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FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

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But counsel for the T&GWU, Ian Hunter, said the facts of the Liverpool case did not apply to the one before the court.

The case also offered another example of the Court's high-speed procedure. Counsel for the union asked to present evidence on Friday.

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He now has until tomorrow to stop the blacking or face possible penalties under contempt. The unions must show they are prepared to go as far as sacking stewards if they too are to avoid more fines or sequestration.

While the case went on, talks opened in Liverpool over new pay deal for the port's 10,000 dockers and today transport workers' general secretary Jack Jones will meet Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan over the container dispute.

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'We have never said we would not accept Court decisions or refuse to obey court orders,' he added.

Is Feather concerned about the decrees against unions being issued by the National Industrial Relations Court?

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'I say that such statements are absolute nonsense.'

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● See Court clamp on discussion p. 10.

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The talks, which began last Tuesday between the stewards and the American Marathon Manufacturing Corporation, which wants to take over the yard, were continuing.

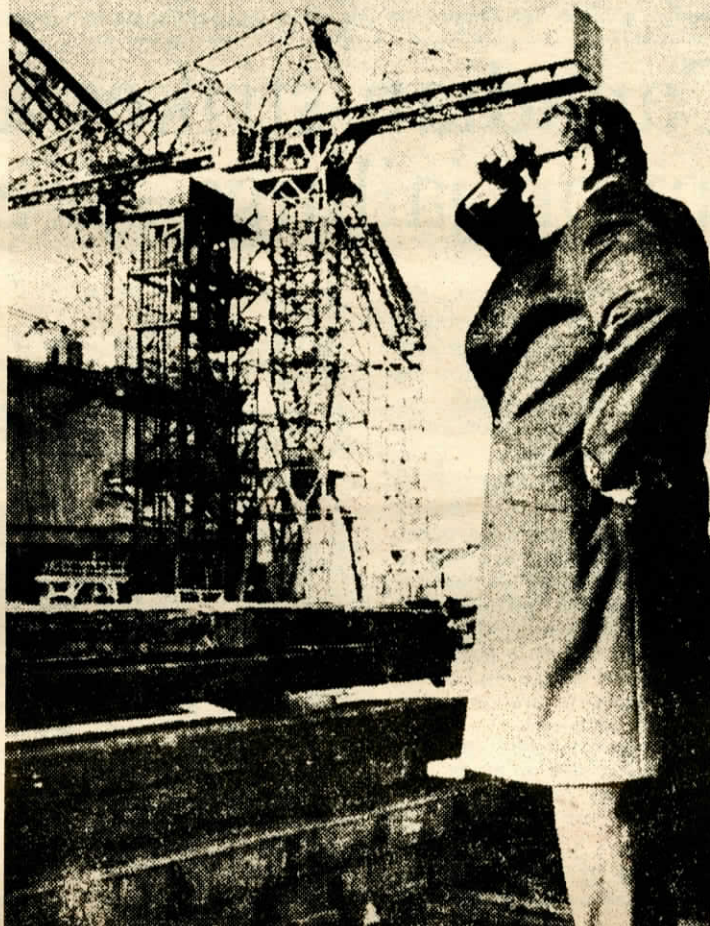
Work on reshaping the yard for the building of oil rigs by Marathon will start almost immediately the deal is completed.

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Marathon's Wayne Harbin surveys his Clydebank domain

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Profile of

Richard Marsh

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INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • TUESDAY MAY 16, 1972 • No 766 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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A serious affair

WHAT WE THINK

TOMORROW members of the Maoist-dominated Schools Action Union plan a one-day strike and demonstration throughout London schools in support of their demands for the ending of school uniforms, canings and detentions and the lifting of 'petty restrictions'.

Details of the action were planned at a meeting on Sunday attended by over 60 youth at the Workers' Music Association Hall, Westbourne Park Road, West London.

Yesterday's capitalist press, reporting the meeting, went wild in their witch-hunts of the 'Schoolkid Castros'—'the boys behind the school revolution' ('Sun'); and 'Pupils try to stir "Red Wednesday" revolt' ('The Times').

These 'red scare' tactics are, of course, a long-established practice of Britain's capitalist newspapers, but the adventurist Maoist leadership behind the SAU have given them a heaven-sent opportunity to indulge in their fantasies of

'socialist revolution' in the schools.

The vast majority of school children do have genuine grievances.

Discipline, in many cases, is harsh. School uniforms are expensive and parents faced with round upon round of price increases can hardly afford to keep up with buying uniforms, increased fares and costlier school dinners.

The youth complain bitterly of the extremely poor quality of school meals which they say are too small to keep them going throughout the day.

These grievances however have been turned into empty propaganda slogans by the Maoists to organize one-day protests—'mass truancy' says 'The Times'—for which many children have been severely caned, others detained by the police and some threatened with expulsion.

The flippant attitude of the SAU leaders to the Tory press has given them unlimited scope to poke fun at these legitimate demands.

As 'The Times' reports, 16-year-

old SAU spokesman Simon Stayne from South London 'informed the Press Association that he would be prepared to lay on a press conference for £100 and the use of a room. . . . When this offer was not taken up he said he would give any individual newspaper an interview for £10. This too was declined.'

These sort of adventurist pranks in dealing with the capitalist press cannot, and never will, take working class youth one step forward in their fight to defend their rights to decent education won by the trade union movement in 150 years of struggle.

To defend these rights today youth must understand that the problems they face are part of the overall attack now being waged by the Tory government against working class, organizations, rights and conditions.

They must turn to their real allies within the working-class movement, remembering that the fight to make this Tory government resign is a serious affair.



Malagasy: March on premier's palace

A POLICE patrol clashed with demonstrators in Tananarive yesterday and some shots were heard after a crowd of 100,000 had marched on the Malagasy Republic's presidential palace.

The huge march followed a weekend of serious clashes in Madagascar involving security forces and students who have been on strike against the government's education policy. The death toll is at least 24, and 160 people have been injured. About 400 people are under arrest.

Yesterday's marchers included elderly people, children, workers, civil servants and students. They demanded the release of those arrested and the suppression of the hated Republican Security Forces.

They carried placards reading 'Assassins, Free our friends or kill us all'—a reference to President Philibert Tsiranana's threat to shoot everyone who sympathizes with the 'insurgents'.

Tsiranana agreed to receive a delegation of the marchers to listen to their grievances and the demonstrators started to drift away for lunch and to decide on the members of the delegation.

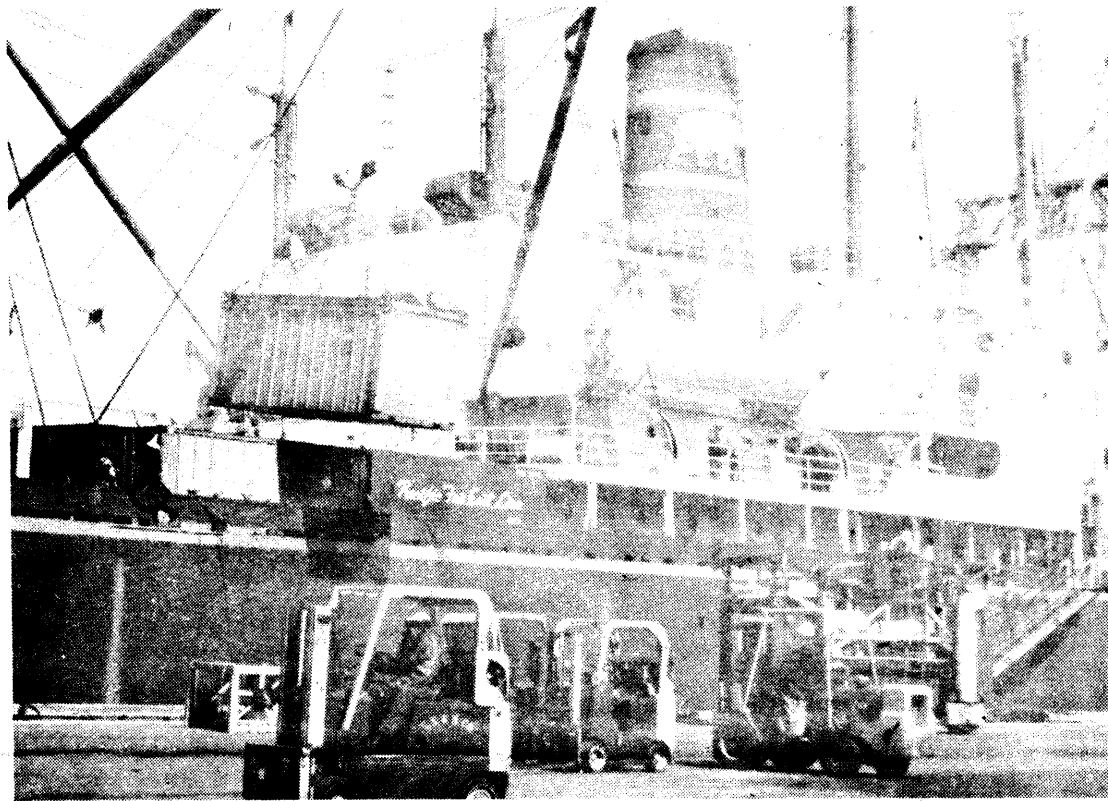
Official sources said no incidents had been reported. The only casualties, were several people who had fainted in the great heat of this city with a central square surrounded by hills.

But a clash suddenly erupted between a group of marchers and a police patrol near one of the city's secondary schools, the Lycee Jules Ferry, on one of Tananarive's hills.

Shots rang out and in the confused melée which followed a policeman was reported killed. By midday, a relative calm had returned to the city after appeals for no more violence from the island's religious leaders.

Key parts were being policed by gendarmes, the island's other police force.

All-night curfews were imposed on Tananarive on Saturday and Sunday after two days of student strikes and clashes.



Container ships in San Francisco—one of the biggest threats to dockers' jobs.

Canadian strikes against union jailings spread

WITH strikes against the jailing of three union leaders spreading throughout the province, Quebec premier Robert Bourassa has described the walk-outs as the action of 'a group of bully-boys'.

The town of Sept-Iles is practically under the control of local trade unionists, Quebec airport is virtually shut down by a strike of mechanics, there are strike pickets outside Laval university, the town of Thetford Mines is paralysed by a General Strike and up to 100,000 workers are on strike across the province.

Yet on Friday night, Bourassa declared that the situation was 'calm' and said 'almost the whole of the population is behind the government in applying the law'.

He added: 'If the union leaders don't take advantage of the right of appeal, it is because they want to stay in prison.'

The three leaders—who head

BY OUR FOREIGN DESK

the Common Front of public service workers embracing some 200,000 workers—are in prison for urging their members to defy a court order to maintain essential services during a recent strike.

They will not be released unless they agree to obey the court in future. They have stated that they will not agree to sign away the future of their unions in return for release from prison.

The Common Front led an 11-day strike of its 200,000 members last month demanding a minimum wage throughout the province of \$100 a week. At present more than 600,000 Quebec workers are below this minimum wage.

To break the strike, Bourassa brought in Bill 19, rushed through the National Assembly in an all-night sitting.

It deprives workers of the right to strike for two years and empowers the premier to decree a new contract if they do not

settle with the government by June 1.

As the Bill was being rushed through parliament, the union leaders called a snap ballot of their members and won a 65-per-cent vote to stay out. But Common Front leadership claimed this was not a sufficient mandate to continue the strike and urged its members back to work.

Ending the strike opened the way for harsh government disciplinary measures against the unions. On May 4, the three main Common Front leaders—Luis Laberge, president of the Quebec Federation of Labour, Marcel Pepin, president of the National Trade Union Confederation, and Yvon Charbonneau, president of the Quebec Teachers' Group—were imprisoned for a year on contempt charges.

It is clear that far from placating the Bourassa government, the union leaders' climb-down in ending the public service strike has opened the way for even more repressive measures, including the imprisonment of the leaders themselves.

Pay rise slashed for US dockers

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Nixon has moved to provoke another confrontation with dockworkers on both coasts of the United States.

His Pay Board last week ordered a 22 per cent cut in the wage increase recently won by East coast longshoremen. Last month, the Board slashed the West coast dockers' pay rise from 16 to 10 per cent.

Both these increases were won only after prolonged and bitter strike struggles, in both of which the administration imposed 'cooling-off' periods under the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act.

Now the Pay Board, from which four of the five union representatives have resigned, has stepped in to cut the dockers' rises. Leaders of both the East and West coast unions had promised to shut the ports if the Board did not pass their increases.

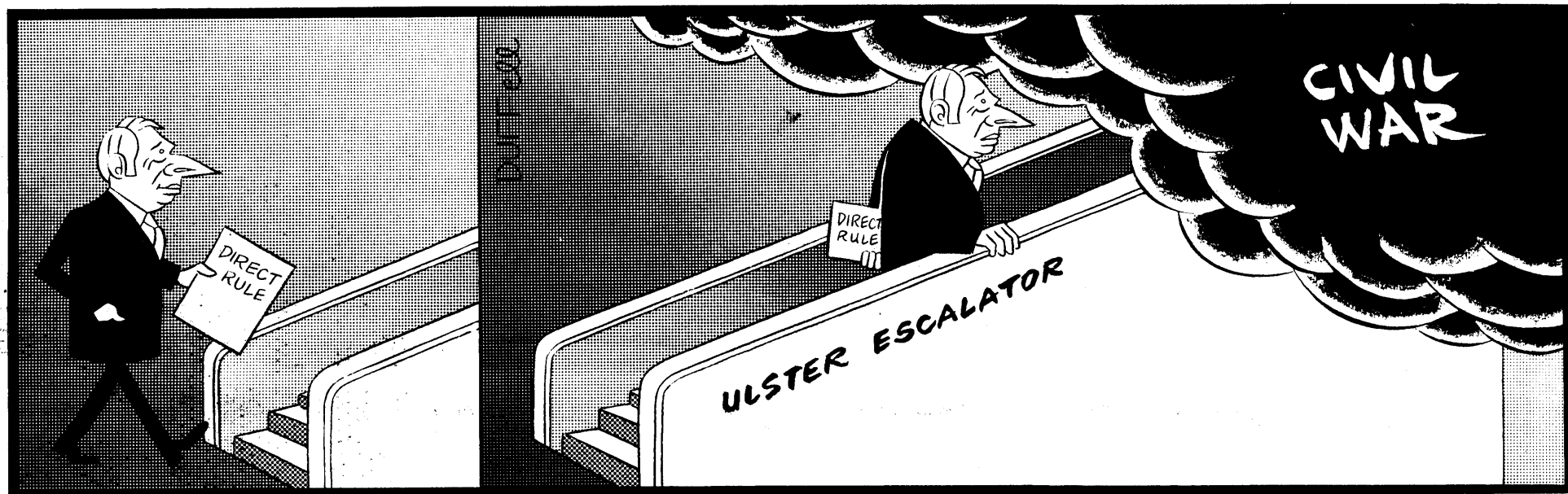
The Pay Board move has put both unions on the spot. They now have to carry out their promises or back down in the face of a direct legal challenge.

Pay Board chairman George Boldt, announcing the pay cuts, said he expected dockworkers 'to look over our decision, be disappointed and then go along with the law of the land'.

The leaders have still to reach a decision and are plainly hanging back from a fight with Nixon.

But after months of strike action to win the rises, dockers are in no mood to knuckle under. While the Pay Board is slashing their hard-won increases, the Price Board, which is supposed to be keeping down profits under phase two of Nixon's economic programme, is assuring big business of a bonanza year.

Businessmen have been assured they need not worry about profit cuts.



BELFAST 'PEACE-LINE' OPERATION

Paras rehearse for Derry 'no-go' areas?

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE PARATROOP Regiment, the men who killed 13 civilians on Bloody Sunday (January 30) are firmly entrenched in a so-called 'peace line' between the Ballymurphy and Springmartin Estates in Belfast.

The operation was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Wilford who supervised the Londonderry operation.

A spokesman said the paratroops took up their positions 'with minimum aggro, minimum resistance and minimum inconvenience'.

Their arrival in the embattled estates was watched with amazement by local residents.

At nightfall on Sunday they arrived on foot wearing dark battle dress. Their faces were blackened. They carried automatic weapons or SLR rifles fitted with powerful telescopic night sights.

Slung around their necks they carried belts of ammunition 'as if they were preparing for a long siege'.

To 'soften up' the residents auxiliary units fired dye, gas and rubber bullets to clear the streets.

As the paratroops began their leap-frog through the area, a cover of smoke bombs was laid.

The regiment was sent in to the area to allegedly stop the internecine warfare between the Catholic and Protestant communities on the adjoining estates.

But observers who are acquainted with the special political role of the paratroops are seeing their use in Belfast as a dangerous escalation in military violence.

Workers Press has been told that the copybook operation on Sunday night is nothing more than a dress rehearsal for the taking of the 'no-go' areas in Bogside and Creggan.

From the weekend—in which nine people were killed and more than 100 wounded—it is now clear that Heath's direct rule gamble has ended abruptly and disastrously.

The abolition of Stormont was designed to pull the rug out from under both the Unionists and the IRA; while both sides were disoriented Heath hoped to initiate talks for a settlement.

The Tory attempt at deception has completely failed. The shooting war has continued and, in the past week, intensified.

A new factor in the warfare is the roving bands of extreme right-wing Loyalists who are being shielded by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the British army.

Mr Paddy Devlin, chief whip of the Social Democratic Labour Party, said yesterday that an Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) 'execution squad' is at work in Belfast.

He said: 'The execution squad is well trained, well equipped, well supplied with information from certain members of the security forces—and, as far as I can see, in absolutely no danger of arrest.'

These are some of the incidents which have been linked with the UVF:

- The bombing of Kelly's Bar last Saturday in which 58 men and women were injured.

- The killing of an eight-year-old girl.

- The ambushing of a member of the Irish Young Socialists, James Doherty, as he left a café.

The 'Irish Independent' said yesterday: 'The RUC have not made a single arrest in connection with any of these incidents.'

The newspaper went on: 'Northern journalists have noticed a readiness on the part of the authorities to specify those acts of violence which are obviously the work of the IRA—and a reluctance to comment on any terrorism for which republicans could not be responsible.'

Conversion and high rents will drive workers out

IN LESS than 20 years working-class people living in the Colville and Tavistock areas of Notting Hill, West London, could be driven out by high rents.

This would happen if the present rate of conversion of large properties continued, a report by the Notting Hill People's Association housing group says.

Since 1967, the report states, 40 per cent of privately-rented houses in the area had changed from 'low' rent to 'high' rent.

Two houses in every five had undergone huge rent increases. By 1972 the average rent in unconverted or unadapted houses had reached £5.40.

But rents in houses converted to high-standard flats had gone up more than 200 per cent. In

1967 they were on average £4.80; after conversion they were £14.50. Rents doubled in houses adapted to bed-sits. In 1967 they were £4.75—now £9.50.

The report gave details of the history of one property in Colville Gardens:

1954—Property bought by Davies Investments, £8,000.

1962—Had yielded to date (from 1954) £62,000.

1966—Had yielded another £80,000.

1967—Sold, £52,000.

1968—Sold to Cledro Developments £65,000.

1969—Sold to Crown Agents, £120,000.

1969 to 1972—Approximate cost of conversion, £300,000.

1972—'No strings' grants allocated, £113,313.

Provisional in cocktail talks with

Craig

THE Provisional IRA is continuing its campaign to arrange an 'exchange of views' with Protestant leaders in Ulster.

The 'Sunday Times' has reported that Provisional IRA leader Ruairi O'Bradaigh 'amicably' exchanged views with Vanguard leader William Craig when they met at a cocktail party in Boston, in the United States last month.

A man who heard O'Bradaigh tell Craig that civil war was the last thing the Republicans wanted and heard Craig reply with a plea for neighbourly co-operation said he was amazed.

Asked on Saturday if the occasion was amiable, O'Bradaigh replied: 'I consider myself an amiable person. I don't generally fight with people. I argued that we should remove both North and South and make a fresh start with a new constitution which all interests in Ireland would have a hand in shaping.'

'Craig', he said, 'did not think that the island of Ireland could stand on its feet in the modern world. He said he believed in regionalism within what he called the British Isles, and that the richer regions should help the weaker ones.'

'I agreed completely with this, except that regionalism should take place within Ireland itself. What we visualized were four areas based on the four historic provinces, comprising, in the case of Ulster, nine counties. Those who were now Unionists would enjoy power in that wider context.'

'Craig understood about the nine counties, but said that Loyalists would prefer to see it in the context of the British connection. I asked him what would be his attitude if Britain got tired of the whole Irish question and decided to disengage completely from Ireland.'

'He said that in that case they would set up on their own. I asked was this UDI, and he said: "It is. The British can move out, but they can't force us in anywhere."

'I asked did he think the Six Counties could stand on their own two feet in the modern world. He thought they could, and gave some reasons and quoted some economic statistics.'

'After that we discussed the present situation. I mentioned that civil war was the last thing I wanted, and it should be avoided at all costs. He seemed to agree with that.'

When asked for his views on the meeting, Craig said he did not think the discussion was amiable. He said he told O'Bradaigh that there could be no progress until the gunmen were called off. 'I have very little time for those who use guns', said Craig.

He went on: 'I said that if there were to be a united Ireland, it would have to be because the majority in Northern Ireland desired it; that meanwhile we would be economically and socially better off as a unit on our own; that we should recognize that there were two different communities in Ireland and we should learn to live side by side as good neighbours and co-operate as neighbours.'

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight the Tories' 'fair rents' Bill

WANDSWORTH: Thursday May 18, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Rd, Tooting Broadway.

NORTH KENT: Tuesday May 23, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Rd, Dartford.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday May 23, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday May 23, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4.

WEST LONDON: Tuesday May 23, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Rd, off York Way, Kings Cross.

SOUTHALL: Thursday May 25, 8 p.m. Parkway Rooms (Rent office), Racecourse Estate, Northolt (next to swimming pool).

NORTH LONDON: Thursday May 25, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayer's Arms', Tottenham High Rd (nr White Hart Lane)

CROYDON: Thursday May 25, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd.

LUTON: Thursday May 25, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Hall, Lea Rd.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday May 25, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club (opposite New Cross Station).

EAST LONDON: Tuesday May 30, 8 p.m. 'Aberfeldy', Aberfeldy St, E.14.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

'The Sunday Times' has a reputation as a progressive, liberal and even possibly a 'left' publication. However a study of the paper's editorials since April 1970 provides a very different picture. In this series IAN YEATS examines the politics of 'The Sunday Times'.

THE LIBERAL BACKGROUND

'Less corns would be trodden on, less feelings lacerated if each class kept to itself,' wrote Greta Lamb in 'The Sunday Times' on April 2.

And on February 13, at the height of the most serious threat to the Tory government since it came to power on June 18, 1970, 'The Sunday Times' lead thundered: 'Why the miners must not win.'

Like Lamb, 'The Sunday Times', too, speaks, as she says, for 'the beautiful bourgeoisie, whose Persian rugs wear thin, whose brocade curtains fray'.

Publicly, in its leader column 'The Sunday Times' might not agree with all Lamb says, but since they published her article at all we are entitled to suppose they agree with at least some of the contemptuous abuse she heaped on the working class.

Wrote Lamb: 'To be called bourgeois may sound insulting. As it simply means middle class it should be a compliment.'

'For too long the beautiful bourgeoisie have been teased for having lah-de-dah voices and posh manners. Noblesse oblige disallows them retaliation. Mocked because they are now servantless and have static incomes, their politeness is too ingrained for them to give tongue. Mine is not.'

'Those who wish to, have every right to plastic gnomes and one-armed bandits, to over-chromed motor cars and sharp transistors, to bawling in pubs on Saturday nights, to drinking champagne wearing braces on Spain-bound aeroplanes.'

'Give me the beautiful bourgeoisie.'

Progressive

How has a newspaper which fills its leader columns and very occasionally its feature pages with blatant, anti-working-class views built and maintained a reputation as the champion of everything 'progressive'?

Each weekend apart from falling into the letterboxes of all kinds of professional men and women, 'The Sunday Times' is snatched eagerly from the news-stands by young people ranging from liberal to left, but all eventually progressive.

Propped up over the chop suey, scattered around the common rooms or on an oak table in the lounge 'The Sunday Times' is widely claimed to 'stimulate' and 'provoke' its readers to fresh pinnacles of the *avant garde* as well as to persistently expose inhumanity and injustice.

'The Sunday Times' is a

many-headed hydra split into far more parts than the three formal sections which comprise its 60-odd pages and designed to appeal to a wide 'liberal' readership.

But it would be difficult, not to say impossible, to find much 'progressive' about the Business News unless, of course, one regards flinty-hearted business realism as 'progressive'.

And as the bright promise of June 1970 has faded, most of the light has been squeezed from the increasingly doom-laden and prophetic centre page writings of Ronald Butt and James Margach.

Reputation

Yet as the growing threat to the bourgeoisie posed by slump has forced 'The Sunday Times' deeper into the cesspit of black reaction—a process marked in the last three months—little has happened to diminish its reputation among Britain's progressives.

A good part of the explanation is that the relative freedom given to feature and 'Magazine' writers creates for the paper an overall impression of liberality which obscures its true ideological stance expressed through the leader columns.

It is certain that many of the staff of 'The Sunday Times' see the paper as a genuine alternative to other more obviously right wing publications.

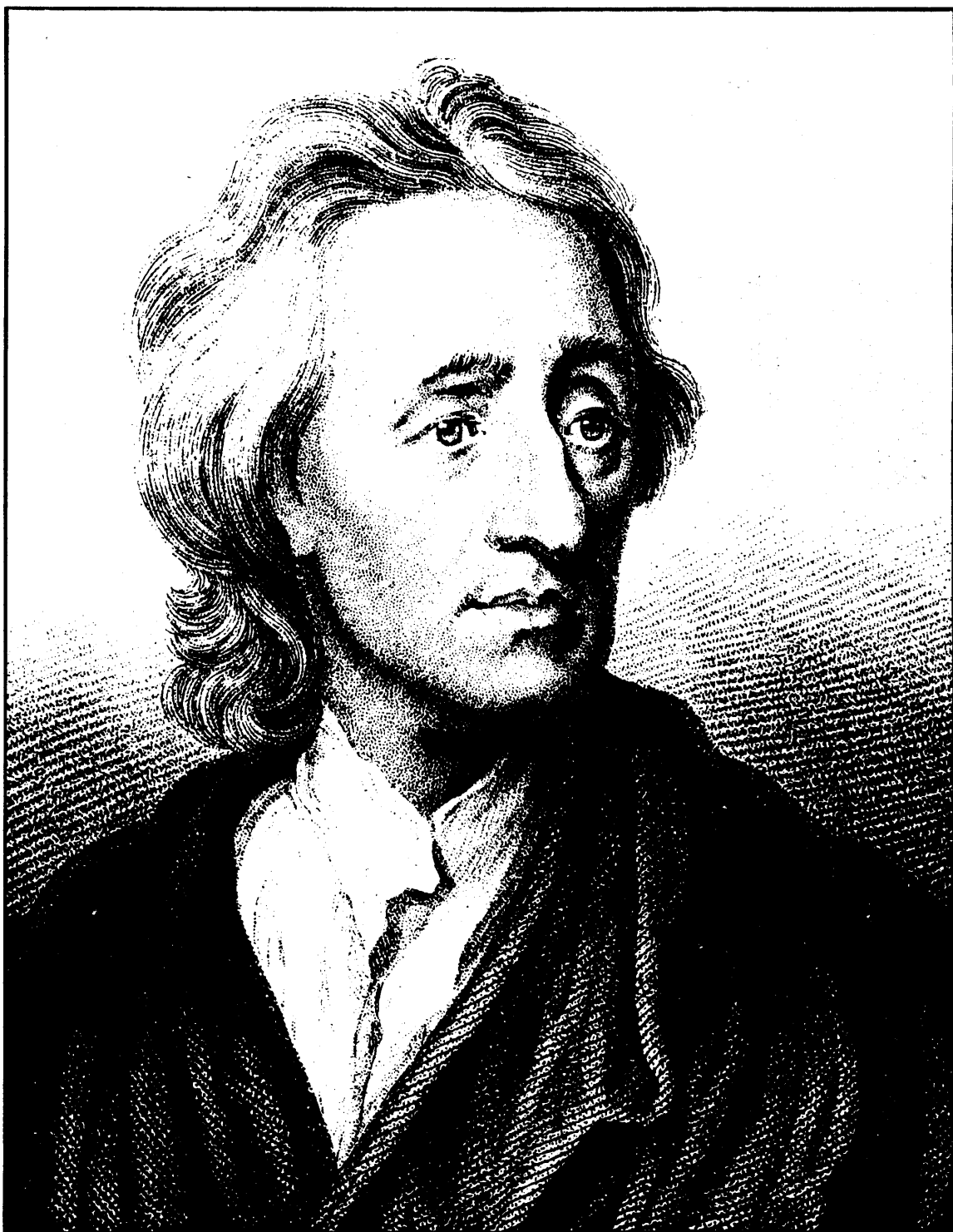
By far the most decisive element in 'The Sunday Times' reputation is its stance on issues like Vietnam, apartheid, Rudi Dutschke, the 'OZ' trial, tortures in Ulster with exposures like the Bernie Cornfeld investigation running close behind.

Representing itself as the very soul and conscience of the nation 'The Sunday Times' fills its pages week after week with anxiety over polluted pigeons, the blighted landscape, the elderly, the handicapped, slum housing and the homeless, hospital cruelty, prisons, the deprived and unemployment.

It devotes acres of newsprint to the 'agonies' of the world: Vietnam, Biafra, Bangla Desh, Greece, Mexico, Brazil, Ulster and backs any 'St George' willing to take a tilt at tyranny: Alexander Dubcek, Mikis Theodorakis, Regis Debray and Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

Wherever 'illiberality' or worse 'illegality' threatens, 'The Sunday Times' springs to defend the liberal wicket: racial inequality at home and abroad, injustice in parliament and the law courts, the police, censorship, female inequality, campus discipline.

When it comes even to the 'lefts' of the Labour Party,



The 'constitution' of 'The Sunday Times' harks back to bourgeois philosopher, John Locke (top). Left: Cohn-Bendit—appears in the pages of 'The Sunday Times' well within sound liberal principles. Right: Roy Jenkins—the only Labour politician to get consistent 'Sunday Times' credit

the only man they have consistently given credit to its Roy Jenkins and then only because he was the next best thing to a Tory.

And on November 7, 1971, it eulogized him as the only man in the Labour Party capable of giving it 'radical and coherent' leadership.

Female equality and Germaine Greer are of course, well within liberal principles and even though representatives of the 'New Left'—'Red' Danny Cohn-Bendit and Tariq Ali—and even the principled Left—Trotsky and Lenin—appear from time to time, they do so only as a butterfly collector displays his specimens.

The constitution to which 'The Sunday Times' relates all its policies and all its criteria is undoubtedly the one hammered out by the bourgeoisie after the English Revolution and every line the leader

writers pen was written by John Locke before them.

Their defence of the Ibos and the Bengalis and their condemnation of tyranny is only consistent with the liberal belief that all peoples have the right of self-determination—that is to set up their own bourgeois democracy.

Concern

Their concern for the environment and the deprived is only consistent with those feelings of aesthetic sensitivity and common humanity which all liberals profess, but find hard to reconcile with the ravages and needs of profits.

Their truculent upholding of equality and democratic rights is no more than a defence of bourgeois democracy against tyranny and internecine conflict

critical to its survival.

When it comes to things which really do threaten its survival, not to say prosperity—like inflation, strikes and violence—'The Sunday Times' is in absolutely no doubt as to where its class interest lies and a study of its leading articles makes this clear.

It has consistently advocated the toughest possible resistance to 'inflationary' wage claims.

It has championed the reactionary anti-union legislation which, backed by unemployment, is the very centrepiece of Tory economic strategy.

And it has thrown its weight behind the defence of law and order in Ulster, provided only that the cost is not the collapse of bourgeois justice and ultimately democracy.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



GROWING ALARM IN THAILAND AS SAIGON IS THREATENED

The collapse of South Vietnam's armies and the advance of the liberation forces in Cambodia and Laos is being watched with trepidation across the border in Thailand.

Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn's military dictatorship is making desperate preparations to strengthen its own capacity to resist the spread of revolution.

The United States has earmarked another \$15m for Thailand's armed forces, which are already being challenged by peasant guerrillas in the country's western and southern provinces.

The Thai Supreme Command Headquarters has drawn up plans for expansion of the army and air force 'in view of the recent increase in communist terrorist activities mainly in the border areas of Thailand and of serious communist incursions into neighbouring countries'.

It admits that 'military requirements are now straining personnel resources' and its plan includes provision for recruiting more officers and training units to higher standards.

In particular, the air force is being strengthened for a 'ground support' role and the government has ordered all units to 'deal with communist terrorists in the most severe manner to protect the citizens



Top: South Vietnamese troops flee near An Loc. Above: Thanom Kittikachorn of Thailand's military regime

of Thailand, especially those in remote and previously unprotected areas'.

US aid to Kittikachorn is not in the least altruistic. Thailand is a key base for the

giant B52 bombers now attacking North Vietnam and the continuation of the brutal military dictatorship is vital to President Nixon's genocidal plans.

US ESCALATES TRADE WAR WITH JAPAN

The trade conflict between the United States and Japan is expected to intensify over the coming months with the Americans demanding further action to cut Japanese exports.

Despite substantial Japanese trade concessions over the last nine months, the American policy-makers are still far from satisfied with the position. They want further action to reduce the Japanese balance-of-payments surplus, which stood last year at \$3,200m.

US deficit

Tokyo's surplus is Washington's deficit and makes a major contribution to the American balance-of-payments problem. US officials have repeatedly stated that the rest of the world must sacrifice exports and open its markets to American goods in order to rectify the US deficit.

The US has been pursuing this demand with great urgency since August last year, when President Nixon ended the dollar's convertibility with gold and introduced a 10 per cent surcharge on imports.

The surcharge was the first shot in what has since become a world-wide trade war. By shutting off access to the American market and threatening permanent protectionist legislation, Nixon forced the other major capitalist nations to agree to trade concessions.

Japan imposed 'voluntary' curbs on textile imports to the United States, agreed to further relaxation of barriers to imports and revalued the yen by 16.8 per cent. In addition, the Japanese recently agreed to tighten their restrictions on steel exports to the US.

As yet, however, Nixon has little improvement in the terms of trade to show for

his efforts. The US is still running a very big balance-of-payments deficit and the Japanese trade surplus may even increase to close on \$4,000m this year.

One reason for this is that currency changes do not produce quick results in trade terms. And with the election only six months away, Nixon cannot afford to wait.

Last month, for example, he ordered that anti-dumping investigations will be made into any foreign product that failed to reflect changed currency values in its export price. This is aimed at preventing Japanese manufacturers evading the full effects of the yen revaluation.

Part of Nixon's pre-election strategy is the continued encouragement of domestic inflation and his 'easy-money' policy has encouraged a further influx of Japanese goods. At the same time Japan's imports have been cut as industrialists trim their investment programmes to meet the recession.

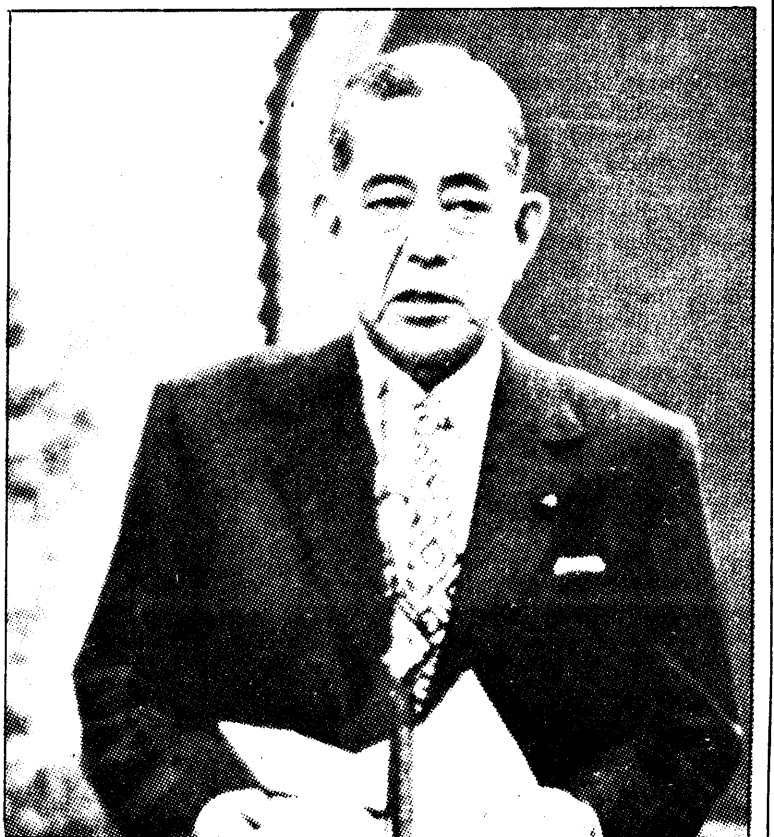
Recession

Already the recession is biting deep into Japanese industry. Company reports out last week show sharp falls in the profits of a number of leading manufacturers. Among them is the Sharp Corporation, a leading electronics company which claims the US measures have cut colour TV exports by 60 per cent.

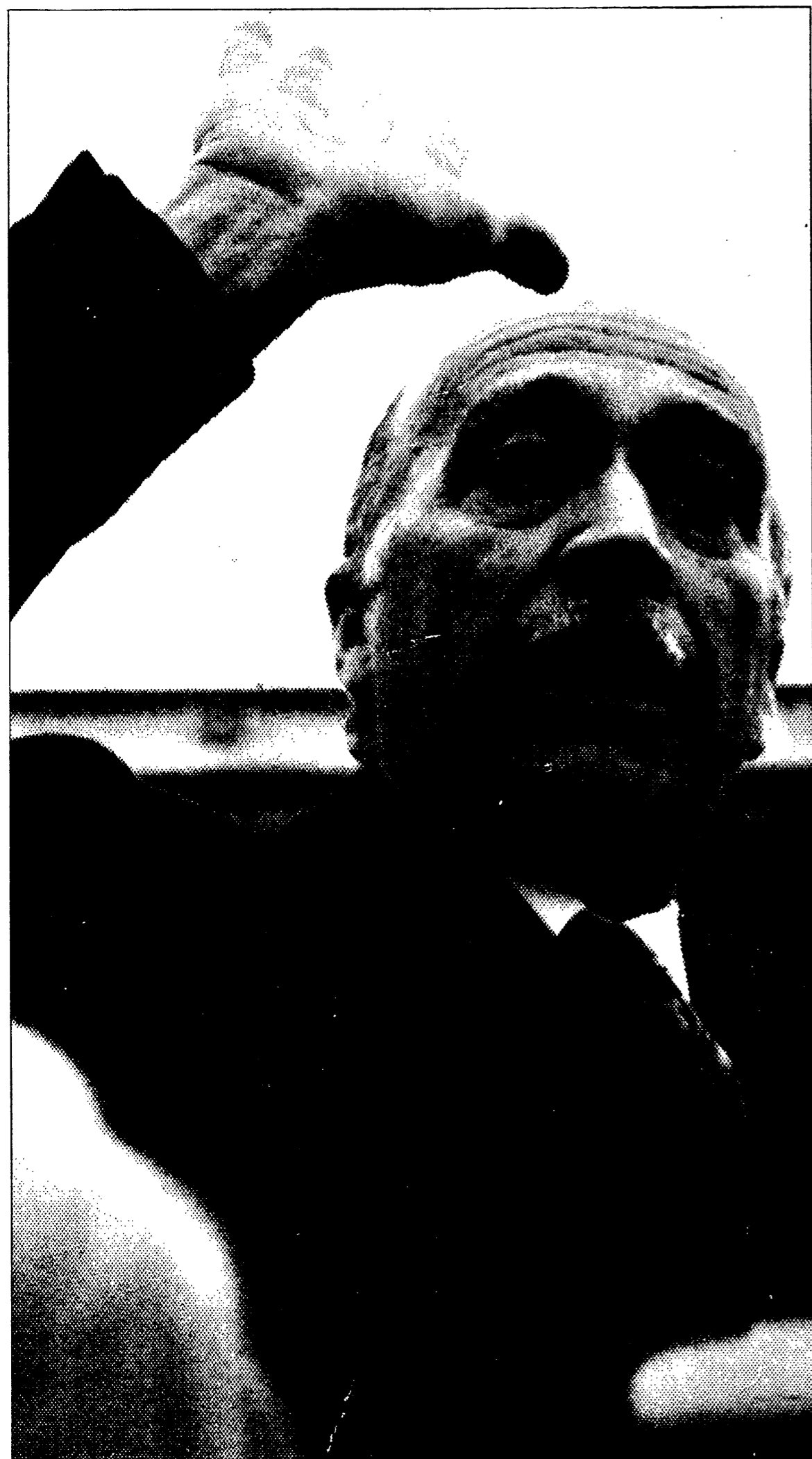
Sharp's sales for the last quarter of 1971 and the first quarter of this year were down 12.6 per cent and the company's income dropped by over 64 per cent. Mitsubishi Metal Mining, one of the country's largest copper firms, saw its sales and profits drop 7 per cent in the last eight months.

Its dividend has been cut from 2.5 to 2 yen a share.

Maruzen Oil profits also fell heavily—by 22 per cent on last year. Only the big banks reported any sizeable increase in profits over the half-year.



Sato, Japan's Prime Minister



MUSSOLINI'S MEN STAGE A COMEBACK

BY JOHN SPENCER

The most significant outcome of the Italian General Election last week was the sweeping gains made by the fascist Italian Social Movement.

This party, which campaigns on an openly corporatist programme and appeals particularly to admirers of the late Benito Mussolini, is now a serious political force, with 56 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 26 in the Senate.

Giorgio Almirante, its leader, has been receiving the plaudits of Rome's well-heeled socialites ever since the results came through. He had predicted the MSI would double its vote—and he almost achieved this goal.

The MSI campaign, conducted under an umbrella of police protection at a series of provocative meetings in the main Italian towns, was particularly successful in Rome and the South.

It attracted the prestige support of a number of military figures—including Admiral Gino Birindelli, former commander of NATO's Mediterranean fleet. Birindelli was elected in three constituencies and can now nominate two MPs to fill the seats he doesn't want.

The admiral gave up his NATO post to stand in the election 'because I regard this moment as particularly crucial for national life and for NATO'. He added: 'It is a moment in which the fate of the alliance, which even with its imperfections has guaranteed peace for 20 years, could be put in serious danger by the disintegration which seems to have struck our national community.'

Birindelli epitomises that section of the Italian bourgeoisie which seeks a strongman—another Mussolini

—to keep the working class in order at the point of a gun.

Sections of the Italian ruling class have long looked back with nostalgia to the days of the fascist Duce and his 'empire'. But only now have they begun to see a serious prospect of restoring those days again.

Their opportunity comes with the development of great economic crisis in Italy, a situation of falling investment, mounting unemployment and declining industrial profits. Some capitalists, frightened by the upsurge of working-class militancy in a series of violent strike struggles, have been sending their money out of the country.

The economic position has been greatly worsened by the Nixon measures of August 15 last year. The collapse of the world monetary system has hit Italian exports and many big firms are reporting heavy losses.

The situation of Italian industry is described by Renato Lombardi, president of the Employers' Confederation of Industry as 'evident recession'. At the end of last year he said

he could see no signs that the recession was 'bottoming out'.

So bleak is the future for Italian capitalism that at the December 18 currency talks in Washington, the Americans were persuaded to let Italy off with only a 7.5 per cent revaluation of the lira against the dollar.

Other countries were forced to mark up their currencies by as much as 17 per cent. Meanwhile, more than a million workers, concentrated particularly in the economically-deprived southern regions, are condemned to rot in unemployment or scrape a living in a sub-proletariat of 'under-employed'.

The MSI's denunciations of government bureaucracy and mismanagement have a certain appeal to these sections in the absence of any genuine socialist alternative. It is worth noting that the party made its biggest election gains in the South.

These areas have been neglected by the biggest working-class party, the Communist Party, which has made determined efforts to woo the middle class by watering down its programme. The Stalinists

were nowhere to be seen, for example, when the workers of Reggio Calabria engaged in a lengthy struggle with the state authorities a year ago.

The Stalinist-led union, the CGIL, was the last to support the Reggio workers when the first big strike erupted there at the end of 1970. The fascists won the leadership of this movement born of frustration and hatred for the regime by default.

Police and troops were repeatedly used to suppress the Calabrian uprisings and the fascists were able to pose as defenders of the rights of ordinary people against the state.

The MSI's demagogic poses and slogans are only a means to an end, however. What the fascists dream of is the complete subjection of the Italian working class. That is why the MSI leaders have such admiration for the Greek colonels.

Their ties with the Greek regime are extremely close. Young members of the fascist movement are sent to special training camps on the Greek islands and there is much evidence pointing to financial

support from Athens for the MSI.

Two years ago, secret NATO documents were uncovered indicating a plot to stage a Greek-style coup d'etat in Italy and crush the independent organizations of the working class. MSI sympathizers in the officer corps were implicated in the plot.

The revelation of these plans was a setback for the fascists, who like to cultivate an image of pristine patriotism. It was at about this time that the MSI set out to conquer a bigger parliamentary representation and achieve 'respectability' as a recognized parliamentary party.

Its leaders played down their links with the more extreme fascist terror specialists and became zealous advocates of law and order. They directed most of their propaganda against the groups to the left of the Communist Party, accusing them of bombing outrages and demanding more police powers.

In these attempts to smear the left they had the willing assistance of the thoroughly corrupt police authorities.

Milan police turned a blind eye on evidence implicating the fascist group Ordine Nuovo in the bombing of the Agricultural Bank on December 12, 1969.

They tried instead to pin the crime on anarchists.

Pietro Valpreda is still in prison awaiting trial for this offence and another anarchist, Giuseppe Pinelli, is dead after being hurled from a high window at Milan police HQ. Other witnesses have died in mysterious and violent circumstances.

Ordine Nuovo (new order) is closely linked to the MSI, trains its members in the use of sten guns and dynamite and aims at the armed overthrow of the parliamentary system. Some of its members were recently arraigned under a law of 1952 outlawing attempts to revive 'the principles, symbols and methods proper to the dissolved fascist party'.

Similar to the Ordine Nuovo are the so-called 'Mussolini Action Squadrons' which also specialize in terror against the left. Earlier this year, Angelo Angeli, a defector from the MSI who also belonged to the 'action squadron', revealed that

the MSI had organized the bombing of its own headquarters in Milan in order to blame left-wing groups.

Liberal pundits are now trying to dismiss the Italian fascists as having simply 'nuisance value' because the Christian Democrats have refused to take them into a coalition. This is an impermissible illusion. The fascist danger in Italy cannot be measured by the number of parliamentary seats occupied by admirers of Mussolini.

It can be measured only by the intensity of the social and economic crisis of Italian capitalism.

That is what makes the Communist Party's claims to have won a victory in the election so empty and bombastic. Their reformist policies offer no answer to the frustrated middle-class and the unemployed and drive them into the arms of the arch-enemies of socialism and the working class.

Left: Chief of the fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), Giorgio Almirante. Above: MSI youth on torchlight parade in Rome.

1919: THE 'DEFINITIVE' STRIKE

'Throughout the war (1914-1918) members of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) showed their concern as responsible citizens with the momentous issues of the times,' writes union historian Philip S. Bagwell.

And he adds: '... reviewing the whole of the war period it would be true to say that the majority of men showed great restraint in wage demands'.

If they did, it was certainly through no fault of their own. At the height of the war with Germany in November 1917 and as Lenin's Bolshevik party swept the working class to power in Russia an important factor preventing a national rail strike in Britain was the reformist NUR executive.

All over Britain as the railways were denuded of men for the army, as productivity and hours rose, as prices rocketed amid widespread allegations of war profiteering by the capitalists and as wages lagged behind, the railwaymen were demanding action.

District and vigilance councils mushroomed and on March 4, 1917, the railwaymen were making it clear they wanted an immediate 10s rise.

General secretary J. H. Thomas, who had declined Lloyd George's offer of the post of Minister of Labour, or Pensions or Health, and finally Food Controller, in the war-time coalition, was 'extremely reluctant to call a strike while the country was at war'.

Playing on their sense of patriotism Thomas persuaded the men's leaders to accept 5s. By July rank-and-file pressure broke loose again with a demand for a £1-a-week increase.

This time the demand, from a delegate meeting in London, was coupled to calls for a new post-war national programme and equal worker-employer participation on the railway executive.

But the railway companies offered 5s and refused to do more.

J. H. Thomas rushed round to Downing St to plead with Lloyd George to get the railway companies to step up their offer. Otherwise, he said, a national strike could not be averted. Lloyd George ignored him.

In his anxiety to avoid a strike at all costs, Thomas hurried round to the Board of Trade—only to be stonewalled there as well.

There was no alternative left but to whip his own members into line. At a special general meeting in November 1917 he 'pleaded with the meeting not

to resort to extremes'. He told them: 'I will not have the leading of a railway strike on my conscience' and added he would rather 'slide out of my post as general secretary'.

The men remained unmoved and Thomas was once again on the doorstep at No 10, this time pleading with Bonar Law, who was in charge because of Lloyd George's absence on war business.

He told Bonar Law that unless the government put pressure on the rail companies, there was a danger he would lose control of the rank and file. Says Bagwell: 'The companies also saw the danger of control of union affairs passing from the hands of Mr Thomas and the EC to those of more extreme elements in the divisional councils and they agreed to a resumption of negotiations on November 26.'

However, in Liverpool, London and Birkenhead, meetings were organized clamouring for the £1-a-week rise. The companies then refused to talk unless they resumed normal working.

Thomas was on the spot—again. In the emotional tones he reserved for these occasions, he told the special general meeting of November 28 that the union faced 'chaos'. The meeting voted 50 to ten to call off the unofficial action and the companies promptly paid the 5s they had offered in the first place.

Towards the end of September 1918 the whole pantomime was repeated with Thomas travelling to one of the areas worst hit by unofficial strikes—Cardiff—and pleading with the men to 'for God's sake make amends' and go back to work.

On September 26, 1918, in the face of unabated rebellion, he played his trump card—he resigned.

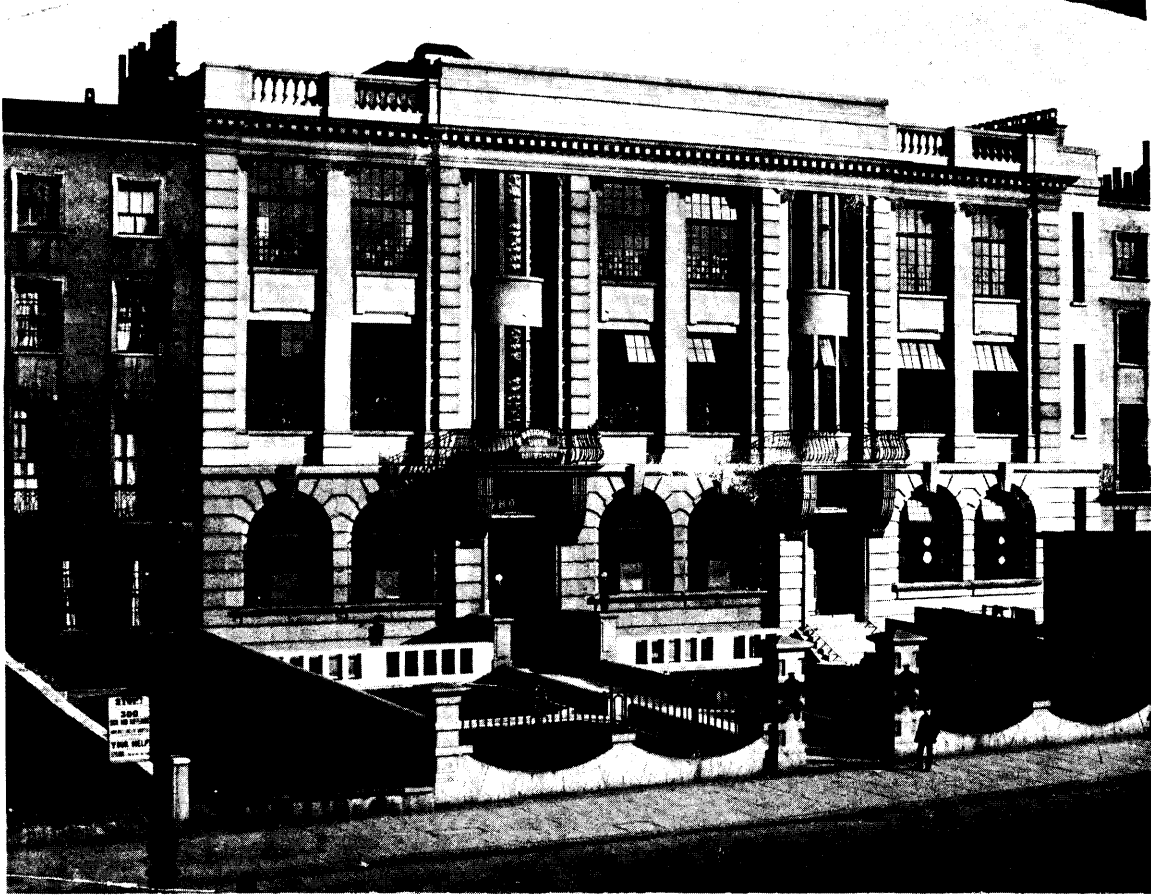
The day before, matters had taken an ugly turn. The government secured an interim injunction prohibiting NUR and ASLEF members from picketing and 2,500 men of the City of London Rifles and the London Rifle Brigade were despatched to Newport, Monmouthshire.

But Thomas's resignation had done the trick. After eight years as general secretary, during which time he had bent over backwards to paint himself the champion of the railwaymen, they invited him to stay on. The unofficial strikes were called off and the railwaymen soldiered on—empty-handed.

If Thomas breathed a sigh of relief that September night, it was short-lived. The new post-war parliament, including 179 company directors, decided its



Top: J. H. Thomas photographed in 1921. Above: Waterloo main line in September 1919 during the strike which Thomas tried to prevent.



Unity House. When the rail unions met, Thomas said they would have to be prepared for a revolution.

first priority was to reduce 'inflated wartime wages'. They prepared for a showdown with the working class. Britain's post-war competitiveness in world markets must be restored at all costs, the government said.

Stocks were built up in shops and warehouses, an emergency transport plan was prepared and Churchill (then chief at the War Office) sent 'secret' messages to reliable army commanders asking them to assess the impact of the Russian Revolution on their men.

By the summer of 1919, 100,000 men in all sections of industry were on strike every day and there were mutinies in the army.

At a special general meeting of the NUR on July 22, 1919, resolutions were passed demanding Churchill's resignation for secret strike-breaking orders he had issued to the army.

A strike for more pay was scheduled to begin on September 26, 1919. Thomas strove to prevent it. Says Bagwell: 'From the frequent negotiations on railwaymen's pay throughout the war, Mr Thomas had never failed to produce a compromise settlement which, while not gaining for the men all they had asked for, had achieved enough to avert a strike.'

Could he pull a rabbit out of the hat once again?

In 11th-hour talks with Lloyd George it was crystal clear that the government would not be satisfied with anything less than a direct cut in wages.

Lloyd George told Thomas: 'Whatever we lay down with regard to the railwaymen you may depend upon it, it is going to be claimed throughout the country and therefore we have to consider not merely your case but the cases of all the other trades in the Kingdom.'

At lunchtime on September 27 the government issued a misleading statement which seemed to imply they would, after all, be willing to talk.

Notes Bagwell: 'Mr Thomas clutched at the straw. He asked for clarification of this offer in the hope of finding a compromise which might justify calling off the strike.'

The misunderstanding was soon cleared up. The government was not willing to talk—except about wage-cuts.

The strike was on. The bourgeois parliament, worried by events in Russia, turned out the army and the police to guard vital installations and protect scab workers. Virtually all of Debrett's peerage suddenly discovered a love for manual work on the railways.

Thomas was obliged to say

something which smacked of defiance. Replying directly to Lloyd George he told the country: 'If the wages of the railwaymen are reduced other trades will follow. This is only the first battle of the campaign.'

But he was careful not to summon the Triple Alliance to challenge the government's class-war talk.

And on September 11, 1919, a meeting of trade unions and the Labour Party at London's Caxton Hall not only described the strike as 'a purely trade union fight for wages and conditions', but for the first time in modern labour history agreed to mediate between the two sides. The offer was not taken up.

On October 5 the strike ended and NUR leaders claimed that the government had climbed down because of the threat that the strike could be extended to other industries.

What in fact had happened was that the union leaders had agreed to terms which gave them next to nothing and which the government could therefore cheerfully sign.

The agreement laid down that wages would stay at existing levels for another year, although talks would go on meanwhile about new rates.

It was not exactly the wage-cut the government had originally wanted, but it was the next best thing. The deal did stipulate a 51s-a-week minimum wage, but many railwaymen earned that anyway. So the numbers affected substantially by this concession would have been small.

Twelve months later Thomas' inimitable skill in saving capitalism for the capitalists was displayed yet again. The miners sounded out the railwaymen's leaders about the possibility of a sympathy strike.

When the rail unions met at Unity House, Thomas painted a grim picture of a sympathetic strike. If they struck, he said, they would have to be prepared not for an industrial strike, or even an industrial upheaval, but for a revolution.

Looking back on Thomas' behaviour that day, Bagwell notes: 'His speeches were more emotional, more extravagant and more defeatist than they had been . . . He said if the railwaymen were to take the plunge it would be the end of the society.'

Nevertheless the government's tough line with the working class was a breeding ground for class solidarity and a resolution supporting the miners was defeated by only one vote.

Thomas went round to Lloyd

George and advised him to start talks with the miners if he wanted to avoid a strike by the Triple Alliance. Once unleashed there was no knowing where it would end. Lloyd George took his advice and strike plans were abandoned.

But the affair did not end there. The miners were being pressed hard on wages and hours and on March 21, 1921, they renewed their call for the backing of the Triple Alliance in their fight against the coal owners.

Says Bagwell: 'There could be no mistaking the fact that the active members of the NUR were deeply sympathetic to the miners and felt their cause a just one.'

'Many also agreed that unless the partners of the Triple Alliance stood together they would be defeated piecemeal.'

Joint action was planned for April 8, 1921, and then postponed until April 15. The government mobilized the army and special defence forces.

J. H. Thomas was sweating on the line. On April 14 his chance came. At a meeting of coalition MPs, miners' leader Frank Hodges made remarks which the MPs took to suggest the miners might be willing to make certain concessions about methods of pay. An MP inquired if the Triple Alliance would agree with Hodges. Thomas 'immediately stood up and declared':

'Yes, I am quite sure the Triple Alliance would support Mr Hodges' action.'

Says Bagwell: 'At three o'clock that afternoon (April 15—the day of the strike) Mr Thomas ran down the steps of Unity House to tell waiting reporters that the Triple Alliance strike was cancelled.' (Our emphasis.)

The miners refused to be bound by Hodges' statements, but Thomas accused them of sabotaging all chance of a settlement and carried the railway and transport leaders with him.

April 15 went down in history as Black Friday—the day on which the miners were abandoned by the other partners of the Triple Alliance and left to fight on alone until July 1, 1921.

The gap between aspiration and achievement had been closed.

Observes Bagwell: 'Mr Thomas received critical and abusive letters after every settlement in which he was involved, but on his own confession he received far more than the usual number on this occasion.'

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Battle for the Lords

At the Scarborough conference of the General and Municipal Workers' Union in June, there is a stiff resolution down calling for the abolition of the House of Lords.

In some quarters the resolution is being read as a piece of very unsubtle criticism of the present leader of the union, Lord Cooper of Stockton Heath.

It came as no surprise, however, to read a letter to the editor in the last issue of the G&MWU 'Journal' praising peerages.

After paying tribute to Tudor Watkins, Labour MP, who has just been made a peer, the writer says: 'It is still gratifying that in our union from humble beginnings we have a few lords.'

Who was this sterling member of the union coming to the defence of his leader? Mr G. A. Reeves, regional secretary for the south-western division.

Mr Reeves already wears an MBE and JP after his name. He's obviously aiming for the big time. Hail, Lord Reeves of Cardiff?



Lord Cooper: leads the General and Municipal Workers' Union

SS Spies

Social Security spies had better watch their step in South Shields. It appears that the SS men have been asking trade union branch secretaries of the AUEW for particulars of any of their members involved in the recent miners' strike who received strike pay. The answer by the local unionists is believed to have been unprintable.

Sinister

Teacher knows best. Or does he? A report is being prepared by the National Association of Schoolmasters on the growth of 'revolution' among schoolchildren.

Ron Cockling, a Birmingham headmaster and immediate past-president of the NAS, says the sinister influences at work are trying 'to use their idealism in a disruptive cause'.

Cockling goes on: 'They are anarchist groups in the Maoist tradition.' Sounds like a load of Cockling to me.

Ripe tomato

Smart men in Moscow will be wearing golden-beige, pale yellow, brown, olive, ripe tomato, cherry, blue and dark blue, as well as black, reddish-brown, orange, violet and azure blue this season.

Straight shoulders with light padding and medium length jackets with slim-cut trousers will be the symbols of Soviet elegance. Brightly coloured ties with loose knots will single out the really well-dressed man. Designers of ties will really let themselves go with a wide range of floral, carpet and geometric patterns.

This important sartorial information was conveyed to an anxious public in a recent home service broadcast of Moscow radio.

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CONTINUED TOMORROW

Fight to represent hello girls

THE Telecommunications Staff Association will be making a fresh bid next week to try and break the Union of Post Office Workers' right to represent telephonists.

The TSA's East London branch—covering exchanges at Upton Park, Forest Gate, Romford, Dagenham and Wanstead—are bringing three more applications before the Industrial Tribunal on May 23.

Registered under the Industrial Relations Act, the TSA replaced the National Guild of Telephonists which collapsed in 1970 after the Post Office withdrew recognition of it in favour of the UPW.

Supporters of the Guild angered the UPW members when many of them refused to join the bitter eight-week strike, crossing picket lines to reach the exchanges.

But the vast majority of the 53,000 telephonists who are UPW members were solid behind the strike.

The whole issue will come before the National Industrial Relations Court shortly and the UPW said it will put up a defence against the TSA.

The UPW is likely to receive backing from the Post Office, which says it is satisfied that the UPW adequately represents telecommunications workers.

'In effect we shall join with the UPW to fight this claim for recognition by the TSA,' a spokesman said.

AN AREA-wide work-to-rule by North East engineers in support of their pay claim due to begin yesterday was threatened by a split between the unions involved. Boilermakers' shop stewards in Newcastle have decided to call for the reopening of national negotiations and to abandon sanctions on piecework. George Arnold, AUEW divisional organizer, said the boilermakers were rocking the boat.

Railmen want debate, but

Court case silences discussion

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DEMANDS from delegates at the annual conference of the Transport and Salaried Staffs Association at Torquay for a full debate on the rail crisis were turned down by general secretary Percy Coldrick yesterday.

He told conference: 'I am advised that it would be most improper to comment on these matters while the union appeal is being heard. Legal advice is that the whole matter is sub judice and therefore together we must wait a little while.'

He promised a full debate as soon as possible. 'Your executive have spared no effort in attempting to carry out the policies laid down by this conference.'

And TSSA president, Labour MP Tom Bradley, asked if they could hold the debate in camera, said that 500 people could hardly be regarded as a private meeting.

Earlier Mr Bradley told delegates:

'If free bargaining had been allowed to prevail there can be no doubt that this dispute would have ended weeks ago and peace would prevail in the industry.'

But a genuine industrial dispute had been transformed into a calculated political conflict, he said.

LEADING shop stewards from NUR, ASLEF and TSSA have agreed to form a liaison committee in Preston, Lancs, and to meet regularly.

The shop stewards from the three unions have decided that locally they must settle their differences and work together to fight the Industrial Relations Act.

'We hope that other shop stewards in other industries will work on the same guidelines by forming similar committees', said a leading NUR shop steward.

They agreed to back their executive in the present crisis, while at the same time pushing them to take a more militant attitude towards the Tory government and the National Industrial Relations Court.

'In 14 years of national negotiations I have never known anything quite like it,' he said.

They had met new men on the management side, but there were no new ideas.

'No recognition that we are operating in a business riddled with the psychology of redundancy; no particular acknowledgement of past co-operation in one of the fastest run-downs of a major British industry.'

'A near 60 per cent reduction in staff since 1959 without friction is surely entitled to some appreciation.'

Walk-out discussed

WORKERS at 'C' shop, English Electric, Liverpool, met yesterday to discuss a walk-out last Friday after two men had been sent home for refusing to work their dinner hour. Since their return from strike a week ago, they claim management has applied a 'get-tough' policy.

They say they have been told to work faster, although their work targets have been lowered. They have also had a new bonus scheme imposed on them.



TSSA secretary Percy Coldrick (r) seen with ASLEF secretary Ray Buckton (l) outside NUR headquarters recently

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Recall TUC

MIDDLESBROUGH trades council is to ask the TUC to call a special Congress to reaffirm its earlier policy of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act. A motion for the recall from the Technical and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers was accepted by the council.

Ford's, Dagenham, 1/667 branch of the T&GWU passed two resolutions at the weekend calling for the recall of the union's delegate conference and also the TUC to reaffirm its policy of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act and to take to task those who have co-operated.

Tin plant workers seek parity

SHOP STEWARDS at Read's Tin Works, Bull Lane, Liverpool, have set up a strike committee.

General and Municipal Workers' Union shift workers at the plant have been on strike since May 3 in support of their demand for parity of shift rates for all hourly-paid workers.

Present rates are: general workers £4 for two shifts, £8 for nights; craft workers £6 for two shifts, £18 for nights.

The strikers claim white collar workers were told to man the fork-lift trucks and machinery at the beginning of the strike.

Because of this the fork-lift drivers also walked out.

Last Friday, following a mass meeting which carried a unanimous vote to continue the strike, management sent letters to all the strikers warning against lost orders and enclosing ballot papers to find out 'the real view of the employees who are absent'.

These were generally ignored or burnt. Despite these attempts, however, the men say the strike has remained solid.

WORK has begun at the Swan Hunter's Wallsend ship repair yard on two ships diverted from the Falmouth yard of Silley Cox and Company where there is a pay dispute. The ships represent £100,000 worth of work. A shop steward at the yard commented that they usually would work on a ship from a dispute-bound yard if it had never actually entered the yard.

Investment pays miners

MINERS at two Kent pits have been wondering why their colleagues at Betteshanger colliery received an extra £2 in their May 5 pay packets—from their union.

The mystery was cleared up yesterday when Betteshanger NUM branch secretary Joe Bell told me:

'Our branch has several thousand pounds invested. When I asked for permission to reinvest, one branch member moved that since we had the surplus we should refund some of it to the men.'

The idea came from Betteshanger secretary and Communist Party member Joe Burke who is one of two challengers to Joe Holmes (Tilmanstone branch secretary) in the election on May 24 for president of Kent area NUM executive. The other candidate is Snowdown miner Peter Yore.

Police charged

FOUR police officers appeared at St Albans magistrates' court yesterday on summonses alleging assault. Insp. Michael Henry Duke, Sgt Alexander Murray and Constables Robin Eric Bracey and Leonard William German are accused of assaulting Stephen Marriott causing him actual bodily harm on February 26, 1972 and, being concerned together, causing him actual bodily harm. The case was adjourned until June 12.

Scottish Tories slam Davies over steel

TORY Trade and Industry secretary John Davies' 'we can do no more' speech at Perth on Friday has provoked an angry response—from the Party's Scottish executive.

Scottish party secretary Peter Allison accused Davies of 'practically ruling out' the possibility of a major steelworks development at Hunterstone in the Firth of Clyde.

'Failing a major steel-works development at Hunterstone, it is highly likely that 10,000 jobs in the Scottish steel industry will be lost by 1975,' said Allison.

'The executive are of the opinion that the British Steel Corporation is being hamstrung in their plans by the government to such an extent that, in the event of serious competition from West Germany and Japan, Scotland could within a very short period find itself without any steel industry.'

GEC prominent on redundancies list

FOR the fourth month running the giant GEC group figures prominently in the redundancies list. In April, one-third of the work force, 500 workers, at GEC Elliott Automation, Kidsgrove, Staffordshire are due to lose their jobs. This brings redundancies at GEC to more than 5,000 in the past 12 months. Other redundancies this month include 900 workers at the Burroughs machines plants in Cumbernauld and Strathleven in Scotland.

Company	Main location	Category	Number
Burroughs	Cumbernauld & Strathleven, Scotland	Business machines	900
GEC-Elliott Automation	Kidsgrove, Staffs	Process controls	500
Imperial Typewriter	Hull	part-time women employees	500
British Steel Corp.	E London	kegs and drums	140
Ex-Cell-O (England)	Leicester	machine tools	80
Litton Mills	Bakewell, Derby	yarn makers	62
Pirelli	Carlisle	tyres	51

Heath to join Concorde flyers

THE PRIME MINISTER is expected to announce today that he will make a flight in the Anglo-French supersonic Concorde this week.

There was no confirmation from 10 Downing St that Heath would make the flight, but there has been considerable pressure on him to give the project his personal stamp of approval.

It seems likely that his first supersonic trip will be made from Concorde's Fairfield, Glos, base on Friday.

Already President Pompidou of France, Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon have flown in the plane and the Duke of Edinburgh has taken the controls.

Lorry drivers take on Industrial Relations Act

SHOP stewards representing over 10,000 London lorry drivers said at the weekend that they were prepared to take industrial action against the Industrial Relations Act.

The 50 stewards belong to the

road transport commercial section of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

A statement after the meeting on Sunday added they would be prepared to strike in defence of any steward or union official victimized for carrying out the union's instructions.

Dock jobs cut—on the cheap

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

FIGURES just revealed in parliament show the huge redundancies which have been forced on the docks in the past few years.

In London, for example, there were more than 22,000 dockers four years ago, while today there are only 15,433. And under plans recently announced by the Port of London Authority, a further 1,200 jobs will go this year.

The figures given by junior Employment Minister Dudley Smith were based on statistics supplied by the National Dock Labour Board.

The table of figures released in parliament is printed here.

The further rundown on London docks can be seen in the number of men accepting voluntary redundancy.

The severance offer was increased two months ago from £1,800 to £2,330. Since then 1,030 men have volunteered to leave the docks.

At the end of this week 800 of the 1,030 will formally receive notice to quit the industry.

The new offer is open to lightermen as well as dockers and tally clerks. But it is dockers who

are showing the greatest interest in the scheme.

The large number accepting voluntary redundancies is further condemnation of the Communist Party leadership on London docks. They are refusing to put up any principled fight against the contraction of the docks industry.

For the port employers, £2,330 is a cheap price to pay for reducing labour. They want the London dockers intimidated by unemployment and more viciously exploited. If the present rate of redundancies continues, the employers will soon have one docker doing the working previously done by two.

	employed 4 years ago	employed last year	employed now
London	22,000	17,167	15,433
Liverpool	11,771	10,331	10,116
Manchester	2,020	1,841	1,518
Hull	3,912	2,790	2,571
Southampton	2,061	2,209	2,196

Defence Minister to form Turkish

Cabinet

TURKISH President Cevdet Sunay yesterday asked Defence Minister Ferit Melen to form a new government after his weekend rejection of a cabinet put forward by Suat Hayri Urganlu.

It is understood that Urganlu's cabinet, which included representatives of the extreme right and left, did not meet with military approval.

The military threatened to seize power in March in a bid to put down mounting unrest among students and workers.

Now they are demanding a centrist government 'above party interests and able to ensure internal security'.

President Sunay clearly expects Melen's government to be more acceptable to the military.

Melen has been acting Prime Minister heading a caretaker cabinet since the resignation of Dr Nihat Erim five weeks ago.

The army has threatened to intervene again if parliament proves unable to appoint an acceptable cabinet.

THE URUGUAYAN parliament yesterday voted 68-56 to authorize the government to extend its 'state of internal war' against the Tupamaros urban guerrillas for 45 days.

The vote climaxed 45 hours of debate during which the 30-day period originally decreed by president Juan Maria Bordaberry expired, at midnight Sunday.

The president had asked for special powers indefinitely but the motion which the legislative assembly finally approved at dawn limited the extension to June 30 unless a public order Bill is adopted in the meantime.

Most of the opposition Blanco Party, plus the left-wing front, voted against. Opposition leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate asserted in the bitter debate that the armed forces wielded too much power.

TV

BBC 1

9.20 The Herbs. 9.38, 2.05 Schools. 12.55 Aelwyd ac Eiddo. 1.30 Along the Trail. 1.45 News, weather. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Animal Magic. 5.20 Motor Mouse. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.45 TELEVISION TOP OF THE FORM. Stranraer v Glasgow.
7.05 TOMORROW'S WORLD.
7.30 FILM: 'SILENT NIGHT, LONELY NIGHT'. Lloyd Bridges, Shirley Jones. To people whose lives have been touched by tragedy meet in New England holiday resort.
9.00 NEWS, Weather.
9.20 LAWRENCE IN CHINA. BBC's Far Eastern correspondent, Anthony Lawrence, visits China.
10.00 24 HOURS.
10.30 FILM 72.
11.00 THE QUEEN IN FRANCE.
11.35 THE BITTER SANDS. Patrick Garland reads from The Desert Fathers by Helen Waddell.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open University. 6.35 Computers in Business. 7.05 Open University.
7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.
8.00 RICH MAN, POOR MAN. Food.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.20, 1.45 Schools. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Simon Locke. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Ladies Who Do'. 8.30 London. 11.40 Gazette. 11.45 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.43 News, weather. 11.47 Teach a man to fish.

SOUTHERN: 2.30 Afternoon. 3.00 Man from Uncle. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Grasshopper island. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Film: 'Yankee Buccaneer'. 8.30 London. 11.15 News. 11.25 Farm progress. 11.55 Weather. Epilogue.

ANGLIA: 2.30 London. 3.15 By-gones. 3.45 Women. 4.10 News. 4.15 Mr Piper. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'McCloud'. 8.30 London. 11.45 Epilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Afternoon. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Simon Locke. 4.40 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Red Tomahawk'. 8.30 London. 11.15 Who knows?

ULSTER: 10.20 Schools. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Daws explores. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Hangman's Knot'. 8.30 London. 11.15 White line.

YORKSHIRE: 10.20 Schools. 2.32 Good afternoon. 3.00 Master Chefs. 3.15 Danger man. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'Destry'. 8.30 London. 11.15 Spy-force. 12.10 Weather.

GRANADA: 10.20 Schools. 2.35 Randall and Hopkirk. 3.30 Messengers. 3.55 Camera. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.25 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 Film: 'Green Hell'. 8.30 London. 11.15 Monty Nash.

TYNE TEES: 10.20, 1.45 Schools. 1.25 Enchanted house. 2.30 Afternoon. 3.00 Master chefs. 3.15 Danger man. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Sean. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'Posse from Hell'. 8.30 London. 11.15 No small change. 11.45 News. 12.00 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 10.20, 1.45 Schools. 3.30 Foo Foo. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Film: 'Sinbad the Sailor'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Report. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 Drive in.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Schools. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Nanny. 4.40 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Strictly Scottish. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Kaleidoscope'. 8.30 London. 11.45 Epilogue.

ITV

10.20, 1.45 Schools. 1.15 Remember. 2.33 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Let's Face It. 3.45 Danger Man. 4.40 Once Upon a Time. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.
6.30 CROSSROADS.
6.55 ALBERT.
7.25 FILM: 'LORNA DOONE'. Richard Greene, Barbara Hale. Movie version of R. D. Blackmore's famous novel about a blood-feud at the time of the Monmouth rebellion.
9.00 CRIME OF PASSION. Modeste.
10.00 NEWS.
10.30 BEATRIX POTTER — THE PRIVATE WORLD. Documentary.
11.15 DRIVE IN.
11.45 ASPECTS OF FAITH.

8.50 WHEELBASE.
9.20 THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII. Jane Seymour.
10.50 NEWS, Weather.
10.55 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. Beach Boys, Magna Carta.

Union girls picket Cheshire firm after sack

SEVEN office girls were yesterday picketing their firm, James Galt and Company, Cheshire, over their dismissal for deciding to join a union.

The girls were employed by the firm last year in a newly-opened computer department, but when the firm sent round staff notices which they considered to be 'petty', the girls decided they would join a union.

The last straw, said punch card operator Elaine James (24) was a ban on smoking introduced without consultation.

She got application forms and about 40 employees joined the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs (APEX).

The day after they told the firm they had joined APEX, the seven girls, who all work in the computer department, were dismissed.

Yesterday, after only two weeks membership, the girls were on picket duty, carrying banners and preventing lorries from delivering supplies to the firm which makes toys and supplies for schools.

Tom Murphy, the union's area organizer commented:

'It is a blatant case of victimization. The other girls who joined at the same time are terrified to join the picket line.'

One girl, Frances Walsh (19) said they were considering action against the firm for wrongful dismissal under the Industrial Relations Act.

Said Major James Offer, one of the Galt directors: 'For internal reasons it was decided to delay the live operation for the computer by three months, which necessitated the dismissal of the personnel concerned.'

WEATHER

NORTHERN IRELAND and Scotland will be mainly dry at first with sunny periods in South and East Scotland. Rain in extreme West and North Scotland will move slowly south eastwards.

England and Wales will be dry with sunny periods except in coastal areas of East Anglia, which will be rather cloudy. Temperatures will be near normal except in South East England and East Anglia where it will be rather cool on windward coasts.

Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: Some rain or showers. Sunny periods. Probably dry at first in South East England. Temperatures near normal.

LATE NEWS

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Blockade: White House split

PRESIDENT Nixon's closest advisers were split over the decision to mine North Vietnamese harbours and escalate bombing operations, according to 'Life' magazine.

In its current issue the magazine says Treasury Secretary John Connally firmly supported the President's decision, but that Henry Kissinger and Defence Secretary Melvin Laird had doubts, as did officials in the State and Defence Departments and the CIA.

During the White House deliberations, 'Life' said: 'Another Nixon aide was heard to mutter, not once but several times, "We ought to nuke 'em"—an allusion to the use of nuclear weapons.'

The reported split demonstrates once again the deep divisions in the US ruling class over the Vietnam war. Despite inflated reports of South Vietnamese 'victories' over the last two days, leading US officers are extremely sceptical that the blockade will bring any military advantage.

Among officers interviewed by Reuter's, Col William Corson, former commander of the Marine

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Corps 'pacification' effort in the first sector of South Vietnam, said bombing and mining were 'insufficient by themselves'.

He said the South Vietnamese military and government were suffering from 'a terminal illness' and added that in his view the North Vietnamese were 'going to win'.

According to his information, he said, only 5 per cent of North Vietnam's supplies came in by sea, and the US bombing effort was ineffective anyway.

The air force had been trying to hit a bridge on the railway line to China for three years, he said, and 'last week they managed to hit it with one bomb'.

Hanoi Radio yesterday described as 'farical' a report that a North Vietnamese regi-

ment had been destroyed as an effective fighting force by government marines in Quang Tri province.

'The whole of this account was in fact absolutely ridiculous and was a shameless farce invented by the psy-war (psychological warfare) department of the US', the radio said.

It said marines dropped into the liberated area had been halted by liberation forces and some 100 put out of action. 'The remainder ran for their lives and did not come back to their starting point until eight hours later in disarray and fighting in confusion.'

Preparations for Nixon's visit to Moscow are going ahead and Washington is confident that the visit will take place as planned.

State Department spokesmen refused to comment on persistent rumours that the mines blockading the North Vietnamese harbours are fused to deactivate themselves on the eve of the Moscow summit.

The ports could be mined again if the Moscow talks were inconclusive, the 'New York Times' speculated. According to Moscow Radio, eight Soviet vessels are on their way to Haiphong through the Atlantic and Indian oceans.

The rumours that the mines are set to deactivate themselves give added point to speculation that Nixon's primary object in escalating the war against the North is to put pressure on the Kremlin. Moscow is plainly anxious for the talks to continue despite the flagrant American provocation.

Clashes as Okinawa is handed over

OKINAWA was handed back to Japan yesterday after 27 years under American control—but in the Japanese capital 33,000 demonstrators marched against the United States retaining military bases on the island.

Police estimated that 200,000 people would be joining protest

rallies throughout mainland Japan and 12,000 Okinawans would also hold demonstrations. A powerful guard of riot police watched over the handing-over ceremony in Tokyo as police battled in the streets with demonstrators hurling petrol bombs.

Other demonstrators marched past the US embassy calling for

the Americans to get out of Okinawa, Japan and Asia. They shouted slogans against the Vietnam war and the mining of North Vietnamese ports.

Okinawa has been under American control since the war and is one of the largest US bases in Asia. Under the Reversion Treaty, the US will retain most of its forces on the island.

Right-wing teachers blame unions for pupils' revolt

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE RIGHT-WING Professional Association of School Teachers has claimed that schoolteachers are responsible for recent demonstrations by pupils.

The 3,600-strong Association which is pledged to a no-strike policy claimed that schoolchildren who go on strike were

merely following their teachers' example.

'Members of both the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters have been on strike in recent years,' they said.

'Children follow the example of their teachers outside the classroom as well as in it. If they see two large teachers' organizations taking up militant postures, then they are bound to draw

their own conclusions.'

The statement went on: 'It is high time that teachers who favour strikes and similar actions realized the damage they are doing. Society as a whole will suffer if our schools turn out young people who regard it as perfectly reasonable to throw their weight around to get what they want.'

● See WHAT WE THINK.

Dyers' cancer fear

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers has dealt with several claims from members who say they've been affected by the dyes.

The union's annual conference meeting in Blackpool this week has called for the banning of any dyes found to be injurious to textile workers.

THE HIGHER incidence of bladder cancer among workers in the dyeing trade could be the result of suspect new chemicals being used in the industry.

The 35,000 workers in the trade are increasingly worried about the toxic effects of certain chemicals used in the dyes.

Already the National Union of

A special study is already under way to look into the incidence of bladder cancer among dye workers. So far the links between the new chemicals and ill health have not concretely been established.

But the union has found the problem generally increasing in scope because of changes in fashion trends which have led to new dyes being introduced almost overnight.

STILL AVAILABLE

TWO PAMPHLETS AND A MAGAZINE

'Fourth International' is the journal of international Marxism published by the International Committee of the Fourth International. 25p (post 3p)

'We Demand the Right to Work' is a fully documented and illustrated account of the five Young Socialist Right-to-Work marches throughout Britain. 15p. (Post 3p)

'The Social Security Swindle' by Bernard Franks. A useful handbook in the SLL pocket library series on state restrictions on social security. 5p. (Post 2p)

All three available from: New Park Publications, 186a, Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG.

TORIES ATTACK THE UNEMPLOYED

The Social Security Swindle



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Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.