

WORKERS PRESS

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

General Council is Congress minority

RECALL TUC CONGRESS MAJORITY

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

THE GENERAL COUNCIL vote against recalling a special TUC conference to fight against the Industrial Relations Act is a giant confidence trick against the rank and file.

If examined carefully, the closely-contested vote shows conclusively that a majority of the trade union movement is behind a recalled conference.

The move to recall conference was made at Thursday's General Council meeting by Jack Jones, leader of Britain's largest union, the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The move was defeated—to the pleasure of secretary Victor Feather and the right-wing—by 15 votes to 11.

Workers Press has obtained precise details of the

voting from sources on the General Council. This shows that the minority 11 votes in fact represents more trade unionists than the 15-vote right-wing.

And a clear majority would have been obtained had all members been present and voted. Those who would certainly have insisted on a recall are George Doughty, of the technical section (TASS) of the AUEW, Allan Sapper of ACTT, and Alan Fisher of the National Union of Public Employees.

The men who voted against were Lord Cooper and Sir Frederick Hayday of the G&MWU; Walter Anderson of NALGO; Edward Britton of the Teachers; Frank Chapple of the EPTU; Percy Coldrick of the TSSA; Dai Davies, ISTC; Roy Grantham, CAWU; Sir Sidney Greene, NUR; Stan Gretton, Bakers' Union; Tom Jackson, UPW; Jack McGougan, Tailors and Garment Workers; Jack Peel, Dyers and Bleachers; Cyril Plant, Inland Revenue Staff.

All these union leaders are either quietly in favour of the Act or they are equivocal on the question of registration. It is also true that if a ballot for a recall was called in the membership of, say, the NUR, it is certain that an overwhelming number would want a recall to hammer out a proper strategy to defeat the Act.

In other words Feather and a group of right-wing trade union bureaucrats have been caught red-handed. They are trying to stifle debate on the Act by taking away democratic rights of trade union members up and down the country—just as the Tory government is intent on taking away democratic rights of the trade unions themselves.

By launching this conspiracy, the TUC right wing objectively aids the Tories and their plans to smash the trade unions.

Last September, only nine months ago, the Blackpool conference clearly spelled out the unions' united opposition to the Act in a resolution which was overwhelmingly adopted. That resolution states:

'Congress views with concern the fact that certain affiliated trade unions have already indicated that they will not implement recommendation One of the special TUC at Croydon on March 18, 1971. In view of the continued attacks on the trade unions by the Tory government, there is a greater need for united action.'

'Recognizing that the policy of non-registration can only be effective if all affiliated unions act collectively Congress therefore instructs affiliated trade unions a) not to register under the Industrial Relations Act; b) to take measures to remove themselves from the provisional register.'

This resolution has been clearly flouted by an undemocratic minority. They have decided to co-operate with the Act without consulting Congress. Are we to stand by and permit the right wing to take away democratic rights?

This clique clearly thinks it is responsible only to itself—and indirectly, of course, to the Tory government.

The union leaders who voted for the recall—who represent a

THOSE UNIONS WHICH VOTED FOR RECALL

UNION	GENERAL COUNCIL VOTES	MEMBERS
T&GWU	4	1,638,686
AUEW	3	1,202,218
NATSOPA	1	50,981
NUM	1	274,433
FBU	1	30,000
SMWU	1	78,281
TOTAL	11	3,274,599
		3,045,996
	MAJORITY	228,603

THOSE UNIONS WHICH VOTED AGAINST RECALL

G&M	2	853,353
NALGO	1	439,887
NUT	1	310,536
EPTU	1	420,588
TSSA	1	75,194
NACODS	1	23,389
ISTC	1	116,632
CAWU	1	125,541
IRSA	1	49,735
UPW	1	209,479
Bakers	1	48,784
Tailors	1	117,573
Dyers	1	56,986
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Second school revolt



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were stopped by police from marching to another school, Quintin Kynaston, to raise support for their 'strike'.

● See story p. 3.

● Turn to P.12

Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists

**ALL OUT
DEMONSTRATE ON
MAY DAY**

Sunday May 7

HANDS OFF THE UNIONS

Defend democratic rights! Defend the right to work!
Withdraw troops from Ulster! Release all internees!
Victory to the Vietnamese workers and peasants!

MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!

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
G. Healy (Socialist Labour League National Secretary)
J. Simmance (Young Socialists National Secretary)
M. Banda (Socialist Labour League Central Committee) (in a personal capacity)
Frank McCabe (NUM)
Roy Battersby (ACTT)
A. Thornett (Deputy Senior Steward Morris Motors)
CHAIRMAN:
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THE STORM CLOUDS GATHER

WHAT WE THINK



Bernadette Devlin . . . missing from vital vote

ALL THE signs of an unprecedented radicalization of the working class and the prospect of a head-on conflict with the Tories are now present.

On Thursday the national docks delegates gave the port employers 28 days to decide on the right of port workers to stuff and strip cargo containers.

Labour renegade — turned-Tory rail chief—Richard Marsh on the same day learnt that railwaymen were a different brand of men from their reformist leaders. As the railway pay talks broke down he ruefully commented: 'This has not been a negotiation. It has been a hold-up.'

Now the government faces the prospect of another war on the railways—without the element of surprise on its side.

Late Thursday night the Tories were hit by an avalanche of Labour victories in the local government elections. Labour gained 975 seats and not only recaptured what it lost in the previous borough election, but also secured control of a number of marginal boroughs like Cambridge, Canterbury, Ipswich, Dover and Reading.

Lord Carrington dismissed the election results, but the verdict of the British workers is plain: the Tories are increasingly

hated and they have no mandate to rule.

The Tories cannot and will not hold a General Election under these conditions—they can and will prepare only to provoke a General Strike.

In the same way, these developments give a profound significance to the vote of the TUC General Council on the demand first avocated by Workers Press for a recall of the TUC.

The defeat of this demand, however, is no cause for despondency. The movement of the right-wing union leaders further to the right parallels the sinister split of the Jenkinsites in the Labour Party in supporting the Common Market entry.

It is a tribute to the militancy and determination of workers. The demand must now be made for those union leaders who voted for a recall to call a conference of the whole trade union movement to work out ways and means to fight the Industrial Relations Act and the Tory government.

In fact the division in the trade union and labour bureaucracy derives ultimately from the attempts of monopoly capitalism to reorganize and centralize its political apparatus—the state—and rationalize industry on the basis of European-wide opera-

tions which are aimed principally against US corporations.

It is this drive which creates the conditions for the break up of the bureaucracy and impels one group of reformists to defend opposition to the EEC and the independence of the unions while another group become 'integrationists' and fervent advocates of entry into the monopolist inferno.

We say that the only alternative to the Common Market is a socialist Britain within a Socialist United States of Europe.

That is why we support—albeit critically—the attack made by Michael Foot against those 'left' MPs who absented themselves from the debate on the European Communities Bill and allowed the Tories to scrape through the divisions with majorities as low as four, six and seven.

Among those absentees were the Ulster MPs Frank McManus and Miss Bernadette Devlin. When the question of their parliamentary immunity was at stake in Ulster, these MPs did not hesitate to use the so-called privileged sanctuary of the House of Commons. (McManus even slept there.)

When the Derry shootings took place Miss Devlin quite rightly did not hesitate to make a militant demonstration, but when the fate of millions of British and Irish voters is at stake they absent themselves—presumably because the Labour 'lefts' did not do enough for the Ulster workers. This is a wretched form of political revenge.

It is the logical and sectarian outcome of middle-class protest politics. It is doubly impermissible because the Irish working class—unlike the British—are actually being given an opportunity to pronounce on the question of EEC entry in a referendum.

Because of her steadfast refusal to break with the petty-bourgeois nationalism of Sinn Fein on the one side and her continued political association with the anti-Marxist policies of 'Socialist Worker' and the International Marxist Group on the other, Miss Devlin could well become the Barbara Castle of Ulster politics.

The absentees, as one MP said, have a lot to answer for. Indeed they do.

Tight army clamp on Turkey

THE ARMY clamped a tighter grip on Turkey yesterday in a new bid to smash resistance to the martial law regime.

The forces were placed in a state of alert, all military leave was cancelled and the nightly curfew in the capital, Ankara, was extended.

The measures were taken after a cabinet meeting presided over by President Cevdet Sunay and attended by senior army officers.

The meeting discussed the hijacking of a Turkish plane, diverted to Bulgaria by members of the Turkish People's Liberation Army.

They tried unsuccessfully to ransom the plane for the lives of three TPLA members awaiting death at the hands of Sunay's hangman.

The liberation group's members are also believed to have been behind the wounding on Thursday of General Kemalettin Eken, the head of the gendarmerie, who stands fifth in the military hierarchy.

The Sunay regime is undergoing its worst crisis since it came to power by military coup last March.

Weeks of fruitless negotiations have failed to produce an acceptable solution to the parliamentary crisis. Sunay has threatened to impose military rule unless a government can be formed from within the parliament.

Nixon reverses troop withdrawals

FOLLOWING the suspension of the Paris peace talks, President Nixon is to reinforce US air and sea power in Vietnam. Fresh combat troops are being rushed from the US and from bases in Japan and the Philippines.

US air strength in Indo-China is now close to its level at the height of the bombing of the North and big raids on Hanoi and Haiphong may be imminent.

Pentagon lists of heavy Russian military equipment being used by the North Vietnamese are the excuse for drastic counter-measures.

American and South Viet-

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

namese planes are trying to halt the advance of tanks and heavy guns towards Hue after the rout of the Saigon forces at Quang Tri.

American intelligence reports say that an offensive on the former capital, a city of 150,000, could begin next week.

To the west and south west of Hue North Vietnamese troops have overrun two firebases and others are under heavy artillery fire. They are believed to be preparing a two-pronged assault on Hue.

In Hue itself, General Ngo Truong, in command of the South Vietnamese forces, ordered looters to be shot after retreating soldiers had run amok in the city. President Nguyen Van Thieu

visited the city in an attempt to boost morale.

A number of small actions took place near Saigon. In one, only 11 miles from the capital, government forces claimed to have killed six National Liberation Front fighters.

Over 750 shells rained into the besieged city of An Loc, 60 miles to the north.

The breakdown of the Paris peace talks as well as the secret negotiations between the North Vietnamese and the Americans has ended any prospect of an early end to the war through diplomacy.

The US negotiators had demanded as a first step that the North Vietnamese should call off their current offensive.

Student action creates Lon Nol crisis

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

THE STRUGGLE of students in Phnom Penh against the Cambodian puppet government is now threatening to precipitate a ministerial crisis, according to Agence France-Presse.

The struggle flared up on April 27, when troops were moved to the faculty of law to end a student sit-in against the government. The troops opened fire on the students, killing and

wounding several.

The student demonstrations against this massacre have won wide support from the townspeople of the puppet capital, and from a section of the Buddhist clergy, who turned out in force at a demonstration earlier this week.

The government of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh has denied all

responsibility for the shooting, claiming it was the work of 'enemy elements'. Ministers have stated that none of the students was killed during the shooting.

The Lon Nol government has just staged a 'referendum' on the constitution, claiming the result as a victory, though it was boycotted by the vast majority of Cambodians.

Expulsion causes S African campus outburst

THE University of the North for Africans in Turfloop, South Africa, was closed yesterday following a mass protest by students against the expulsion of their former president, who had attacked government education policy for Africans.

Hostels were closed and 1,146 students ordered off the campus—the largest for Africans in South Africa.

Students boycotted lectures on Thursday and marched en masse to the rector's office in protest against the expulsion of Abraham Tiro, a former president of the Students' Representative Council.

Tiro was delegated to make a vote of thanks at a graduation ceremony on Saturday and instead attacked the government's African education policy. The university promptly expelled him for what it termed an 'emotional political outburst'.

The Turfloop protest is part of a rising wave of opposition to the apartheid regime not only among students, but also among workers. It began with the great strike of Ovambo contract labourers in Namibia (South-West Africa) at the end of last year.

Many Ovambo workers are still on strike and earlier this week, the South African government announced another stoppage among fishermen at Walvis Bay.

The 'Mail's' amazing scoop

TORIES ATTACK THE UNEMPLOYED

The Social Security Swindle



'The Social Security Swindle' by Bernard Franks. A useful handbook in the SLL pocket library series on state restrictions on social security. 5p. (Post 2½p)

THE 'DAILY MAIL', the Rothermere-owned newspaper which claims to be 'on top of the news', featured a front-page 'scoop' yesterday.

Across the front page appeared this banner headline: 'EXCLUSIVE: As the row grows over Ministry sex spies the "Mail" reveals how they work

SNOOPERS' HANDBOOK

The 'Mail's' smug claims are entirely misplaced. Workers Press published the documents in a series entitled 'The Social Security Swindle' by Bernard Franks in November last year.

The story says 'Today the "Daily Mail" reveals in detail the extent of these spying methods outlined in a secret manual.'

We published it six months ago

With breathtaking modesty the reporter, Douglas Thompson, interviewed two Labour MPs, Stanley Clinton Davis of Hackney and Miss Joan Lestor of Eton and Slough.

Davis said: 'The "Daily Mail" is doing a great service to the public by publishing this code. I have never seen it and neither have many of my colleagues who are equally concerned.'

Miss Lestor, another 'left', said: 'The "Daily Mail" is doing a marvellous service by

revealing what is allowed to go on.'

When Workers Press revealed the details of these documents six months ago no Labour MP raised the subject in the House of Commons with a view to getting the iniquitous document published.

If Davis and Lestor are so anxious to read the full inside story, they are invited to read 'The Social Security Swindle', a Socialist Labour League pocket booklet No 3.

Masonry

'SIR John [Donaldson, chairman of the National Industrial Relations Court] has confounded the critics and shown that the law, even in the workaday world of industrial relations, can have a human and understanding face. Sir John leaned over backwards to show that he understood the dockers' outlook.'

These are the dynamic thoughts of Keith Mason, industrial editor of the 'Sun'. Mr Mason, because of his great knowledge and sympathy of the trade union movement, writes a regular column for the AUEW 'Journal'.

THE SETTING up of an advisory committee on night assemblies, to be headed by 26-year-old Cambridge graduate Dennis Stevenson, was announced in the Commons by the Minister for Local Government and Development Graham Page yesterday.

It was the intention of the Environment Secretary Peter Walker to appoint the committee whether or not the Night Assemblies Bill, which would control the holding of all-night assemblies, became law.

Seamen register 'to survive'

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SEAMEN'S leaders yesterday confirmed their union executive's decision to register under the Industrial Relations Act.

Voting at the NUS annual conference in Folkestone, where executive members and full-time officials voting together can outnumber rank-and-file delegates, was 63-12 in favour of registration.

The decision also means that the conference has approved the executive's decision to apply jointly with the employers for an approved closed shop.

This application—sent by the Industrial Relations Court for investigation by the CIR—led to the union's suspension from the TUC.

NUS general secretary Bill Hogarth, who on Thursday attacked the miners for going to 'the level of the gutter' in their strike, denied they had registered as a service to the shipowners.

'It was a question of survival,' he said.

'We could not afford the spectacular collapse of this union as the price of a philosophic or ideological gesture in defiance of the Act.

'Deregistration would have been just that.'

Co-operation is 'complete betrayal'

WEST HAM Trades Council, London, has carried a resolution demanding that the TUC Finance and General Purposes committee carry out the decisions of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act passed at Congress in September last year.

The council resolved that the action of the TUC committee in allowing unions 'to go to the National Industrial Relations Court was 'a complete betrayal of the trade union movement'.

The resolution called the TUC to institute an immediate campaign in the labour and trade union movement to remove the Tories from office.

The motion originally came from the electricians' branch at Tower Hamlets. The West Ham trade unionists passed the resolution with one abstention and one against.

Mersey blacking operated



The nearly-completed Seaforth container terminal on Merseyside where dockers yesterday extended the black on handling containers.

MERSEYSIDE dockers yesterday ignored their union leaders' official plea for normal working during their 28-day strike notice.

At the £50m Seaforth container terminal, men continued to ban the handling of newly-arrived containers.

They have been refusing to deal with any fresh loads since Wednesday, when a shop stewards' meeting extended 'blacking' action in support of the right to stuff and strip containers.

Behind-the-scenes talks between stewards and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, which owns the terminal, were held on Thursday. The terminal

BY DAVID MAUDE

is due to come into operation officially next Wednesday.

But the talks appear to have broken down on the very issue which is at the centre of the national strike row.

The dockers yesterday maintained their black on the three firms who took the Transport and General Workers' Union to the Industrial Court.

And at a mass meeting in the Liverpool boxing stadium tomorrow, they are expected to give massive backing to both the national strike call and the stewards' decision to extend the black.

Reports will also be given from yesterday's London meeting of the national port shop stewards' committee.

Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan yesterday morning saw representatives of the National Dock Labour Board for 30 minutes in his room at the Commons.

It was the third in a series of meetings Macmillan is having with everyone concerned with docks operation — with special emphasis on the dispute over containerization and its effects on employment. He is also expected to see representatives of the road hauliers.

Macmillan later reported to a Cabinet meeting.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

SLOUGH: Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Slough Community Centre, Farnam Rd. Speakers, Frank Tomany, ex-convenor Omes Faulkner, Brian Bailey, AUEW (in a personal capacity). The Industrial Relations Act.

Recall the TUC
Expel the traitors
Make the Tories resign

SW LONDON: Tuesday May 9, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4.

N KENT: Tuesday May 9, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Rd, Dartford.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday May 9, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Ave, Barking.

CROYDON: Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd.

LUTON: Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. St John's Ambulance Hall, Lea Rd.

N LONDON: Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, Tottenham High Rd (nr White Hart Lane).

SE LONDON: Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, New Cross Rd (opp New Cross station).

Second school revolt

SCHOOLCHILDREN from two West London comprehensives yesterday defied education authorities for the second day and came out on strike.

Pupils from Rutherford and Sarah Siddons comprehensives refused to go back to their classrooms after lunch. They are protesting against the compulsory wearing of uniforms and what they consider to be a harsh system of administration in the school.

School authorities failed to keep them in the school compound in spite of padlocked gates and marshalling by prefects. A total of 300 pupils are involved in the protest.

Bootlegging records 'obnoxious'-Goodman

A PRIVATE member's Bill outlawing 'bootleg' recordings has been given an unopposed second reading in the House of Lords.

The Bill's sponsor is Lord Goodman who claimed that the practice of 'bootlegging' records was 'obnoxious'.

Moving the second reading of the Performers' Protection Bill, he said it increased the maximum fine for illegal recordings from £50 to £400 and also introduced a penalty of imprisonment to a maximum of two years.

Goodman said: 'A number of enterprising gentry are pursuing the profitable course of manufacturing what are known as bootleg records. The method they use is to take recordings from radio performances, tele-

vision performances or film reproductions.'

He said these recordings were then put on the market at 'highly competitive prices'.

Goodman and his supporters are presenting the Bill as an act of defence of performers and their rights. On the other hand, the Bill will also protect the huge profits of the big recording companies.

Goodman is chairman of British Lion, the Newspaper Society and 'The Observer'. In his private capacity as a lawyer he advises Granada Television, headed by Lord Sidney Bernstein.

His other contacts in the entertainment industry include Bernard Delfont, head of EMI, Sir Lew Grade of Associated Television, and Nat Cohen of Anglo-Amalgamated.

Jarrow jobs protest

PADDY SCULLION (73) of Jarrow-on-Tyne, one of the leaders of the 1936 Jarrow march, will march again to Downing St next Wednesday.

In 1936 Mr Scullion, then a councillor, walked to London all the way.

Now he is an Alderman and next week he plans to ride in a Pullman train with about 50 North East civil leaders who, in their regalia, will march from Kings Cross to Downing St.

The object—the same as in 1936—to draw attention to growing unemployment in their area.

SIR JOHN WARNS THE BBC



Sir Sidney Greene, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, was one of the first trade union leaders in Britain to be served with legal papers under the Industrial Relations Act. To the astonishment of the official from the National Industrial Relations Court, a member of the NUR staff slipped in a side door and took the photograph reproduced above.

It shows Greene standing at his desk in Unity House taking a copy of the order for a cooling-off period which was successfully sought by the Tory Solicitor General Sir Geoffrey Howe. At a meeting of the three rail executives later that night Greene decided to abide by the court's decision and the official work-to-rule was lifted.

News and programme editors at the BBC have been issued with a circular warning them not to commit contempt of the National Industrial Relations Court.

The document was born after two telephone calls from NIRC headquarters at 4 Chancery Lane.

One was from Sir John Donaldson himself, taking time out from a frenzied round of activity to explain the risks involved. The other was from a colleague who explained that Sir John, the court president, was anxious to make a firm impression from the start.

The circular—and the contacts which led to it—highlighted the class nature and purpose of the Industrial Relations Act.

For the journalists in the BBC and the rest of the capitalist mass media, the question posed now the Act is in operation is simply how to adjust to a new tone in their masters' voice. In the working-class movement and its press the issues are, of course, much more serious.

The BBC circular says that 'there is a contempt risk if we publish anything which could be said to interfere with the function of the Industrial Relations Court'.

It goes on to say that while critical statements are permissible, so long as they are put forward 'responsibly and in a balanced context', there is a 'legal risk in allowing our facilities to be used by anyone who advocates law-breaking or who tries to use the BBC platform for inciting defiance of the court'.

In other words, the Act puts a gag on all the media.

It is now illegal for workers to fight to defend their jobs or even work to the safety-rules laid down by their employer. And it is illegal for them to speak their minds on these questions freely.

The BBC circular goes on to pinpoint another effect of the Act.

While union leaders may be expected to have been warned of the legal hazard, it says, 'people at shop steward level or below are unlikely to have been given legal advice.'

It goes on: 'Outspoken talk from them advocating lawbreaking should be handled with caution and advice obtained from duty solicitor if in any doubt.' So while the bureaucrats are free to spout their platitudes, the rank-and-filer is silenced.

And further: 'Pronouncements at public meetings can generally be reported without risk. The onus on us is greater when we bring people into the studios.'

The key word is 'generally'. Because as Lord Stow Hill QC, formerly Labour Attorney-General Sir Frank Soskice, pointed out to Workers Press last year, even to 'report favourably' statements out of line with the Act may be actionable.

In the main, the BBC circular was concerned with contempt of court.

Clearly any statement advocating, say, non-payment of a fine imposed by the NIRC for contempt of its orders, renders both

the author of the statement and anyone who publishes it liable to contempt proceedings.

And since the punishment for contempt is entirely at the discretion of the judicial member of the court, here is a very powerful weapon indeed.

Clause 96 of the Act itself provides the other arm of the pincer.

This makes it an unfair industrial practice for anyone not an officer of a registered trade union to induce breaches of contract to further a trade dispute. Unlimited damages can be awarded against anyone who runs foul of the clause.

Suppose you have a provincial newspaper circulating in a town where there is a big industrial plant, 99 per cent of whose workers the people who run the paper know will read their product.

A strike is building up. A young journalist attends a factory-gate meeting and reports a speech made by one of the militants.

He comments favourably upon it.

'Under present legislation', Lord Stow Hill said last year, 'you could say he was doing this in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute and he would be reasonably well protected from being taken to court for damages. He would not be so protected under the Bill.'

When Lord Stow Hill unsuccessfully attempted to move an amendment protecting journalists to the then Industrial Relations Bill last year, he was told by Lord Chancellor Hailsham that there was nothing to worry about.

Yet with the main clauses of the Act in operation for just two months, the screws have gone on in Britain's chief capitalist news agency.

The Industrial Relations Act had been revealed as an attack not only on the fight for wages and conditions, but on one of the working class's most basic rights: To know the truth and speak its mind.

SHIP ORDERS DROP FURTHER

Evidence of the decline in shipbuilding continues to accumulate.

The annual report of Lloyd's Register, published recently, noted that for the first time in five years the level of world orders was falling. And the Marine Equipment Council says many of their members will face serious difficulties if they do not get government aid quickly.

They point out that 70 per cent of a vessels' value comes from the industry.

The latest cry of despair however comes from the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom. They say that new orders by British shipowners have dropped alarmingly to a 'trickle'.

John MacConchie, the Chamber's president says that in the three months ended January 31, new orders under the British flag amounted to only 325,000 tons—which is equal to the tonnage of three medium-sized tankers.

The British share of world orders has dropped to less than 1.5 per cent. The withdrawal of investment grants for shipping lines in 1970 is partly to blame, says the Chamber.

They were introduced in 1966 to inject some new life into shipbuilding. Even now the British share of the total tonnage of ships on order in the world was 15 per cent, but at least 13 per cent of those were placed before the grants were withdrawn.

Britain still had an 11-per cent share of the world total tonnage afloat. But the Chamber was concerned that the most recent figures showed that no new orders were being placed.

'INSULTING' ACTORS ARRESTED

Five street actors who spat on the Union Jack as part of a play on the situation in Ulster have been found guilty of obstruction.

They were performing the play in Tottenham High Road, North London, when they were arrested by police. Sgt Ralph Wilkinson said he was called to a 'disturbance' where he saw about 250 people blocking the pavement and holding up a lane of traffic.

He said he heard a rattling noise and saw a Union Jack on the pavement. Three men and two women were crouching in a semi-circle and were wailing in a trance. The only word he could hear was 'Belfast'.

Sgt David Pilgrim, an off-duty policeman, told the court there was mixed reaction from the crowd. Some were good-natured and others were upset.

The actors were later charged with insulting behaviour and obstruction.

The insulting behaviour charges were dismissed by the magistrate, but they were found guilty of obstruction and conditionally discharged for a year.

Before the court were Ralph Edney, (29), Robert Gardner, (35), both of Bewdley St, Islington; Sylvia Jeffares, (23), Jeremy Beatty, (32), both of Raydon St, Upper Holloway; and Diana Shelley, (28), of White Court, Platts Lane, Hampstead.



Left: Lord Chancellor Hailsham who told journalists that there was nothing to worry about in the Act. Above: Sir John Donaldson, who issued a circular to the BBC 'spelling out the risk of contempt of court'

RACIALISM STIRS IN AUSTRALIA

BY ALEX MITCHELL

Electioneering in Australia has been a notoriously nasty business over the past 25 years while the ruling Liberal (Tory) Party has held office.

This election year is proving to be no exception to the rule. William McMahon, the Prime Minister, was skilled in red-baiting under Sir Robert Menzies and then under Harold Holt.

But he has diversified his techniques. He has followed President Nixon's suit in whipping up law and order and his ministers have recently taken to the theme of racialism.

There is no issue more deeply embedded in the Australian psyche than immigration. All coloured immigration was banned at the turn of the century under the notorious White Australia Act. But in 1966 the regulations were loosened to permit a trickle of skilled, professional Asians to enter the Great White Land.

But having made these minute concessions to the Japanese and Chinese industrialists to the north (they wanted the rules relaxed so they could bring in their own trained executives), the government is now cutting back on all immigration regardless of colour.

This is being done, it is argued, to halt the growing unemployment which is washing the shores of Australia for the first time for more than a decade. But while closing the door, the Liberals are beginning a campaign to paint the Labour Party as the party of mass immigration.

It is reminiscent of the Tory campaign in Birmingham in 1964 when street slogans went up saying: 'Vote Labour for a nigger neighbour.'

And just as the Labourites reacted completely without principle in this country, so they are reacting in Australia.

The ludicrous situation has been reached where both Liberal and Labour politicians are mounting huge press campaigns to announce to the electorate that they totally oppose immigration, particularly if it's coloured. Everyone, in effect, is claiming to be a racist to win votes.

The most outspoken defender of Australian racial 'purity'—it has been worked out there are something like 45 nationalities, including Eskimos, in Australia—is Arthur Calwell, former leader of the Labour Party and an Immigration Minister in the Chifley government at the end of the war.

Calwell has called for a stop to the 'flood of Anglo-Indians, Anglo-Burmese, Dutch-burgers and Mauricians pouring into Australia.'

'A multi-racial society is a polyglot nation and what red-blooded Australian wants to see that happen?'

He said Perth was becoming the 'Durban of Australia' and warned that 'the black tragedy of the United States must not be repeated here.'

Calwell's racist views are not new. When he was Immigration Minister between 1945 and 1949 he deported a man named Wong who had illegally arrived in Australia to live with his brother who was a naturalized Australian.

A big press campaign was mounted asking the minister to reconsider his decision on humanitarian grounds.

Calwell's reply was that the younger brother must be ejected from Australia. After all, he said, 'two Wongs don't make a white'.



Top: present Labour Party leader, Gough Whitlam and below: Prime Minister McMahon of the Liberal Party.



ITALIAN BOSSES SEEK A STRONGMAN

BY JOHN SPENCER

Italy's electorate goes to the polls on Sunday in the most critical election since the fall of Mussolini in 1945.

The election follows the fall of the so-called centre-left coalition which has ruled Italy for over ten years. It is the first premature General Election since the war.

The campaign so far has been marked by violent street-fighting and legal actions against the left. Much of the fighting occurred at rallies organized by the fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), whose functions were invariably well-protected by armed police.

The character of the Italian election campaign shows the polarization of class forces as the economic crisis hits Italian industry.

The economic boom of the 1960s is over, unemployment and inflation are rising and Italy's key export industries have been affected by the growth of trade war.

Within the last few days, two of Italy's largest private companies—Olivetti typewriters and Fiat motors—have announced a decline in profits and production.

Fiat president Giovanni Agnelli told a shareholders' meeting a week ago that unless the political and labour situations improved the company was unlikely to meet its 1972 production target.

The industrialists have spear-headed the demand for a stronger and more stable government, preferably one excluding the Socialist Party. The essence of this demand is for a government which will discipline the working class and keep down wages.

Since 1969, Italian workers have been involved in a series of bitter battles for higher wages and social reforms. Factory occupations, strikes, partial stoppages and demonstrations have become commonplace.

But at the same time, the trade union leaders—Stalinist and social-democrat—have confined these actions to economic and reform demands and prevented the working class from challenging the government.

The Communist Party, which has the biggest following among the working class, has even dropped nationalization from its election programme, talking instead in terms of 'structural reforms'. It is grooming itself to take part in a Popular Front coalition with the Socialists and 'liberals'.

To woo the middle class, the Party is at pains to stress its respectability, denouncing as 'leftist' those workers and students who attack the fascist rallies.

It was the Stalinists under

their late secretary Palmiro Togliatti who saved Italian capitalism after the war. Togliatti flew back from Moscow to disarm the partisans and even supported the continuation of the monarchy despite King Umberto's collaboration with the fascists.

The Stalinists' position today is every bit as counter-revolutionary. They pose as the saviours of the country's bankrupt parliamentary democracy. Yet it is precisely the corruption and decadence of Italian 'democracy' that gives rise to fascist tendencies among the middle class and strengthens the employers' demand for a strongman.

In fact, it is out of the Italian state machine that the MSI has drawn its most prestigious candidate—Admiral Gino Birindelli, who headed NATO's southern naval command until the election campaign began.

The fascists had 24 seats in the last parliament (out of a total of 630) and 13 seats among the 315 elected members of the Senate. They are widely expected to increase this figure substantially.

At the centre of the political scene is the amorphous conservative Christian Democrat

Party which was the majority partner in the long coalition with the social-democrats, liberals and socialists.

The Christian Democrats are moving sharply to the right in an effort to keep down the fascist vote. They are adamantly opposed to Communist Party participation in the government, which they fear would lead to further flights of capital from Italy and interfere with their participation in NATO and their relations with other Common Market countries.

The outcome of Sunday's poll is unlikely to resolve the political crisis in Italy. The class struggle will dominate whatever parliamentary combinations are thrown up by the election.

The Italian ruling class must now turn more and more directly to the repression of the working class. In turn the working class is faced with the pressing question of resolving the crisis of leadership through a struggle to build the revolutionary party against Stalinism and social-democracy.

Top: street fighting between fascists and workers in Turin. Below: a street decorated with election slogans.





THE REVOLUTION THE AMERICANS CAN'T STOP

BY TOM KEMP

The 'Third Indo-China War' they call it in Washington, as the troops of General Vo Nguyen Giap smash through the defences of one Vietnamese town after another and the shattered divisions of Saigon flee south in disorder.

The anti-imperialist struggle of the Vietnamese peasants and workers has a long history. There has been continuous war in Vietnam since the struggle against the Japanese at the end of World War II. When the Japanese invaded Vietnam in 1941 the French colonial administration put up no resistance and co-operated with the invader. At the same time a national front of resistance organizations was formed under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Communist Party, called the Viet Minh.

struggle against the Japanese, Ho proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and looked to the United States for assistance. He entered into negotiation with the French government with the aim of securing autonomous status within the French Union.

However, the French did not honour their agreements and war broke out while communist ministers were sitting in the government in Paris. The French expected to be able to restore their colonial rule with little trouble, but it soon turned out that they had found a redoubtable foe. The Vietnamese masses did not want to live under their old colonial exploiters, discredited by their humble collaboration with the Japanese, and their corrupt local hangers-on and accomplices. A prolonged guerrilla war began which soon pinned down a substantial part of the French army and killed off officers faster than they could be turned out by the prestigious officer school of St Cyr.

Vietnam built up a highly-trained army with a strong morale. It was able to defeat the French army, despite its modern American-supplied weapons, in one battle after another. The final blow came with the collapse of the French garrison of Dien Bien Phu in one of the most decisive battles since World War II.

MASSIVE

By this time the American Administration had become seriously concerned about the situation in South East Asia following the victory of the Chinese Revolution in 1949 and the Korean War. Eisenhower offered to intervene with massive force before the French defeat. The use of atomic weapons was considered. The war against the French was formally brought to an end by the Geneva Agreement of 1954 which temporarily divided the country at the 17th parallel into North and South Vietnam. Free elections

were to be held by June 1956. These were never held and meanwhile, with the support of the US, the old ruling class consolidated its position in the south, of which Saigon was the capital. The former Emperor Bao Dai was deposed and a puppet government set up under Ngo Dinh Diem. By this time the USA had superseded France as the dominant power in Indo-China. Diem's army was equipped and trained by the Americans while the Central Intelligence Agency organized sabotage in the North.

A large part of the south was effectively under the control of the National Liberation Front set up in 1960 and backed by the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam. Supported by peasants and workers, guerrilla units established firm bases in the countryside. In an effort to stop the whole of Vietnam 'going communist', the American commitment to Saigon steadily grew. Under President J. F. Kennedy the number of mili-

tary advisers was increased; the basis was laid for a substantial military commitment. Without US military aid and supplies the Diem regime would not have lasted six weeks. Finally the State Department decided to kick out the corrupt and hated Diem in November 1963 before his regime was swept away by a popular uprising. Before long a military junta had taken over. American troops and their puppets, were increasing their commando-type raids and infiltration of North Vietnam during the first part of 1964. When an attack was made on US ships operating on the Gulf of Tonkin in connection with these operations, President Johnson ordered massive air strikes on well-selected targets in the north. When these raids failed to bring about the capitulation of Hanoi a rapid build-up of American ground troops took place and during 1965 a sustained attempt was made to force the north into submission by savage and unrestricted aerial bombardment. Bombing in the South included Chemical warfare, where whole forested areas were laid bare, in the hope of exposing the National Liberation Front guerrillas. By mid-1966 over half a million US troops were in Vietnam and General William

Westmoreland promised 'victory in 1967'. In fact the US army was led deeper into the morass and was unable to inflict a military defeat on the enemy. With an enormous array of military force, the US tried to crush a revolution which had its roots in the peasants and workers fighting for their basic rights against imperialism and its local agents. Despite the most barbarous weapons and a weight of bombs many times greater than that dropped in World War II (3m tons by the end of 1970) it was the morale of the US forces which broke. Drug-addiction, desertion and finally open disobedience to orders showed that the GIs had no stomach for a war which seemed to have no end and no purpose. The main aim of a large part of the US army became survival.

OPPOSITION

In America waves of anti-war feeling spread from the campuses to broad masses of the electorate. Never had there been so much opposition to a colonial war. The Tet offensive of 1968 showed that the National Liberation Front and the North Vietnamese army had the initiative and could strike the enemy in his strongholds. The wearing down of American morale went on and war

weariness spread. After the Tet offensive the Johnson Administration began to 'de-escalate' the war. The bombing of the North was discontinued and in April 1968, talks began in Paris between representatives of the United States and the governments of the North and the South. Richard Nixon's promise to reduce American commitment in Vietnam played a big part in his election to the presidency in November 1968. The first outcome was a slow reduction in the number of US troops in Vietnam and the policy of 'Vietnamization', whereby a larger and larger share of the fighting would be taken over by the army of South Vietnam equipped with American weapons. The puppet state of South Vietnam, with a corrupt government dominated by a handful of close-knit families from the traditional ruling class, was thus endowed with an enormous army. Peasant lads were conscripted, 'elite' forces were trained and given special privileges and officers were sent to the US to receive the latest in military wisdom from the war schools.

SMASHED

The hope that soldiers could be found to fight US imperialism's wars in the semi-colonial countries of Asia has been smashed. The courage and determination of the soldiers of the North Vietnamese army and the National Liberation Front, their skilful and daring leadership and

their support from the population has had to be grudgingly admitted by bourgeois military experts and journalists. As for the army, on which Nixon has placed his bets, it has shown itself to be even more demoralized and lacking in fight than the GIs it has replaced. Officers in the high command who hold their posts by political influence have shown themselves not only to be incompetent, but have thought more about saving their own skins than winning battles. At the lower levels of command, the South Vietnamese officers have proved unable to compare with those on the other side. As for the soldiers, apart from a few crack units, they obviously have no heart for the war. Many have answered the appeals of the NLF or the northern forces to come over to them. Thousands have fled in disorder. Nixon's answer to the military successes of the North Vietnamese army has been a savage bombing offensive directed against towns and villages of no military significance. Indiscriminate bombing has in the past completely failed to break the morale of the population or turn the tide of battle. It has once again proved to be terror weapon obeying the precept 'kill everything that moves'.

The Saigon regime, propped up by the United States, is now faced with defeat and revolution. Always a puppet, it is now more than ever clear that it has no independent initiative. 'Vietnamization' or not, the great decisions will have to be made in Washington where the Administration itself is clearly divided as it sees the policy of the last four years fall into ruin. US imperialism, threatened by the loss of the whole of South East Asia, will either have to seek an arrangement through the good offices of Moscow and Peking or launch a new and still more dangerous adventure to save its threatened positions. Tomorrow's Socialist Labour League and Young Socialist May Day rally will have as one of its slogans: 'Victory to the Vietnamese workers and peasants'. This demand takes on more significance, both in South East Asia and throughout the world, than at any other time in the past. From 1961 to the end of 1970 US casualties in Indo-China were 44,241 killed, 293,529 wounded and 1,431 missing or prisoners.

LOOKING BACK ON TAFF VALE

BY TOM KEMP

The Taff Vale judgement of 1901 was a powerful blow against the trade union movement which drastically changed its legal position.

When the five Law Lords sitting on July 22 in an action taken by the Taff Vale Railway Co. against two officials of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants (ASRS) declared that 'a trade union was liable to be sued in its registered name' employers all over the country were jubilant.

With these few words, the judiciary, on behalf of the employers, had struck a crippling blow against trade unionism, the only defence of the working class against exploitation. The decision made it virtually impossible to carry out picketing during a strike and enabled employers to sue a union for damages inflicted during a trade dispute.

A trade union would think twice about calling a strike which might result in it being saddled with heavy damages and legal costs sufficient to ruin it financially. The judgement was thus a class attack by the judiciary on the rights of trade unions which were believed to exist under the Acts of 1867 and 1875.

Not only was effective picketing made virtually im-

possible, but the question of whether the workers had any rights of combination at all—whether the trade unions were legal bodies—was now raised. In addition, trade unions could be restrained by court injunction from activities regarded as tortious; in other words, the full power of the law could be mobilized to hamstring the unions.

In this case the Taff Vale Co. was able to sue the ASRS and was awarded £23,000 damages. The total cost to the union was £42,000 which, in 1901, was a very large sum.

The case went through three stages in the courts. In the first court the judgement went in favour of the Taff Vale Railway Co. which brought the action. In the Court of Appeal this decision was reversed, but the company took it to the House of Lords where the first judgement was upheld.

The Taff Vale case arose out of a struggle by the ASRS for wage increases against a number of railways in South Wales which were largely concerned with transporting coal. During the South African war prices had soared. But the rail bosses refused to grant wage increases.

Taff Vale's general manager, Ammon Beasley, was determined to hold out against wage increases even when other companies had granted them. He was also a tough

boss intent on smashing the unions. And he was far from alone.

During the 1890s a general offensive against the trade unions was mounted by the employers. Hostility to the unions was increasingly reflected in the press as well as in a number of legal decisions which prepared the way for the Taff Vale judgement. One of these, in 1898, made it an offence to call someone a 'blackleg'. Another important development was the systematic recruitment of strike-breakers. The best known of the scab organizers was the self-styled National Free Labour Association set up by William Collinson. Beasley turned to this Association during the strike which broke out on the Taff Vale railway.

As the railwaymen became increasingly militant Beasley became still more adamant. A rank-and-file militant, signalman Ewington of Abercynon, was victimized by the company and Beasley refused to negotiate with the union.

The treatment meted out to Ewington, who had 20 years' service with the company, coming on top of the still unsatisfied wage claim put the men in a militant frame of mind. Despite the fact that the ASRS officials were looking for some kind of compromise, a strike had become inevitable. Notices were handed in and the strike began on August 19, 1900.

Beasley refused to recognize the ASRS. He sent them a wire which read: 'I am prepared to see any reasonable number of the company's servants and give full and careful consideration . . . but I regret that I cannot receive officially or unofficially any person not in the company's service.'

It was a bitterly fought dispute. Beasley called on the National Free Labour Association to supply blacklegs. They were recruited from as far away as Glasgow and Hull and were given free beer, food and their fares to Cardiff. Here the union mounted a campaign to persuade them to return home and many of them got no further than Cardiff. About 400 men were recruited in all of whom only about half were actually employed.

Those that were headed off were given a square meal and a ticket home after the issues in the dispute had been explained to them. Blacklegs who were taken on proved to

be incapable and pickets joined in to make their life difficult. One anti-scab device was heavy grease on the track at a steep incline so the locomotive's wheels could no grip. Trucks were uncoupled so that trains could not run.

The frustration of his union-busting plans infuriated Beasley. Strikers who were living in company-owned cottages were mercilessly evicted although their rents had been paid. He consulted the firm's solicitors with a view to getting an injunction to restrain the union officials from 'watching and besetting' the company's premises. Their advice was that action could not be taken against a trade union 'in its registered name'. Beasley thought, however, that given the action of the men and some statements made by the union he would have grounds for an action. In fact the way had already been prepared by the 1896 and 1898 legal decisions already mentioned.

At the end of August a compromise settlement was reached between the ASRS and the Taff Vale Co. and work was resumed on September 1. The company did not keep its undertaking to get rid of the labour brought in during the strike and legal proceedings continued. The result, as we have seen, was a defeat for the ASRS and for the whole trade union movement which followed the court proceedings anxiously from the start.

Although the class bias of the judges could not be proved, it obviously existed and reflected a growing ruling-class hostility to trade unions which was visible in the previous decade. Now that the trade unions were growing stronger and were being extended to wider sections of workers, the relative tolerance which had existed after the legislation of the 1870s disappeared.

The trade union movement carried on a struggle for the reversal of the legal position, which could only be done through an Act of Parliament.

But the working class also drew the lesson from the Taff Vale case that it needed a

political party to defend its interests. The direct result was a big increase in support for the Labour Representation Committee which, in 1906, became the Labour Party.

By the Trade Disputes Act of 1906, passed by the newly-elected Liberal government which depended upon working-class votes, the previous legal position was restored. Many Liberal members had been returned subject to their support for the reversal of the Taff Vale situation.

The new Act contained a clause 'that a trade union should under no circumstances be capable of being sued in tort'. It also upheld the right to picket 'for the purpose either of peacefully obtaining or communicating information or of peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain from working . . .'

The interpretation of these rights, of course, still remained with the courts which proceeded, in subsequent judgements, to whittle them down. Then, in 1909, another court decision, the Osborne judgement, laid it down that a trade union could not collect or spend money for political purposes. This made financial support for the Labour Party illegal.

This decision was reversed by the Trade Union Act of 1913 which expressly permitted a union to use its funds for political objects.



Banner of the Southend branch of the National Union of Railwaymen. Above: railwaymen's £23,000 cheque which was paid to the Taff Vale Company for strike damages.

STRIKE ! ON THE Taff Vale Railway.

Men's Headquarters,
Cobourn Street,
Cathays.

There has been a strike on the Taff Vale Railway since Monday last. The Management are using every means to decoy men here who they employ for the purpose of black-legging the men on strike.

Drivers, Firemen, Guards, Brakesmen, and
SIGNALMEN, are all out.

Are you willing to be known as a

Blackleg ?

If you accept employment on the Taff Vale, that is what you will be known by. On arriving at Cardiff, call at the above address, where you can get information and assistance.

RICHARD BELL,
General Secretary.



Walter V. Osborne: brought his own union (ASRS) to court to illegalize political use of union funds.

US ROUND-UP

ITT: TOUGH JOB FOR THE PR MEN

International Telephone and Telegraph is one of the ten biggest American corporations. In America it runs phone services, car rental firms, hotels, 'Who's Who' and even a wood preserving company in Alabama.

Its tentacles spread practically everywhere else as well — ITT subsidiaries, including Britain's Standard Telephones and Cables, operate in 80 countries round the world. Among other things it runs the Washington-Moscow 'hot line'.

The scandals that erupted round the ITT top management, however, have ripped away the respectable façade which has long concealed its dirtier deals and given a revealing glimpse of the attitudes of top US big business.

ITT's problems began with the publication by a Washington columnist of a memo written by the firm's Washington lobbyist. The letter suggested the firm had paid \$400,000 to Republican funds in return for favourable settlement of an anti-trust case.

Once this came out, the mud began to fly thick and fast. The papers carried stories about how some ITT executives had sold substantial blocks of shares just before the anti-trust settlement was announced.

They were able to buy them back at a substantially reduced price as the news pushed down the price of ITT stock—leaving the executives with a handsome capital gain.

Then there were other memos revealing a plot to oust Chilean President Salvador Allende at the end of 1970 because ITT (Chile) feared it would be nationalized. (As a result of the revelations, it will be.)

The revelations have displayed not only ITT's shady dealing, but its complete contempt for 'democratic' forms. The company does just as it pleases, makes its own law, and expects the administration to dance attendance to it. (It does.)

The man at the top of ITT is Harold Geneen, 62 years old, with a salary of \$812,494 a year—which must make him the highest paid executive in the world, if not in the universe.

He runs his company like a monastic order. The managers of the various sections are expected to report with scrupulous honesty the state of their affairs. Yet Geneen is not quite so forthcoming with the public at large. His firm has been built up by a long string of mergers and take-overs, and that means he must try to keep his share prices as high as he can.

Accordingly every conceivable company gain is counted towards profit in his accounts—a highly questionable accounting practice which



Top: Harold Geneen, \$812,494 a year. Above: Ned Gerrity

has led some commentators to speculate that ITT's 'success' may not be all it seems.

So far the system has proved spectacularly effective in building the conglomerate, however. Since 1964 the company has absorbed no fewer than 98 other firms—and that doesn't count the subsidiaries of its takeover victims.

The scandals around ITT are a particular blow to the company's huge public relations department, headed by Edward

Gerrity, who acts as Geneen's right-hand man and has over \$90m a year to spend beautifying the ITT image.

The PR department also links ITT closely with the government. For example, heading the Latin American section is Harold Hendrix, a Pulitzer Prizewinner, who is close to the US Central Intelligence Agency. His memos provided much of the evidence for the plot to overthrow Allende.

NEW YORK COPS HIT THE BIG TIME

Twenty-four of New York's finest lawmen have been indicted on charges of operating a protection ring that collected at least \$1m from Brooklyn gamblers.

This is big stuff, even for the New York police force, which is reputed to contain not one straight cop. One of the policemen under investigation in the case committed suicide while the investigation was under way.

District Attorney Eugene Gold said the 24 policemen present or former plainclothesmen in the 13th Division, had

collected some \$250,000 a year over a four-year period from gamblers. The alleged ring held monthly meetings with a regular chairman and an agenda.

Gold said the indictment resulted from an investigation that began in 1970 with undercover policemen assigned to infiltrate the ring.

About 40 professional gamblers and bookmakers allegedly made the payoffs to the 'protection' police to avoid arrest and confiscation of gambling proceeds.

Gold said all of the gamblers who made payoffs had links to organized crime.

Deputy police commissioner William P. McCarthy was asked whether Lt Fletcher Hueston, whose death in a hotel was described as a suicide, was involved in the alleged conspiracy.

'All I can say is he was one of the subjects of our investigation,' McCarthy replied.

He and Gold said that each patrolman named in the indictment averaged about \$10,000 in payoffs, while superiors got \$15,000 to \$20,000.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Reliable soldiers

When two members of the Parachute Regiment appeared in an Ulster court last week you might have been excused for thinking it was Sacco and Vanzetti fighting for life and limb against the brutal forces of oppression!

Mr John Pringle, QC, for the two privates in the notorious regiment said both soldiers were 'exceptionally keen and had something to offer above what was expected of the normal recruit to the army'.

This was certainly true. On January 18 last Privates Michael Wainhouse and Costas Georgiou burst into a post office at Clondebove and asked: 'Where are the keys of the safe?' They then asked where the telephone was and pulled it from the wall.

They forced the occupants to lie on the floor and threatened to tie up the postmaster.

Speaking on behalf of Wainhouse, Lieutenant Nicholas Galbraith said he was a 'good, reliable soldier'. He said Georgiou had passed out as 'a champion recruit in his year and was an extremely plucky and useful soldier'.

Pringle said it was 'a sad affair'.

'Both regret the offence for themselves and their regiment in particular', he said. Outside the Court Wainhouse's fiancée broke down in tears and was comforted by friends.

They each got five years for armed robbery.

The honour of the regiment was besmirched, but the glorious 'victory' on Bloody Sunday when the paras shot 13 unarmed innocent civilians would ensure that the regiment's colours keep flying!

Cut and thrust

This note in the 'Financial Times' the other day gives an indication of just how the big boys operate the cut and thrust of business:

'Rio Tinto Zinc is selling off its loss-making lead and zinc smelter at Avonmouth, near Bristol, and its interests in three metal-trading companies for about £11m to its associate company, Australian Mining and Smelting, in which it has a 57 per cent interest.'

No doubt the Australian shareholders will be delighted to hear the news that they have bought the loss-making Avonmouth smelter recently closed down because of lead-poisoning fears.

Socialist gospel

Dr J. D. Vorster, moderator of the general synod of the Dutch Reformed Church, has given a new twist to the old story of the Judeo-Bolshevik world conspiracy.

Vorster's version, unveiled recently in Bloemfontein, South Africa, centres on the World Council of Churches. He claims it is the most powerful 'leftist' organization in the world.

He told a meeting there last weekend that the large-scale withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam was, to a large extent, due to pressure from the Geneva-based body, which he said had become part of the ideological battle in which liberalism was the henchman of communism.

'The World Council of Churches has accepted the ideology of revolution and the overthrow of the existing order,' he said. There were still positive aspects and strong Christian principles in the Council, but it had become a front organization for communism.

As an example of how the council had degenerated, Dr Vorster said a Jewish rabbi, a Hindu, a Moslem and a Christian appeared together during an international prayer meeting.



Dr. J. D. Vorster

Dr Vorster added that when the Dutch Reformed Church left the World Council of Churches several years ago many Afrikaners objected. This was no longer the case, he said. Its so-called 'social gospel' had become 'socialistic gospel'.

Readers tempted to dismiss these lunatic ravings will not be astonished to learn that Dr Vorster's brother is Balthazar Johannes Vorster, Prime Minister of South Africa.

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Engineers' pay fight spreads to Ormskirk



Senior steward Harry Guy: 'The firm is sticking to government pay policy'



Workers on duty outside the Hattersley, Newman and Hender valve plant in Ormskirk, Lancashire

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Some wages are so low the firm is being subsidized by the Family Incomes Supplement

FROM PHILIP WADE IN THE NORTH-WEST

THE FIGHT on the engineers' pay claim has spread to Ormskirk in Lancashire where the town's main factory has been shut by strike action for the first time in 50 years.

The 350 workers at the valve factory of Hattersley Newman and Hender struck on May Day for their £5 demand on basic rates.

Their action followed months of negotiations involving management, the employers' federation, stewards and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Management's final rates and the introduc-

tion of a new bonus scheme based on higher production was rejected by the men.

They pointed to the fact that production had risen 21 per cent in 1970 and that the £3.60 a week they had earned on the old bonus scheme should be consolidated into basic pay.

Demands for a shorter working week and longer holidays were not even listened to by management officials who described the claims as 'unrealistic'.

The men, who say the average wages in the plant are £3 to £4

behind the neighbouring Liverpool district, are prepared for a long fight.

They are picketing seven days a week and their strike has been declared official by the St Helens AUEW district committee.

'The management is being backed by the employers' federation and the federation is sticking to government policy on wages,' senior steward Harry Guy told me.

'Some of the wages in here are so low—the foundrymen are on £15 for a 40-hour week

—that the firm is being subsidized by the government under the Family Incomes Supplement.

'Yet last year's profits came to £850,000 and the group as a whole made £4½m. It's the first time the place has been shut for half a century and we've just got to win this one,' he said.

Plans are now being laid to contact workers in the Yorkshire-based Pegler Hattersley group, especially those at Trowbridge, Wiltshire, who are also claiming a substantial wage increase.

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HUGE unemployment continues to steamroller its way through the Scottish economy, crushing any hope of a business recovery.

The latest communities to suffer are Cumbernauld, east of Glasgow, and the hard hit Vale of Leven, Dunbartonshire.

Once again the axe is being swung from America—Burroughs Machines are slashing their Scottish labour force by 1,000: 670 in the Vale and 290 in the new town.

This will mean a leap in male unemployment by one-third. On Thursday, when the pay-offs occur, both Cumbernauld and the Vale of Leven will join the growing list of Scottish towns with a 15-per-cent male unemployment rate.

For the men who lose their jobs in the Vale the prospect is grim, 520 are time-served engineers and, as one Burroughs worker put it to me: 'When a fitter hits the burrow up here, he stays on it.'

This is not an exaggeration. The Vale has just experienced the run-down of the Plessey electrical engineering plant—out of 750 workers there, only 70 are still employed on the old site. After Plessey Burroughs was the biggest employer.

And in Cumbernauld, once one of the showplaces of the West of Scotland, 1,200 jobs have been lost in just over a year—cancelling out a 1,750 jobs growth since 1969. Male un-

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN GLASGOW

employment now stands at 9.1 per cent.

Burroughs blame the cut-backs on the US recession. They point out that in the company's homeland, Michigan, 7,000 redundancies have been declared recently.

The other factor, they say, is the change in the nature of the business machines market and the increasing use of electronics in the company's equipment. Burroughs, in fact, are about to open a new factory in Crumlington, Northumberland, with government aid, to produce printed circuits for the most modern business machines.

'This process is more automated and we just don't need the same amount of jobs,' the firm's spokesman put it brutally.

The Burroughs workers, however, cannot accept this capitalist logic. They say they will fight the sackings.

'We're banning overtime of course,' one shop steward from the Vale plant told me. 'And we have stated we will fight the closure. But we will have to see which way the labour force jumps.'

'The firm is trying to split us by saying the factory will keep open. But we think we have got a closure on our hands.'

The Burroughs men and women are right to be wary. The memory of the Plessey closure is still vivid in the Vale.

This was the firm that came into the area trumpeting its intention to award the people 2,000 jobs. Instead the labour force was consistently run down and rumours of closure consistently denied.

Then—just before the annual summer holidays last year—the whole work force got the chop and the plant closed last September.

Statistics show Burroughs seems to be travelling the same road. The firm took choice place on the Vale of Leven industrial estate in 1949. A peak of employment was reached in the late 1960s and early 1970s—after decimalization the decline began.

A total of 370 jobs went in 1970 and another 100 last year. Another curious aspect of the sackings is that they usually take place in the midst of a wages battle.

Last year the men were actually on strike when the redundancies were announced and this year they were just about to work-to-rule for the engineering industry national pay claim when the sackings were suddenly announced.

All pleas for a reprieve and negotiations have been firmly rejected by the company. Now the unions are hoping to meet US executives on Monday to put their case.

'They killed two birds with one stone,' said one worker I talked to. 'The firm got round the wages fight and is trying to get rid of the men it wanted.'

Sadat to follow Meir to Rumania

MRS GOLDA MEIR's visit to Bucharest is not likely to produce any instant results in bringing nearer a settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict in the Middle East.

For Rumanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu, the invitation to the Israeli Prime Minister provided a basis for strengthening his diplomatic position by acting as an intermediary in the Middle East dispute.

Rumania was the only Warsaw Pact country not to break off diplomatic relations with Israel at the time of the June 1967 war.

In August 1969 relations with Israel developed to the point



Sadat

where embassies were opened in Bucharest and Jerusalem. In May 1970, however, Rumania condemned the Israeli incursions into the Lebanon.

This position appears to be in line with the United Nations Security Council resolution that Israeli forces should be withdrawn from the occupied territories.

Obviously no settlement can be reached unless the Arab states are willing to negotiate with Israel.

President Sadat of Egypt is expected to follow Mrs Meir to Bucharest in the near future, so is the Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat. In these discussions Ceausescu can only offer to play the role of honest broker.

In line with this, Moscow will no doubt be informed of the discussions with Mrs Meir and will make use of the information during the summit meeting with President Nixon at the end of this month.

Exactly what form the resistance to the sackings will take is not yet clear. The men are already refusing to shift finished machines out of the plant.

Any campaign of protest—even if it does involve a lengthy sit-in—is however inadequate in the present circumstances.

The avalanche of redundancies continues unabated in Scotland and the other depressed areas of England.

Despite the so-called UCS victory, and despite other determined resistance movements against the dole, unemployment has increased by 50,000 since the UCS work-in began.

Burroughs, Honeywell, National Cash Register—all the US companies who have a big stake in the economy—are drastically reducing their level of activity because of a fall in world demand.

The only adequate answer to these mass attacks is a political one.

'Times' man expelled

DAVID BONAVIA, 'The Times' correspondent in Moscow, was yesterday ordered to leave the Soviet Union for 'systematic activity incompatible with the status of a foreign correspondent'.

He is the first such correspondent to be expelled for more than a year. His expulsion follows a violent attack in the last four issues of the magazine 'Literaturnaya Gazeta'. The paper said it had received a number of letters asking for Bonavia's expulsion.

He has written a number of stories about the persecution of dissident intellectuals and Jewish would-be emigrants. Tass said he had been 'stripped of his accreditation status and ordered to leave the USSR'.

Chess champion's trial opens in Prague

CORRESPONDENTS were excluded from a Prague court for Thursday's trial of world-famous Czech chess champion and journalist Ludek Pachman.

He is accused of incitement and anti-government propaganda following his support for the liberal line of Dubcek expressed in interviews with Dutch radio and newspapers.

Pachman is one of hundreds of oppositionists who have been held in Czech prisons during the past two years. They include Milan Hubl, a former Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee member, as well as other prominent Party members including Jiri Lederer, Adolf Dorn, Jan Kaspar and Jaroslav Sabata.

Former Young Communist League leaders Jiri Muller and Ladislav Mravec are also held in

the notorious Ruzyn prison.

Pachman went on hunger strike in 1970 after his arrest and recently undertook another hunger strike which lasted for several weeks. On leaving the courtroom he appeared to be drawn, thin and stooping.

He faces a five-year prison term on the present charges.

The demand should be made for the immediate liberation of Pachman and the hundreds of other political prisoners whose only crime is that they opposed the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact armies in August 1968.

FRENCH Finance Minister Giscard d'Estaing met Alexei Kosygin in Moscow on Thursday during a 36-hour visit to discuss carrying out the economic and technical agreement between France and the Soviet Union made last October.

The agreement provides for French firms to undertake the construction, modernization and extension of factories in the Soviet Union. The French government is concerned because Soviet exports to France have increased more rapidly than exports to the Soviet Union.

A big contract has just been signed for the supply of equipment for Soviet oil refineries which should give French exports a boost.

TV

BBC 1

9.30 Wie Bitte? 10.00 Zarabanda. 10.40 Weather. 10.45 Grandstand: Centenary FA Cup Final; 12.55 It's a Cup Final Knock-Out! 1.40 Inside Wembley; 3.00 FA Cup Final; 5.05 Final Score. 5.15 Pink Panther. 5.35 News, weather. 5.50 Dr Who.

6.15 **WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY.**

7.00 **FILM: 'SEVEN CITIES OF GOLD'.** Richard Egan, Anthony Quinn, Michael Rennie. Spanish Conquistadores search California for the fabled Seven Cities.

8.40 **TARBUCK'S LUCK.**

9.25 **A MAN CALLED IRON-SIDE.** Blackout.

10.15 **NEWS, Weather.**

10.30 **CUP FINAL MATCH OF THE DAY.**

11.30 **SANDIE SHAW.**

12.05 **Weather.**

BBC 2

9.05 Open University. 3.00 Saturday Cinema: 'Smiley'. 4.30 Touch. 4.50 Tutankhamun's Egypt. 5.10 Look. 5.35 Television Doctor. 5.50 Man Alive. 6.40 Westminster. 7.00 News, Sport, Weather.

7.15 **CONVERSATIONS AT CRANBORNE.** Lord David Cecil talks with Patrick Garland.

ITV

10.15 Sesame Street. 11.15 World of Sport: Wembley Preview; 12.00 Professional Wrestling; 12.55 News; 1.00 Australian Pools Service; 1.05 International Athletics; 1.20 Wembley Starspot; 1.25 Cup Final Comedians; 1.40 Wembley Starspot; 1.50 Final Comment; 2.00 Goals of the Century; 2.10 Wembley Picture; 3.00 Kick Off; 4.55 The Teams Talk; 5.05 Final Round Up. 5.10 Sale. 5.40 News. 5.45 Ken Dodd.

6.15 **THE ROLF HARRIS SHOW.**

7.00 **NEW SCOTLAND YARD.** Memory of a Gauntlet.

8.00 **SATURDAY VARIETY.**

9.00 **FILM: 'THE SECRET OF BLOOD ISLAND'.** Barbara Shelley, Jack Hedley. Woman agent shot down by Japanese in Malaya.

10.30 **NEWS.**

10.40 **MAGNUS AND THE BEAN-STEAK.** Food revolution.

11.30 **STRUGGLE FOR ISRAEL.** Part 1.

12.25 **THE GEORDIE BIBLE.**

7.55 **RUGBY SPECIAL.** The Middlesex Sevens.

8.40 **THE PHILPOTT FILE.** The Mighty Mississippi.

9.30 **SOUNDS FOR SATURDAY.** The Harry James Orchestra.

10.15 **PETS AND VETS.**

10.30 **THE GOLDEN BOWL,** by Henry James. 1: The Prince.

11.15 **NEWS, Weather.**

11.20 **FILM NIGHT.**

11.50 **MIDNIGHT MOVIE: 'UNFAITHFULLY YOURS'.** Rex Harrison, Linda Darnell.

REGIONAL TV

All regions as BBC 1 except:

Wales: 6.15 Top of the Form. 6.35 Disc a Dawn. 12.07 Weather.

Scotland: 10.45 Scottish Grandstand. 10.30 Sportsreel. 12.07 News, weather.

Northern Ireland: 5.45 Sports Results, News Summary. 12.07 News, weather.

England: 12.07 Regional weather.

SOUTHERN: 10.45 Yesterdays. 11.12 Weather. 11.15 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 9.00 Film: 'Terror of the Tongues'. 10.30 London. 11.25 News. 11.35 UFO. 12.30 Weather. Voyage of Discovery.

HTV: 9.50 Tennis. 10.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Columbo'. 10.20 If it Moves... 10.30 London. 11.25 The Prisoner. 12.20 Weather.

ANGLIA: 10.45 Yesterdays. 11.15 London. 5.10 Flintstones. 5.40 London. 5.45 Sale of the century. 6.15 London. 8.00 London. 9.00 Ken Dodd. 9.30 Jason King. 10.30 London. 12.25 Film: 'The Skull'. 12.58 Epilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.10 Horoscope. 11.15 London. 5.10 Sale of the Century. 5.40 London. 9.00 Film: 'Savage Guns'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Dick Van Dyke. 11.55 Who Knows?

YORKSHIRE: 10.45 Yesterdays. 11.15 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 9.00 Film: 'Murder by the Book'. 10.23 If it moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 Edgar Wallace. 12.30 Weather.



SANDIE SHAW makes one of her rare TV appearances on BBC 1 tonight, singing her favourite songs in a special show from the Octagon Theatre, Bolton, at 11.30 p.m.

TYNE TEES: 10.45 All our yesterdays. 11.15 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 9.00 Film: 'Columbo, Murder by the Book'. 10.25 If it moves. 10.30 News. 10.40 Scientists. 11.25 Strange report. 12.20 Battle hymn.

SCOTTISH: 11.20 Beagan Gaidhlig. 11.35 Clapperboard. 12.00 Film (Part One) 'The Siege at Red River'. 12.55 News. 1.05 Film (Part Two). 1.35 Scotsport Special. 5.10 Roadrunner. 5.40 London. 9.00 Love American style. 9.45 Scotsport. 10.30 News. 10.40 Late call. 10.45 Seaway.

GRAMPIAN: 12.30 Batman. 12.55 News. 1.00 Australian pools service. 1.05 International athletics. 1.20 Professional wrestling. 2.15 Film: 'The Leopard'. 5.05 Cup results. 5.10 His and hers. 5.40 London. 9.00 Film: 'Murder by the Book'. 10.20 If it moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 Strange report.

BBC 1

9.00 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan. 9.30 Wie bitte? 10.00 Zarabanda. 11.00 Seeing and Believing. 11.30 Boomph with Becker. 11.45 Mistress of Hardwick. 12.10 Bellamy on Botany. 12.35 Profit by Control. 1.25 Farming. 1.55 Hammer it Home. 2.20 Made in Britain. 2.29 News Headlines. 2.30 Going for a Song. 3.00 Laurel and Hardy. 3.30 Shari Lewis. 3.40 Film: 'Margie'. 5.10 British Empire. 6.05 News, weather.

6.15 **HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?** With Bernadette Devlin, MP.

6.50 **SING A NEW SONG.**

7.25 **FRANCIS ALBERT SINATRA DOES HIS THING.**

8.15 **FILM: 'THE JOURNEY'.** Deborah Kerr, Yul Brynner. Group of foreigners stranded in Hungary during 1956 uprising.

10.15 **NEWS, Weather.**

10.25 **OMNIBUS.** John Dankworth, Cleo Laine, Steve Race, Robin Ray, Ken Russell.

11.10 **KENNETH HARRIS INTERVIEWS:** Don Ryder, Chairman of Reed International.

11.55 **Weather.**

BBC 2

9.35 Open University. 7.00 News Review, Weather.

7.25 **MUSIC ON 2.** Daniel Adni plays Brahms, Debussy and Liszt.

8.15 **THE WORLD ABOUT US.** Ethiopia.

9.05 **GLEN CAMPBELL.** With Pan's People.

TV

ITV

10.30 Yesterdays. 11.00 Service. 12.05 Farmhouse Kitchen. 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.55 Out of Town. 1.15 Stingray. 1.45 University Challenge. 2.15 How the Cup Was Won. 3.15 Jason King. 4.10 Shirley's World. 4.45 Golden Shot. 5.35 Pretenders. 6.05 News.

6.15 **A PLAY FOR SUNDAY.** The Sanctuary Man.

7.00 **STARS ON SUNDAY.**

7.25 **DOCTOR IN CHARGE.**

7.55 **'THE OSCAR'.** Stephen Boyd, Elke Sommer.

9.50 **POLICE FIVE.**

10.00 **NEWS.**

10.15 **THE ORGANIZATION.** Rodney Spurling and Peter Frame.

11.15 **MUSIC IN THE ROUND.** Jazz Youth.

11.40 **SHORT STORY.** A young boy is kidnapped.

12.10 **THE GEORDIE BIBLE.**

9.55 **THE BLACK BEACH.** North-East Coast where men scratch for sea-coal on the beach.

10.05 **TUTANKHAMUN'S EGYPT.** The Warrior Pharaohs.

10.25 **THE LOTUS EATERS.**

11.15 **News Summary, Weather.**

11.20 **UP SUNDAY.**

REGIONAL TV

All regions as BBC 1 except:

Wales: 3.30 Spy Trap. 4.20 Rugby Union. 6.50 Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol. 11.57 News.

Scotland: 1.25 Farm Forum. 6.15 Christianity Grounded. 6.45 Glory in Creation. 11.57 News, weather.

Northern Ireland: 1.15 Farming. 11.57 News, weather.

England: 11.57 Regional weather.

SOUTHERN: 11.00 London. 12.00 Weather. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to sing. 12.55 Farm progress. 1.25 Cartoon. 1.30 Stingray. 2.00 Cup highlights. 3.00 Film: 'Sahara'. 4.35 News. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Brainstorm'. 9.50 Cartoon. 10.00 London. 11.15 Something to say. 12.15 Weather. Voyage of discovery.

HTV: 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.45 London. 3.15 Film: 'These Wilder Years'. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Return of the Seven'. 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 11.15 Avengers. 12.15 Weather.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 12.05 Dan Sylw. 12.40 O'r Wasg. 12.55 Llusern.

ANGLIA: 11.00 London. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Sing About. 12.55 Cooking. 1.20 Challenge. 1.50 Weather. 1.55 Farming. 2.25 UFO. 3.20 Dick Van Dyke. 3.45 Football. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Betrayed'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Saint. 12.15 Epilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 London. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Sing about.

12.55 Kitchen. 1.40 Horoscope. 1.45 Yesterdays. 2.15 Soccer. 3.15 The secret. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Forest rangers. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Wild and Willing'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Spyforce.

YORKSHIRE: 10.45 Talking hands. 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Camping. 1.00 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Camping outlook. 1.50 Calendar. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Film: 'Dangerous Voyage'. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film 'To Hell and Back'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Aquarius. 12.15 Weather.

TYNE TEES: 10.20 Farming outlook. 10.45 Talking hands. 11.00 London. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 Camping and caravanning. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Farming outlook. 1.50 Out of town. 2.10 Where the jobs are. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'The Mouse That Roared'. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'To Hell and Back'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Aquarius. 12.15 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Yesterdays. 1.55 Scientists. 2.40 Zingalong. 3.00 Film: 'A Kid for Two Farthings'. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Roman Holiday'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Late call. 11.20 Randall and Hopkirk.

GRAMPIAN: 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Yesterdays. 1.55 Farm progress. 2.25 Randall and Hopkirk. 3.20 Film: 'The Hugges Abroad'. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Seven in Darkness'. 9.30 Odd couple. 10.00 London. 11.15 Yoga. 11.40 Job look.

Life jail-nine times!

SIXTY - SEVEN - year - old leader of the Greek Communist Party's 'interior faction', Demetrios Partsalides, was yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment nine times on charges arising from the civil war 25 years ago.

Partsalides heads the faction in the Greek CP which criticized the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. The composer Mikis Theodorakis recently resigned from this group.

At his trial, staged at Karditsa in central Greece, Partsalides was charged with being the moral instigator of the murder of seven Greeks during the civil war from 1947 to 1948 and with having attempted to annexe parts of Greece to Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Albania.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges. The indictment said that Partsalides—a minister in a Communist Party government formed in the mountains of northern Greece during the civil war—had ordered the murders but others carried them out.

Partsalides was arrested with 16 others in Athens last October and charged with plotting to overthrow the colonels' dictatorship. He is expected to be tried on this charge by an Athens court in a few weeks' time.

Charge paras—Devlin

MISS Bernadette Devlin, mid-Ulster's independent MP, wants manslaughter charges brought against five soldiers mentioned in the Widgery Report on Bloody Sunday in Derry when 13 civilians were killed.

She will ask William Whitelaw, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to name and charge soldiers E, F, G, and H with manslaughter. These were the soldiers who Widgery said had fired recklessly at people in Glenfadda Park, Derry, on January 30.

See What We Think Page 2

LATE NEWS

Osram workers want strike

TWO HUNDRED GEC Osram workers locked out for three weeks from their Erith, Kent, factory, have passed a resolution calling on the AUEW to launch a nationwide strike throughout the Weinstock empire.

AUEW convenor Len Foley said that the abandonment of the national pay claim in favour of plant-by-plant struggles was a recipe for defeat. It could only be overcome by a strike throughout the combine.

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JOBS THREAT AS TUBEMEN PREPARE

WORK-TO-RULE

A JOBS warning went out to London's tube workers yesterday on the eve of their work-to-rule in support of a wage claim.

A circular issued to all underground staff said that the industrial action, due to begin on Monday, would cause 'good staff to leave the underground perhaps for ever'.

This is being interpreted as a redundancy threat by underground workers. The author of the circular is Mr W. W. Max-

well, London Transport Board's chief operations manager, railways.

An LTB spokesman challenged this interpretation yesterday. He said that staff in the past had left the industry because they 'did not like the atmosphere'. He added no detailed information on this was available.

The circular also claimed that the rules for tube operations are 'clear and simple' and that sticking to them should not cause delay.

This caused some hilarity among tube workers. One pointed out that the current rule book had 15 appendices and five books of amendments.

Last-minute talks between representatives of 18,000 underground workers and management ended after four hours yesterday.

Don Pullen, assistant general secretary of the drivers' union ASLEF said: 'Both sides know the difficulties we are in and both sides know we are trying to avoid the chaos on Monday. We cannot come to any agreement with them until agreement is reached with British Rail.'

Rail confrontation almost certain

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT and unions drifted towards a new showdown yesterday as the dispute over railwaymen's pay continued in deadlock.



Liverpool stewards entering yesterday's meeting at the Conway Hall, London.

BACKING for a national docks strike came yesterday from shop stewards leaders from every major port in Britain.

A three-hour meeting of the national port shop stewards' committee in London endorsed the decision of the dock delegate conference to call a national stoppage over the container row next month.

The dockers said they had no

intention of lifting their black on haulage firms—for which the union have been fined £55,000—until they are allowed to stuff and strip all containers.

They warned that the black would be extended if port employers and haulage firms continued to use unregistered dock labour. It would also be continued so long as the serious redundancy crisis on the docks continued.

The meeting also condemned the TUC decision to recommend that the T&GWU pay the fine imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court. The actions of the right wing and TUC general secretary Victor Feather were described as leading to the 'destruction' of trade unions.

● See page 3—Merseyside black operated.

Tory ministers met yesterday afternoon to consider what emergency powers they might take if there was another outbreak of industrial action.

The three rail unions deferred discussion on what next steps to take after the government's refusal to improve on the Jarratt arbitration award.

Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan warned on BBC radio that the situation was 'very serious indeed'. He was echoing rail chief Richard Marsh who said after the failure of Thursday night's talks that the unions had 'decided to take on the state'.

The deadlock was unbroken yesterday despite an offer from railwaymen's leader Sir Sidney Greene to meet the board 'half way'.

He said he would accept the Jarratt award of 12½ per cent with a £20 minimum wage, provided it was paid from mid-May. Officially the unions still want it from May 1 and the British Rail insists it should date from June 5.

Despite these further concessions, however, it was clear that the government would not budge.

Macmillan said that it would not be possible to get an extension of the 14-day cooling off period, due to end at midnight on Monday, unless there was a good chance of this leading to a settlement.

'At the moment I am bound to say there doesn't seem to be a very good chance,' he added.

On the other possibility of a compulsory ballot, Macmillan said this course of action would only be taken if industrial action was taking place or threatened.

Greene said he did not know whether his union would accept a ballot, but added that in normal practice ballots were not used.

The Rail Board is at present preparing the names of employees for any ballot the National Industrial Relations Court may order.

Greene put his new offer to a joint meeting of the rail unions which lasted for 30 minutes. They decided to break up and meet again at 3 p.m. on Monday—only nine hours before the expiry of the cooling off period.

They are understood to be waiting to see the outcome of the talks on the tube dispute.

BAC men end their 12-week strike

WORKERS who produce Britain's military aircraft voted yesterday to end a 12-week strike and accept the latest management offer.

At a mass meeting in Preston, 3,500 British Aircraft Corporation employees voted for a £20 minimum wage and a cost of living increase ranging from 11.3 to 24 per cent.

But with the increases come a number of productivity concessions by the men.

One will allow management to time jobs 'against the clock' where an individual operator agrees to this. In the past, shop stewards embargoed this practice.

In addition the payments system by which workers' earnings in the three plants rose automatically with the factory average is to be abandoned in favour of a 12-month freeze.

In future the factory average system will merely be retained as one of the criteria in wage negotiations.

This new ruling does not apply to workers under mutually-agreed incentive schemes, or tool-room workers who come under a separate national agreement.

Preston plant convenor David Creighton-Smith told yesterday's mass meeting: 'The BAC workers have won not only a just settlement, but have ensured a fair deal for the future.'

Bob Crook, Preston district secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said that the £20 minimum was part of the engineering industry wage claim. The BAC workers, however, had not won any concessions over shorter hours or longer holidays.

The strike—which was one of the most bitter in the company's history—led to widespread sympathy action by workers in North Lancashire and several huge demonstrations.

The original demand was for a £20 minimum and a 12-per-cent cost-of-living increase with no strings.

MAY FUND GROWS TO £170.25

LET'S press on with a big effort this weekend for our May Fund. Our aim is to once more raise an extra £500 over our target to cover our increased costs.

The fight is on. The issue facing trade unionists everywhere is to force a recall conference of the TUC to reaffirm its original decision of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act. The strength and determination of the working class must be mobilized. This Tory government must be made to resign.

So keep up the campaign for this month's Fund. Make sure we raise our new target. Put everything you can into this fight. Post all donations immediately to: Workers Press May Appeal Fund 186a Clapham High St London, SW4 7UG.

RECALL TUC

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majority of trade unionists — must press on with their demand. They must not passively accept this sleight of hand by Feather.

Their majority position compels them to recall conference—regardless of whether Feather is in favour.

Jones and Scanlon should call a conference to fight the Act and the Tory government and invite trade unionists from all unions who want to join this struggle.

These preparations are urgently necessary to meet the Tory offensive which is now well under way. The Tories are sparring for a showdown with the unions: this can be seen in the arrogance with which they are treating the railwaymen and the dockers.

The recalled conference must not only affirm total opposition to the Act, but begin immediate preparation to create the political and industrial conditions under which the Tory government can be forced out of office.