of seeking friendlier relations with the Warsaw Pact countries and the disappearance of the traditional picture of the 'enemy in the E'.

... disillusionment and frustration among key personnel of the armed forces ... must not be underestimated by the Federal Defence Minister,' warns the report.

The number of conscientious objectors among W German youth has been rising steadily year by year. From 1956 until 1971, 107,000 W Germans made formal applications to be recognized as objectors.

But the rate rose most sharply over the last two years. In 1970 the number was 19,363 and jumped to 27,657 in 1971.

The report says discipline among the Bundeswehr's 465,000 soldiers worsened throughout last year, affecting the whole climate of the armed forces.

Statistically registered offences, notably absence without leave, desertion, disobedience, assault on superiors, larceny and theft of arms and military equipment, increased considerably.

There was also much worry about the sharp leap in the

number of soldiers reporting sick before difficult exercises.

There were more and more incidents in which W German soldiers deliberately violated standing orders not to wear uniforms at political rallies.

What clearly emerges from the report is that the danger signs are there and that the ruling class had better take note.

Referring to Bonn's 'Ostpolitik', the report continues:

'The obvious question arises as to why in this political situation compulsory military service should be maintained. Others go so far as to raise doubts whether the W German armed forces as such are still necessary.

'Hints that the Warsaw Pact countries are continuing their undiminished effort for military superiority over the W are hardly taken seriously,' adds Herr Schultz, a former Free Democratic MP.

Then, in a very conscious way, he declares the situation must be halted and the position reversed.

Many W German instructors and commanders were 'stubbornly resisting Bonn's "Ostpolitik"'. This was resulting in tensions between officers and men, he said.

'Decisive improvements and changes ... are not yet in sight. There are, on the contrary, plain signs that the present strains and pressures will further increase and face the armed forces with growing difficulties.'

Finally, the Ombudsman pleads for a return to the 'old days' of discipline, 'if only to keep the working class in check.'

'So far, the Bundeswehr has coped with the problems from outside. The armed forces have succeeded better in dealing with young peoples' unrest than other institutions of our society,' Herr Schultz claims.



# US CAR FIRMS PLAN EXODUS FROM BRITAIN

February 28, 1982, may be the day that the last car comes off a US-owned production line in Britain, suggests an article in the latest issue of 'Car' magazine.

The article suggests that over the next decade the three American car firms with plants here—Ford, Chrysler and General Motors—will gradually decide that this country is just not the place to build cars.

It goes on to argue that they will recognize its unequalled amenities for the building of trucks, vans and buses.

Written by Nicholas Faith, business expert of the 'Sunday Times', the article suffers from all the weaknesses to be expected of an empirical, management-oriented observer picking out trends for what appear to be his own amusement.

Every reader of Workers Press will join with this reporter in hoping the last time a car comes off a capitalist-owned production line is far sooner than ten years away—for different reasons than Faith's.

His piece should, nevertheless, be carefully considered, particularly by those who think that the threat of redundancy, which last week reared its head in earnest inside Ford's, can be fought with a mixture of patriotism, parliamentarism and protest.

We refer specifically to the Ford Joint United Action Campaign Movement, set up following the announcement that tooling operations are to be transferred by Dagenham to W Germany with a loss of 200 jobs.

The campaign—enthusiastically supported by Communist Party shop stewards—proposes a one-day stoppage and a lobby of MPs.

But Faith's extrapolation of current trends in the three US companies highlights the ineffectiveness of such action against the massive movements of capital which are now possible.

'The first major warning note to me came from the late Henry Ford II in 1971', the journalist writes.

'Then on a visit to this country, he condemned us out of hand. The press, by and large, did not blame him (and the Prime Minister, Edward Heath, promptly had him to lunch).'

Even before the strike of that year there had been a growing integration between Ford's German, Belgian and English plants, with the US itself, however, being supplied increasingly from the continent.

Faith draws attention to the gradual ending through the 1960s of the practice of supplying European markets from Britain, and to the decision just before Henry Ford II's 1971 visit that Asian markets would not be supplied from here either.

But the cases of Vauxhall and Chrysler were even more dramatic, he says.

'All through the 1960s, Vauxhall had been virtually a one-product company, relying heavily on the little Viva.

'Its management was rather dozy, its other products uninspired. Meanwhile Opel had gone from strength to strength as the only American-owned company in Europe with the design flair of the European opposition.

'When new wholly-American General Motors management took charge of Vauxhall in 1971 following severe financial losses,' Faith writes, 'the firm looked towards its German-based opposite number.

'Increasing numbers of Opels were imported; and by 1973 Vauxhall was making only the Viva, already using one assembly line at Ellesmere Port to assemble kits of Opels.' Vauxhall stewards take note!

'The next year the now-failing Vauxhall dealer network was amalgamated with Opel's prosperous, if narrow, selection of outlets and by 1976 the marque had ceased to exist—just 50 years after it had been taken over by the American group.'

By 1975, the article says, the Chrysler plants were also up for sale—Linwood going to the Japanese and Coventry to British-Leyland.

'With hindsight, of course,' Faith writes ironically, 'it is easy now to say that the British should have been warned by 1972.

'The signs were all there of a coming retreat by the Americans—the abandonment of the big Chrysler model, the increasing imports of Opels, the remorseless integration of Ford. But these signs were pooh-poohed at the time.'

It would be easy to pooh-pooh the 'Car' article as a journalistic flight of fancy, which, strictly speaking, it is.

This, however, would be to ignore the serious core of its observation of current trends in the car industry. It is for this it must be considered.

# PARTY OF LAW AND ORDER



Pompidou

Writing in the bourgeois daily 'Le Monde', Henri Krasucki secretary of the Communist Party controlled CGT union and a member of the Political Bureau of the French CP, comes near to suggesting that recent leftist agitation was timed to prepare the way for the referendum on the Common Market which President Pompidou announced last week.

Krasucki claims that the strategy of the ruling class is 'to isolate the working class'. It is difficult to know, even in a country which still has a substantial peasantry and a large middle class, how the working class can be 'isolated'. Perhaps Krasucki confuses the working class with the Communist Party.

He claims that the leftist groups oppose mass action, divide the working class and act as provocateurs.

As the Communist Party is striving to cement an alliance with bourgeois parties, anyone who opposes that is claimed to be 'isolating the working class'. What is more, it is clearly a 'provocation' instigated by the Pompidou government, which is only too ready to use 'leftist'

agitation as a pretext for repression.

Armed with this reasoning, which goes back to the May-June events of 1968, Krasucki explains to the readers of 'Le Monde' that the CGT and the Communist Party are against adventurism or anything which would disturb the peace. At the same time he accuses the youth supporters of the left groups, who have been out in force to demonstrate against the murder of René-Pierre Overney by a Renault security guard, of being petty-bourgeois and bourgeois by origin.

Speaking of the danger of repression by the ruling class, Krasucki goes on to say: 'By preserving the working class, our class, from such a tragedy, we also preserve your own children, despite you, and even when some of them cry "CGT murderers".'

Addressing the bourgeoisie through the columns of 'Le Monde', the Stalinist bureaucrat even says that it deserves thanks for its efforts to cool the temperature following the Overney shooting.

After that, the ritual phrases about the CGT supporting the demands of the working class and desiring social changes can be seen at their true worth.



# DISCUSSION ON INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

In preparation for the Fourth Congress of the International Committee of the Fourth International, the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League are publishing the four main documents of the International Committee covering the split with the French Organisation Communiste Internationaliste.



## DOCUMENT 2

Statement from International Committee of the Fourth International (Majority) October 24, 1971

CONTINUED

### 4. The OCI and the French working class

This opposition to the basic theoretical struggle for the revolutionary youth has roots in the orientation of the OCI towards the French proletariat. At no time has the OCI been able consistently to put forward a policy and programme to bring it close to the mass of the French workers who vote for the Stalinists and are organized around the Stalinist-led CGT. Instead they have orientated towards those sections still supporting the social-democrats, primarily in the older industries.

They sought support outside the orbit of the Stalinists instead of fighting for policies which would break the main body of workers from their mass party. One of the consequences is that the rapidly accumulating effects of the world crisis find the OCI paralysed in its political work in the French working class. Their hysterical outbursts on Bolivia, their frantic desire to find an issue to separate from the SLL and the IC—these are the reactions to the deepening crisis of a petty-bourgeois group which falls back on revolutionary shouting, not of a party which goes deeper into the masses to fight for a development of theory. This characteristic resort to radical phrase-mongering is, again, connected with the failure of the OCI to struggle on every level for dialectical materialism against the dominant forms of bourgeois-philosophy, in this case French rationalism and its twin, pseudo-revolutionary rhetoric.

The Essen rally itself was conceived and carried through by the OCI as a diversion from the unresolved problems of their work in the French working class. An artificial formula was constructed which made W. Germany the focal point of the workers' struggle in Europe, and then the OCI led their youth movement to a rally where less than 200 German youth participated, and real political work to

build sections of the FI was replaced by demagogy and showmanship.

It could not and did not have the slightest effect on the workers of France or of Germany. The SLL participated reluctantly, and only on the understanding that we received the preparatory document in time. It was received untranslated, only a few hours before our delegation left for Essen. The SLL and the majority of the IC sections, having moved their amendment, voted for the general resolution despite differences, only in order to preserve public unity of the IC during the period of preparation of the International Fourth Conference, at which the disputed questions would be discussed.

May-June 1968, with the French workers on General Strike, themselves striving for an alternative government, was the greatest testing time for the OCI. But what did the strike reveal?

It revealed the theoretical bankruptcy and political impotence of the OCI whose leadership—guided by a superficial impressionist analysis of de Gaulle's coup in 1958—had exaggerated the strength and viability of the Fifth Republic, abandoned its revolutionary perspective and written off the revolutionary capacities of the French working class.

This defeatist conception, which extended even to the Vietnam war, was summed up in the rationalization of Lambert that the French working class was 'decisively defeated in 1958'. This pessimistic and essentially middle-class outlook expressed itself in all the organizational and agitational work of the OCI and the AJS before and after 1968. It is an undeniable fact that at no time during the General Strike did the OCI leadership advance a socialist programme. Nor did it attempt to undermine the political credibility of the Stalinist leadership by critically supporting the demand of the Renault workers for a 'popular government' by advancing the demand of a CP-CGT government. Instead, the OCI leaders tail-ended the working class and restricted the political scope of the strike by demanding a central strike committee. This was a complete evasion of the political responsibilities of revolutionary leadership.

Is it necessary to remind the OCI leaders that one of the chief reasons for the definitive split with the Pabloites was their refusal to address political demands to the trade union bureaucracy and fight for a CP-CGT government in the French General Strike of 1953? Revolutionists do not abstain on basic political questions—only centrists and syndicalists do.

The Socialist Labour League had warned the French section of the dangers before 1968:

May 15, 1967: 'Now the radicalization of the workers in W. Europe is proceeding rapidly, particularly in France. The election results there, the threat of a return to the political instability of the ruling class in the Fourth Republic, the mounting strike struggles, the taking of emergency powers—all these place a premium on revolutionary preparation. There is always a danger at such a stage of development that a revolutionary party responds to the situation in the working class not in a revolutionary way, but by adaptation to the level of struggle to which the workers are restricted by their own experience under the old leaderships, i.e., to the inevitable initial confusion. Such revisions of the fight for the independent party and the Transitional Programme are usually dressed up in the disguise of getting closer to the working class, unity with all those in struggle, not posing ultimatums, abandoning dogmatism, etc.' (Reply to the OCI.)

Even from this 1968 experience the lessons were not learned. In fact the abstentionist methods and omissions of the General Strike period were continued into the presidential elections of 1969.

In the referendum in March of the same year, the OCI had correctly campaigned for a vote against de Gaulle, in contrast to the abstentionism of the Pabloites. However, the gains from this correct turn were lost in the presidential elections, the class character of which was ignored by the OCI. Basing themselves on their fraudulent theory of the 'United Class Front', the OCI leaders used the failure of the CP and Socialist Party to agree on a single candidate as a pretext for not supporting the CP candidate, Duclos, against Pompidou.

The task of revolutionaries was to raise the consciousness of Stalinist rank and file by critically supporting Duclos and pointing out that the main enemy was Pompidou. The OCI should have campaigned throughout the labour movement to demand that the CP candidate be pledged to a socialist policy against the banks and monopolies. To carry forward this fight, while calling for a massive vote for Duclos, was the best way to exposing the Stalinists and their programme of 'advanced democracy' and fighting for alternative revolutionary leadership. Any other course leaves the Stalinist control undisturbed. It was also necessary to expose the SP candidate whose party refused to vote for Duclos in the second ballot and supported the bourgeois candidate, Poher.

The OCI leaders did none of these things. Some members voted for Duclos, others for Deferre (SP) and others, including comrade Lambert, abstained. What was worse, the OCI attacked the Stalinists for having dared to stand a candidate in the elections despite the fact that the Stalinists in the previous presidential elections in 1965 did not do so and instead supported Mitterand, a bourgeois politician.

In 1965, the OCI did not even intervene: thus in France, as in Bolivia, the policy of the 'united class front' and the 'united workers' front' has become a means for disorienting the workers and strengthening the grip of the Stalinists and petty-bourgeois nationalists over the mass movement. The sectarian absence of any policy towards the Stalinists in France easily turns into opportunism, so that the OCI now writes in 'Informations Ouvrières' about the Clyde struggle in Britain without any criticism of its Stalinist shop steward leaders—in the same issue as their denunciation of the Socialist Labour League and Workers League as agents of counter-revolution!

### 5. The capitulation to spontaneity

Just as the difference over dialectical materialism at the

IC's pre-Conference was the necessary and conscious anticipation of the essential theoretical problems to be overcome in the impending revolutionary crisis, so Essen was the anticipation of the open split which these problems would produce on the International Committee.

The real split was already effected at Essen, when the OCI lined up with anti-Trotskyists in a public vote against the majority of the IC. They ran away from the principled questions raised at Essen. They raise the question of Bolivia in a totally unprincipled way in order to keep around them their middle-class allies. We will never accept this running to the centrists, and we will oppose to the end the OCI and anyone else who does it. As the Secretary of the SLL wrote to comrade Lambert of the OCI on July 14, 1971, in reference to Essen:

'We have not spent all our lives fighting centrism to suddenly decide to capitulate to it on the eve of the greatest class struggles in history.'

It is necessary to make one other major point on the split pronounced by the OCI. They carry out this split while a Congress of the IC is in preparation and due to be held before the end of 1971. Even though the events at Essen created conditions where day-to-day collaboration with the OCI became impossible, nevertheless it was agreed to proceed with the preparation of documents and arrange the Conference, as the only way of dealing with the differences. These documents are

now prepared. But the OCI and the Hungarian sections have chosen to split before the Conference. They act in the same tradition as the SWP, which in 1963 avoided the Conference of the IC and effected its 'unification' with the Pabloites.

At the very heart of the attacks of revisionism has been the attempt to liquidate the party into spontaneous and so-called 'objective' processes. This is the expression of an anti-dialectical method which denies the role of revolutionary consciousness in changing the material struggle itself under specific conditions. Thus Pablo held that given a changed world balance of forces in the post-war period a 'new reality' existed whereby the 'revolutionary process' would force the Stalinist Parties, the social democratic bureaucracies and the petty-bourgeois nationalists in a 'rough way' to make the revolution.

We now find this method developed once again by the OCI. We are told we are in a period of 'imminent revolution'. Within this period there is a 'revolutionary process'. Parties and leaderships then 'correspond' to this 'process'. We are even told of an overall process occasionally 'concretized' in something like the Popular Assembly in Bolivia, which proceeds 'through different stages and different forms towards the Universal Republic of Soviets'. The revolutionary party's task is to 'express these processes'.

This is nothing more than idealism in the form of French rationalism gone mad. We repeat what Lenin said: 'The truth is always concrete.' Only through a detailed and specific analysis of the actual development of the class struggle under the specific conditions of the capitalist crisis can we begin to relate our strategy to the actual changes in the consciousness and life of workers. This requires of us a conscious development of dialectical materialism as we struggle within the workers' movement. This struggle is at all times the struggle to construct Trotskyist parties independent of centrism and Stalinism. Such parties and only such parties can lead the revolution. They can only lead the revolution in the bitterest of struggles against the counter-revolutionary Stalinist and social-democratic betrayers.

Within this framework the OCI's position on the 'united class front' becomes a complete liquidation of the party and its subordination to the Stalinist and social democratic parties and union apparatus. Lenin and Trotsky saw the united front as a tactic and not a strategy as the OCI claim. They saw it as a relationship between mass workers' parties of a temporary character for the purpose of winning the masses to the Communist Party.

The OCI has transformed this into an overall 'unity' of the class achieved on the basis of its present leadership, without the participation in the united front of our party. This 'united class front' more and more, in their theorizing and practice, takes over the role of the revolutionary party itself.

In the October 12 statement we find reference to 'the achievement of the unity of the class through the workers' United Front, motive force of the anti-imperialist United Front...'. This carries the liquidation one step further dissolving even the workers' united front into a broader 'anti-imperialist' one—broad enough, no doubt, to include the bourgeoisie or at least its petty-bourgeois representatives.

In the 1950s, the OCI made an identical mistake in their policy in Algeria. The bourgeois-nationalist MNA of Messali Hadj was elevated to a revolutionary party not only in Algeria, but in France itself. The Pabloites supported one wing of the nationalist bourgeoisie, the FLN, and the OCI supported the other, the MNA. In Britain, the SLL had given critical support to the MNA, but broke off all relations with their representatives in Britain when the MNA approached the United Nations for intervention in Algeria.

The OCI continued its relations with Messali Hadj even until the open collaboration of Messali with de Gaulle. The OCI's position today on the 'united class front' and 'anti-imperialist' front, even after the defeat in Bolivia, shows that their 'correction' of the Algerian adventure has been purely formal, and that its theoretical roots remain firmly implanted in the OCI.

Related to this has been the OCI's position that it is not a party, and that the Fourth International does not really exist. It sees the national and international party in quantitative terms rather than from the point of view of the development of Marxist theory. This in turn led it, on the eve of the May-June 1968 events, to not even have the post of secretary of its organization, so far had the capitulation to spontaneity developed.

On the question of the struggle in the colonial and ex-colonial countries, the anti-Marxist method of the OCI has had the obvious results, and not only on Algeria.

The OCI refused to campaign in support of a victory for the National Liberation Front, because of its Stalinist leadership, and called instead for the 'victory of the Vietnamese workers and peasants'. This led to a situation on the eve of the 1968 Tet offensive where comrade Berg openly stated an abstentionist position on Vietnam.

And now, after years of refusal to support the struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination, and inability to take the side of the Arab revolution against Zionism and US imperialism, the OCI welcomes the Irbid 'Soviet' as some manifestation of a world process towards the Universal Republic of Workers' Councils! Inability to fight against the Stalinists and petty-bourgeois nationalists in a real fight for independent leadership in the anti-imperialist struggle, and at the same time an abstract demagogy about the victory of the workers and peasants and the international striving for Soviets.

### 6. The Bolivian Revolution

Bolivia is being used as a smokescreen to cover up the bloc with centrism against the International Committee. As if this were not criminal enough, in proceeding in this fashion, the OCI turns against the most fundamental lessons of our movement on the question of political principle and at the same time covers up for the worst sort of opportunism in Latin America.

We take back nothing from our criticisms of Lora and his role in the defeat of the Bolivian working class. How could we have proceeded otherwise than with an open attack? The road to coalition government in Ceylon was paved by such cover-ups time and again on the part of the Pabloite leadership.



May-June 1968, the French workers on General Strike: at no time did the OCI leadership advance a socialist programme.

How could we draw the lessons we do from their betrayal in Ceylon and practise the same politics in relation to someone on the periphery of the International Committee? We cover over nothing. We build the Fourth International on the basis of political principle and complete honesty.

It was in fact the OCI which first publicly criticized the politics of Lora and the POR. The October 1970 issue of 'La Verité' carried a lengthy criticism of the thesis passed at the April 1970 Congress of the COB (Bolivian trade union federation). This thesis was the product of the joint collaboration of the POR and the Stalinist Bolivian CP. It was voted for by both parties and the Popular Assembly was later to base itself politically on this document. The OCI wrote:

... We are dealing with a text which after having made certain concessions to the idea of constructing socialism in Bolivia alone, takes on the one hand, a Stalinist type view of the Ovando regime, and introduces in the chapter on proletarian internationalism, a Stalinist analysis. We have found in the COB thesis on the one hand passages of direct Stalinist inspiration, and on the other a serious omission concerning Czechoslovakia.

The OCI concludes:

'Comrades, we tell you without evasion, moved by a profound and even anguished conviction, that if this really became the charter of the Bolivian workers' movement and represented its orientation and if the POR was to adopt it (or even for a long time keep silent on the fact that it is the result of a compromise and only has a very circumstantial value) then the thesis of the COB can constitute a noose around the neck of the Bolivian proletariat for it encloses it within the framework of Bolivia.'

Was the OCI at that time giving in 'to enormous pressures' as the OCI now says of the SLL and the Workers League? Was the OCI in making those criticisms identifying itself 'as enemies of the dictatorship of the proletariat' and placing itself 'on the side of imperialism and Stalinism'?

The truth is that in 1967 the OCI held the position that revolutions could not be made in the underdeveloped countries until such time as mass revolutionary parties were created in the advanced countries. So distant was the struggle in the underdeveloped countries from the thinking and perspectives of the OCI leadership until very recently that the basic resolution around which it wished the Fourth Conference to be organized 'For the Reconstruction of the Fourth International' hardly mentions Latin America and does not mention Bolivia at all. And yet the Bolivian question is now made the pretext for a split from the International Committee.

We cannot educate a new generation of cadres as revolutionaries with such factional and dishonest methods. We cannot allow the question of Bolivia to be used rather than assessed for the purpose of actually developing theoretically a new leadership in the underdeveloped countries.

We restate what we said about the history of the Lora group. Lora was the major supporter of Pablo in Latin America in 1952. With Pablo's help he gave critical support to the bourgeois MNR Paz government. Here is how a member of his party reported the POR's position in the Fourth International at the time.

'The POR began by justifiably granting critical support to the MNR government. That is, it desisted from issuing the slogan "down with the government"; it gave the government critical support against attacks of imperialism and reaction, and it supported all progressive measures.'

This is just the way the LSSP began its move towards openly joining the Ceylonese coalition government.

The POR broke with Pablo, but it turned its back on the International Committee, refusing to take up a fight for the IC in Latin America though urged to do so. Lora from then on played only a national role. This is the history as we printed it in the Workers Press and 'Bulletin'. The OCI does not deny this.

We can add to this some more. Understanding the past

background of Lora, a background of Pabloism, nationalism and opportunism, the Socialist Labour League refused to put up any money towards his fare and collaboration in bringing him to the 1966 International Conference as the OCI had proposed. When he appeared in Europe in 1970, the Socialist Labour League made it quite plain it would not favour his admission into the IC unless a full discussion was held on his whole history and an understanding reached on this basis. We do not have one policy for the LSSP and the Pabloites and another for Lora.

In our public statement we made this fundamental assessment of Lora's role in the Bolivian events:

'Lora, in collaboration with the Bolivian Stalinists and with the agreement of the Bolivian and international Pabloites, failed to fight at any point for the overthrow of the Torres military regime. Thus he, along with the rest of the Popular Assembly, acted as a left cover for Torres while the right-wing elements in Torres' own army prepared and finally executed their coup.'

Then, after writing this, we received Lora's own account of the Bolivian events which we published in the Workers Press and in the 'Bulletin'. The OCI has yet to publish this account. Lora himself in this account states:

'At the same time everybody thought—including we Marxists—that the arms would be given by the governing military team, which would consider that only through resting on the masses and giving them adequate firepower could they at least neutralize the gorilla right.'

Lora thus admits to what we had accused him of. Never really fighting to overthrow Torres, he had, along with the Stalinists, counted on one section of the bourgeoisie to arm the working class for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie as a whole! Lora thus was carrying out the very same policy he carried out with Pablo in 1952. At no point did he raise the slogan 'Down with Torres'. This was, of course, Lenin's policy in the 'April Theses', while Lora stands with Stalin and the 'old Bolsheviks'.

Even after the defeat, Lora is unable to draw any lessons at all. He openly defends his reformist position in the pages of the OCI's 'Informations Ouvrières':

'The ultra-lefts and the Pabloites forget the teachings of Lenin and Trotsky: they draw up their "documents" in a simple-minded way and place Torres and Ovando-Banzer on the same level. These people refuse to understand the various shades that bourgeois nationalism can take in underdeveloped countries.

'Since they are removed from the class struggle they do not understand the difference between bourgeois-democratic demands of Torres and the methods of the fascists; that is the difference between going to prison legally or getting killed by a bullet in the back of the neck.

'Revolutionary tactics must begin with this difference. It is not a question of supporting Torres, but of crushing fascism to impose a workers' government.'

Revolutionary strategy does not begin with the differences between left and right wings of the military, but from the perspective of the overthrow of the whole bourgeois order. It does not base its policy on a bloc with the left bourgeoisie against the fascist threat, but on the understanding that there is no way to stop fascism without taking up the independent struggle for socialism.

Thus lessons which Trotsky repeated thousands of times, particularly in regard to Spain, are once again borne out in the paralysis and complicity of Torres in the right-wing military takeover and in the prostration of the working class before this takeover because of the misleadership of all the workers' parties, but especially the POR which claimed to be Trotskyist. In the end the workers of Bolivia got both the bullet in the head and the jail.

The policy of the POR was consistently opportunist from beginning to end. Under conditions of a mass revolutionary situation it acted as the left cover for Stalinism and bour-

geois-nationalism. Nowhere did it decisively break from the CP. In fact it put forward a common candidate for the presidency of the Popular Assembly with the CP.

The policy of Lora had nothing whatsoever to do with the policy of Bolshevism, or Trotskyism. The construction of the Trotskyist movement in Latin America, as elsewhere, requires a decisive break with the narrow national outlook and a return to internationalism and the struggle to develop Marxist theory. The POR and Lora repeat the policies of the POUM in Spain in 1935-1938 and are in no fundamental way different from them. Their relations with Torres and the COB parallels those of the POUM with the Republican Government and the CNT. The OCI's support for the POR now makes clear the political meaning of their bloc with the POUM at Essen.

## 7. The way forward

The essence of the struggle of the International Committee since 1953, has been the conscious construction of independent revolutionary parties of the Fourth International. Revisionists have always attacked this fundamental conception, Pablo with his 'new reality', 'mass pressure' and 'the revolution in all its forms', the LSSP with its 'united left front'.

Now the OCI, using the formula, 'imminence of revolution', elaborating a schema of natural stages through which the working class passes on the road to power, distorting the tactic of united front of the working class, has taken the road of liquidationism laid down by these revisionists.

The split comes now, when the stand at the point of transition from one phase of the class struggle to a higher one, the stage in which Trotskyist parties are called upon to win leadership in the struggle for working-class power. In this transition it is inevitable that a decisive clash, and a split, becomes necessary with all those like the OCI who rejected the struggle for dialectical materialism and refused to break from the old propagandist conceptions. This hostility to theory always leads to centrism and opportunism.

The record shows clearly that on all the disputed questions, and above all on the importance of theoretical development and training, the Socialist Labour League and the IC majority tried patiently to correct the course of the OCI, and never proceeded precipitately or in such way as to provoke a split. The decision of the OCI to join the centrists at Essen against the International Committee and their manoeuvring and demagogy on Bolivia, constitute a decision to reject and oppose the struggle to build independent revolutionary parties of the Fourth International. We call upon all Trotskyists in every country to reject completely the OCI line and to fight on the principled positions of the International Committee.

The Fourth Conference of the International Committee will meet in the first weeks of 1972. There it will be necessary to make a balance-sheet of the struggle against revisionism and the fight to establish the Trotskyist cadre throughout the period since 1938. A new period opens up, a period in which the Fourth International is called upon to lead struggles for workers' power. The perspectives of this struggle in the advanced capitalist countries, in the colonial countries, and in the fight for the political revolution in E Europe, the Soviet Union and China, will be discussed and decided.

The draft resolution for this Conference is now complete, and the discussion now begins in all sections of the International Committee.

**WORKERS' LEAGUE, USA**  
(sympathetic to the IC of the FI).

**REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF CEYLON.**

**WORKERS INTERNATIONALIST LEAGUE OF GREECE.**

**LEAGUE FOR A WORKERS' VANGUARD OF IRELAND.**

**SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, BRITAIN.**

October 24, 1971.  
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# GENERALS PLAN THE COUNTER- REVOLUTION

Part 3 of a series by Jack Gale

It is well known that the German Social Democrats, led by Ebert and Scheidemann, called on the militarists to suppress the Berlin workers and to murder revolutionary leaders Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.

In fact, this collaboration began from the very day Ebert's government was installed by the workers' and soldiers' councils.

On November 10, 1918, Ebert received a phone call from General Groener, Luddendorff's successor at High Command, and Field Marshal von Hindenburg's right-hand man.

Groener informed Ebert that High Command placed itself at the government's disposal—but that, in return, the Field Marshal expected the government to fight Bolshevism.

As Groener confided in his diary: 'We hoped, through our actions, to secure for the army and the Officer Corps part of the power in the new state; if we succeeded in this, then the best and strongest elements of the old Prussia were saved for the new Germany, in spite of the revolution.'

In a letter to Ebert, von Hindenburg demanded 'support [from the government] against the unheard of encroachments of the local workers' and soldiers' councils. It is obvious that we can only overcome this state of affairs if the government possesses an organ capable of ruthlessly enforcing its orders and the existing laws. As things are at present this organ can only be the army, and that means an army ruled by an iron discipline.'

What disturbed the officers was that soldiers' councils had sprung up, not only in every major German town, but also in the field armies in Belgium, France, Russia and Poland.

Everywhere, the soldiers were abolishing the officers' privileges and taking power in the areas. But they remained loyal to the Social Democrats. And the Social Democrats—at the request of the military High Command—issued an order, on November 12, limiting the soldiers' councils to an 'advisory' capacity only.

As one of the leaders—the Independent Social Democrat, Emil Barth—declared: 'If we cannot retain a firm hand on the returning troops, who mutiny at the slightest provocation, then everything goes to the devil.'

This only encouraged the officer corps to demand even more concessions. At the beginning of December, von Hindenburg again wrote to Ebert insisting that 'the authority of the officer must be restored at all cost and politics must be removed from the army'.

Hindenburg demanded:

(1) The power of the military command must be vested solely in the legitimate authorities.

(2) The authority of the officer and the regulations connected with it must be completely restored.

(3) The soldiers' councils must disappear from the units. Only trustees may remain who inform the commanding officers of the mood of the other ranks.

F. L. Carsten in 'Revolution on Central Europe' assembles voluminous evidence to show that Ebert was repeatedly informed by the generals themselves of their plans for counter-revolution. Ebert's position was clear. He welcomed these efforts, and agreed to head a government installed by the generals once they were successful. But he would not openly associate with them in advance, in case they failed.

One such plan was to bring the most 'reliable' regiments to Berlin, where they would be welcomed by Ebert who would then accede to their 'request' to become President with dictatorial power under which the workers' and soldiers' councils would be dissolved.

This scheme came to naught because the Berlin Executive Committee of workers' and soldiers' councils insisted that only Berlin units could march, that their ammunition should be limited, and that workers' deputations were to accompany them.

Elsewhere, similar efforts were defeated by the vigilance of the workers and soldiers—at Cologne and Frankfurt, for example.

Another humiliating setback was suffered by the generals when—with Ebert's connivance—they sought to evict the People's Naval Division from the Berlin palace which they had occupied since the revolution. Crowds of workers flocked to defend the sailors against the General's forces—the ranks of which were, in any case, none too enthusiastic about their task.

These defeats convinced the generals that they could not depend on the soldiers of even the most 'reliable' regiments. So, in December 1918, they began



Armed members of the soldiers' and workers' councils on the streets of Berlin in 1918

to assemble the right-wing volunteer units—the Free Corps. It was this armed force which, with the connivance of the Social Democrats, set about liquidating the workers' and soldiers' councils throughout 1919.

During the whole of this process, there had been very little opposition from the so-called 'lefts', the Independent Social Democrats. But this did not save them. As the confidence of the generals grew, and Ebert became more and more their pliant tool, they began to demand that the Independents be pushed out of the government.

The attack on the Berlin sailors was, in part at least, a provocation against the Independents. The three Independents in the government resigned and the coalition with the Social Democrats was at an end.

There is a lesson here. As the Heath government prepares further oppression against the Northern Ireland people, Wilson rushes to support his 'initiative'. The 'lefts', of course, cling desperately to Wilson and the right wing. Later, some atrocity might offend their tender consciences. But the time to fight to get rid of the right-wing collaborators with big business is now.

In Germany in 1918, by refusing to break from Ebert and Scheidemann, the Independents allowed those traitors to develop close connections with the military machine and then to get rid of the 'left' when it suited them.

Among the Social Democrats brought into the government to fill the places of the Independents was Gustav Noske. Noske fulfilled the classic role of the Social Democrat. From being chairman of the Kiel Sailors' Council (see previous article), Noske joined the government with responsibility for military affairs—that is, he was the man via whom the generals transmitted their orders to Ebert.

The real repressions began in March, 1919. Thirty members of the Berlin People's Naval Division were shot out of hand.

As the Free Corps grew, the workers began to form their own Volkswehr—armed military units. But they still retained their trust in the Social Democrats who were usually placed in command of these units. And, as usual, this sealed their fate.

In Hamburg, for instance, the Social Democrats carried out the local military commander's request to disband the unit, which was immediately replaced by a police formation recruited from the general's Free Corps.

In Königsberg, East Prussia, a militant 'Marine-Volkswehr' refused to obey the orders of the generals and appealed to the Social Democrats' local Commissar, the official representative of the government, to allow them to continue to exist. Instead, the Commissar collaborated with the military and surrounded the unsuspecting workers' unit—who were awaiting the Social Democrats' reply—to disarm them.

All members of local and provincial soldiers' councils in East Prussia were arrested, as were most of the workers' councils members. The great majority of those arrested were Social Democratic Party members.

In Pomerania, a strike of agricultural workers was declared 'illegal', not by the government but by the army! By now, the generals were well into their stride. Not only the extreme left of the Independent Social Democrats (many of whom were to join the Communist Party in 1920) was jailed, but the moderates as well.

In many places, the military overlooked the distinction between the Independents and the Social Democrats. Even Social Democratic officials, who were only too anxious to co-operate with the generals, found themselves being herded along with their erstwhile friends' bayonets prodding their backs.

These Social Democrats had themselves set this process in motion. In its decree of January 19, 1919, the Social Democratic government had restricted the powers of the soldiers' councils to minor matters of soldiers' welfare, while re-establishing in

practice the military hierarchy.

Leading counter-revolutionary in the Officer Corps was von Hindenburg's mouthpiece, General Groener. In December, 1918, the leaders of the soldiers' councils approached the Social Democrat minister, Gustav Noske, and asked that Groener should be dismissed. Noske rejected their request and instructed them to co-operate with the High Command.

In January the general soldiers' council of the Seventh Army Corps attempted to stop recruitment to the ultra-right Free Corps. Noske told its leaders: 'You are badly informed about your competences as a soldiers' council. We will show you in the next few days. The government will not suffer your activities.'

The council was dissolved by government troops and its members arrested. During May and June, 1919, the soldiers' councils were dissolved by government order in the areas of the Third, Eighth and Tenth Army Corps.

Speaking at an officers' conference in March, 1919, Groener declared: 'The soldiers' councils must be classified as entirely evil; they are the worst enemies of a quick recovery because they aim at political power and undermine all discipline.'

During the same month, Noske visited High Command headquarters and indicated his attitude to the soldiers' councils in the words: 'Chuck the scoundrels out!'

The alliance of the Social Democrats and the generals, which began on November 10, 1918, the very day when the meeting of workers' and soldiers' councils in Berlin had confirmed Ebert as head of the government, was firmly cemented by March 1919, as the workers who had placed the Social Democrats in power were thrust into jail by the officers, with the jeers of their own leaders ringing in their ears.

CONTINUED

<sup>1</sup> F. L. Carsten 'Revolution on Central Europe', p. 59.



Noske (centre) with Ebert (right): classic Social Democrat's role



## TORY PRESS



# THE MIND OF ALF DRAPER

'Daily Express' readers were treated last week to the latest instalment of the paper's 'law-and-order' campaign—a cliché-ridden novellette written by one of the paper's staff and purporting to show 'how mindless glorification of mob violence can lead to ultimate tragedy'.

The author, Alfred Draper, pulls out all the stops to frighten his readers in what the 'Express' blurb terms 'a shrewd documentary novel'.

The only thing the novel does 'document' is the sick recesses of the middle-class mentality. Its paper-thin characters are a kind of nightmare caricature of reality—the villain is a genuine 'mindless thug', his mind on nothing but sex and violence.

His victim is a hard-working football referee without a stain on his character. And the boy who takes the rap for killing the referee is, as the 'Express' quaintly puts it, 'coloured'.

Spread over five lengthy episodes, Draper has ample opportunity to ride all the favourite Tory hobby-horses—football hooliganism, gambling, the youth and their disrespect for the police, sex and violence and immigration.

It's all great material for the Festival of Light brigade. There are even two 'cultured' lads with well-brushed long hair who watch football because they like it and—of course—fall victims to the 'bovver' gang.

The police are quite benevolent—they don't go in for beatings up like the thugs do.

It's all good propaganda for the Tories. They, of course, confine beating up people and



killing people to remote parts of the world like N Ireland.

And then it's done in the name of freedom and decency, which makes it all OK, of course.

# HOME AND AWAY

When it's not informing its readers about the mythical activities of equally mythical 'bovver boys', the 'Express' is lavishing sympathy on the Tory leadership.

Take the sycophantic article in last Friday's 'Express' about our courageous Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas Home. Sent all the way from Jerusalem by reporter Daniel McGeachie, it detailed the appalling strains under which Sir Alec is forced to exist.

It pictured the 68-year-old Minister in an RAF Comet over Israel 'willing himself to sleep' after a 'punishing' programme of

hair raising Douglas Home

activity in the Zionist capital. Let McGeachie tell the story in his own inimitable fashion:

'Ahead lay a 2,400-mile overnight journey leaving time for a bath and breakfast before the Cabinet on Ulster at Downing St. Behind him was a 19-hour day which began at dawn in Tel Aviv and included:

'A hair-raising car ride to Jerusalem; a visit to the Israeli parliament; a two-hour session with the Israeli Foreign Minister; one and a half hours with the Israeli premier; an official lunch; one hour with the Israeli President; a press conference; a cocktail party and an official three-hour dinner.

'And to please his hosts, Sir Alec also took in a two-and-a-half-hour "stroll" in appalling rain through the Old City of Jerusalem; a visit to two mosques (where he took off his shoes), a Christian church (where he took off his hat), and the Wailing Wall (where he put his hat on).'

What a man! According to McGeachie, he even 'still suffers occasionally from the after effects of the spinal tuberculosis which encased him in a plaster cast for two years' but he refuses to ease off.

And all this for only £16,000 a year! Words fail me...

# KEELHAULING THE TRADE UNIONS

Most of the Tory press kept its opinion to itself about the TUC General Council's decision to suspend from membership the National Union of Seamen following its leaders' decision to register under the Industrial Relations Act.

They obviously don't want to inflame the union leaders at a time when the Tory government has been shaken by the miners' strike and faces an enormous crisis over its Ulster policy.

The 'Journal of Commerce', which speaks every day to the shipowners and dock employers, had no such inhibitions.

Its editorial headed 'The Poaching Season' was a diatribe against the union chiefs, accusing them of 'denying justice' to the NUS and being 'unable or unwilling' to control the 'anarchy' at the roots of the trade unions.

The poor old NUS, it seems, was only seeking 'the protection and rights afforded by the Industrial Relations Act', when

along came the big bad TUC and showed them the door.

The 'Journal' gets quite worked up about it. 'The Kangaroo courts of the factory, the injustices of little men with power, are repugnant to all civilized men,' it says.

Most of all, of course, to the dinosaurs in the shipping and docks boardrooms who are notorious for their high degree of civilization and fair-minded impartiality.

What particularly upsets the 'Journal's' columnist is the prospect of a mass exodus of seamen into another (non-registered) union.

This gives rise to the following purple passage, which will raise an ironic smile on the lips of merchant seamen toiling for low wages under abominable conditions and regimented by the Merchant Shipping Acts:

'Men are not animals to be trapped or seduced by ambitious union leaders—and the Industrial Relations Act goes some way to ensure that when men and

women give their allegiance to a union, they do so without undue pressure being applied.'

A sentiment to which every civilized shipowner will append a hearty Amen.



Hogarth, Secretary of the NUS

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## VICIOUS

The number of reported acts of crime and violence in and around New York City schools increased from 333 in 1970 to 580 last year, according to Board of Education figures.

The 580 incidents involved assaults on teachers and students, including rapes, attempted rapes and molestations; purse snatchings and other robberies; the setting off of smoke and fire bombs, and telephoned or written threats against school staff members.

During 1971 285 assaults on teachers and other school personnel were reported—two fewer than in 1970 but well above the figures for previous years. During January and February, 170 incidents were reported. If this rate continues, headquarters officials noted, the 1972 totals will far exceed those for last year.

Records show 197 arrests of youngsters and adults last year in connection with school incidents, compared with 102 in 1970.

George Patterson, an assistant superintendent who handles school security matters, said: 'A few years ago, there were more group confrontations. Now we largely have pretty vicious individual assaults.'

Patterson also said he had heard that an increasing number of students were carrying guns—'some out of bravado, some for business—a stickup—and some for self-defence'.

## MICE

Have you been following the parliamentary saga of the mice in the Palace of Westminster?

Well, it's been taking up hours of debating time in the House of Commons and columns in the capitalist press.

So great has become the publicity surrounding the appearance of the mice, that the commercial aspect of all this free publicity has occurred to Christopher Proctor.

Young Chris is head of Proctor Brothers (Wireworks) Limited in Bedwas, Wales.

His company makes a great little product called 'The Little Nipper'.

The 'Nipper' is a mousetrap and Proctor has sent some samples to his local MP, Neil Kinnock.

He feels the mouse invasion in the House can be stemmed if some of his products are placed in strategic parts of the corridors of power.

## STUD

The capitalist press has been boasting the team chosen for Heath's special Ulster Office under William Whitelaw.

One of the junior ministers is Paul Channon. One Tory newspaper said Channon was a first-rate choice for the job because of his 'close connections with events in Ulster'.

What are these lines of communication?

The paper went on: 'Mr Channon is a member of the Guinness family'—complete with country estates, private lakes and hunting grounds, race horse studs, aeroplanes and racing cars!

## SCOTS

With an 'Och' and an 'Aye' and a 'Hey Nonny No', the Scottish Watch was launched last week with the aim of 'making Scots more proud to be Scots'.

'Our only political requirement will be a belief in the freedom of Scotland,' Miss Wendy Wood, the Scottish patriot, who is temporary deputy leader, said:

'It will be disciplined, as the Scouts are disciplined, and when it puts out on parade or a demonstration, it is not going to shauchle along, but march with perfect precision, for it will be Scotland marching.'

While the organizers claim it is not an army and will not have a uniform, on all public appearances men will wear kilts or tartan trews and women tartan skirts, and all will wear the same coloured pullovers.

When it was suggested that this form of dress might be considered a uniform, Miss Wood said: 'I don't agree. Our members will merely be wearing their native dress.'

She explained that the organization would be formed into 'roinns' and 'schiltrons'—the names of military formations at the battle of Bannockburn.

Roinns will comprise people with a similar interest in any cultural subject such as wild-life study, yoga, history, literature, embroidery, forestry, and so on. They will be advised by experts in their fields.

In turn, roinns will be organized into schiltrons which will cover country areas.

So if you see a roinn or a schiltron coming your way, duck for cover!

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# RENT BILL REVOLT

BY PHILIP WADE

**ALL OVER** the country tenants in their thousands are moving to fight Tory attacks to destroy their right to decent housing at a reasonable rent.

Labour council after Labour council has been forced by enormous pressure from tenants to pledge non-cooperation with the Housing Finance Bill if it becomes law.

Already rent strikes have begun where Tory councils have started to implement the Bill before it is law. Tenants' associations are springing up where none existed before to combat Tory plans to double council house rents and impose the hated means test on tenants.

This determination to fight showed itself on Tuesday night when thousands of tenants from all over Britain lobbied MPs over the Bill.

Organized jointly by the National Association of Tenants and Residents and the Association of London Estates, which represents thousands of council tenants, it was certainly the biggest tenants' turnout at Westminster for many years.

Many of those I spoke to stressed the real meaning of the Tory plans—to destroy the basis of council housing. They also made clear that protests would not work on the Tories and that the trade unions would have to act.

Gravesend tenants in Kent are probably the first to defy the Tory Bill. They have already refused to pay another 50p on the rent imposed by the Tory-controlled council.

William Thompson is on the Gravesend defence committee formed to fight the 'fair rents' Bill. It is made up of the trades council, the tenants' association and the Labour Party.

'The Tories are trying to make council tenants into second-class citizens. They want to say—you're a council tenant and you'll do what we say.'

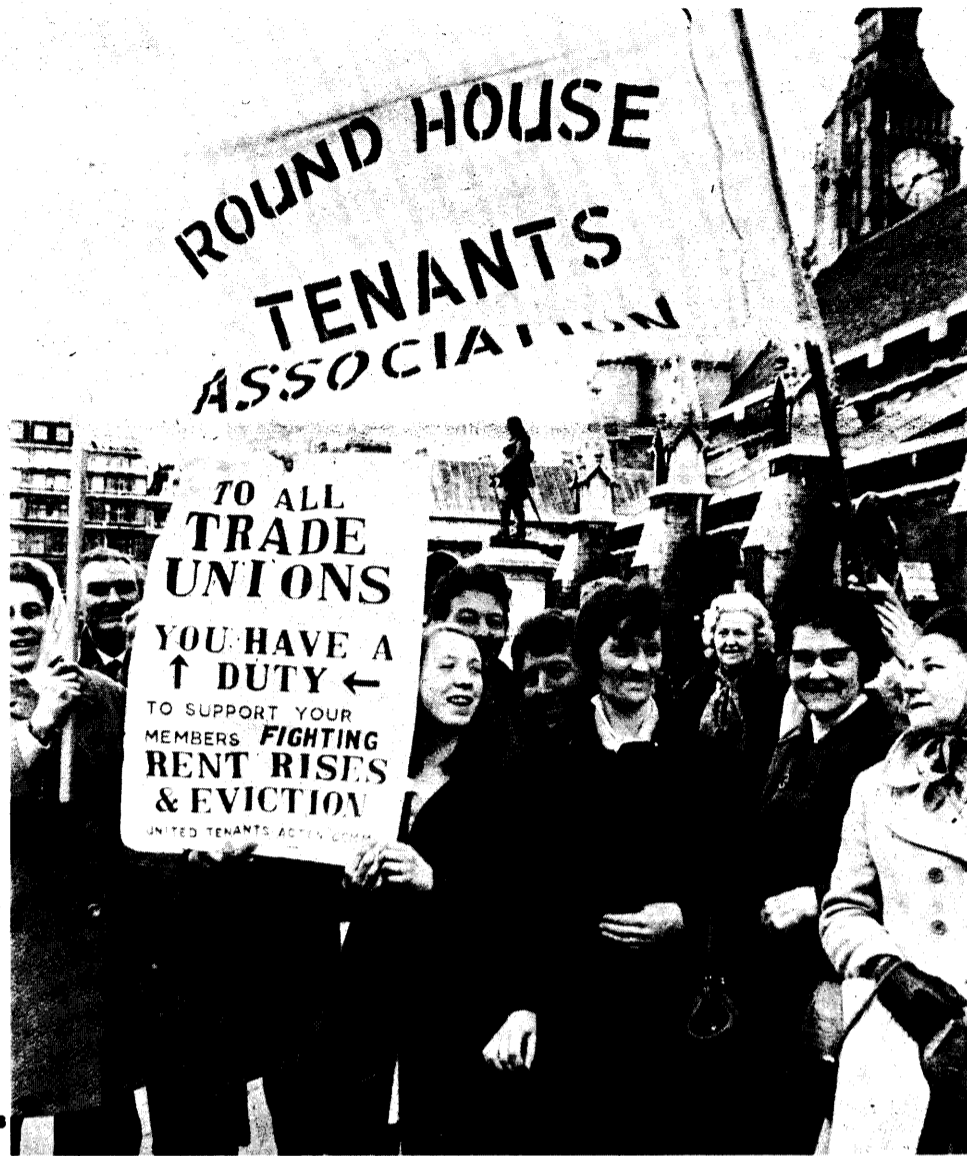
'They want me to accept a cut in my standard of living,' said William, who is a member of the Constructional Section of the AUEW.

'Our union has just negotiated a £1.50 a week increase. If I pay another 50p in rent and 11p more in rates and then they stop 50p in tax that only leaves me with 50p of the rise.'

Already he has refused to fill in his means-test form.

'On this Bill there should have been a better, more direct lead from the trade unions. With a lead from the TUC you could bring the government down on this Bill.'

'Take the Common Market—if they'd given a lead on that this



Roundhouse tenants rounded out the feelings of the thousands on Tuesday's lobby—the trade unions must be mobilized to act against the Tories and their rent Bill.



William Thompson, Gravesend tenants' association: Government could be brought down on this Bill

government wouldn't be here now.'

'He expressed the bitterness and anger of millions of council tenants as they take on the Tories.'

'Under this Bill we can be fined £50 for not helping the rent scrutineer. Well, we'll

refuse to pay that—it may mean prison but we have to take that chance.'

Secretary of the Aveley, GLC Tenants' Association in Essex, Miss Dilys Stone, said she already paid nearly £4 a week for a two-bedroom flat.

'But we also live 20 miles outside London, so many of us have to travel all that way to work. To commute to London and back costs me another £4 a week. Unemployment is very high in Aveley at the moment.'

'My mother's a pensioner so the extra money she will get has to go in rents under this Bill.'

'In my opinion tenants will have to stick together and refuse to pay the rent increases. There are 6,000 of us on our estate.'

'They can't stick us all in prison, can they? I think this will be the Tories' last attempt to kill off the working class,' she added.

Labour councillor Mrs Ann Geaney, who sits on the Labour-controlled Thurrock UDC, which covers Aveley, added her support:

'We consider this Bill a blow against the working class—and we will refuse to have anything to do with it,' she told me.

As tenants thronged the pavement outside the House of Commons, Horace Riches was walking up and down with a sandwich board which declared: 'Housing Bill—the Biggest Attack since the Tolpuddle Martyrs.'

Horace, an executive member of the National Association of Tenants and Residents, had come with a coachload from Harrow. He told me:

'Over 70 per cent of tenants will have to apply for a means-test if this goes through. I well remember the same thing in the 1930s and I feel disgusted.'

'With this Bill the government will be able to coerce legally-elected councils to put the rents up to what they want them to be.'

'Everyone by right should have a chance to get a decent house to live in. But now the Tories are killing the subsidies for council housing they'll only build for those who can afford really exorbitant rents.'

'I pay £6 a week and it's going up £1 in October,' Horace, who retires in 11 weeks time, told me. 'I don't see how I'll be able to afford the increase.'

'Housing should be a social service. There should be municipalization of all housing, with

cheap interest on loans and the nationalization of all land, except that of owner-occupiers. That would solve the housing problem.'

'This Bill is no different to other Tory measures. From the start, this government has intended to break the unions and rule roughshod over the working class.'

'But given a lead I think the Tories will come down this year,' added Horace.

Bert Wilkinson, a Westminster tenant and member of the



Labour councillor Ann Geaney, from Thurrock UDC: Bill is a blow against the working class

painters' and decorators' union, also thought housing should be run as a social service.

'It's everyone's right to have shelter — though it seems the Tories aim to smash that. Housing shouldn't be run for profit. All that's happening at the moment is that big businesses are feathering their nests at our expense.'

The rent for his one-bedroom flat will be about £5 a week if the increases go through.

'But our wages are static, the basic is only £20 a week. And the point is why do you want to work your guts out just to pay the rent?'

'Now there's no feeling of security left. Any rent increases just lower your standard of living.'

His friend John Hoey added: 'We can't survive while the Tories stay in. Something has to happen. They say they'll give us £1 off income tax, but they take it back twice on the rents.'

'We just can't go on like this. The best way is to get the Tories out.'

● See next Tuesday's Workers Press for article on Chalkhill Estate, Wembley.

## Tories cover-up NHS abuses

MRS RENE SHORT, Labour MP for Wolverhampton NE, yesterday accused Tory members of a parliamentary sub committee of doing 'a massive white-wash job' in a report on National Health Service facilities for private patients.

Mrs Short was herself chairman of the sub-committee of the all-party Parliamentary Expenditure Committee, whose report was issued yesterday.

During the five meetings held to consider the approval of her report, 'the Tories used their voting strength to remove the meat of the report and the 12 recommendations contained in it,' she said.

'As a result of these changes it was necessary to attempt to restore the report in its original form at full meetings of the Expenditure Committee.'

'Some drafting amendments were accepted, but the main amendments were voted down by the Conservative majority on the full Committee, most of whom had neither read the evidence nor heard the examination of witnesses.'

The 12 recommendations included in her original report had also been voted down.

The committee, which inquired into the private patient situation in Britain's hospitals, concludes that private practice operates to the overall benefit of the National Health Service.

'We recognize that, from time to time, abuses may occur as they may in any large organization. We do not condone this situation, but we do not believe abuses to be widespread or of any magnitude.'

Witnesses said that, apart from trying to get extra beds for their private patients, some consultants got junior doctors to do their private work, without paying them for it, and stole or 'borrowed' expensive equipment for their private practices.

The report points out that private patients' charges are adjusted to cover the cost of services of all hospital staff.

## Square ban condemned by AUEW branches

TWO Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' branches in London have recently passed motions condemning the government's ban on the use of Trafalgar Square for rallies connected with the Ulster crisis.

They are Chiswick No 5 and W Norwood, which also attacks the Tories' enforced direct rule. The Norwood motion comments: 'This government is out to crush the democratic rights of all workers and actively prepare for civil war.'

'We demand that the leaders of the Labour and trade union movement launch an immediate campaign in unity with the Irish working class to force the Tory government to resign and return a Labour government which must immediately:

'Withdraw all troops from Ulster, Restore the basic right of the Irish working class to determine their own future after over 300 years of colonial rule; Restore all basic democratic rights and trade union rights to the working class of this country.'

Chiswick has also demanded that the union's National Committee call a national strike in the engineers' pay claim.

## One-vote LP secretary

RON HAYWARD, the Labour Party's national agent, was yesterday elected general secretary on the casting vote of Party chairman Anthony Wedgwood Benn. This followed a deadlock between Hayward and the favourite for the job, Gwyn Morgan, the assistant general secretary.

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**BBC 1**

9.45 On the Farm. 10.00 White Horses. 10.25 Deputy Dawg. 10.30 Swim. 10.55 Magic Roundabout. 12.55 Tresarn. 1.30 Herbs. 1.45 News, weather. 2.00 Show Jumping. 3.45 Conflict at Work. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Boss Cat. 5.44 Crystal Tipps. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 **NATIONWIDE.**  
6.50 **TOM AND JERRY.**  
7.00 **SPY TRAP.** Package Deal episode 4.  
7.25 **TOP OF THE POPS.**  
8.00 **IT'S MURDER. BUT IS IT ART? 2:** Mr Drake Goes to Jail.  
8.30 **THE FRENCH WAY.** Goosey, Goosey Gander—Perigord.  
9.00 **NEWS, Weather.**  
9.20 **PLAY FOR TODAY: THE FOXTROT.** Donald Pleasence, Thora Hird.  
10.30 **THE LADY OF AINTREE.** Mirabel Dorothy Topham.  
11.10 **FILM: 'PHANTOM OF THE OPERA.'** Herbert Lom, Heather Sears. Musician terrorizes a London opera house.  
12.30 **THE DAY OF THE LORD.**

**BBC 2**

11.00 Play School.  
7.30 **NEWSROOM.**  
8.00 **THE SHADOW OF THE TOWER.** The King Without a Face.  
8.50 **EUROPA.**  
9.20 **SHOW OF THE WEEK: HARRY SECOMBE.**  
10.00 **NEWS, Weather.**  
10.10 **WORLD CINEMA: 'THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.'** Enrique Irazoqui, Margherita Caruso, Marcello Morante. Pasolini's documentary-like version of the life of Christ.

**ITV**

1.00 Sculptors. 1.30 Miscellany. 2.30 Yesterdays. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.10 Tea Break. 3.40 Marcus Welby MD. 4.40 Nuts and Bones. 4.55 Roadrunner. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.  
6.00 **TODAY.**  
6.30 **CROSSROADS.**  
6.55 **FILM: 'THE CRUEL SEA.'** Jack Hawkins, Donald Sinden, Virginia McKenna, Stanley Baker. Corvette's crew in Battle of the Atlantic.  
9.00 **MY GOOD WOMAN.**  
9.30 **THIS WEEK.**  
10.00 **NEWS AT TEN.**  
10.30 **CINEMA.**  
11.00 **SOMETHING TO SAY.**  
12.00 **IT MATTERS TO ME.**

**All regions as BBC 1 except:**

**Wales:** 6.00 Wales Today. 6.50 Heddiw. 7.15 Tom and Jerry. 8.00 Week In Week Out. 8.30 Arall Fyd. 10.30 Cadwynau Yn Y Meddwl. 12.37 Weather.  
**Scotland:** 6.00 Reporting Scotland. 12.37 News, weather.  
**N Ireland:** 6.00 Scene Around Six. 8.30 Cross Country Quiz. 12.37 News, weather.  
**England:** 6.00 Look North, Midlands Today, Look East, Points West, South Today, Spotlight South West. Weather. 12.37 News, weather.

**CHANNEL:** 1.55 Horizons Below. 3.45 Holiday in Switzerland. 4.05 Origami. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Nanny. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 What's on where? 6.15 Farming news. 6.20 Sports roundup. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Border River'. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 11.02 Theatre of the stars. 11.55 News, weather.  
**WESTWARD. As Channel except:** 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 10.59 News. 11.55 Epilogue. 12.00 Weather.  
**SOUTHERN:** 2.30 Film: 'Stop the World'. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.17 Sean Leprechaun. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Superman. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 6.45 Junkin. 7.15 Film: 'Weekend with Lulu'.

8.55 Weekend. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Drive in. 11.40 I spy. 12.35 Weather. Discoverers.

**HTV:** 3.50 Beloved enemy. 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 Frogmen'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Splendour falls. 11.00 Marcus Welby MD. 12.00 Weather.

**HTV West as above except:** 6.18-6.35 Sport West.

**HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 4.15 Miri Mawr. 6.01 Y Dydd.

**ANGLIA:** 3.40 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Tea break. 4.55 Capt Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 Film: 'The Village'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Jesse James. 11.30 Avengers.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Family affair. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 Get this. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.30 Film: 'Dual Alibi'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Marcus Welby.

**ULSTER:** 4.00 Yoga. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Rorest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Tommy. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Dr Simon Locke. 7.30 Film: 'Dear Wife'. 9.00 London. 11.00

What's it all about? 11.20 Get smart. 11.50 Epilogue.

**YORKSHIRE:** 3.00 Pied piper. 3.05 Matinee. 3.35 News. 3.45 Women. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Lone Ranger. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 Film: 'Ill-Met by Moonlight'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive in. 12.00 Weather.

**TYNE TEES:** 3.05 Time to remember. 3.35 News. 3.45 Women. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Capt Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Film: 'Perfect Strangers'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sports. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive in. 12.00 News. 12.15 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 3.30 Once upon a time. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Fireball. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Cartoon. 6.30 Stuart Gillies. 7.00 Film: 'A Date with Judy'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Tin Pan Alley.

**GRAMPIAN:** 3.38 News. 3.40 Dick Van Dyke. 4.10 Beloved enemy. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Lesley Blair. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Our Man in Havana'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Sudvival. 11.30 Golf. 12.00 Epilogue.

**TV THURSDAY**

**BBC 1**

9.45 Andy Pandy. 10.00 White Horses. 10.25 Deputy Dawg. 10.30 Swim. 10.55 Magic Roundabout. 11.00-1.05 Good Friday Grandstand: Show Jumping; 12.50 Football Preview. 1.05 Dusty Bluebells. 1.30 Mr Benn. 1.45 Yogi Bear. 1.55 News, Weather. 2.00 Good Friday Service. 3.00-5.00 Grandstand: 3.05, 4.30 Show Jumping; 3.30 Boat Race Preview; 3.45 Rugby League; 4.50 Results. 5.00 George Best. 5.10 Crackerjack 72. 5.50 Tom and Jerry. 6.00 News, weather.

6.10 **MAGAZINE.** Regular local programme.  
6.15 **THE VIRGINIAN.** A Touch of Hands.  
7.30 **THE LIVER BIRDS.**  
8.00 **THE BROTHERS.** 4. Decisions.  
8.50 **NEWS, Weather.**  
9.00 **ACCORDING TO THE RULES.** A Doctor in Auschwitz.  
10.25 **SURRENDER TO EVEREST.**  
11.55 **THE DAY OF THE LORD.**

**BBC 2**

11.00 Play School. 5.30 The Lost Treasure of Jerusalem?  
6.15 **MESSIAH.** Handel's oratorio.  
8.10 **NEWSROOM, Weather.**  
8.30 **GARDENERS' WORLD.**  
9.00 **CLOCHERLE. 2: The Inexorable Power of the Third Republic.**  
9.30 **A SPECIAL REVIEW.** Winner of Review Play Competition: 'The Soda-Water Fountain' by Denise Robertson.  
10.30 **NEWS, Weather.**  
10.35 **FILM: 'THE ASPHALT JUNGLE.'** Sterling Hayden, Louis Calhern. John Huston's classic thriller about a million-dollar jewel robbery.

**ITV**

9.55 Drive In. 10.20 Pinky and Perky. 10.35 Charlie Brown. 11.00 Mad Movies. 11.30 Gay Purr-ee. 12.35 Making of a Saint. 1.30 My Sweet Lord. 2.00 Name of the Game. 3.25 Riptide. 4.15 Bright's Boffins. 4.50 Circus. 5.50 News.  
6.00 **TODAY.**  
6.30 **BEWITCHED. 7**  
7.00 **SKY'S THE LIMIT.**  
7.30 **FILM: 'FATHER OF THE BRIDE.'** Spencer Tracy, Joan Bennet, Elizabeth Taylor. Comedy about American middle-class manners.  
9.00 **SPIDER'S WEB.** Nobody's Strawberry Fool.  
10.00 **NEWS.**  
10.30 **THE VERDI REQUIEM.**  
12.10 **IT MATTERS TO ME.**

**REGIONAL TV**

**All Regions as BBC-1 except:**

**Wales:** 1.30 Ar Lin Mam. 6.15 Wales today. 6.35 Question of sport. 6.55 Newyddion. 7.00 Fo a Fe. 8.00 Ironside. 12.02 Weather.

**Scotland:** 6.10 Reporting Scotland. 12.02 News, weather.

**N Ireland:** 6.10 Scene around six. 7.30 Behind the headlines. 12.02 News, weather.

**England:** 6.10 Look North, Midlands Today, Look East, Points West, South Today, Spotlight South West. Weather. 12.02 News.

**CHANNEL:** 1.50 My sweet Lord. 2.10 Pinky and Perky. 2.25 Goal. 4.15 Puffin. 4.22 Dick Van Dyke. 4.55 Robin Hood. 5.20 Ask Westward. 5.50 News. 6.00 News, weather. 6.02 Tommy Cooper. 6.35 London. 7.30 I Spy. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 12.05 News, weather.  
**WESTWARD. As Channel except:** 4.15 Gus Honeybun. 4.17 News. 6.00 News. 12.05 Epilogue. 12.10 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 1.55 My sweet Lord. 2.25 Film: 'Our Man in Havana'. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.10 Paulus. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Circus. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Out of town. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 12.10 Weather. Discoverers.

**HTV:** 1.30 My sweet Lord. 2.00 Film: 'Singer Not the Song'. 4.10 Tinkertainment. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Circus. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.03 Today. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: 'East of Sudan'. 9.00 London. 12.10 Weather.

**HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 4.10 Cantamil.

**ANGLIA:** 1.30 My sweet Lord. 2.00 Goal. 4.05 Green hill far away. 4.20 News. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 Circus. 5.50 News. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 10.30 Bygones. 11.00 Verdi's Requiem.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 2.35 My sweet Lord. 3.05 Yoga. 3.30 Horoscope. 3.40 Women. 4.05 Julia. 4.35 Hatty town. 4.50 Circus. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 Jimmy Stewart show. 9.00 London.

**ULSTER:** 2.35 My sweet Lord. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Thunderbirds. 5.50 News. 6.00 UTC Reports. 6.35 London. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 10.30 Spectrum. 11.00 Holy Week. 11.05 Film.

**YORKSHIRE:** 1.10 Sense of Wonder. 2.00 Skippy. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Pinky and

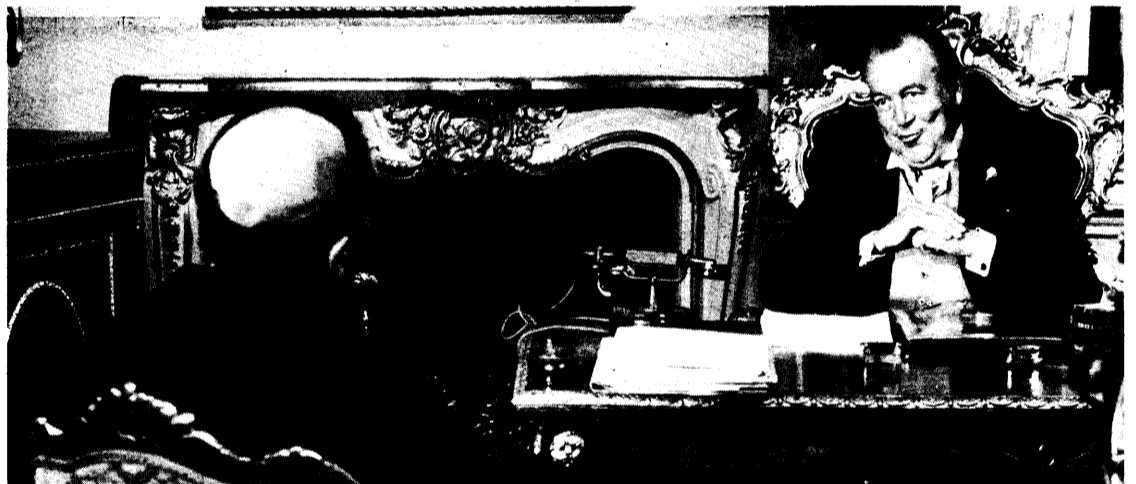
Perky. 4.55 Flintstones. 5.20 Tom Grattan. 5.50 News. 6.00 Circus. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 It takes a thief. 8.30 On the buses. 9.00 London. 10.20 Partners. 11.00 Verdi's Requiem. 12.40 Weather.

**TYNE TEES:** 1.10 Sense of wonder. 2.00 Nanny. 2.25 Goal. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Flintstones. 5.20 Tom Grattan. 5.50 News. 6.00 Circus. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Calling Doctor Gannon. 8.30 On the buses. 9.00 London. 10.30 Partners. 11.00 Verdi's Requiem. 12.40 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 3.30 Kiri. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.50 Circus. 5.50 News. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Mr Magoo. 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Strange report. 8.30 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 10.30 In camera. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'The Night Walker'.

**GRAMPIAN:** 3.38 News. 3.40 Dr Simon Locke. 4.10 Beloved enemy. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Flintstones. 5.20 Tom Grattan. 5.50 News. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Mr and Mrs. 6.35 London. 7.35 It takes a thief. 8.25 Stuart Gillies. 9.00 London. 10.30 Hogan's heroes. 11.00 Film: 'The Killer is Loose'. 12.20 Epilogue.

**TV GOOD FRIDAY**



Dennis Price plays Alexis Luvelat, Minister of Home Affairs, in the seventh episode of 'Clochemerle' on BBC 2.

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# Sheffield Stalinists abandon pay action

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

**LEADERS** of engineering workers in Sheffield have abandoned any attempt to launch district-wide action in support of their claim for more money and longer holidays.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers district committee meeting on Tuesday, which was to discuss the possibility of joint action against firms, decided instead to allow shop stewards in city plants to fight for their own increases.

This marks a final collapse in the Sheffield district to the national policy, first mooted by AUEW president Hugh Scanlon, of abandoning the national claim in favour of plant-by-plant battles.

At one stage Sheffield seemed likely to be the first area to launch district action around a demand for £6 a week, shorter hours and longer holidays.

The first retreat came when the claim was diluted to one for a 'substantial' increase and better holidays.

Then a proposal to call a mass meeting of city workers to decide joint action was abandoned. A further suggestion that workers in 13 firms should begin a co-ordinated work-to-rule also came to nothing.

Finally the district committee met and rejected a move to begin a work-to-rule throughout the district in conjunction with engineering workers in greater Manchester.

The casting vote against this suggestion came from Herbert Howarth, one of the several Communist Party members who dominate the committee.

At Tuesday's meeting, a policy of joint action against Sheffield employers who have refused to negotiate on the claim was turned down.

Instead the committee recommended that shop stewards in individual plants write to their full-time union officials and ask for meetings. If the management did not quickly agree to this, action should be taken at plant level.

Even a motion to establish a

deadline for replies was rejected without a vote.

An advance in Sheffield would have been crucial at this time. Less than 30 miles away engineers in greater Manchester area are in the midst of their own battle and workers have occupied nine factories.

I understand that the AUEW national leadership have indicated that district-wide action in Sheffield would not meet with their approval. Only one firm in Sheffield, Davy United, is working-to-rule in support of the claim.

## ICI jobs face cuts

ICI warned yesterday that they will be pursuing a rigorous cost-reduction programme which will 'inevitably' mean sackings.

Company chairman Callard told workers: 'Your board is convinced it will have to reduce manpower. We are only too well aware of the distress caused by redundancies, but we have to be competitive and one of the cost savings is manpower.' Last year ICI cut its UK labour force by 8,000.

● ICI SALES DROP p. 3.

## Possession order against Preston occupation

**THE OWNERS** of a Preston engineering company have won a court order for possession of their factory where 22 workers are staging a sit-in.

The order was granted at the Preston Chancery Court by the vice chancellor, Sir Thomas Burges.

Within an hour of the court's decision, other engineering

## NGA ACCEPTS PRINT OFFER

**THE NATIONAL** Graphical Association yesterday accepted a new pay offer for members in general printing and the provincial newspaper industry and is to hold a ballot.

The agreement was reached with the Newspaper Society and the British Federation of Master

Printers after prolonged talks in London on Tuesday.

Yesterday the NGA informed the employers that the overtime ban had been lifted.

Although complete details of the settlement weren't immediately available, it is understood the present craftsman's rate is

increased by £2.50 a week for 13 months and by a further £2 for the following 11 months. The increase would operate from April 24—subject to acceptance.

The other unions in the dispute—NATSOPA, SLADE and SOGAT—were yesterday considering the offer.



## PORT BOSSES PRAISE ACT

**THE 'JOURNAL** of Commerce', the newspaper of the port owners and international traders, yesterday praised the wielding of the Industrial Relations Act.

'Sooner or later the trade unions were bound to come up against the inescapable fact that the Industrial Relations Act, as with any law, will not disappear because the Trades Union Congress disapproves of its contents. The unions may deregister, but while the sand may cover the ostrich's head, a vast quantity of body remains exposed.'

'The National Industrial Relations Court has the same standing as a High Court of England or a Sessions Court of Scotland. As such, the unions may dislike the law it administers, they may campaign to have the law changed—but they cannot ignore the court's rulings. And neither can individual union members.'

'To ignore the court's rulings is an act of contempt. To ignore its existence can only lead to a self-imposed denial of justice.'

In a cautious editorial yesterday, the 'Financial Review' also commended the use of the Act's legal machinery. 'This is a clear case of the law being used where voluntary methods to end a dispute have failed.'

Andrew Abdela (left), counsel for Heaton's, the St Helens, Lancashire, firm which took the Transport and General Workers' Union to the National Industrial Relations Court, leaving after yesterday's verdict.

## WEATHER

**MOST** of England, Wales and N Ireland will be cloudy with rain at times. Some sunny intervals are expected in SE England.

Scotland and extreme N England will have sunny periods and occasional showers which will be of snow in the north. Temperatures near normal in the S but rather cold in the N.

**Outlook for Friday and Saturday:** Sunny intervals and occasional showers, chiefly in the N, but more continuous rain in the S and E at first and extreme W later. Temperatures mostly near normal but rather cold in the N at first.

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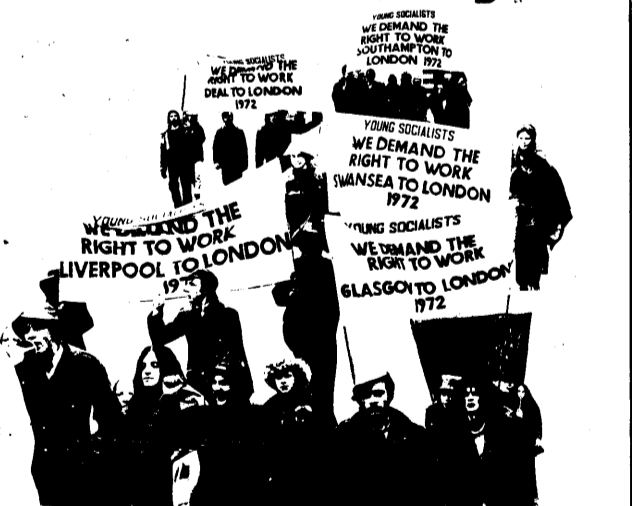
## MARCH FUND TWO MORE DAYS TO RAISE £96.27

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We had no doubt that you, our readers, would make an all-out fight for our Appeal Fund. Workers Press remains the only daily paper not only to speak out for the working class each day, but takes up the struggle inside the labour movement for socialist principles. On the basis of these principles, the revolutionary party will be built.

Many, many thanks to you all for your very warm support. Keep up this magnificent effort—we are not there yet! Rush all your last minute donations immediately to:  
**Workers Press**  
March Appeal Fund,  
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**We demand the right to work!  
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**YOUNG SOCIALISTS 12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
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He said the union were looking at the question of an appeal.