

WIDGERY AND UNION COURT 'RULE OF LAW' ABOLISHES ALL BASIC RIGHTS

BY G. HEALY

'WITHOUT the rule of law', said the President of the National Industrial Relations Court, 'There would be no freedom.'

What is at stake in the dispute between the railway unions and the government is surely the direct opposite of this pious platitude.

Is it not through the 'rule of law', Tory law, that freedom and democratic rights of the trade unions and the working-class are being taken away?

Let us follow the meanderings of the learned judge. Without the 'rule of law' he says, 'there would only be licence for a few powerful persons to impose their will on the majority'. Is it not precisely this which is taking place in the Industrial Relations Court?

WAS IT not Tory Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Solicitor-General, who, on behalf of the government, was the main architect in drawing up the Act?

WAS IT not the same gentleman who on Wednesday applied to the Court (itself an integral part of the Act) in order to use the same Act he was intimately responsible for?

Both Howe and Donaldson are indeed part of a small group of powerful men whose main aim is to take away the bargaining rights of the trade unions.

Because if the Tory government succeeds in imposing a ceiling of 12½ per cent in the railmen's dispute through such direct use of the Act, then it becomes the main

arbiter in determining wages. And if the trade unions are deprived of such a right, then what is the purpose of trade unions?

Put another way, if the capitalist state by law can determine wages, then are we not close to the image of the corporate state of pre-war Italy and Germany?

Of course, the fighting strength of the working class is still intact, but the reactionary trend of the NIRC is unmistakable. If this Tory brainchild continues its 'rule by decree' over wages and working conditions, then the consequences must be faced.

Such 'rule by decree' is a basic element of a Bonapartist dictatorship. The days of bourgeois-democratic government in Britain, so beloved by the reformists, are numbered.

While Sir John Donaldson spelt out the destruction of democratic rights in the NIRC his colleague Lord Widgery was giving the green light to legal slaughter by the paratroopers in Derry.

The 'main responsibility for the slaughter' on Bloody Sunday in Derry was, he intimated, the decision of the organizers to march. If Civil Rights demonstrators hadn't marched, nobody would have been killed. True enough, and by the same logic, if railwaymen and other workers were content to take whatever sop the Tories throw them, then there wouldn't be any need for the NIRC.

It's all so simple, according to the legal rules drafted by the 'rich and powerful'. If we are prepared to allow them to take away all the basic rights of the working class then nobody gets hurt immediately.

We will simply have accepted the status of slaves—and provided we are diligent slaves, our Tory masters can afford to be tolerant.

There is a close relation between the activities of the NIRC and the Widgery Tribunal. Let Heath take the floor. Speaking in parliament, also on Wednesday afternoon, he said:



Solicitor-General Sir Geoffrey Howe leaving the NIRC after government moves against the railmen on Wednesday

'The "low key" approach cannot go to the stage where it allows the IRA or the Provisionals to establish control of an area so that it is no longer policed by either the RUC or the Army but only controlled by gunmen. That is the difference in approach and one that the Secretary of State for N Ireland is endeavouring to pursue.'

Now that Widgery has blessed the brutal ritual of Bloody Sunday, are more Bloody Sundays on the way—the 'final solution' of 'the Ulster Catholic problem' perhaps?

On the evening of the same day he addressed the 1922 Committee at the Savoy Hotel with his customary arrogance.

'We have got this Bill, we are going to use it, and we will see this through.'

The class logic is inescapable. Rule by decree through the NIRC with the Paras as the Imperial Guard to do the shooting. Heath promised that his government would change history. And at the United Nations in 1970, he promised civil war, too!

He is keeping that promise and the challenge is unmistakable. Either the working class through its organizations unites to create the industrial and political conditions to make this government resign or it will do everything in its power to smash the organized strength of the working class.

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ON T&GWU
See P. 12**

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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An Loc centre of new battle

FIERCE fighting raged in the S Vietnam provincial capital of An Loc yesterday as the liberation forces won a series of victories in their 22-day offensive.

Overrunning a strategic town in S Vietnam, they also captured three towns in neighbouring E Cambodia and damaged US Navy ships in a combined air-sea attack, the first of its kind in the war.

An Loc, 56 miles N of Saigon and besieged for two weeks, came under attack on three fronts yesterday. Liberation

troops moved into the town behind at last 12 tanks.

US pilots said anti-aircraft fire around the town was so heavy that supply and medical evacuation aircraft could not get through.

A S Vietnamese transport plane and a giant US C-130 transport were shot down over An Loc yesterday.

The Higbee, an American destroyer was yesterday reported heavily damaged by bombs from N Vietnamese MiG fighters, while the 'Oklahoma City', flagship of the Seventh Fleet, was slightly damaged.

Until now the US Navy has operated with impunity off the coast of Vietnam, bombarding shore targets and acting as floating airbases.

Two regiments of liberation

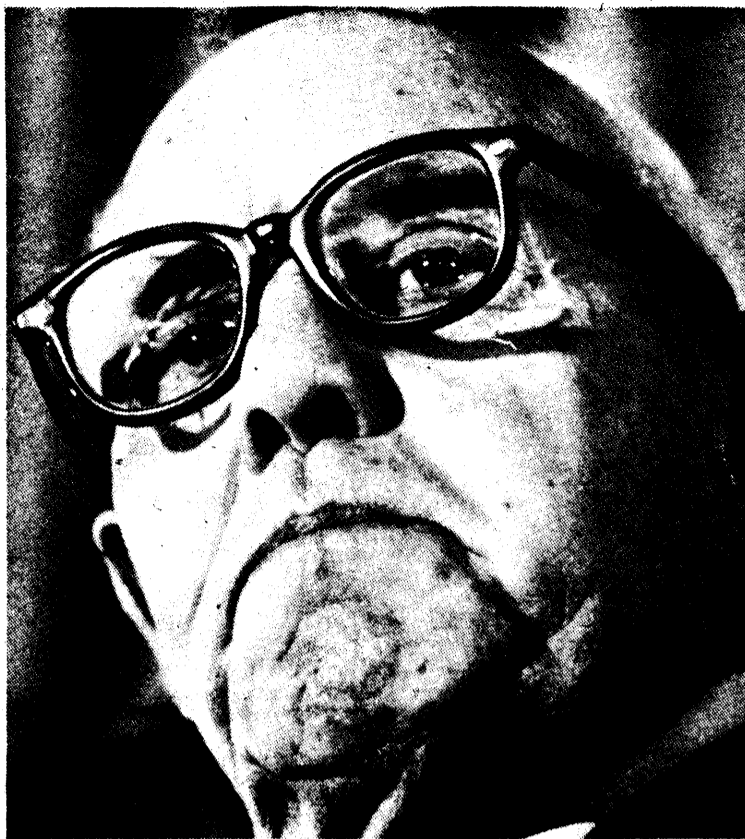
troops yesterday overran the strategic central S Vietnamese town of Hoai An, near the main E coast highway.

Hué, further N, also came under pressure yesterday when liberation forces attacked Fire-base Bastogne, which guards the approaches to the city.

In Cambodia, liberation forces captured three towns on the Phnom Penh-Saigon highway, Kompong Trabek, Tchipou and Prasaut.

N of the main highway, a provincial capital, Prey Veng, was cut off and surrounded yesterday after Cambodian puppet troops abandoned its only road link in the face of a big liberation force spearheaded by tanks.

These victories give control of a 40-mile stretch of the Highway to the liberation forces.



GEORGE MEANY, AFL-CIO CHIEF

I DON'T BELIEVE IN STRIKES ANY MORE — MEANY

GEORGE MEANY, right-wing president of the AFL-CIO (US equivalent of the TUC) has told the Senate he does not believe in strikes any more and hopes for some voluntary method of settling disputes through 'impartial' arbitration.

'I don't think strikes mean what they used to,' he told the Senate Labour Relations sub-committee, which is discussing a Bill to outlaw major transport strikes.

Meany confirmed that his union leadership was considering a plan to avoid strikes through voluntary agreements to use 'impartial' arbitrators.

Part of this plan involves extending contracts for six months beyond their date of expiry while an arbitrator tries to work out details of a new contract.

While he was prepared to see the unions enter in voluntary agreements along these lines, Meany said, he remained opposed to legal restrictions on the right

to strike, which would be 'utterly unworkable in practice'.

Meany's eagerness to be of service to the crisis-ridden US employing class clearly indicates the corrupt and reformist character of the US union leadership.

THE FOREIGN Office has confirmed that two emissaries of Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith have been in London to 'maintain contact' during the period before presentation of the Pearce Commission report on the Smith-Home deal.

UNDERGROUND Spanish workers' organizations are planning to call a General Strike and a massive May Day rally in defiance of General Franco's fascist regime.

Rumania Mid-East go-between?

THE INVITATION to Mrs Golda Meir to pay an official visit to Bucharest suggests that Rumania may be out to play the honest broker in the Middle East between Israel and the Arab countries.

As the only E European country not to have broken off relations with Israel at the time of the six-day war in June, 1967, Rumania is well placed to play the role of a go-between.

Indeed it may have been suggested by Egypt's President Sadat during Ceausescu's visit to Cairo recently. The initiative followed a brief visit to Jerusalem by Rumanian deputy Foreign Minister, Gheorghe Macovescu.

The Israeli daily 'Haaretz' suggests that the move may be the first step towards the renewal of relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. It is possible that the Soviet bureaucracy has sought Ceausescu's help in breaking the Middle-East deadlock.

It is expected that the Meir visit will take place early next month before Nixon's visit to Moscow where Middle-East questions will be high on the agenda.

URUGUAY SIT-IN AGAINST MURDER OF CP WORKERS

URUGUAYAN workers occupied their factories during a one-day General Strike on Wednesday against the murder of seven Communist Party workers by troops last Monday.

One hundred thousand mourners followed the cortege of the seven murdered workers whose coffins were carried shoulder high from the CP headquarters to the Montevideo cemetery, five miles away.

Placards on the funeral procession bore the slogans: 'Fascism and murderers out!' and 'Seven Communists were shot!'.

The shootings are a continuation of repression of workers' organizations which began last Friday.

Bomb attacks were made by right-wing 'death squads' on the editorial offices of two left-wing papers and police made a gun-point search of CP headquarters, arresting over 100 people.

President Bordaberry forced through the Uruguayan parliament measures for a 30-day state of emergency.

Immediately, the 'death squads' and fascist youth movement, Uruguayan Youth Arise (JUP) went into action with a series of assaults. Among those attacked were Juan Crottigini, vice-presidential candidate for the Broad Democratic Front and Carlos Quijano, director of the left-wing weekly, 'Marcha'.

Leaders of the National Convention of Workers, who called the General Strike, demanded restoration of individual liberties and the lifting of the 30 days 'state of internal war'.

The Uruguayan CP and the union leaders supported the Broad Front in the elections last November. The present repression should serve as a warning to the Chilean Stalinists who have also subordinated the working class to a Popular Front alliance.

Though the Allende Popular Front was electorally successful, the same reactionary forces that are at work in Uruguay are preparing to repress the Chilean working class.

Yesterday, the Chilean daily 'Ultima Hora', a supporter of Allende, commented on the situation in Uruguay: 'The law of the jungle is now in full force in a country which was for years compared with Switzerland and other stable full democracies.'

Allende, who never ceases to praise the democratic traditions of Chile, is opening the way for that same law of the jungle which is the law of capitalism, to murder Chilean workers.

US prices rise 6.2 per cent

PRICES in the United States rose at a yearly rate of 6.2 per cent in the first three months of this year, compared with only 1.7 per cent in the last three months of 1971.

This acceleration of inflation comes at a time when President Nixon's Pay Board is trying to hold wages down to increases of 5.5 per cent a year.

Nixon's policy - now clearly amounts to wage cutting, and it is backed up by the certainty of big increases in unemployment over the coming months.

Figures released by the Commerce Department showed the number out of work will continue to grow. The unemployment figure is already close to 6 million.

The figures show that the rate

of growth of industrial production declined by close on 10 per cent over the last six months.

This is despite the substantial trade and economic concessions which the US has gained as a result of the dollar devaluation on December 18 last year.

The devaluation, combined with upward revaluations of the other main capitalist currencies, was designed to give US goods an advantage on world markets.

These measures have created a situation of cut-throat trade war internationally and growing recession in the main capitalist centres. The US has repeatedly expressed its view that the December 18 agreement is not enough and is demanding further concessions from the other states involved.

Bitter divisions at UNCTAD

BY TOM KEMP

BITTER divisions and jealousies are tearing apart the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which has brought 3,000 delegates from 141 countries to the Chilean capital of Santiago.

The appearance of the S Korean Foreign Minister on the rostrum in the main conference hall was the signal for a walk-out by the Soviet, E European and Chinese delegates.

The Seoul government had usurped a seat which should have belonged to N Korea, a Soviet spokesman said.

A proposal by the advanced capitalist countries that the 25 least developed should be singled out for special consideration has proved to be divisive.

Only Haiti among the Latin American countries will obtain special assistance, but others believe they should be included.

The chief Egyptian delegate made a scathing attack on Israel, saying it was responsible for the continued closure of the Suez Canal which was harming the Arab countries:

Dutch Economics Minister Professor H. Langman warned that the international monetary crisis and the trend towards protectionism were hitting the less-developed countries. He called for freer access to markets in the richer countries.

He did not say that Holland also stands to suffer from trade restrictions and needed markets in the less-developed countries. He defended the 'multinational corporations'—no doubt having Philips, Unilever and Royal Dutch Shell in mind—as playing a 'useful role'.

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Shell gets its sums wrong

THE SHELL group, Britain's second largest company, is to make hundreds of workers redundant this year because of a 'disastrous decline' in world demand for chemicals and oil.

News of the sackings was given at yesterday's annual meeting by retiring chairman Sir David Barran.

During his chairmanship of the multi-million pound company Barran drew a salary of about £50,000 a year plus expenses. At least 400 people are

£20m profit slump means 1,000 lay-offs

expected to be sacked from the group's headquarters at Waterloo in the next year; up to a 1,000 will go within three years, Barran said.

But his estimates are very conservative—like his politics!

Profits slumped by £20m last year due to world sales recession and the dollar devaluation. He told shareholders that he expected 1972 to be a disappointing year, 'without the sort of spectacular growth we have

been used to'.

Sir David said that the oil industry appeared to have got its sums wrong.

In 1970 they were expecting an increase in demand of between 7 per cent and 8 per cent. The increase was an overwhelming 15 per cent.

In 1971 the position was completely reversed. Again estimating demand would rise by 7 to 7½ per cent, there was no increase at all. Barran said it was

very worrying that one could get sums wrong by such a large figure. This was not just Shell, it applied to the whole industry.

The chemical industry also suffered from a severe decline in world demand. One of the few rosy points appeared to be the North Sea ventures, which looked extremely hopeful.

He said he thought the oil division might be turning the corner towards better times, although he saw little hope in the near future for Shell's chemical sector.

Commenting on possible price increases Barran said he supported the Confederation of British Industry's prices pledge. But he could give no guarantee that Shell would not be forced to increase its prices after July.

Pressmen back rail fight

THE RAILWAYMEN gained backing yesterday from Britain's journalists. Over 400 delegates and the annual meeting of the National Union of Journalists rose to their feet and cheered a resolution supporting the three rail unions against the government.

John Morgan, delegate from Swansea said: 'My father is a railwayman. He works harder than I do but I earn twice as much as he does and I am underpaid. Work that out.'

'Railwaymen at this moment need as much support as they can get.'

The journalists now join the engineers, the miners and the Scottish TUC in backing the railwaymen's fight.

Feathered girls

TWO YOUNG Catholic girls—both engaged to marry British soldiers—were found early yesterday tarred and feathered at Coalisland, Co Tyrone, N Ireland.

The girls were found after an anonymous phone call to one of the girl's soldier fiancé. They were taken to S Tyrone hospital in a state of shock. It is understood that both girls were bundled into a car while out together on Wednesday night.

Ship orders at 'very low level'

SHIPBUILDING orders, would continue to a 'very low level' until world trade recovered, the Shipbuilders and Repairers' Association said yesterday.

Association figures released yesterday show that the number of ships on order was down from 312 in 1971 to 237 this year.

But figures showed that in the first quarter of 1972 shipbuilding firms secured orders for 17 merchant ships—seven more than in the corresponding three months of last year.

Preston plane-men get big backing

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

A CALL for a one-day General Strike in support of a pay claim by 3,500 British Aircraft Corporation employees is to go out to workers in the Preston district.

The local Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions has decided to ask workers in the area to leave their factories on May 1 and demonstrate their solidarity with the BAC employees who have been on strike for 11 weeks for a 12½-per-cent pay increase.

Today the BAC workers from three plants at Preston, Samesbury and Warton will hold their own demonstration through the streets of Preston.

No strings

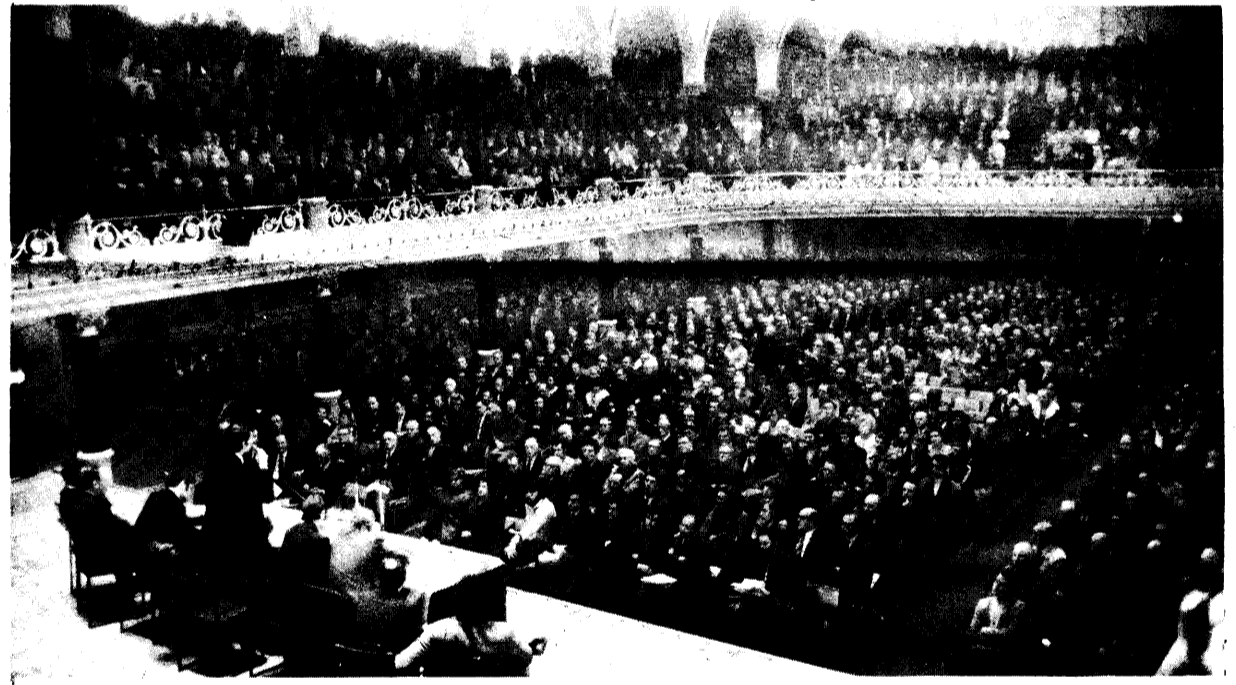
They are demanding pay increases for all hourly-paid workers with a £20 minimum rate for 40 hours a week.

They are insisting the payment be made without productivity strings.

The workers—who have severely curtailed the production of military aircraft in Britain—say the award is merely to keep pace with the increase in the cost of living over the past 12 months.

Management so far are insisting that any pay deal must include the introduction of sophisticated work measurement systems as a first step to increasing productivity.

Last week a delegation



BAC workers at the factories in the Preston area seen in a mass meeting recently. They have now won district-wide support.

of shop stewards met Labour MPs in London, but were unable to contact the Opposition spokesman for aero-space, Lord Beswick. Beswick is also chief personnel officer for the BAC combine.

Smash

Yesterday a stewards' spokesman said that the Preston fight was not just against BAC management,

but all the employers.

'It is becoming more and more clear that the employers, backed by the government, are out to smash the labour movement. Therefore it is vital that all workers unite to defeat this attack,' he said.

The government have a 20 per cent share in BAC. Other shareholders are Vickers with 40 per cent and British-Leyland another 50 per cent.

CONSTRUCTION workers on the BP oil refinery site at Llandarcy will meet today to decide whether to continue their eight-week-old strike. The men work for a sub-contractor, Simon Litwin. They have been mounting pickets on the site though their action has not received official trade union recognition.

CHILE'S debtors have secured an agreement from the Allende government for the repayment of 70 per cent of her debts with interest over eight years. The agreement follows three days of tough bargaining in Paris, which included an undertaking to compensate foreign firms taken over 'in accordance with Chilean and international law'. Repayment is to begin on January 1, 1975.

Socialist Labour League LECTURE

'Essential Marxism' given by G. Healy, SLL national secretary Woodside Hall, St George's Cross

GLASGOW
Sunday April 23, 2.30 p.m.

Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists Meeting

DUNDEE

'Working class unity and the fight against the Tory government'

AUEW Hall, 26 Southward Rd.
Sunday April 23, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

G. Healy, SLL national secretary

David Barclay, YS Glasgow-to-London Right-to-Work marcher

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

WILLESDEN: Monday April 24, 8 p.m. Labour and Trades Hall, Willesden High Road, NW10. Tory 'fair rents' Bill.

SW London: Tuesday April 25, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. Tory 'fair rents' Bill.

N KENT: Tuesday April 25, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Rd, Dartford. The Industrial Relations Act.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday April 25, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking. The engineers' wage claim.

SOUTHALL: Wednesday April 26, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Bridge Rd. Fight Tory rents policy.

LUTON: Thursday April 27, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Lea Rd. YS May Day rally.

N LONDON: Thursday April 27, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', Tottenham High Rd (nr White Hart Lane). The engineers' wage claim.

SE LONDON: Thursday April 27, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Rd (opp New Cross stn). Tory 'fair rents' Bill.

E LONDON: Tuesday May 2, 8 p.m. 'Aberfeldy', Aberfeldy St (nr Blackwall Tunnel). N Ireland.

Ford speed-up leads to lay-offs

ABOUT 5,000 car workers at Ford's, Dagenham, have been laid off because of a dispute involving speed-up.

Trouble began at 4 p.m. on Wednesday when management tried to cut the manning levels on the door line assembly in the body plant.

The company attempted to withdraw two or three men from the line. They refused, however, and worked on.

The line was then halted on the orders of the company.

The night shift also went home when the same incident was provoked.

For some time now the Ford company has been seeking to introduce more stringent ex-

WORKERS in the car industry got a warning yesterday over strikes. Sir Kenneth Corley, president of the Society of Motor Traders, said disruptions of production could no longer be tolerated after the miners' strike and the current rail dispute.

exploitation of the work force. In the troubled body plant, for instance, management wants to cut the labour force by several hundred.

A mass meeting in the body shop yesterday decided to stay out.

Moss Evans, chairman of the joint negotiating committee, was in touch with the Dagenham convenors.

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BUILDING THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Have you read the Draft Manifesto adopted by the All Trades Unions Alliance at the national conference at Birmingham last November? Have you expressed your views on the document in a letter to the Workers Press?

The Manifesto calls for the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party. This historic and vital task must be fully discussed and understood throughout the workers' movement: trade unionists, their families, students, the unemployed and people in the professions are invited to express their views on the Manifesto.

If you want a copy of the Draft Manifesto write to the Workers Press or contact your local ATUA branch. Today we present further correspondence in the Manifesto discussion.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

National Conference

Including the Charter of Basic Rights

DRAFT MANIFESTO

RAY HALL

T&GWU, Co-op milkman, Portsmouth.

I have read the Draft Manifesto and I agree with every single demand made in it.

These are basic human rights. Rights that have been promised by the reformists for far too long. If reformism was going to give us these rights it would have done so by now. Capitalism will not give in—it has to be crushed.

The Socialist Labour League is the only true Marxist party to truly appeal to all the working class—not just to the trendy leftists and the revisionist middle class.

The traitors of the Labour Party must be elected so that they can be exposed for what they are—enemies of the working class. It is now time for a new leadership of the working class.

It is also essential that the Stalinists are exposed. They have shot their bolt—they are the biggest threat to the revolution and by their betrayal in the guise of revolutionaries, they do more harm to the revolution than any other party.

There is in my union, the T&GWU, a considerable number of people who think the executive council know what they are doing, and are in full control of the situation.

But their policy of non-cooperation with the Industrial Relations Act has been shown to be folly.

But on realizing their mistake, no attempt has been made to rectify this. At my last union meeting I proposed that the union follow the lead of the AUEW in obtaining a firm pledge from the Labour Party to repeal the Industrial Relations Act and that if this pledge was not forthcoming, to withdraw all financial support from Labour Party funds.

The smug answer given from the chair was: 'We do not follow the AUEW. We are the biggest union and they follow us.'

Then I was told that members of the executive council had met with Harold Wilson and had been told that certain parts of the Act would be repealed. That, in fact, there were some good parts of the Act.

This kind of attitude will not unite the working class. The complete refusal to form some kind of unity between the unions, not from the rank and file but from the leadership, is just what the ruling class rely on to maintain their power.

The All Trades Unions Alliance has a clear role to attract trade unionists in a common purpose; to defeat the whole capitalist system with a united working class. Unity is the weapon we need to take us to a new October.



'As it says in the Charter of Basic Rights: Proper housing is not a luxury—it's a basic necessity'

SYLVESTER WILLIAMS

AUEW member, Decca Radar, Battersea, SW London.

I have worked for Decca for just three months. Before that I was unemployed for over a year.

That was quite an experience. I was living on £5-a-week unemployment benefit for all those months. After paying the rent there was absolutely nothing left for food and clothing.

The only way I was able to live was from donations from relatives and friends. I was paying £5 a week rent.

Being out of work was not for want of trying. Work was just not available.

I think the Draft Manifesto is ideal as a programme for the working class. I think it's some-

thing the working class have been waiting for for a long time.

I agree with building a revolutionary party to defend the trade unions. The trade union leadership is under the influence of the Tory government and they are not a true representative of the working class.

The Draft Manifesto represents the working class in every respect. People in this country, and all over the world for that matter, should not have the need to struggle for a decent standard of living and for the right to expression.

The right to decent housing is another very basic question. Where I live in Brixton, I know a woman with four children living in private accommodation who was paying £4 a week rent.

Suddenly the place came under the council's compulsory purchasing order and she was moved

out. Her rent increased to £7 a week with electricity and gas extra. After a few months she was moved out of that accommodation and moved to a flat where she has to pay £8 a week on top of charges for electric central heating which amount to about another £6 a week.

She can't work. She gets Social Security which you can imagine leaves her with nothing to feed and clothe the kids.

The house I am living in is also council property. Recently the rent has gone up. For the last 11 years, although we frequently asked the council to decorate, they have bluntly refused. Half the houses in the street have been condemned.

In the winter the water seeps off the walls and the draft from open windows and gaps in the doors makes it feel as if you were living in Siberia.

These are the things that the working class people should really fight to improve and to prevent from happening in the future. As it says in the Charter of Basic Rights: 'Proper housing is not a luxury—it is a basic necessity.'

Before I started working in Decca, although my political views were socialist, I really hadn't given much thought to taking a stand on any particular issue.

But now having seen the Socialist Labour League and the All Trades Unions Alliance, I am in favour of the principles and will support them wholeheartedly.

The Young Socialists' Right-to-Work rally at the Empire Pool, Wembley, was a great experience, as was the YS Scarborough conference. I am now looking forward to the summer camp.

SPANISH CP DIALOGUE WITH FRANCO'S ARMY

Preparations by Spain's Ministry of Labour to repress working-class opposition and the increased activity of ultra-Falangist Blas Pinar were exposed in Workers Press earlier this year. The killings at the El Ferrol shipyards were part of the Franco regime's concerted movement against the revolutionary upsurge of Spanish workers.

Pinar continued his work in March and April with a series of meetings with army generals and a propaganda campaign among army officers.

University general

His men have criticized Lt-Gen Diaz Alegria for being a 'university general' and have called for his withdrawal from the leadership of the army general staff. They have been recruiting widely in the barracks for the paramilitary 'Warriors of Christ the King'.

Franco's 'liberals' have in the meantime continued their wave of repression against workers and intellectuals. Cinema director Manuel Summers has been sent to prison for six months for having 'insulted the Catholic religion'.

Public Prosecutor has asked that writer Luciano Rincón be given 11 years' imprisonment for insulting the head of state and five years for distributing illegal propaganda.

In Madrid 60 workers have

been sacked from the Perkins division of Motor Iberica after leading a three-day strike.

The 1,000-strong strike is part of a struggle waged since last October. Four representatives had already been sacked when events were brought to a head with the release from jail of Manuel Camacho, a leading CP militant and Perkins worker, after serving a five-year sentence for illegal trade union organization.

Shortly before his release, Franco's special branch tried to get him to admit writing a letter circulating among Perkins' workers.

Workers' representatives saw the Perkins' management and asked for Camacho to be given his old job back: they were threatened with immediate dismissal for daring to broach the subject.

The workers struck for three days but returned after the 60 men were sacked. A tense situation continues in the factory.

Meanwhile the Spanish CP intensifies its overtures to the Spanish army. Alongside a description of the El Ferrol events, the latest issue of the Party's paper carries an article by executive member Mauricio Perez headed: 'The People and the Army Must Begin a Dialogue.'

Perez recognizes that the illusory Stalinist road to democracy is paved 'with real possibilities that the transition will be bloody, with a lot of blood in the street'.

The CP aims at preventing the army, presumably a neutral force at the moment, from falling prey to Franco or Pinar. They want it to become a reasonable, civilized



Señor Pinar: continuing work with army generals

army guaranteeing 'the full and civilized exercise of all freedoms'.

A new civil war

The CP, says Perez, is 'called upon to prevent our country from entering on a path which leads fatally to a new civil war. So he ends by appealing to the church, bourgeoisie and most

important institutions and state bodies to join in preventing a national tragedy.

His article shows the reality behind the demagogic banner headlines for a General Strike in the CP's paper.

In their enthusiasm to court the Spanish military, the CP has not forgotten that other pillar of the Franco state, the Catholic Church.

Party dialoguers with Franco's

men of God have been mulling over the defeat of Guerra Campos in the elections at the 16th Assembly of the Spanish Episcopacy.

Campos, a friend of Pinar, was defeated by that well-known left, Mgr Tarancon, Bishop of Madrid. One of Tarancon's recent progressive moves was to officiate at the royal wedding celebrated in Franco's private chapel a few weeks ago.

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TORIES ATTACK THE UNEMPLOYED

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STUDENTS REFUSE FIGHT AGAINST TORIES

The 50th Conference of the National Union of Students which ended in Birmingham on Friday April 14, took place in a week in which the Tory government and the employers were again pushing forward against the working class.

It is no accident that on the last evening of the conference, Chancellor of the Exchequer Anthony Barber — for the second time in three months — deliberately 'drew the sword' on the working class in his speech on the railwaymen's pay claim.

Three months ago it was the miners. Neither is it an accident that earlier in the day, miners' president Joe Gormley and the union's executive passed a unanimous resolution pledging the railwaymen 'any help they asked for'.

Throughout the week dockers in the Port of Liverpool and the Transport and General Workers' Union laboured under a threat of a £5,000 fine from the National Industrial Relations Court.

Yet the decisions taken at the NUS conference were far removed from the realities of the struggle that is now building up between the working class and the Tory government.

Time and time again throughout the four days resolutions calling for the defeat of the Tory government and the return of a Labour government — put forward consistently only by the Southampton university delegates from the Young Socialists Students' Society — were voted down.

Said Brian Prangle, summing up on the Southampton amendment in the crucial debate on proposed government attacks on student union financing:

'I have two questions to ask. First, why is this Tory government doing what it is doing and why is it that Southampton and the Young Socialists are the only ones who want a fight to remove this government?'

And he warned: 'Those political hamsters who do not warn students and workers constantly of the tasks facing them will be proved by the tide of events to be guilty of the greatest betrayal of the working class ever perpetrated.'

'To defend any democratic rights today means to pose the question of power. This is the task.'

And, as Prangle said, that was the task that the reformists, revisionists and Stalinists avoided throughout the conference.

The International Socialists, International Marxist Group and their assorted 'left-centrist' and reformist allies in the

Liaison Committee for the Defence of Student Unions conducted a sham fight in elections for executive posts in the union.

At no point — during a full day's hustings for elections almost continually from 9.30 a.m. until midnight — was the question of the defeat of the Tory government raised by any of the eight Liaison Committee candidates.

It was this refusal to challenge the Tory government that characterized both the Stalinists and revisionists all along the way.

And the Liaison Committee, which had arrived in Birmingham posing as a 'left alternative' to the Stalinist and right-wing dominated executive, ended up on the last evening coming to an agreement with Communist Party president Digby Jacks.

They joined with him on three votes on whether the executive should have conference agreement to negotiate with the Department of Education and Science.

After the first vote on this amendment, the executive, to their surprise, found themselves defeated on the issue and therefore mandated to have no discussions whatsoever.

A re-vote was hastily called for by executive supporters.

When the result of this ballot was announced, the position had been reversed in favour of the executive.

It was then that Jacks approached International Socialist member and Liaison Committee delegate, Jim Scott from Enfield, N London, and asked for a 'deal' on the basis that whichever side won 'the best of three' votes would be proclaimed victorious.

On the floor of conference the Liaison Committee spoke against the move, but the executive won the final count with a majority of over 23,000.

Digby Jacks pledged to the conference that he wouldn't 'sell-out' in negotiations.

And, of course, the capitalist press is happy to label this trafficking with Stalinism under the heading 'Trotskyist'.

The International Socialists who dominate the Liaison Committee have their foundations in the Cliff group, which was expelled from the Trotskyist Fourth International in 1950 on the basis that they could not defend N Korea and China against US imperialism because they were not workers' states but 'state capitalist'.

On the first evening of the conference, IS members of the Liaison Committee proposed that Eamonn McCann be allowed to come to speak to the conference and that the free evening — Wednesday — be utilized for a special discussion



Above: students demonstrate against Mrs Thatcher, Tory Education Minister (far right). Right: Digby Jacks addresses student conference last year.



BIG BUSINESS BACKING FOR HITLER'S WAR

The world economic depression of the 1930s, begun with the Wall St crash in the autumn of 1929, struck German capitalism with special severity. It plunged it into a social and political crisis which culminated in the defeat of the highly-organized working-class movement and the coming to power of Hitler. This fifth part in Tom Kemp's series deals with Hitler Germany's war economy.

The coming to power of the Nazis in 1933 made war inevitable. Hitler had made no secret of that in 'Mein Kampf'. The ruling class as a whole realized that Germany could not live under the Versailles system and saw war, or at least a war-like Germany, as necessary in order to open up markets and economic territory for industry.

The confidence of the ruling class in Hitler was based on the fact that he shared their objectives and provided a policy for their fulfilment. It was a policy which comported certain risks—principally of a general military line-up against Germany before she was ready for war.

But Hitler was not the apostle of some new Armageddon. He knew Germany's limited means and intended to establish mastery over Europe and 'tomorrow the world' by a step-by-step advance.

Defying one clause of the Versailles treaty after another, he set Germany on the path of military power and re-conquest of territory lost in World War I. This met with general approval, especially as it encountered feeble and disunited resistance from Britain and France.

The ruling class in these countries was impressed by Hitler's ability to prevent social revolution in Germany and create the conditions for economic revival. They saw in a re-armed Germany a barrier against Soviet Russia and some sections hoped that Nazi military power would be used only in the crusade against Bolshevism.

Hitler's policy of limited war, *blitzkriegs*, against isolated opponents, was calculated to win the approval of industrialists and military men. They only became nervous when Hitler seemed to be going too fast and the fear of a war on two fronts loomed up.

In fact, Hitler gave expression to tendencies inherent in German capitalism at this time which arose out of the economic crisis of the 1930s and expressed the contradictions of imperialism.

We have already seen that German recovery was based upon heavy government spending and a huge addition to the national debt.

Fear of Germany led to an arms race and growing tension in Europe which was exacerbated with each of Hitler's moves—the occupation of the Rhineland, intervention in the Spanish civil war, the occupation of Austria, the threat to Czechoslovakia, the campaign over Danzig and the Polish corridor.

The conditions for war were created as the 'victors' who had benefited from the Versailles Treaty's settlement of Europe and the world found themselves under challenge from the 'vanquished', now well-armed and aggressive.

A peaceful settlement of these

antagonisms was out of the question. But it is also evident that Hitler did not want or prepare Germany for an all-out war or the kind of war which finally took place.

As for German capitalism, it accepted the risks of war because war was in the logic of its development. War became the only way out.

In this, German capitalism was no different from any other national capitalism. But because of the peculiarities of German history and the nature of the Nazi regime, it was brought out there in the sharpest form.

There was no pretence about desiring peace and disarmament. Nazi ideology glorified war and prepared the youth directly for the slaughter.

German capitalism found a new market in the re-armament boom which the Nazis alone were able to bring about because of their willingness to defy the Versailles settlement. The financing of the Nazis' economic programme brought Germany to the brink of state bankruptcy.

This was the essence of the difference between Dr Schacht and the Nazis. Expansion after 1936 had required the issue of a mountain of paper obligations by the state which added to its indebtedness and contained the potential for a runaway inflation and the collapse of the whole financial and monetary system.

War offered a way out of this situation, which had, in any case, been largely brought about by preparation for war. War offered a way out by making it possible to impose taxes and restrictions which would not be acceptable in peace-time even under Nazi rule. But war also offered the prospect of continued orders for German industry for armaments and other supplies.

Likewise, war opened up the prospect of gaining new markets and investment opportunities through the acquisition of fresh territory for expansion. Given the state of the world market in the 1930s, there seemed to be no other way of expanding external trade.

Of course, war offered no real solution to the contradictions of German capitalism: it merely postponed the day of reckoning which neither the Nazis nor the ruling class cared to contemplate.

A series of predatory, limited wars offered the prospect of postponing that day for a long time. This was Hitler's programme. It was the programme of the bankrupt who makes a last throw.

This programme was acceptable to the German ruling class despite some doubts which were confined mainly to the military men.

It was an alternative to another plunge into depression and economic breakdown bringing the danger of social revolution.

The risks of war, and the glittering prospect of victory which would give Germany the mastery of Europe, were well worth taking in order to avoid such a catastrophe.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



Hitler's policy of step by step advance—Top: entering Vienna, Austria, March 1938. Centre: motor-cycle troops in Prague, Czechoslovakia, March 1939. Bottom: German troops in Warsaw, Poland, September 1939



THE FIRST LABOUR ACTS

As the application of the Industrial Relations Act is showing, the law is not a neutral arbiter. It is, and always has been, the instrument of class interests, used to defend the economic supremacy of the ruling class against attack from the working class.

In 1563 parliament passed the Statute of Artificers, a comprehensive measure to protect ruling-class pockets against the effects of massive inflation and currency depreciation, and a shortage of hired labour, by regulating wages.

Unfortunately this book contains no broad account of early wage regulation, still less an attempt to interpret this history in relation to modern 'incomes policy'.

No general conclusions are drawn about the links between economic and legal history.

Instead, we are presented with three essays on one aspect of the Statute of Artificers, containing such a mass of detailed, technical evidence that the wood can scarcely be seen for the trees.

Nevertheless, the book cannot help touching on vital topics. The Statute of Artificers was the main instrument of Elizabethan policy in the field of labour. Its stated aims were to 'banish idleness, advance husbandry, and yield unto the hired person both in times of scarcity and in times of plenty a convenient proportion of wages'. Like all such legislation, the statute brings clearly into focus the class alignments of its day.

In the 16th century, English society completed the economic transition from feudalism to an economy making general use of money, under which production takes place for profit rather than for mere subsistence.

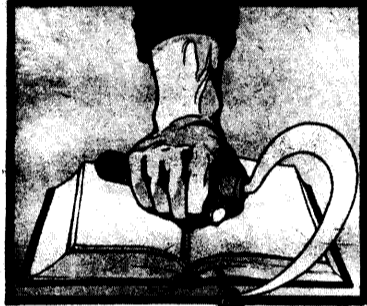
Peasants began to receive wages, rather than simply performing 'labour services' for the big landowners. With their new supply of money, many of them rose to the status of rent-paying tenants. The more prosperous could even buy their own land.

Of course the money economy did not work entirely to their advantage, as profitability sometimes required the large landowners to enclose (fence in) their fields and turn to sheep farming, evicting peasants from land they had ploughed for centuries.

But by 1563 the peak of the enclosure movement had passed. It had never been as devastating in effect as the 18th century enclosures, since in the 16th century a peasant still had a good chance of 'living at his own hands', as contemporaries described it. This meant either self-employment as a craftsman, or else converting a patch of waste land into a small farm, large enough to sustain one man's family.

Only a small number of peasants were forced to seek work as landless labourers on other people's farms. There was,

BOOK REVIEW



'WAGE REGULATION IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL ENGLAND'. Edited by W. E. MINCHINTON. David & Charles, 1972. £4.20. pp. 263. BY JANE BROWN

in fact, a shortage of hired labour. This created some difficulty for those farmers who needed extra workers, especially as the labourers who were available were in rather a strong position when it came to demanding higher wages. This was where the Statute of Artificers came in.

Besides making some attempt to prevent the drift of workers to the towns, the statute laid down that legal maximum wages were to be established annually, for workers all over the country, by the local Justices of the Peace.

Punishments were laid down, both for paying wages above the maximum and for receiving them. When fixing wages, the Justices were supposed to take the price of food into account as well as the employers' requirements. But since, as Minchinton says, these gentlemen were 'at the same time the magistrates, the police, the army recruiting officials and the landlords', it is not surprising that prices played little part in their 'prices and incomes policy'!

When he drafted the Statute, Cecil wrote angrily of the 'unreasonable wages demanded by servants in husbandry'. During the 200 years of the Statute's operation, complaints along these lines are far more common than attempts to use the Statute to raise wages in times of great scarcity.

For example, the Privy Council recorded in 1625: 'We are informed that it is a thing usual amongst workemen employed in such labours to exact great prizes and high rates, when the worke growes to any perfection or finishing, then either take their owne unreasonable demands, or deserte the worke, and so put the workmaister to some extraordinaries.'

The 1563 Act was not without precedents. As early as 1389, the Statute of Labourers had attempted to fix a maximum wage. The labour shortage at this date had been caused by the Black Death—and the 'unreasonable demands' of the peasants had burst forth into the Peasants' Revolt eight years earlier. There is no doubt that the Elizabethan government, also, looked upon

Above: tenants paying the Lord their rents. In the 16th century many peasants rose to the status of rent payers.

wage control as an urgent question of security.

Although the Statute of Artificers remained on the statute book until the early 19th century, its operation changed in accordance with changing economic and political circumstances.

In the 16th century, it was designed by a government representing large landowners to keep hired labour cheap and plentiful. Large enterprises for the manufacture of woollen cloth, beginning to develop at this time, did not receive the same encouragement. In fact, in 1602, the government went so far as to establish a legal minimum wage for the workers of this industry.

The most consistent attempt to enforce this legislation, and to punish employers who underpaid spinners and weavers, occurred during the 'personal rule' of Charles I, 1629-1640. For the 'new men' who had made fortunes out of wool manufacture were, of course, supporting the Puritan cause.

They were rewarded when Cromwell promptly abolished the minimum wage. But the legal maximum wage for agricultural labourers stayed, and was rigorously enforced. The bourgeois revolution was won in the name of property owners, not that of landless peasants.

The eventual decline of the Statute of Artificers in the 18th century reflected a change in the position of wage earners, as the Industrial Revolution gathered momentum. Both agriculture and industry were becoming more highly capitalized and more competitive. As small farmers were squeezed out by a new wave of enclosures, the number of landless labourers grew.

At the same time, their bargaining position had weakened. Opportunities for workers to live 'at their own hands' had greatly declined. New organizations for the collective defence of living standards had not yet arisen. The inability of labourers to enforce 'unreasonable demands', together with the growth of competition, led entrepreneurs in agriculture and industry to demand a 'free market' in wages as well as prices. Wage regulation by the Statute of Artificers soon lapsed.

But in a class society, no government can afford to ignore labour policy for very long. The new worker-employer relationship of capitalism presented new threats to the ruling class.

The old legal maximum wage of the Statute of Artificers merged without a break into new laws against 'combinations' conspiring to raise wages, and against the growth of trade unionism.

The continuity of present day 'prices and incomes' and 'industrial relations' policy with that of previous centuries is the main lesson to be drawn from this book.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Constant

'I don't know the rights and wrongs of this latest pay dispute,' wrote 'Sunday Express' fashion editor Anne Edwards last week.

People who live in glass houses would be well advised not to throw stones.

Edwards can never resist it. Amid thoughts about soft, strange, new make-up colours and the battle of the bulge we read:

'I am sick and tired of mealy-mouthed militants leading some strike or other, telling us how much they "regret any inconvenience to the public".'

'Why don't they come right out with the truth and say their aim is always to cause us the maximum inconvenience in order to get the maximum pay.'

As is well known the railwaymen's pay is on average £17 a week—many are on only £14—and the 'maximum' they are asking for is £20.

We wonder how this compares with Edwards' pay.

Then there is the question of productivity. A third of the total number of rail jobs have been axed and productivity forced up.

We note Edwards' contribution to the 'Sunday Express' remains more or less constant.

Words

'Indonesia stands for fighting tyranny, oppression and injustice in all forms of manifestation. I am convinced that Indonesia shall continue supporting and implementing the United Nations resolutions aiming at liberating the African people who are still under colonialism or suffering under the yoke of the filthy apartheid system and racialism.'

Thus spoke Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Adam Malik, the other day on the occasion of the international day for the abolition of racialism as declared by the United Nations. Fighting words. But anyone with even the shortest memory will recall how Malik and his henchmen presided over the slaughter of an estimated 1 million communists—many of them Chinese—only a few years ago.

Liberty

Twenty-five French gendarmes boarded a British ship which docked at Calais last Sunday and proceeded to tear down the anti-EEC banners 200 anti-Marketeers had plastered over it.



French PM: Chaban Delmas

Mr Christopher Frere-Smith, chairman of the Keep Britain Out Campaign, said as he watched police fighting with demonstrators:

'Only last week the French Prime Minister said the new Europe would be an oasis of public and private liberty. But look at it.'

Quite!

Raffle

Opening your union journal these days is like entering a raffle. All sorts of goodies are likely to drop from the pages.

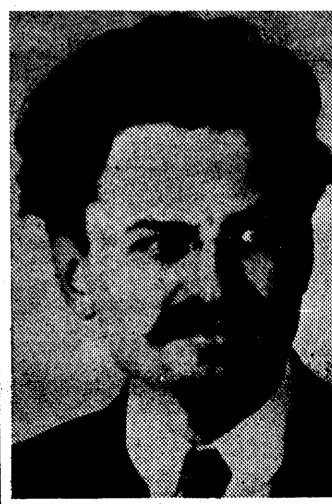
The General and Municipal Workers' Union's latest journal had an invitation brochure to join a mail order firm. The company, Peter Craig, of Chorley, Lancashire, must be well connected with the union.

The directors are listed as John Moores, Junior, Peter Moores, Nigel F. Moores, David R. Moores and Peter Craig (Styles) Limited.

Shifty

The W German right-wing monthly newspaper, 'Mut', has come up with a nifty idea. It is giving away car stickers to 'constitution-conscious' citizens. It shows a pocket map of W Germany—except that the border is shifted rather more to the N to include half of Poland!

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International Committee of the 4th International

4th International

Congress

THE INTERNATIONAL Committee of the Fourth International held its fourth international conference from April 10-15. Delegates from eight countries participated, some of them travelling many thousands of miles.

First concern of the conference was the urgency given to its proceedings by the transformed economic and political changes in the months since the August 15 measures of United States President Nixon.

In the US and in the capitalist countries of Europe, the working class have moved into struggle under conditions where the question of taking power cannot be avoided.

Only the forces of the International Committee have fought, all through the 1950s and 1960s, to prepare for these changes. Every other 'socialist' and 'Communist' tendency — including some falsely claiming the name Trotskyists — based themselves on the theory that the capitalist boom had made it no longer possible for the workers of the advanced countries to achieve the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism.

As the conference resolution on international perspectives points out, this theory of 'neocapitalism', a capitalism without fundamental contradictions, was only the surface impression of middle-class opponents of Marxism.

With this theory they turned to other social forces — the Stalinist bureaucracy, the colonial middle-class nationalists, the peasantry, and finally, in 1968, the students — as the basis for the overthrow of capitalism. This was really the politics of protest and radical propaganda in the capitalist countries.

Since May-June 1968 in France, the working class itself has thrown into chaos and confusion all those who based themselves on these revisions of Marxism. Consequently, only the International Committee is able to put forward a revolutionary international perspective at this stage.

The conference Manifesto (printed tomorrow in Workers Press) urges revolutionaries in every country to recognize and to act upon their historic responsibilities, to fight in every struggle of the working class for the building of revolutionary Marxist parties.

Now the full fury of the crisis has been unleashed by Nixon's measures, it is necessary to prepare for the most explosive economic and political consequences, says the Manifesto. Trade war becomes massive slump.

Great industrial and financial concerns quake and crash. Whole national economies face breakdown. War tempts big business as the solution, and at the same time frightens them. Revolution and counter-revolution appear first in one country, then in another.

The reformist and Stalinist bureaucracies, tied to imperialism, can only lead the masses to disastrous defeats.

These same bureaucracies assist the imperialists who are driven by intensified competition to turn upon the working class in their 'own' countries to destroy their basic rights and organizations.

Never was it more urgent to build working-class revolutionary parties based on the Transitional Programme of the Fourth International. This period now brings out the full meaning of the long struggle, since 1953, of the International Committee against Pabloite revisionism, which abandoned the building of such parties.

In this overall perspective, the conference proceeded to discuss in detail the work of the national sections. It is a question, in each country, of working out a concrete programme of struggle to enable the working class to emerge as a politically independent force, by breaking it from the present domination of the Stalinists in countries such as Greece, France or Italy, and from the social democracy in other countries, such as Britain.



Discussion on the United States, centred around the need for a labour party

CONFERENCE also discussed the work of Trotskyists in the United States, although the Workers League, which works in sympathy with the IC, is prevented by US law (the Voorhis Act) from joining the Fourth International.

In this presidential election year, the conference considered that the long-term fight for a US labour party based on the trade unions could be and must be taken forward decisively.

Not only are US trade unionists being subjected to the internal measures — pay freeze, legal restrictions — flowing from August 15, but the presidential candidacy of the ultra-right wing George Wallace is the spearhead of a big attack by the capitalist parties on the unions.

It was the strength of the American working class, particularly in the steel and automobile industries, which made Nixon's August 15 decision inescapable.

It had become impossible to continue with both domestic inflation and dollar convertibility at fixed prices and parities.

In this situation, a campaign to mobilize trade unionists for the formation of a labour party, to defend the unions and the independent interests of the working class, is the correct path for US Marxists.

Within this fight for a labour party, the Workers League must battle independently for the socialist programme which it proposes for such a party, and at the same time come forward as the only consistent fighters for the labour party.

This central theme, the fight to lead the working class to political independence, was the basic orientation of the discussions on the work of the sections. On this basis, plans were made for the International Committee to help

directly in the work in each country.

IN GREECE, for example, the most effective way to break the working class from the counter-revolutionary influence of Stalinism is to demand in every struggle that the Stalinist parties break from their treacherous alliances with capitalist parties.

Particularly, the Partsalides-Theodorakis Stalinist tendency must be exposed and fought for its extreme turn away from the working class and its demands.

FOR IRELAND, the conference discussion emphasized the importance of the revolutionary unity, not only of the workers of N and S Ireland, but of Ireland and Britain in struggle against the Tories in both countries.

In a situation such as that prevailing in Ireland, the essential emphasis must be on the recruiting and training of revolutionaries, particularly among the young workers, who are able to break from the nationalism and syndicalism which have always dominated in the Irish working class, neither of them able to challenge the basic ideological grip of the church on the one hand and Protestant Unionism on the other.

THE CONFERENCE main resolution and Manifesto draw attention to the heroic revolutionary struggles of the colonial countries.

After bearing the brunt of imperialist exploitation, repression and war ever since the 1940s, the oppressed peoples are now able to mount an offensive, especially in Bangla Desh and Vietnam, which shakes imperialism to its foundations, and now, combines

with the struggle in the advanced countries.

All those who dismissed Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution as outdated now find it confirmed on an international scale.

In these colonial countries, the qualitative task of building Trotskyist parties founded on the fight to develop Marxist theory presents itself with equal urgency to the situation in Europe and America.

CONFERENCE discussed the work of its section in Ceylon (the Revolutionary Communist League), where the degeneration and revision of Marxism in the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (which joined the capitalist coalition in 1964 while still affiliated to the Pabloite 'United Secretariat') had led to open betrayal to imperialism.

Conference carried unanimously a resolution condemning the imprisonments in Ceylon, carried out by a government in which renegade ex-Trotskyists participate with Stalinists and capitalist parties.

ANOTHER resolution concerned the struggle in Argentina. It condemned the campaign of kidnapping and individual terrorism which culminated in the shooting of the hostage Fiat representative, Sallustro.

Carried out by a tendency claiming to be Trotskyist (actually affiliated to the Paris Unified Secretariat), this action completely contradicts the programme and methods of struggle of Marxist parties, the principles fought for by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky.

Right at the point where the industrial workers of Argentina are building up mass actions, this

middle-class individualist terrorism avoids the fundamental problems of leadership and mobilization of the class, substituting for it personal heroism and 'propaganda by deed' and opening the door to savage repressions.

IN CONSIDERING the future work of its youth commission (set up in 1966) the conference drew attention to the split which has occurred in the International Committee after the international youth rally which met in Essen, W Germany, last June.

The AJS (Socialist Youth Alliance, youth organization of the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste [OCI], then the French section of the IC) at that rally put forward the programme of setting up a centrist international youth organization.

This involved their rejecting an amendment from the Young Socialists, which called for the fight to develop dialectical materialism as the only basis for a revolutionary Trotskyist youth movement.

THE CONFERENCE dealt at length with the political lessons of this split. Essen had been followed by the dispute over Bolivia. There, the counter-revolutionary coup which overthrew the nationalist regime of Torres and bloodily repressed the working class had cruelly exposed the descent into centrism of the POR (Revolutionary Workers Party) led by Guillermo Lora and sharing the political conceptions of the OCI.

At this point, the OCI, far from pulling back from its dangerous positions, persisted in them and solidarized with Lora against the International Committee. The conference endorsed the positions taken by the IC in breaking from the revisionist leadership of the OCI. It would be impossible for revolutionary Marxists in this period to co-exist in the same international organization as those whose false theories and opportunist actions prepare defeats for the working class.

IN PLANNING for the future, commissions at the conference gave guidance to comrades struggling to establish new sections in places as far away as Australia. The international summer school was planned, in which several hundred comrades from many countries will participate.

One of the main issues at this school will be the history of the Fourth International and the International Left Opposition.

A special commission was appointed to begin this work. They, and the individual sections, will bring together the preliminary results by the summer. This is no academic pursuit: the history of the International embodies the theoretical lessons of all the vital experiences of the working class in our epoch.

Another resolution on future tasks instructed the International Committee to draft rules for its functioning founded on the original statutes of the Fourth International (1938) which would facilitate centralized work and guidance to the national sections.

IN THE five days of the conference, delegates worked together, not in an atmosphere of mutual compliments and abstract schematic formulations, but rather in an intensive struggle to examine every problem to its roots, by relating it to the great historical transformations in the objective situation and the theoretical struggle made urgent by these changes.

In this sense, the Fourth Conference of the International Committee ended on a note of high revolutionary optimism, an optimism tempered by determination, above all else to devote every nerve and every muscle to the task outlined by Leon Trotsky: to resolve the crisis of revolutionary leadership of the working class, the only road to resolving the historical crisis of humanity caused by decaying capitalism.

Axle strike to go to two weeks

SEVENTY FIVE axle assembly workers at the Standard Triumph, Radford plant, near Coventry, decided yesterday to continue their week-old strike and not to meet again for one week.

One of the assembly shop stewards, A. Harban, commented: 'The claim of our assembly workers is for an approximate increase of £2.50 to bring us in line with the average assembly bonuses paid at the main Canley factory.'

'We are an assembly gang away from the main plant. We have been discussing this claim right back to last November.'

'The company says that if we were prepared to increase our production by 15 axles a day they would negotiate an increase in pay, but all they offered us in exchange was 4 per cent of our bonus, which would be precisely 27p a week. We are not having this.'

Haulage costs up

MEMBERS of the Road Haulage Association are being recommended to seek increases of up to 5 per cent in their charges.

The 17,000 Association members have been told by their chairman, William McMillan, that a recession in trade had a severe effect on the haulage industry. Members should immediately review their costs, he said.

Toolroom controlled

TOOLMAKERS at CAV's Acton factory, N London, have gained a temporary victory over management's attempts to create a new toolroom out of the control of the militant toolroom committee.

Shop stewards have been given verbal assurance that they will be consulted in future about any proposals affecting toolroom work. The assurance came after a work-to-rule and several walk-outs.

ENGINEERING NEWS

Engineers' pay: Even East Anglia is hotbed of struggle

FROM DAVID MAUDE IN EASTBOURNE

E ANGLIA is not normally considered a hotbed of class struggle, but since March 29 1,600 engineers have been locked out of the largest factory in the county's biggest city.

The factory is Laurence Scott and Electromotors. The city, Norwich. And Hugh McKenna, one of the locked-out workers' leading shop stewards, is a delegate to this week's National Committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

'It's the first major dispute we've had in the district for as long as I can remember,' he told me on the eve of the committee's key wages debate.

'We submitted our pay claim—based on the national claim drawn up at National Committee last year—in January. Then after a whole series of meetings in which the company refused to offer more than the Engineering Employers' Federation had at national level we agreed to ban overtime and payment-by-results working.'

'Exactly an hour after we stopped PBR, the company locked us out.'

Hugh and the other stewards in the factory were 'surprised' by the company's action, he said.

'We had never said we were working to rule or anything, with all that that implies. All we were doing was asserting our right to take our own time over our jobs.'

'If the company had wanted a settlement of this dispute, it could have got round the table, but it didn't.'

'This indicates to me that it is not just this particular employer we are facing, but an action by the EEF.'

'This is the main EEF firm in

the area. Scott's is obviously setting the pace for others.'

The pay claim was submitted in January in the context of alterations to an existing pay structure; the alterations were allied to the demands made in the national claim.

Neither the stewards nor full-time officials could obtain an improvement in the company's first offer, which was exactly in line with the Tory government's undeclared 7½-per-cent pay norm.

Since the lock-out the stewards have made several attempts to get talks involving full-time union officials going again, but have met a complete blank wall.

They proposed a meeting under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor, they approached the local bishop's industrial

chaplain. They wrote to Norwich's two MPs, to Labour leader Harold Wilson and even to Tory premier Edward Heath.

There was no response.

One effect of this series of events was to pull out onto the streets of the town last Thursday week an unprecedented demonstration of factory workers, many of whom had loyally supported the company for 30 years or more.

The other was to confirm Hugh McKenna's support for the plant-bargaining strategy adopted by the union in January. 'We'll never go back to the federation after this,' he says.

Hugh admits that there were, and are, two alternatives facing the national committee: plant-level action, or 'putting 1 million

shoulders to the door' in a national strike.

Despite the lock-out, he comes down against a national strike. 'There's always a danger of breaking the door.'

Although from the same divisional committee of the AUEW, national-committee delegate Ron Davis feels the plant-action strategy has caused 'chaos' in the union.

He hoped on Monday night that the committee would decide to put the claim back to national level in an attempt to establish minimum conditions there. Wages questions would be fought out locally, however.

A shop steward at RHP Bearings, Chelmsford, Ron pointed out that workers at the English Electric Valve Co in the town had voted to strike from next Monday if no satisfactory offer on the claim was forthcoming.

New Hull terminal

WORK began this week on construction of a £280,000 roll on-roll off terminal at Queen Elizabeth dock, Hull, to cater for a service between Hull and Esbjerg.

The service will be jointly operated by Ellerman Wilson and the Danish company, DFDS.

The terminal is scheduled to be operational early next year when a new ferry, at present under construction, comes into service.

The project is being undertaken at a time when Hull dockers are fighting a bitter struggle against further redundancies.

I would like information about

THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4 7UG.

Name

Address

TV

BBC 1

- 9.45 Andy Pandy. 10.00 Champion. 10.25 Parsley. 10.30 I want to be a pilot. 10.55-11.00 Magic roundabout. 12.55-1.25 Canu'r bobol. 1.30 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 1.45 News and weather. 1.50 Apollo 16. 2.45 Sights and sounds of Britain. 3.15 Story of Queen Mary. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Screen test. 5.20 Hope and Keen's crazy bus. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather. 6.00 MAGAZINE. 6.20 APOLLO 16. First moon-drive. 7.00 THE VIRGINIAN. Black Jade. 8.10 THE BROTHERS. The Perfect Day. 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.25 THE DEAN MARTIN SHOW. Guests Tony Bennett, Zero Mostel, Gloria Loring. 10.15 UK BALLROOM DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS 1972. 10.50 24 HOURS. 11.20 FILM: 'HORSE FEATHERS'. The Marx Brothers. 12.25 Weather.

BBC 2

- 11.00-11.25 Play school. 6.05-6.30 OPEN UNIVERSITY. 6.35-7.00 CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL. Types. 7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY. 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 THE MONEY PROGRAMME. 9.00 GARDENERS' WORLD. 9.20 REVIEW. The Blues Accor-

ITV

- 12.15 Apollo 16. First moon-drive. 1.15 This week. 1.45 Racing from Sandown Park. 2.15 Houseparty. 2.30 Good afternoon! 2.55 Sandown racing. 3.45 Drive-in. 4.15 Clapperboard. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Land of the giants. 5.50 News. 6.00 TODAY. 6.30 F TROOP. Wilton the Kid. 7.00 THE SKY'S THE LIMIT. 7.30 HIS AND HERS. 8.00 THE FBI. The Intermediary. 9.00 BUDGIE. Dreaming of Thee. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 FILM: 'CHILDREN OF THE DAMNED'. Ian Hendry, Alan Badel, Barbara Ferris. 12.00 ALEXANDER THE GREATEST. Renata's Secret Affair. 12.30 THIS GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND? din' to Lightnin' Hopkins, The Symbols of Life I Knew Best. 10.10 BEYOND A JOKE. Eleanor Bron, John Bird, Barrie Ingham. 10.40 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 10.45 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP. Welcome Little Kangaroo. 11.45 APOLLO 16. Second moon-drive.



A new BBC 2 comedy series 'Beyond A Joke' starts tonight with Barrie Ingham, Eleanor Bron and John Bird

CHANNEL: 12.15-1.15 London. 1.45-3.50 London. 4.05 Zingalong. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Dick Van Dyke. 4.50 Land of the giants. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Report. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 I spy. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 10.35 Film: 'Peeping Tom'. 12.15 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 10.28 News. 12.15 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 12.15-1.15 London. 2.05 Katie Stewart. 2.30 London. 3.45 Speedy Gonzalez. 3.55 Weekend. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Paulus. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Out of town. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weekend. 10.35 Film: 'The Burglar'. 12.10 News. 12.20 Weather. Sing.

HARLECH: 12.15 London. 1.15 Arthur. 1.25 Out of town. 1.45 London. 3.20 Grasshopper island. 3.35 Enchanted house. 3.50 Women. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wajes. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film:

'Kill or Cure'. 9.00 Jason King. 10.00 London. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 His and hers. 11.30 Budgie. 12.30 Weather. HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Report West. HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15-4.30 Cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30-11.00 Outlook.

ANGLIA: 12.15 London. 3.45 Yoga. 4.10 News. 4.15 Cartoons. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 Bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 Film: 'Merrill's Marauders'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 12.15 London. 3.10 Mr Piper. 3.35 Stars. 3.40 Women today. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 His and hers. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 Shirley's world. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Homicidal'.

ULSTER: 12.15-1.15 London. 1.45-3.50 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Thunderbirds. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 10.30 Documentary.

11.00 Film: 'The Ballad of Andy Crocker'.

YORKSHIRE: 12.15 London. 1.15 Light in. 1.45 London. 2.15 The singer, the song. 2.30 London. 3.45 Jimmy Stewart. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Flaxton boys. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Mark'. 12.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 12.15-1.15 London. 1.45 London. 3.25 Yoga. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.05 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.50 Land of the giants. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Guns of Will Sonnett. 6.50 Kick-off. 7.00 Simon Locke. 7.25 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Amorous Adventures of Moll Flanders'.

TYNE TEES: 12.15 London. 1.15 Peace game. 1.45-2.15 London. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 London. 3.45 Jimmy Stewart. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 Flaxton boys. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 London. 8.00 Dr Gannon. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Mark'. 12.45 News. 1.00 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 12.15-1.15 London. 1.45-3.15 London. 3.30 Kiri. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Cartoon. 6.30 His and hers. 7.00 London. 7.30 Andy. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 10.30 Conference report. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'The Trunk'.

GRAMPIAN: 12.15-1.15 London. 1.45-3.20 London. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Smith family. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 Ivanhoe. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Mr and Mrs. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.35 It takes a thief. 8.25 Melody Inn. 9.00 London. 10.30 Conference report. 11.00 Film: 'Bride of Frankenstein'. 12.25 Epilogue.

Jobless: Still over 1 million

APRIL unemployment figures, released yesterday, show there are still more than a million out of work for the fourth consecutive month.

The figures also showed that the number of wholly unemployed is continuing to rise. This is the clearest proof that all the Tory talk of reflation is just a propaganda smokescreen.

The figures, issued by the Department of Employment, show a total of 1,005,144 unemployed, a decrease of 12,149 on the previous month.

The number of wholly unemployed totalled

954,963, a decrease in the month of 4,308. But, seasonally adjusted, the number is still rising.

Ulster is still hardest hit by unemployment. The total registered unemployed is 47,490—9.2 per cent of the working population.

Every region in Britain showed a slight decrease in its total unemployed except the NW where there was a sharp increase of 2,372.

The huge number of redundancies are continuing unabated. There were 20,000 notified during March.

This brings the total in the first three months of this year to 60,000, compared with 97,000 in the same period last year.

The Press Association's political correspondent wrote yesterday: 'The government is undismayed by the con-

tinuing high unemployment figures.'

Whoever thought they were dismayed. After all it is the government which has deliberately embarked on a policy of creating mass unemployment.

The right to work, the keynote of the Young Socialists country-wide marches, can only be won by getting the Tories out of office.

NW engineers meet fighting fund threat

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

SHOP FLOOR leaders of Manchester's engineering workers said yesterday that they would not be intimidated by cash backing given to local employers.

**APRIL FUND:
We're going
for £1,750
We've got
£530.24 so far**

THIS month we need our greatest effort so far. Our distribution has been affected as a result of the determination of this Tory government not to give an inch to the railwaymen. We have been forced therefore to once again appeal to you, our readers, to help us in every way you can.

We need to raise our Fund target by another £500 this month to assist us with these difficulties. We know it is a tough assignment, but we are under no illusion that the fight against the Tories will not be tough.

This political situation, we feel, requires a special effort. So go all out today. Raise as much as you can for our April Appeal Fund and if you can, add something extra yourself. Post every donation immediately to:

**Workers Press April Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High St
London SW4 7UG.**

ARMED FORCES are to get an 11-per-cent pay rise backdated to April 1972. With the 7-per-cent cost-of-living increase awarded last year the latest rise means that services pay has gone-up by 18½ per cent in two years.

Commenting on the £1m given to NW employers by the Engineering Employers' Federation, convenor Alec Reese said: 'The gauntlet has been thrown down and we are ready to accept the challenge.'

Mr Reese works at the Bredbury steelworks, Stockport—the GKN plant which was the first of 27 Manchester factories to be occupied.

Mr Reese added: 'The pay claim is just getting off the ground; if the employers want to put £1m into this fight they must have money to waste. I would presume they also had enough to pay for our rise.'

'This government is opening the flood gates. The employers and the Tories are intimidating everyone with their talk of anarchy.'

John Roylance, convenor of 300 Metal Box employees who are occupying their factory at Timperly, Cheshire, said Manchester had been picked because it was there that the employers were meeting most resistance.

'We can only get more determined now. In my factory the feeling is that we have nothing to lose and everything to gain.'

Tom Carlisle, EEF president, said the cash support had been given because of the 'admirable solidarity' displayed by employers in Lancashire and Cheshire.

'We felt it only right that the Federation as a whole should help those members who have carried this heavy burden for so long.'

The unions are insisting that settlements must be made on all three of the main points of the claim.

These are for a £4 wage increase, a 35-hour week and longer holidays.

The latest employer to make a deal on the three points is Davies and Metcalfe, Romiley, Stockport. They have given their 110 employees a £4 wage increase, a 37½-hour week and two extra days' holiday a year.

STUDENTS at the London Film School yesterday overwhelmingly decided to support any industrial action by unions in the Federation of Film Unions to fight the closure of Shepperton studios, Middlesex. The meeting fully endorsed TUC policy passed at Blackpool last year which calls for the nationalization of the film industry without compensation and under workers' control.

W GERMAN Chancellor Willy Brandt arrived in Britain yesterday for two days of discussion with the government on the Common Market. At a lunch in London, TUC leader Victor Feather said the unions would not oppose movement of labour from country to country within the Market so long as there was full employment.

Parsons' Tyneside men stage work-in

FOUR HUNDRED men sacked by C. A. Parsons of Newcastle for 'refusing to work normally' staged a work-in yesterday.

The 1,400 workers at the factory—all members of the technical and supervisory section of the AUEW—have been working-to-rule in protest against a management plan to make 1,000 men redundant in June this year.

The work-to-rule has included a ban on the use of telephones, a general go-slow, and at one stage, a four-day week.

Parsons warned that if the sanctions continued they would have to begin sackings immediately. A hundred were dismissed on Tuesday and a further 300 on Wednesday.

Eight hundred men at the associate works of Reyrolles at Hebburn on Tyne backed the work-in yesterday with a walk-out to hold a meeting of support.

And at Coventry a mass meeting of Rolls-Royce workers at Parkside pledged full support to the Parsons men.

Wages for the work-in are being guaranteed by the AUEW, but the Rolls-Royce men agreed to a 50p per member levy and sent a donation of £500 from local funds.

LATE NEWS WEATHER

NEWS DESK
01-720 2000

CIRCULATION
01-622 7029

CONFEDERATION of British Industry are threatening to lift their attempts to control prices. CBI President John Partridge has given the unions three months to respond to an appeal for wage restraint or the Confederation's advice to member-firms to keep their prices down will be abandoned. He said the railway workers were putting extreme pressure on the Rail Board who had offered rises well above the cost of living.

NIRC: New orders were made making it clear the Court's ruling on blacking applied to all British ports.

T&GWU: The union has asked to meet the TUC's Finance and General Purposes Committee next Wednesday to discuss the fine and will make known its own response the following day.

SE ENGLAND will be cloudy with scattered showers. Most of England, Wales, N Ireland and Scotland will be dry with sunny spells but in N Scotland a few showers are likely.

Temperatures will be near normal, but it will be rather cold in SE England.

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Mostly dry with sunny periods and near normal temperatures. Becoming rather cold and showery in N Scotland.

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£50,000 FINE ON T&GWU

BY DAVID MAUDE

BRITAIN'S biggest union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, was fined a further £50,000 by the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday for contempt of court. They have until May 4 to pay.

This swingeing fine comes on top of the £5,000 fine imposed three weeks ago for the same offence.

Court president Sir John Donaldson imposed the fine after two road haulage firms complained that their lorries were still being blacked by Liverpool dockers.

And he warned that if the contempt continued the union could face seizure of its entire £22m assets until the contempt was purged.

Sir John said: 'I cannot over-emphasize the gravity of the union's conduct.'

'The courts first fine of £5,000 had been much smaller than would have been the case if the court had believed the union understood the gravity of its action.'

'It now appears that far from seeking to purge the contempt, it has allowed its members to continue it.'

The complaints had been made by two firms, Heaton's Transport Ltd of St Helens and Craddock Brothers, which is based at Wolverhampton.

Yesterday morning, the five-man panel of judges decided unanimously to take evidence relating both to the dockers' defiance of their order last Monday and the continuous nature of the contempt.

Richard Yorke, QC, was allowed, on Heaton's behalf, to present evidence of blacking at Liverpool docks and at Preston as well.

Flanked by lay judges A. F. Blacklaws, R. Boyfield, OBE, R. Davis and C. G. Robinson, CBE, the NIRC president put back the hearing of Craddock Brothers' motion on the grounds that necessary witnesses had not yet arrived in London.

They had been subpoenaed to attend 'in the small hours of this morning', he told the court.

He also read a letter from Jack Jones saying that while the T&GWU would not be attending the court in line with TUC policy: 'I do wish to point out that the union is not acting in contempt of the court.'

Opening the first section of his case, counsel for Heaton's said that on Monday, April 17, two company vehicles were sent to Liverpool docks.

The first arrived at Alexandria dock at 8 a.m. and after a one-and-a-half-hour wait was turned away by men who claimed to be acting on behalf of the union.

The second was turned away 15 minutes after it arrived at Langton dock at 10.30 a.m. Neither lorry was carrying container traffic.

Five sworn affidavits were submitted.

These were from Robert Heaton senior, joint-managing director, Jack Appleton, a T&GWU shop steward at the firm who drove the first lorry on that day, the driver of the second vehicle and both their mates. All four workers claim they had been turned away by men who said they were acting either with authority from or on behalf of the union.

Said Yorke: 'All this company is trying to do is carry on its normal business.'

'It is not seeking to penalize



John Rycroft of Craddock Brothers outside the Court

the T&GWU or anyone acting on its behalf.'

The effect of the sequestration order he was applying for, if the contempt was proved, would simply be to take possession of 'all that the union has down to the last nail in its last piece of property' until the contempt was cleared.

There then followed legal arguments as to whether the effect of the sequestration order would be to hold the union's assets until the contempt was cleared or to exact a fine the court might decide.

'The result of the first course would be disruptive in the extreme of the ordinary business of the union,' Sir John Donaldson commented.

Then Yorke came to the second part of his case.

There were in existence affidavits detailing a long list of other blackings which the court might decide it wanted to consider or not, he said.

At issue was the question of whether last Monday's action was an isolated incident or part of a continuous process.

From March 28, when the court had granted its order against the blacking, to April 11, there had been no less than 20 occasions on which Heaton's vehicles had been blacked, the defence council said.

Referring to affidavits filed by Robert Heaton junior and a 'representative sample' of drivers he cited evidence relating to 18 of these instances.

Ports mentioned in this connection included Bristol, London and the privately-owned container part of Felixstowe.

Yorke also referred to the original circular put out by the joint dockers and road transport workers' committee on Merseyside, which said that the blacking action started on March 20 as a prelude to national action.

On behalf of the company he also gave notice that an application for legal costs to be awarded against the T&GWU might be made when the issue was concluded.

Evidence of blacking outside Liverpool was also taken in the hearing of Craddock Brothers' motion.

Besides summoning two managers of ACT Services Ltd of Liverpool, the court also called Ronald Milward, a transport driver from Craddock's Wolverhampton depot.

He gave evidence that on two occasions his lorry had been blacked at Royal Albert Dock, London, in sympathy with the action of the Liverpool dockers.

Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists

MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION

Sunday May 7

ASSEMBLE: 1.30 p.m. The Embankment, Charing Cross

MARCH: via Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly, Regent Street, Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road, Euston Road

MEETING: 4 p.m. St Pancras Town Hall.

WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO WORK

MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!