

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 1972 ● No. 767 ● 4p

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She was called to order by the Speaker.

Earlier Mrs Short had asked how a railwayman taking home £14.10 a week could face the present situation of rising food prices. In his reply Prior said that since last July there had been a marked fall. When he revealed the increase William Price (Labour, Rugby) asked:

'Aren't you ashamed of that answer? Don't you understand what that figure means to millions of pensioners and low-paid workers in this country who regard you as the biggest disaster in this government in spite of all the competition?'

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Morris Finer, QC, for the white collar union TSSA, challenged the court's impartiality. The government,

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BY STEPHEN JOHNS

he said, had 'put a hammer in the hands of the National Industrial Relations Court.

'If the hammer descends, the muscle which moves it is largely, and almost exclusively, the muscle of the government,' he said.

He pointed to the extraordinary nature of the case which dealt not with a battle between employer and employees, but employees and government under an emergency procedure.

He also highlighted the unique powers of the court over law and industrial life.

'It is a very unusual thing in our law to have a special court created for a very particular Act of Parliament. It might make some lawyers think there is a good deal in the old system of keeping courts general.'

Continuing his ten-hour address, he went on to imply the NIRC had a

bias towards the Industrial Relations Act:

'... one thing is clear. It is inevitable when you create a special court that the court seems to get a vested interest in the Act. And if the Act is one which happens to embody a very highly controversial policy, the court almost inevitably is put in a situation in which from the public point of view, it seems to be, as it were, committed.'

Mr Finer warned of the grave nature of the decisions the court was making. The Act, he said, had virtually been created overnight.

'It is not an organic part of our law. It has grown very little. It contains an enormously complex set of laws which have been created virtually overnight with very little historical precedent.'

'It is of utmost importance how these first cases are dealt with.'

The case, being heard before Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, Lord Justice Buckley and Lord Justice Roskill, is expected to end tomorrow



GEC end work-to-rule

THE 3,500 shop floor workers at the Trafford Park, plant of GEC-AEI ended their eight-week-old work-to-rule and piecework ban yesterday so that negotiations can go

over pay and holidays. But shop stewards say they will continue their ban on overtime because the firm refuses to negotiate on reducing the working week.

First to sit-in in the greater Manchester area and still going for the full demands—the men at the Bredbury steelworks maintain a 24-hour occupation of the Stockport plant.

Hours retreat but Bredbury fight on

OVER 900 workers at GKN's Bredbury steel works in Stockport, Lancs, yesterday held firm on the three points of the engineering industry pay claim in greater Manchester. This was despite the set-back to the district-wide action which came on Monday when a mass meeting of shop stewards agreed that normal working could be resumed in Manchester factories if management offered pay increases and longer holidays.

This amounted to a retreat on the key demand of the claim for a shorter working week—one on which the employers in the area have been sticking firm.

A spokesman for the Bredbury men—who began the action ten weeks ago when they occupied their plant—said: 'We are sticking it out, we've been battling this out too long to accept the firm's latest offer of £3.50.'

The spokesman said there was 'bitter feeling' among the men over a circular sent out by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' executive which made it clear that the hours demand was no longer a top priority.

This was a major factor in persuading shop stewards to adopt the 'new tactic' of allowing a resumption of normal working where firms offered substantial wage increases and longer annual holidays.

The demand for shorter hours will still be pressed by an overtime ban—but this is hardly a threat to Manchester employers.

An overtime ban operated throughout the district before

the dispute began on March 27 and some plants are on short time anyway.

Union officials in the area who have campaigned in the past against any resumption of normal work without a concession on hours, say they had little choice in adopting the new course.

The AUEW circular, the settlement in the shipbuilding industry on wages steered through by boilermakers' leader Danny McGarvey, and similar agreements in parts of the British Steel Corporation and ICI have all weakened the original three-point claim.

AUEW district organizer for Manchester, John Focher, said yesterday that the battle for shorter hours had not been abandoned. He said the number of deals signed by firms which included concessions on pay, hours and holidays had reached 45.

The Manchester action—part of the original national engineers' pay claim—began with a district-wide ban on piecework. This led to sit-in strikes by workers when management attempted to lock them out of their factories.

workers press

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WHAT WE THINK

THE ANATOMY OF NIRC

WHILE the Queen fascinates the French rulers with her boring homilies and her flashing tiaras the British ruling class is fighting a desperate—and losing battle—to remain in the trade war.

Despite Sir John Donaldson's determined efforts to improve production by stemming wage increases and disciplining shop stewards through the National Industrial Relations Court the fact is that industrial production continues to fall and the shadow of devaluation grows menacingly larger.

The 'Daily Telegraph', which recently called for an extension of the Industrial Relations Act and the implementation of a 'social contract' to bind individual workers to the state, is extremely worried. In an editorial entitled 'Shades of Weimar', the 'Telegraph' laments:

'The government has in any case already sold the pass, in so far as wage inflation at 12-14 per cent a year after the miners' and railwaymen's wage settlements must inevitably mean price inflation at around 10 per cent annually. Productivity can hardly improve at more than 4 per cent a year within the foreseeable future. The low state of businessmen's morale, and their consequent unwillingness to invest heavily, is shown by the latest surveys and company reports.'

To all this the 'Telegraph' adds the poor balance-of-payments figures, massive rises in British export prices, fall in volume of exports and 'endemic labour troubles' leading to a sizeable increase in foreign car imports—even before Common Market entry.

The austere 'Economist' was even more outspoken: 'We are being driven towards a Weimar situation where a pound at the beginning of your career will be worth less than a penny during your retirement.'

The 'Daily Mail' spoke figuratively: 'Once before this century we've seen it happen . . . in Germany under the Weimar Republic when working men wheeled their worthless wages home in barrows.'

'The Guardian' just as gloomily predicts: 'After the appalling April trade figures, no one seems to doubt any more that the pound will be devalued again quite soon. . . .'

'The gnomes of Zurich seem to expect a 10 per cent move in December, and gave Mr Geoffrey Rippon an unpleasant few minutes last week questioning him about it. . . .'

(Naming a day for the next devaluation—Anthony Harris May 15, 1972.)

If this is what the Queen meant when she told Pompidou 'we may drive on different sides of the road, but we are going the same way', there is little doubt that the French bankers—arch-believers in monetary discipline in others—are going to take a very dim view of British entry into the Common Market.

Behind these dismal figures is the continuing resistance of the working class to the corporatist measures of the Tories and a growing determination to defend democratic rights despite the cowardly and treacherous retreats of union leaders.

If devaluation now seems inevitable as a means to recoup part of Britain's declining share of world exports, it is largely because the Tories realize that decisions and decrees of NIRC alone cannot halt the resistance of the trade unions to inflation and wage cutting.

At the same time Nixon's August 15, 1971, measures and the consequent devaluation of the dollar compound the underlying uncompetitiveness of British industry and bring nearer the prospect of massive deficits followed by further devaluations. As the 'Telegraph' editorial concluded: 'If present trends continue, the pound will go the way of the German mark under the Weimar Republic. The writing is on the wall.'

While the Tories prepare for devaluation—and advertise the fact in advance to prevent the avalanche of speculation that hit sterling in 1967—they have no intention of conceding anything more to the workers.

If their policy of wage norms is to work, if the NIRC's writ is to run unimpeded and if further devaluations are to be avoided then the Tories have no other course but to take on the working class in a sharp and sudden attack and defeat it. And if such a provocation fails, they will retire to new positions and prepare for civil war.

The Weimar Republic led to the Third Reich of Hitler because the reformist and Stalinist leaderships of the working class failed to produce a socialist alternative to inflation, unemployment and the fraud of bourgeois democracy.

The present leaders of British labour are treading the same road taken by the German labour leaders in Weimar—but with this important difference: Today there exists a Trotskyist movement and a daily press which has assimilated the lessons of Weimar and is determined to build the revolutionary alternative to Stalinism and reformism.



North Vietnamese troops now threaten Hué, Kontum and An Loc

Nixon's Moscow trip still on: Fear of secret sell-out

PRESIDENT Nixon's visit to Moscow is on despite the blockade and terror bombing of North Vietnam.

Patricia Nixon, the President's wife, gave reporters the first firm indication that the trip was going ahead at a ceremony in the White House on Monday.

While the Soviet bureaucrats prepare to trade secret diplomacy with the American leader, North Vietnam is being subjected to the worst - ever aerial bombardment.

BY OUR FOREIGN DESK

Washington revealed on Monday that the rivers of North Vietnam had been mined, as well as the ports, to prevent inland transport of supplies by water.

And yesterday Saigon reported US bombers had cut the main pipeline carrying fuel from the North across the Demilitarized Zone to Quang Tri province.

A command spokesman said that from May 8 to May 15 US pilots had flown 1,800 sorties

against the North, destroying buildings, bridges, airfields, railway lines, missile sites, port facilities and vehicles.

The most serious targets of all, however, are the Red River dykes.

Two dykes were seriously damaged in raids last week and with the monsoon season opening, the destruction of these waterways could unleash devastat-

ing floods in the Hanoi area.

William Rogers, the US Secretary of State, claimed on Monday that the blockade and bombing could well lead to a negotiated settlement—an ominous statement in view of the forthcoming secret talks in Moscow.

Fear of a Soviet-sponsored sell-out in Vietnam may well have been one of the main motives for the current offensive by the liberation forces, which are now threatening three key cities—Hué, Kontum and An Loc—all provincial capitals.

Military governor for Madagascar capital

TANANARIVE, capital of the Malagasy Republic, was put under a military governor yesterday as President Tsiranana tried to reassert his authority after four days of clashes and demonstrations.

The new governor, appointed on a provisional basis according to an official announcement, is Army Brigadier General Gilles Andriamahazo. His appointment took effect immediately.

The huge demonstration against the government in Tananarive on Monday has seriously shaken Tsiranana's rule. A rabid anti-communist, the president favours dialogue with South Africa and his government is closely tied to France, the former colonial power.

One of the chief demands of the three-week student strike which precipitated the crisis was for the 'decolonization' of the educational system, still controlled to a considerable extent by the French Ministry of Education.

The student demands were backed by the most militant trade union, the FISEMA (Federation des Syndicats Malgaches), whose members took part in a demonstration on Friday which was fired on by police.

The demonstrators also called for the annulment of the co-operation agreements between France and Madagascar, which allow the French government to station over 3,500 troops on the island. One of the slogans raised on the demonstration was: 'Co-operation agreements are slave agreements.'

In the background of the crisis in Madagascar is the worsening international economic situation.

The prices of the island's staple exports—mainly agricultural produce—are falling, the cost of living is rising and unemployment is growing.

Just over a year ago, Tsiranana used great brutality to put down a peasant uprising in the south of the island, blaming the rising on 'Maoist elements' and killing several hundred peasants and youth.

At the weekend, he threatened equal brutality against the 'communist agitators' who he claimed were organizing the current unrest.

His appointment of Brigadier-General Andriamahazo is a sinister indication of further repression to come.

Dockers' leaders back out of Nixon fight

DOCKERS' leaders on the United States West coast have backed down from a fight with the Nixon government over pay.

The West coast longshoremen's union and dock employers announced on Monday they had reached agreement on pay scales dictated by the Federal Pay Board.

This means the union, headed by former Stalinist Harry Bridges, has accepted an order from the Pay Board cutting a

recent 21 per cent pay rise to 15 per cent.

Bridges had earlier asked his members to stand by for joint action with East coast dockers 'if the Pay Board cuts back our negotiated settlement'. The Pay Board has cut rises achieved after prolonged strike action on both coasts.

However, East coast dockers' leader Thomas Gleason failed to support the West coast in organizing a national shut-down, giving Bridges the excuse he needed to back down.

Freedom concert arrests

ATHENS security police made several arrests on Monday when about 200 Athens university students shouted anti-government slogans and sang a song calling for freedom during a demonstration after a concert.

The concert, attended by 5,000 students and former cabinet ministers who are opponents of the regime, was organized by an Association of Students from Crete.

Firemen demand TUC recall

THE FIRE Brigades Union has called for a special conference of the TUC to reaffirm the policy of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act.

The union's annual conference last week also carried resolutions calling for the defeat of the Tory government and its replacement with a 'socialist Labour government'.

The seconder of this motion called for a General Strike as the way to force the Tories to resign.

The union's executive was defeated on two attempts to change union procedure. They wanted conference to meet once every two years instead of every year and recommended that verbatim reports of conference be discontinued.

But both suggestions were heavily defeated by the delegates.

Meetings in June on Lincoln sackings

ASSOCIATION of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs members at Lincoln's Dorman Diesels plant have voted by 35 to 28 to continue their strike for 'fair' redundancies.

Previously the vote had been 100 per cent in favour. The union told management that it would secure a return to work on acceptance of a three-point agreement. The management has not accepted.

On June 1 there will be an area ASTMS meeting in which support will be sought from other members of the union in the GEC combine. On June 5 a meeting with other unions will be held to decide on joint policies against redundancies.

ASTMS delegates will call for supporting action if further redundancies are announced.

It is commonly accepted that sackings feared in other sections will probably occur before the proposed meetings.

As one picket commented: 'It's no good waiting to get your head cut off before fighting.'

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).

ACTON: Monday May 29, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Rd.

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

Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

BY PHILIP WADE

Our Housing Correspondent

JUST OVER two years ago thousands of Greater London Council tenants went on rent strike against the imposition of yet another 50p increase.

The point of strongest resistance to GLC plans was Poplar in East London. Tenants on several estates in the area staged marches and demonstrated outside the GLC's headquarters.

Those to hold out last were tenants on the Lincoln Estate. But eventually the GLC isolated them, took some tenants to court and won. The rent strike was finished.

Now the tenants are preparing once more for battle with Britain's most powerful Tory-controlled local authority. With the backing of the Tory government and the Housing Finance Bill, the GLC intends to raise the rents £1 in October.

'Nine years ago when I moved in here I was paying £3.50 a week. Since then it has doubled to over £7,' secretary of the Lincoln Tenants' Association Ron Dunn told me.

'And that's for living in a concrete jungle with a fine view of the railways and gas-works!

'But where does it all stop. Where's the finishing line? This government freezes your wages at 8 per cent. Any increase on this level is soon swallowed up by rent and rate increases without taking price rises into account.

'There's no doubt this new Rent Bill will make hardship more general on this estate. At the moment you have some tenants in rent arrears and this will increase.

'What are they going to do with people who can't pay—evict them? Put them on the streets?

'It's no use the Tory government saying the Bill gives you more opportunity if you have less money to spend.

'As for the means test I've never been one for them. They are an invasion of private rights—but they are forcing people's hands by putting the rents up so high. According to Tory thinking, workers are not

Tenants would follow if trade unions led

SAYS POPLAR TENANTS LEADER RON DUNN

entitled to have anything at all. We are the serfs and that's the way they want us to stay.

'As for the campaign against the Bill, the big weakness seems to be people wanting to wait for the return of a Labour government to repeal it.

'One of the main troubles behind this I suppose is that there is no leadership of the movement as a whole and you certainly need one.

'We need 250,000 GLC tenants to say no. But where does the leadership come from for that? The Labour Party should give



a lead on it; they should organize the fight.

'As for the trade unions, most tenants are members of one,' said Mr Dunn, himself a member of NATKE, the film and theatre union, working at the BBC.

'I suppose a General Strike by all workers, not just dockers and railwaymen would stop the Tories. Tenants would follow the trade unions if a lead was given and there was a meaning behind it.

'There are many things to be done. Time is running out and we mustn't leave it too late.'



Part of the Lincoln Estate, Poplar

Slums: NW optimism

THE NORTH WEST'S slum problem could be eliminated within the next seven to ten years, it was claimed yesterday.

Slum clearance operations in the region were at a 'remarkably buoyant level', John Boynton, chairman of the North West Economic Council told a press conference.

Some 6,000 private houses were completed in the area in the first quarter of 1972 compared with 3,343 public authority dwellings.

Public sector scapegoats

WAGE-PRICE policies of successive governments have made scapegoats of workers in the public sector, the Society of Civil Servants' chairman Cyril Emerson told his conference yesterday.

Much of the lack of confidence in the present system of negotiation stemmed from the actions of governments who interfered with the machinery and broke agreements made with them.

Speaking about the 1971 pay negotiations, general secretary John Dryden said they were held up for two months between the presentation of the union's case and the official reply.

'Wild rumours were fed by leaks of an unparalleled kind from official sources,' he claimed, adding that information 'could have prejudiced negotiations which had yet to take place.'

CBI enthusiastic over wages council

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

HEAD of the Confederation of British Industry, Sir John Partridge, has taken up premier Edward Heath's call for a voluntary wages and disputes council.

Heath made the appeal last Saturday when addressing the annual Scottish Tory Party conference.

At the CBI annual dinner at the Hilton last night Partridge said the creation of such a body would help bring about 'reasonable settlements'.

The proposed body, comprising industrialists, the TUC and consumer bodies, would be 'independent of both management and trade unions', he said. 'Yet it would be their creation, rather than something imposed as a last-ditch experiment.'

And in an obvious flirtation with TUC general secretary Victor Feather, he added: 'Some of our thoughts in this regard may not be so far removed from those of the TUC.'

Turning to Heath, his guest of honour, Partridge went on: 'I hope we will soon have an

Trying to woo TUC into corporatist body

opportunity to discuss our ideas together—then see if we have some sensible joint proposals to report to you and your colleagues.'

Partridge admitted to his audience of industrialists and bankers that the country was 'still in something of a crisis condition'. There was not 'a hope in hell' of greater stability in prices if the general run of pay settlements was significantly forced up again.

'The CBI badly needs some tangible signs of help from the trade unions in the pursuit of a policy that can be to everyone's benefit.'

This 'lets-get-together' call to the TUC is a treacherous embrace. Having belted the union leaders in the courts, the Tories and its CBI now want to cajole them into a rejuvenated Prices and Incomes Board.

Only this PIB will be backed by the vicious legal machinery of the Industrial Relations Act.

As we said in Monday's Workers Press: 'By wielding the threat of the Act and the NIRC, the Tories want the unions to join a corporate state-style wages council.'

BOOKS



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Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87;
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Paperback 37p
Revolution Betrayed
Paperback 62p—cloth £1.05
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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'.

LORD THOMSON DECIDES TO BACK HEATH

Part two

With all but one opinion poll predicting up to a 100-seat majority for the Labour Party on the eve of 1970's June election, some people may have been surprised to open their paper on June 14 and read:

'The endorsement of "The Sunday Times" is for Edward Heath and the Conservative Party.'

There were really no grounds for surprise. The decision in no way contradicted the blatant class politics the paper invariably pursued through its leader columns and elsewhere in the paper.

It was never more than confusion to deduce from the paper's reports of opinion polls and speeches plus pictures of triumphant Labourites that this implied editorial support for the left.

On May 10 when the air was filled with talk of a General Election, right-wing leader writer Ronald Butt noted in a feature that the 'flood tide now running for Mr Wilson makes an early election a genuine option'.

But he added: 'Without any doubt a government is wanted in power this summer which is able to offer the country new strategies—certainly for the economy, perhaps also for Ireland and for Britain's relationship with the United States and Europe.'

'None of this will be forthcoming from a Labour government, but it might emerge from a Conservative government afterwards or even [though I personally find this difficult to believe] from a Labour administration refreshed by a new mandate.'

Record

'The Sunday Times' chiefs were not opposed to the Labour Party because it was left and they immutably right. They knew it had no genuine socialist teeth and judged it purely on its record as 'an administration' of the bourgeoisie's fortunes.

This is clear from another remark in the June 14 lead:

'Roy Jenkins has shown himself a conservative chancellor at least as skilful as any Tory chancellor since the war.'

But, it went on to warn: 'What we are likely to get from Labour is a zealous and uninspiring caution under which a Britain with fewer incentives will develop its resources less fully than it

ought and grow more rich more slowly than it might.'

'There are some good men in the Labour government and they have done some good things. It would not be a disgrace if they were returned, it would not be a disaster. It would just be a missed opportunity for something distinctly better.'

The campaign against Labour had been building up for some time.

APRIL 5: 'It was good to have Mr Heath's firm commitment on the early reform of the trade unions yesterday.'

MAY 31: 'Potentially the most notable difference of all between the parties is in their approach to industrial relations.'

MAY 31: 'Trust us seems to be Labour's slogan. It would have more appeal if the economic record had been better over the last four years; and one is more inclined to follow someone who at least tells you how he hopes to travel.'

What was wrong with Labour's economic record? Suddenly 'The Sunday Times' disclosed that it believed in the very same crisis upon which Heath was focussing his entire election campaign.

JUNE 7: 'It is not our fast-rising money wages which are bad but Britain's failure by any fair international comparison to get value for the extra money.'

'Mr Heath must return to exposing the undeniable nakedness of the government over the relationship between earnings and productivity and hence between earnings and prices.'

JUNE 7: 'Can Mr Wilson any longer go on disguising by genial generalities and sheer impudence the fact that where there used to be a Labour strategy there is now a large hole. The government's policy on incomes and trade unions is vividly in disarray.'

BY JUNE 14 for 'The Sunday Times' it was all the way with the Tories.

'The Tories have made an absolute commitment to cut taxation, the Tories would increase savings, they would end the indiscriminate subsidies in local authority housing, they would get better value for money from the vast subventions to private industry.'

'They would begin the difficult but inescapable reform of industrial relations where Labour is paralysed. They would get Britain moving again.'

All of these, be it noted, were policies designed to en-



Wilson (top) and Heath . . . by June 14 it was all the way with the Tories

courage savings, investment and, hopefully, growth—whatever the cost to the working class, a cost to be enforced by new industrial relations legislation.

The lead continued:

'Mr Heath is potentially a better Prime Minister than Mr Wilson. He has a self-dedication to the national good and a capacity for ruthless concentration which will be fresh on the political scene.'

'He is a civilized, decent man. He has fought an intelligent and wholly honourable campaign. He is without question the best leader the Tory Party has.'

Unable to resist the cold logic of capitalism, the soft under belly of 'The Sunday Times' nevertheless managed to show through:

'On issues of liberty, race, the environment, education and the arts [Labour] stand erratically but more convincingly for a civilized, tolerant society.'

If the Tories win 'We would like to see a strong Liberal representation because of the

Liberal's capacity for producing new ideas and because of their stand for Liberal values'—a stand which, by inference, the 'party they were backing could not afford to take.

Doubts

But though there was a lot of Wilson-bashing there had been a major element of confusion about 'The Sunday Times' position in the early run-up to the election. The reason was that right up to the poll, they had doubts about Heath as a leader.

Visual jokes appeared in April when on the 12th Roy Jenkins was pictured 'striding across a stark landscape [blasted heath]'

On May 17 James Margach wrote of Tory 'black despair' and there were endless pictures and drawings of a victorious Wilson alongside a clearly broken Heath.

Heath could do nothing right. He was the man the public loved to hate. On May

24 a picture showed Heath at the helm of his yacht off Harwich with the pointed caption 'aground'.

Margach was also worried that Heath's Selsdon man had been identified by the public as a 'basher' and that this would deter a big pro-Tory vote.

But by June 14 Heath and his hard line anti-working-class policies was the best bet in sight.

Three days after the Tory victory 'The Sunday Times' was cock-a-hoop, but noted soberly:

'Of all the campaign promises given by Mr Heath, none was more explicit than union reform—the government should not be deterred from the policy on which it has worked so long.'

Ronald Butt noted the victory was grounds for 'renewed confidence in the political maturity, shrewdness and responsibility of the British electorate'.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

BUTTER RACKET USES THE CHURCH

Rome authorities have started an inquiry into a multi-million pound butter smuggling racket involving Catholic charities.

The allegations are that large quantities of butter are being illegally imported into Italy by charities with names suggesting ties with the Catholic church.

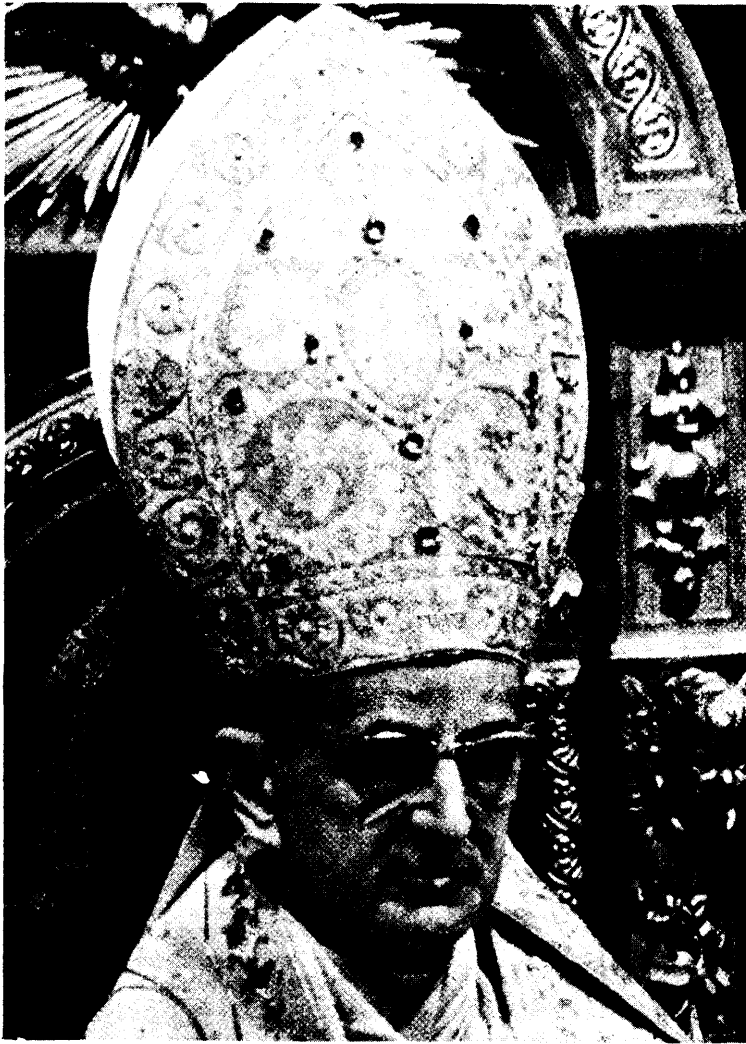
This inquiry is the latest in a series of affairs connected with food imports from Common Market countries and the enormous sums of money to be made from these operations. It is, in fact, a boom industry called 'Euro-fraud'.

Sicilian investigating magistrates are looking into the activities of what they believe are a Mafia family who have muscled in on the lucrative butter business.

Butter transactions yield record profits if the importer can evade Italian customs duties, because butter is cheaper in every Common Market country outside Italy. Other EEC members have large stocks of butter and therefore favour its export.

Consumer prices for butter in Europe and the EEC range from about 26p a pound in Britain to about 38p a pound from about 25p a pound in France and West Germany. Butter in Italy is about 58p a pound.

And butter produced in other Common Market coun-



Pope Paul: 'gravely concerned' about the implications

tries is generally better quality than Italian butter because most of the country's milk fat output is used for cheese-making. Therefore imported butter is in great demand in Italy.

It has been discovered that fraudulent importers have bought cheap butter in Eastern Europe, shipped it to Belgium or some other EEC country and then re-exported it to Italy with forged certificates of origin.

This method in many cases circumvents customs duties and such shady import deals are common. A favourite ploy of importers is to declare that butter or other shipments are destined for charitable institutions such as orphanages, thus obtaining reductions or waivers of import duties.

Two out of a total of 11 groups now under investigation

for suspected customs fraud have been named as 'Opus Dei' (God's Work) and 'Opus Christie' (Christ's Work).

A magistrate investigating the frauds said they acted as 'middlemen' for the dealers. And he has charged 23 people — none of them from religious orders — of being behind the scheme.

The Pope is reported to be following the revelations with 'grave concern'. In over a year, the customs are said to be defrauded of £6m in the importation of 3,500 tons of butter.

The world-wide Catholic community of priests and laymen known as Opus Dei stated that they had nothing to do with the butter importers and in fact had taken a legal action against them to change their name. The group, they say, has complied.

BOYLE CALLED TO APPEAR IN YABLONSKI MURDER CASE

W. A. (Tony) Boyle, president of the American United Mine Workers' union, has been 'invited' to appear before a Federal grand jury in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, investigating the 1969 murders of Joseph Yablonski, his wife and daughter.

Yablonski and his family were shot at their home in Clarksville, Pennsylvania, on New Year's Eve, 1969. The murders came three weeks after a union election in which Yablonski had narrowly failed to unseat Boyle.

The murdered man was the leader of widely-supported 'revolt' inside the union against Boyle's bureaucratic dictatorship and his corrupt ties with the mineowners.

Though he was a former aide of Boyle's Yablonski had convinced many miners that the union bureaucracy could be ousted and the fight against the mineowners taken up on a

more militant basis.

There were several big unofficial stoppages in a number of coalfields when news of Yablonski's murder came through. But the Federal Bureau of Investigation displayed great reluctance to probe too deeply into the case.

Over 28 months later, seven people are in custody, among them the men who are said to have carried out the actual shooting. Their evidence has implicated several officials of Mineworkers' district 19, centred on Kentucky.

They have also spoken about receiving instruction for the killing from a man called 'Tony'—who has yet to be identified. Boyle is the highest-ranking 'Tony' in the union.

The FBI's dilatory conduct of the murder investigation is in marked contrast to the speed with which it moved against Boyle on other charges relating to UMW contributions to Democratic and Republican funds.

Earlier this year they obtained a conviction against Boyle on this charge—the first ever under a little-known

post-war Act. The judgement in this case establishes an important precedent in preventing unions from using their money for political purposes and is clearly aimed at illegalizing any moves to form a Labour Party based on the trade unions.

The FBI presumably took action against Boyle on this ground because they hoped militant trade unionists would not contest the decision in the light of their hatred for the mineworkers' boss.

Meanwhile, as the investigations continue into the Yablonski murder, the finger points more and more directly at the union headquarters. Boyle and several of his aides are being called before the Pittsburgh grand jury to testify about the transfer of \$20,000 from the union's national treasury in Washington to District 19.

Prosecutor Richard A. Sprague, in charge of the state's case against the seven defendants arrested so far, has said the \$20,000 was used to hire the men who killed Yablonski.

GERMAN CP MOURNS UNION BOSS

'Iron Otto' Brenner, who died in Frankfurt last month, was for 20 years chairman of West Germany's largest trade union, IG Metall.

At the head of the 4 million-strong union, Brenner collaborated closely with successive German governments, winning a place on the Common Market's economic and social committee for his pains.

It was thanks to Brenner that the West German engineering industry went for the better part of his 20-year span of office without a major strike. The record was broken only last year, when more than 500,000 union members struck for higher wages.

Brenner did his best to restrict the strike to the Baden-Württemberg district, keeping the majority of his members in work despite strong rank-and-file demands for action.

With this record, it is not surprising that Brenner should have been mourned by the British TUC, which sent Hugh Scanlon to attend his funeral. What is more interesting is the attitude of the West German Communist Party, which gave the union leader a glowing obituary in its recently legalized paper 'UZ'.

Under the headline: 'Brenner's heritage — don't forget the anti-capitalist aims', it said: 'All those who harassed Brenner during his lifetime cried crocodile tears at his death. But the workers' movement should remember what Brenner said in his last great speech at the fourth International Workers' Conference of IG Metall.'

It quotes Brenner on the subject of 'Perspectives of Workers' Participation' to the effect that 'One should not confine oneself to detailed corrections of the capitalist planning and decision-making process. Workers' participation

is the attack on the employers' autarchy. It is radically democratic and anti-capitalist...'

In fact, the slogan as used by Brenner and the ruling social-democrats is a thinly-disguised effort to draw the workers' organizations closer to management and the state. The idea is that workers become 'integrated in the decision-making process' and in this way reform capitalism from within.

The same speech contained the observation that 'participation does not end conflicts but creates the possibility of having an influential position should conflicts arise'.

This form of corporatism is enthusiastically supported by the Stalinist paper, which says IG Metall has always emphasized that 'the anti-capitalist origins of the trade union movement remain alive for us, that we have not made an eternal peace with the ruling state of society, that we do not consider participation as a form of accommodation, but as an important social function to counter the one-sided decisions of profit-oriented employers'!



Above: Hugh Scanlon who was sent by the TUC to attend the funeral. Below: Otto Brenner



MARSH: THE WILSON MINISTER WHO BECAME THE 'TORIES' RAIL BOSS

A PROFILE OF RICHARD MARSH, CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH RAIL BOARD, BY IAN YEATS

The £20,000-a-year rail boss Richard Marsh told the railwaymen on May 5 the Jarratt award was a 'bloody good increase by any standards'.

He added: 'It would have been irresponsible to offer more.'

Marsh used almost the same words on June 24, 1968, then, as Labour Minister of Transport, he was confronted by a similar rail pay dispute.

He told the House of Commons: 'I want to make it clear that it is quite out of the question for any settlement of this dispute to be reached on any basis other than that which the Board are satisfied they can afford.'

Until 1968 British Rail deficits were financed from the Exchequer, but under the provisions of the Transport Bill Marsh himself steered through the Commons, the industry was brought into line with old-fashioned business principles and stood firmly on its own financial feet.

Marsh was sacked as Minister of Transport in December 1969 allegedly for offending Harold Wilson. When he returned to the Labour front bench in November 1970 as shadow Minister of Housing and Construction the running of the nationalized industries was one of his first targets.

He told a meeting of the Industrial Co-partnership Association: 'Nationalized industries should be treated no differently from major companies in the private sector.'

He added: 'The objectives of the nationalized industries should be commercial rather than political or social.'

His remarks prompted a

'Daily Telegraph' reporter to write: 'On the face of it there is little to choose between Mr Marsh's concept and that of Mr John Davies [Tory] Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.'

It is unlikely Marsh would disagree with that. He boasts of having many Conservative friends and after the tussle in the House of Commons over the Transport Bill, Peter Walker, now Environment Secretary, told reporters: 'Dick and I should be in the same party.'

UNITY

Political boundaries in fact do not worry Marsh, stamped very much in the self-help mould characteristic of Heath and his new young Tories.

When the ex-Labour Minister accepted the job as chairman of British Rail from a Tory government he was asked if he felt the move held any contradiction.

Marsh replied: 'There is an amazing similarity between Labour Party and Conservative Party coal wagons. A large section of government today is administration and different from the traditionally political ministry of the 19th century.'

The notion of government as merely an administrative entity posing no question of the ownership of wealth and the class nature of society characterizes Marsh's thought.

On July 2, 1968, when Marsh first became Minister of Transport in a glare of publicity as a Labour whizz-kid, he was interviewed by Fenton Bresler of the 'Evening Standard'.

Bresler asked: 'Is there any clear dividing line between the two major political parties?'

'The reply was remarkable—

from a member of the government.'

Marsh had told him: 'The line becomes very much a more subtle one if you leave out the extremists on either side. The idea that the British people are split down the middle into two diametrically opposed political parties is nonsense.'

Describing his view of what politics is all about, he continued: 'You start on the basis that everyone wants the best possible standard of living. But you can only ensure this by making decisions and the right decisions on how you are to use the nation's and the economy's potential.'

Comment Bresler: 'I shook my ears. It sounded as if I was back a few months earlier talking to Aubrey Jones, chairman of the Prices and Incomes Board, who, though an ex-Tory cabinet minister and still a Tory Party member, had been speaking in almost exactly the same apolitical terms.'

Within this context Marsh believes: 'The simple truth is that an industry in either the public and private sectors can be inefficient or efficient. It has nothing to do with who owns them. Only how they are managed and the political climate in which they operate.'

Marsh delights in contrasting what he believes to be the irrelevance and inefficiency of parliamentary debate with the businesslike, non-partisan decision-taking of top managers.

Though he claims working-class origins, his family appears to be rooted fairly securely in the labour aristocracy. His father and grandfather before him worked in skilled jobs on the Great Western Railway and Marsh once told a pressman: 'I promise you, I was never hungry.'

When he left elementary school in Swindon the ambitious streak which was to drive him to ministerial posts before the age of 40 drove him first into the army and next into a job at Transport House where, he says contemptuously, he worked as a 'glorified clerk'.

But the association with Transport House proved fruitful in one respect and his next move was to spend two years reading Economics at Ruskin College, Oxford, which, he says, he detested.

After a short spell as a white-collar worker with the London Transport Passenger Board, Marsh began an eight-year career with the National Union of Public Employees ending it in 1959 to become MP for Greenwich at the age of 31.

A year earlier he had become known popularly as Mr Facing Both Ways because of his volte face on CND to bring himself into line with Hugh Gaitskell. From then on his flirtation with the left was over and after a taste of government in April 1966 the most

he would say to Hugh Massingham of the 'Telegraph' was:

'What is wrong with capitalism is that it does not work very well'. He has certainly done his best to improve it.'

While he was Minister of Power in 1967-1968 he recommended a fuel policy based on the most economic fuels and promptly proceeded to turn the North Sea into a gas bonanza for private enterprise.

As part of this economic realism he laid down that cash assistance to coal would only be short-term and urged special arrangements—redundancy pay, supplemented increases and early pensions—to help miners to leave the industry which he saw as smaller and highly technological.

He gave the industry £200m in 1967, but told 6:3 miners: 'The purpose of the Bill is to enable the coalmining industry to have breathing space to maximize the high rate of productivity increase in which it has been engaged in recent years.'

In the decade up to 1967, miners were being made redundant at an average rate of 35,000 a year and while Nottinghamshire miners threatened to end their political levy to the Labour Party if the pit closures went on, Marsh ticked off coal chief Lord Robens for disclosing that the plan was to reduce the number of miners from 387,000 then to 277,000 in 1971 and 65,000 in 1980.

In July 1967, Alex Eadie, Labour MP for Midlothian, took Marsh to task in the House of Commons for being offhand with miners about closures and redundancies.

Marsh replied: 'You have developed a habit of making offensive supplementaries at question time, and declined further reply.'

There were many miners who thought Robens was the sole instigator of the closures at the end of the 1960s.

But Marsh made Robens' position clear in October 1970 when the public were clamouring for his resignation after the disaster at Aberfan, Wales.

He said: 'Some people misunderstood the position. Lord Robens had not the supreme position of a Minister in a department. He was the first among equals in a Board, all of whom were responsible to the Minister.'

REFORMS

In the same year Marsh took the apparently radical step of calling for workers' participation in the steel industry.

He said: 'I do not believe you can carry out major reforms which are necessary in this industry unless you can carry the men with you. I don't believe you can carry the men with you unless they are

parties to some of these decisions.'

'If this is a success it can only produce good for management relations, the efficiency of the industry and the well-being of the men who work in it.'

To Marsh workers' participation meant making the wheels of capitalism turn more smoothly with the consideration that if they did so workers might benefit.

As Minister of Transport in 1968 the 'national interest' consistently preceded the claims of workers, bringing him into collision with striking busmen and later railwaymen in defence of the Labour government's prices and incomes policy.

His reaction to the breakdown of talks in the current rail dispute was typical: 'The unions have decided to take on the state. This has not been a negotiation. It has been a hold-up. We are in a very dangerous situation.'

Marsh's record in mining, plus his well-documented political outlook, was a shining recommendation when the Tories started looking for a new rail chief.

On appointment in May 1971 he made it plain that his 'responsibility was to run a business', adding: 'Social implications are nothing at all to do with us at British Rail.'

In October the 'Financial Times' reported: 'Mr Richard Marsh, the new chairman of the British Rail Board, yesterday went out of his way to stress that he would continue the policy of closing down lines which were uneconomic.'

By 1972 he was considering slashing the railway workforce from 270,000 to 200,000 on the grounds that 60 per cent of British Rail's expenses were labour costs given that no further track could be torn up without biting into the hard core of the rail system.

During the protracted talks on 5,500 rail workshop redundancies he told the railwaymen: 'The whole lot could be closed for the cost of bringing forward the road programme for six months.'

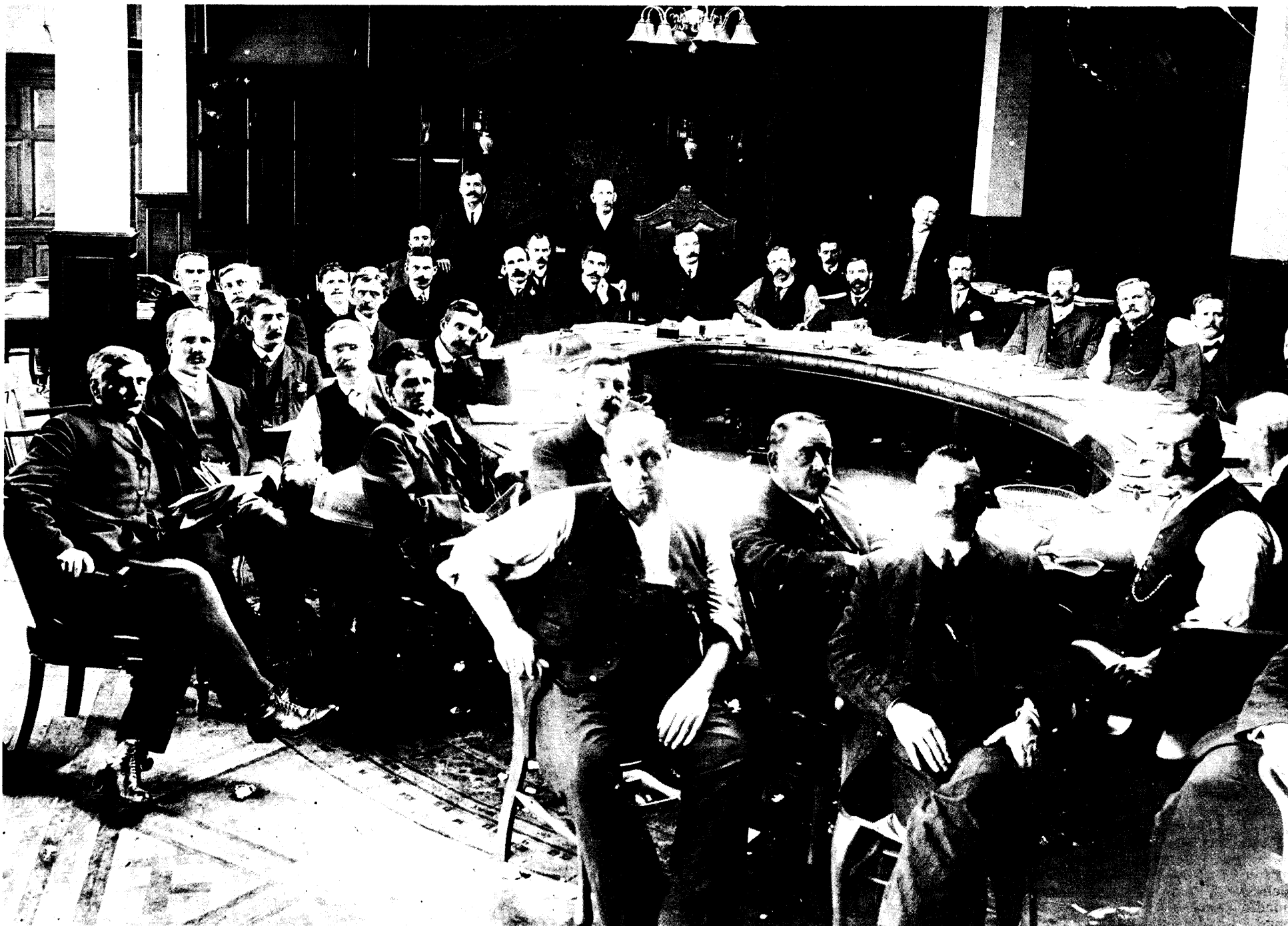
A confessed pragmatist, individualist and hater of ideology, Marsh has consistently devoted himself to pursuing the efficient working of any enterprise with which he has been involved with an energy and single-mindedness any Tory businessman might envy.

He has also advanced himself. As he says, a 'hair shirt' never appealed to him.

When he took over at British Rail one reporter commented: 'Marsh really does seem to enjoy being chairman of British Rail. The joys apart from anything else, gives him status and the sort of salary he needs to live in the style to which he has become accustomed.'



Right: Marsh. Above: Walker: 'Dick and I should be in the same party'



Pages from Railway History, 1839 to 1972. By Ian Yeats. Part six

1926: THE GENERAL STRIKE



Stanley Baldwin

'More railwaymen came out in sympathy with the miners on May 4, 1926, than had struck in support of their own demands on September 26, 1919,' say National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) sources.

A good part, if not the whole, of the reason for this determination to fight were the reverses suffered in the years after 1919: wage cuts in 1921—agreed to by Thomas on the grounds that they might have been worse—and more in 1923-1924 and 20,000 redundancies.



C. T. Cramp

In January 1924 the 59,000 members of the Amalgamated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) struck against wage cuts.

NUR men joined ASLEF strikers on the picket lines but the NUR leaders refused to call their men out in sympathy.

The union historian Philip S. Bagwell says: 'In the view of Messrs Thomas and Cramp [joint general secretaries] the strike was to be deplored because it would destroy confidence in the negotiating machinery set up in 1920.

'Critics of Mr Thomas were asserting that ever since the December 1923 election had resulted in the formation of a

Labour government, with Mr Thomas as its colonial secretary, he had been strongly opposed to any drastic action by the union.

'Within a few days of the commencement of the strike he was due to sit next to the Prince of Wales at a banquet.'

The 1924 strike ended when ASLEF leaders signed an agreement which did no more than make the rail companies' proposed wage cuts bite gradually instead of immediately.

Afterwards an NUR member named A. E. Rochester tried to form a breakaway union accusing the NUR leaders of 'shamefully abandoning their posts in the face of the enemy' and 'deliberately - planned treachery towards a neighbouring unit under attack'.

By 1925 the Tory government had mounted a major offensive against the working class in a bid to ward off the affects of chronic slump.

Having watched living standards plunge more or less continuously since 1919 and unemployment among their members rocket upwards, the railwaymen needed little coaxing to throw their weight behind the General Strike.

The miners were in an equally militant mood. With the ending of coal subsidies in 1926 the coal owners were demanding wage cuts of between 20 and 40 per cent.

Baldwin had made the government's position clear as early as July 1925 when he had told the miners:

'... all the workers of this country have got to take reductions in wages to help to put industry on its feet.'

Despite the determination of large sections of the working class to fight the Tories, a 1,000-strong meeting of trade union executives at the Memorial Hall, London, waited more than eight hours on April 30, 1926, while:

'The industrial committee of the TUC was engaged in the final discussions at No 10 in an attempt to find a compromise making possible a return to work on the coal-fields and the last-minute abandonment of the plan for

a General Strike'—which only 49,000 of the TUC's 4 million members opposed.

The railwaymen's leaders were prominent among the right wingers of the TUC who were only too eager to bring the General Strike to its eventual and speedy end on May 12, 1926.

They were backed to the hilt in the TUC and the country at large by the strident, but fake, militancy of members and supporters of the Communist Party.

Seven months after May 12 Thomas said in an interview: 'Never once . . . did I waver in my views, my certainty, that disaster lay in adopting the last resort of a General Strike as a way out of the labour troubles of the time.'

Why, then, did he not speak out at the packed Memorial Hall meeting?

He said: 'What would have been the lot of a leader who, at that moment, had stepped forward and said: "You are all wrong, you are being betrayed, beware you are rushing to your doom"?'

'I tell you frankly that a situation had come along in the early days of May last year when no leader in the land who came forward with advice like this would have been listened to.'

Why, then, did he not resign?

'I did not resign because I felt certain that I could do far more good by staying in than going out.'

As far as the bourgeoisie was concerned he certainly did.

It was Thomas who got secret talks going between Sir Herbert Samuel for the government and the negotiating committee of the TUC in the Bryanstone Square house of 'his mining magnate friend Sir Abe Bailey'.

It was Thomas who spoke out more forcefully than anyone else for an acceptance by the TUC of the government's alleged willingness to negotiate on the basis of the Samuel Memorandum which promised selective wage cuts to be post-

An Executive Committee meeting of the NUR which took place at Unity House in 1926. J. H. Thomas is seated at back of table to the right of the chairman

poned until after the miners were 'reorganized'.

And it was Thomas as much as anyone else who was responsible for the TUC ultimatum to the miners to start negotiations and which they ignored—resulting in their fighting on alone for nine months and returning to work with empty pockets.

From the moment the General Strike ended, the railway companies, together with most other employers, rounded viciously on the working class.

The rail unions put their names to agreements with the companies which said they recognized that the strike had been wrong and that they would not in the future call a strike without prior discussions with the companies and that they would not encourage supervisory staff to strike.

The agreement added that strikers would not necessarily get their old jobs back.

In a broadcast Thomas described the deal as one 'which in my judgement is not only satisfactory but will set an example for others to follow'.

Another of the 'most important documents to be signed in British industrial history'—by Thomas—came in July 1928 when he agreed to a 2½ per cent wage cut. The companies had asked for 5 per cent.

He went on to express the hope that the first agreement under which 'men voluntarily surrender their wages in order to help the railway companies would be an example to other industries'.

It certainly was. More wage cuts were to follow.

In August 1931 Thomas finally made his political position unequivocally clear.

He joined the Labour traitor Ramsay MacDonald's coalition government and resigned as NUR general secretary.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

Over the last year and more especially in the past few weeks, news programmes and documentaries have taken on a new sense of urgency. Not that anything seems to interfere with the calm, professional monotone of the newscasters themselves, but the Kenneth Kendalls, Peter Woods and Richard Whitmores have found themselves announcing one major international and national crisis after another.

An average evening's newscast takes in at least one confrontation with the National Industrial Relations Court, a minimum of one bomb explosion in Belfast, one or more offensives by the NLF and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, barbaric B52 retaliation from the United States, loss in profits at some monopolist firm, and recurrent redundancies.

All of this is announced daily in that smooth, unruffled BBC manner, which renders all things equal. The most profound human disaster is delivered in the most uniform tone. The Churchillian Dunkirk spirit is not dead, it lives on in the announcers who keep their wits about them when all round are losing theirs.

As the situation grows daily more desperate for the western world, television marshals up its forces of earnest experts. Each conflict has its corresponding 'specialist', its intelligence evaluator. Inevitably, as the fighting forces of the people's resistance in Indo-China prove yet again their heroic determination to put an end to capitalist interventionism in their countries, the expert of the forces of reaction, Sir Robert ('No Exit From Vietnam') Thompson, is wheeled out by Panorama to deliver the age-old maxims of counter-insurgency (i.e. barbarism), and the spurious speculations of ultra-conservative pacification planning.

For those who have watched all the newscasts of Independent TV and the BBC, one quite striking feature has emerged. The BBC news coverage on Vietnam has been extremely biased (more so than usual), uninformative and confusing. Their reporter, Michael Clayton, who has just returned to this country after working 'in the field' for the last month, seemed to have lost his BBC Code Book of objectivity somewhere between US High Command Headquarters in Saigon and the area around An Loc.

His impartiality got stuck, like the ARVN (Thieu's troops) somewhere on Route 13. It's quite a long time since one has witnessed such conflicting, tendentious and, at times, downright untrue evaluations.

ITN's 'News At Ten' has come off as almost revolutionary by comparison. Not only has their own team, with reporter Richard Linley, gone into the heart of the conflict zones, but they have shown a degree of independent judgement, which has been entirely lacking from the BBC. This is probably why 'News At Ten' has consistently enjoyed one of the highest audience ratings, even in competition with light entertainment.

You can fool some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time.

In the midst of all the conflict, 'Man Alive', usually the pioneering pillar of 'people's politics', chose to ignore the world situation in favour of Hollywood—or, at least, Hollywood as it is made in down-



John Wayne in 'The Green Berets': serving ultra-right barbarism

BARBARISM, BRONCS AND BUREAUCRACY

TV REVIEW BY ANNA TATE

town Tucson, Arizona.

George Plimpton, versatile virtuoso of the word, American journalist extraordinary, decided to try his hand at being a 'star for a day', playing out a scene in 'Rio Lobo' with the DUKE (pronounced DOOK), John Wayne.

As if to prove Tim Horrocks' point (see Workers Press, 'Cowboys and Culture', April 26), the programme succeeded, with great good humour, in also proving that not everyone is an acting genius. Indeed, they are rare, the giant John Waynes and (I add, stubbornly) the great Groucho Marxes. While I would still insist that when professionalism is put to the service of ultra-right barbarism, as it was by John Wayne in 'The Green Berets', one must reserve the right to make harsh political criteria primary; the debate which Tim Horrocks initiated is vital and should continue.

The old cliché—'You too can be a Humphrey Bogart/Gary Cooper/Groucho Marx, etc.'—was amusingly knocked for six by 'Man Alive' and George Plimpton. Film director, Howard Hawks, had given him a one-line part in 'Rio Lobo' and we saw the amateur wrestle with the complexity of professional acting.

That one fateful line: 'This here's your warrant, mister!' obsessed him to the point of breakdown. It's not easy to deliver, what with all the action and encumbered with a Harvard accent and an elegant saunter instead of a western drawl and a hard-hitting, low-slung swagger. For Wayne, the whole exercise passes off with the ease of the perennial pro, belying the art he has developed over the years—even in such details as how to deal with the camera. 'Don't look in that little eye', he tells the bewildered Plimpton, 'unless you're giving the Sermon on The Mount.'

The programme was a nice, if trendy joke, with Plimpton losing his way to the set, walking like a drunken ostrich in his bronc-busting boots, fluffing his one and only line and even having Howard Hawks chide him with those words which every actor dreads to hear: 'I'd sure hate to have to give this line to someone else.'

Thursday night, came up with one of the best feature films to emerge from Cuba in the 1960s, 'Death of a Bureaucrat', a hilariously funny, delirious dig at bureaucracy in the Cuban revolutionary framework. The film was made in 1966. One has the uncomfortable feeling that with Castro's turn to Moscow and subsequent outburst against intellectuals, the same film would not have been possible in 1972.

Combining the most inspired techniques of western filmmaking history together with roots in and insights into his own culture and revolution, the young director, Tomás Alea, has achieved a stunning synthesis. A combination of Buster Keaton, Bunuel, Laurel and Hardy, Jean Vigo, Marilyn Monroe, Cuban Caribbean attitudes and Fidel Castro communism, have made for a great comedy. The point at which individual human social and emotional problems become merely numbered files in an endless series of departments in the anonymous administrative apparatus, is deplored by Alea, but deplored in clever satire—perhaps the most effective artistic weapon that exists when used to revolutionary ends.

Sad to reflect that the time might have come in Cuba when an Alea script will possibly have to be sent through a bevy of bureaucrats with only the hope of ending up in the 'Procedural Speed-Up Department', where the queue will be as long as the red-tape.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Disciple

God moves in strange ways, they say.

He also uses some strange avenues for expressing His will—at least according to Rev Kenneth Wood, vicar of St Boniface in Plymouth.

According to the Rev Wood the Almighty has chosen none other than Britain's star Stalinist James Reid as His latest spokesman on earth.

The Plymouth parson writes in 'The Guardian': 'It is a fact of our age that when bishops speak few notice or listen, but when union men speak they do. I am quite content that the Holy Spirit should use James Reid to speak for Him and I would think that the bishops are not complaining.'

In fact the Reverend is not that far off the mark. Throughout the UCS struggle Reid always highlighted the role of the church. In the most recent of his many interviews to the capitalist press he told the ultra right-wing 'Scottish Daily Express' that he was a Christian.

'Express' reporter Jack Webster asked Reid who were the people who had influenced his life.

At the top of the list Reid placed Jesus Christ:

'... I am influenced by the social teachings of Christ as expressed in the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes. [Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth: Blessed are the poor for they shall see God.] They amount to a social ethic to which I subscribe.

Reid continued: 'Yes I am a Christian. I believe that Christianity, like all major religions can only last on the basis of humanism—with a small "h" of course.'

The former secretary of the Scottish Communist Party went on to list Tom Payne, Burns, Shaw and Shelley, as other influences.

One notes Karl Marx, Engels and Lenin, who had a healthy loathing of religion, particularly Christianity, were not mentioned.

No doubt the Holy Spirit was pleased by His disciple's words.

FCM

America, you just had to do it. The Pill, in some circles in the US, is referred to as 'a fertility control medication'. Can you imagine the bedroom conversation just before the lights go out:

'Er, excuse me, Lurleen, have you taken your fertility control medication?'

'Affirmative.'

No policies

The new 'New Statesman' has wasted no time in trimming its sails to the right-wing of the Labour Party.

Issue No. 2 under Anthony Howard, the Great White Hope of the Hampstead Set, carries a new policy on the Common Market—the NS is now for it!

Thus the NS lines up alongside the Tory right-wing 'Spectator' in backing Britain's entry.

Note of discord about Howard's decision to put editorials back on the front page. 'We've got no policies really, so why should we broadcast it on the front page.'



Great white hope, A. Howard

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Port trade plans are made for EEC

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

IN PREPARATION for Britain's entry into the Common Market a group of German business representatives are touring Britain's leading freight forwarders.

The visitors are studying methods of getting goods in and out of this country.

W. Behr, head of the European section of Davies Turner Ltd, received the party of 17 Germans at the firm's London headquarters.

He and Julius Lada-Grodzicki, a director of Davies Turner, gave them details of freight routes between Germany and the UK, documentation and customs procedures, duties and taxes, insurance and trading conditions.

The German party included Dr Schultz, of the Wuppertal Chamber of Commerce; Herr Engels of the Bayer complex; Herr Hutwelter of the Titan Iron and Steel Co; executives from the machinery, chemical and pharmaceutical and silk industries and a representative of the Rhineland Co-operative Movement.

Figures just released show that the Port of London handled more than 200,000 containers through Tilbury last year and there would be 300,000 this year.

PLA director general, John Lurch said:

'When Tilbury container port is fully extended it will have a maximum capacity of between 4 and 5 million tons and we estimate that it will reach this about 1974-1975.

'The PLA has taken Britain's entry into the Common Market into account in this estimate and has already planned for the next stage farther down river.'

Schools strike due today

BY SARAH HANNIGAN

IN THE past two weeks thousands of West London school students have erupted onto the streets demanding an end to canings and victimizations.

And in spite of arrests, threats of expulsion and severe canings, the youth, the majority of them 13- to 15-year-olds, have refused to be browbeaten.

Today the people behind the campaign, the Maoist-dominated Schools Action Union, hope to organize an all-London schools protest to London education headquarters at County Hall, Westminster.

What are the demands behind this campaign that has gained support from a large variety of schools?

They are demands that have been issues among pupils for any time in the past few years—no compulsory school uniform, no canings or detentions, schools not prisons, rules to be decided and enforced by the whole school and no victimizations.

Half-way through the campaign a demand for free school milk—taken away by the Tory government—was added to the list.

The pupils themselves have partly explained the reason for their unrest. One 13-year-old boy remarked when questioned by representatives of the Tory press:

'We want the same as the dockers and the railwaymen—if they can come out, why can't we?'

And a group of girls told me: 'They don't arrest the railwaymen and the dockers, yet they are arresting us.'

The youth complain of having to sit in stuffy classrooms with all the windows closed in summer and of freezing in winter. They complain of uniforms which are too hot in summer and too cold in winter.

Behind all the press ballyhoo and witch-hunts and the Maoist adventurist misleadership, these pupils have genuine grievances they want solved.



Pupils in revolt during a recent Hyde Park rally

School dinners, they say, are disgustingly poor. First, second and third formers in some schools invariably have to wait until second turn for their dinners, which by then are either cold or like left-overs.

It is clearly not just the leadership of the Schools Action Union (SAU) which today has brought these children out of the schools on to the streets in such big numbers.

The SAU leadership, by playing around asking the capitalist press for £10 for an interview, have opened the door to witch-hunts and 'red' scares against the youth fighting to defend their rights.

This leadership has refused to

link the legitimate demands of youth in schools to a fight against the Tory government, whose consistent attacks on all aspects of education have helped to build up the tensions that exist in schools today.

Increased dinner charges—leaving over 1 million children in the country unable to afford the meals—stoppage of free milk to the over sevens, cutbacks in teacher training and school building projects, are only some of the measures.

Rising unemployment means that many thousands of youth face years on capitalism's scrapheap, the dole queue. Some will find low-paid jobs with little or no prospects.

At the same time the whole trade union movement has as good as been declared illegal by the National Industrial Relations Court.

All of these questions today face youth at school. The tensions that are building up underneath the surface of society today as a result of capitalism's crisis take many forms.

Just as the mass movement of youth in schools heralded the advent of the enormous class struggles of the May-June days in France 1968, the movement of school children in Britain also signifies the rising tide of militancy and hatred of a working class moving into battle against the Tory government.

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'Family life' hospital may lose therapy unit

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

A WEST LONDON hospital will lose its experimental group therapy psychiatric clinic if it is taken over by another hospital in the area.

The Paddington Clinic and Day Hospital functions as a therapeutic community in which medical staff, psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists work together with the patients in a group situation.

They make an attempt to explore the basis of an individual's illness in relation to his family and the community in which he exists.

But proposals made by St Mary's hospital, Paddington, which will soon take over the Day Hospital, make no provisions for such treatment.

Instead the treatment favoured by St Mary's—the use of drugs and electro-convulsive therapy treatment—is in direct opposition to the methods employed at the Day Hospital.

In recent months, the staff and patients at the hospital, supported by local Labour Party and trade union organizations and a group of local doctors

have been campaigning for the retention of the hospital in its present form.

So far their demands have drawn a blank from the North West Metropolitan Hospital Board, the Department of Health and St Mary's board of governors.

The Day Hospital's catchment area is one with an above average incidence of emotional disturbance and is already suffering from a chronic shortage of psychiatric facilities.

At the three main hospitals in the area patients have to wait for up to six weeks for a first consultant appointment. Apart from the Day Hospital, individual and group psychotherapy is almost unobtainable.

On the other hand the Day Hospital has an 'open-door' policy and there is no waiting list.

Staff at the hospital were involved in making 'Family Life', the film directed by Ken Loach and produced by Tony Garnett, which describes how an individual is driven further into schizophrenia by the attitudes of society. The screenplay was adapted by David Mercer from his play 'In Two Minds'.



Sandy Ratcliff as the young girl driven to schizophrenia in the film 'Family Life'

The film tried to bring out the way in which conventional psychiatry attempts to force the individual to act in a way that conforms to the demands of society and, having failed, designated her as incurable.

Right-wing teachers want a 'trouble' camp for pupils

By Education Reporter

A GROUP of right-wing teachers wants special centres to be set up throughout Scotland for 'troublesome pupils and persistent truants'.

The Honours Graduate Teachers' Association has asked the Secretary of State for Scotland to examine juvenile delinquency in schools and to provide facilities for 'offenders'.

They say they want a kind of a halfway-house between ordinary school and an approved school at which 'anti-social' pupils between 13 and 16 could receive training.

The reactionary suggestion for a sort of training camp for dissenting school children was made at the association's annual conference in Glasgow which has just finished. It received unanimous backing.

'At the moment troublesome pupils are getting off lightly,' one told the meeting. 'But such pupils could receive training at a centre for a short period without having any blot on their record.'

The association also called for a £1,000 a year increase for senior qualified teachers.

Canadian unions call for Quebec amnesty

THE CANADIAN Congress of Labour, meeting in Ottawa, has passed an emergency resolution calling for an amnesty for all union leaders imprisoned in Quebec province.

This is the first reported gesture of solidarity from the rest of the Canadian labour movement for the

Quebec workers who have been hit by Draconian anti-union laws.

Three leaders of the Common Front of public service unions who organized a 200,000-strong strike last month are now in jail serving one-year terms for contempt of court.

Fifty-two other union officials have been sentenced to imprisonment and fined for defying the courts.

However, the central union leaders are not prepared to fight

for the overthrow of the Quebec government, or the Federal government which backs it.

In Montreal, a spokesman for the Canadian Congress of Labour urged the Quebec government to prepare for a resumption of negotiations by scrapping legislation which ended the 11-day public service strike.

This, the spokesman said, would restore 'social peace' to the province. Thousands of workers all over Quebec are on strike against the jailing of their leaders.

Attack on left CAV stewards

RIGHT-WING shop stewards at CAV, Acton, have complained to the North London district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers about the behaviour of 'troublemongers'.

No names are mentioned and no charges have been made.

The fight against tele-control production monitoring and site deals has been led by left-wing shop stewards who have now been singled out because they recently exposed the deal which dropped one department's members six places in the CAV pay structure.

The men claim the deal saved the management £16,000.

Wider powers for BOSS

A BILL defining the functions of the Bureau of State Security (BOSS) and providing for a high-powered state security council, was published yesterday in Cape Town.

The council, with Prime Minister Balthazar Vorster as its chairman, will advise the government on the formation of national policy and strategy in relation to the security of the republic.

It will also advise on policy to combat any particular threat to South Africa and, together with BOSS, will determine intelligence priorities.

The Bill, which has had its first reading in the House of Assembly (Lower House), omitted three crucial recommendations made by Justice Potgieter's Commission of Inquiry into the nation's security system.

These concerned suggestions for narrowing the terms of the General Law Amendments Act dealing with the publication of matters relating to state security, the police, armaments, or BOSS, and also a clause which now

gives an administrator the right to prevent certain evidence being given in court.

The third recommendation was that certain authorities should be permitted to intercept post or telephone conversations in certain circumstances.

But as the government has accepted all the findings of Justice Potgieter's one-man inquiry, it was believed here that issues would be included in a General Laws Amendment Bill to be introduced towards the end of the current parliamentary session.

Under the terms of the Bill, BOSS's functions would be to:

COLLECT, evaluate, correlate and interpret national security intelligence for the purpose of detecting and identifying any threat or potential threat to the security of the republic and advising the Prime Minister of such a threat;

COLLECT departmental intelligence at the request of any state department, and to evaluate and transmit such intelligence to the department concerned; and to

PREPARE and interpret for the council a national intelligence estimate relating to any threat to the security of the country and to formulate a policy of national security intelligence.

Planet of the apes

MAN should colonize the comets rather than the planets because they are rich in water and chemicals necessary for life. And they could provide 'stepping stars' on the way to other stars.

This vision was put forward yesterday by Professor Freeman J. Dyson, of the Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton.

Speaking at Birkbeck College, London, Dyson said that men who colonize comets would have to revert to the tree-dwelling life of our ape-like ancestors.

He was giving the third J. D. Bernal memorial lecture.

THE STRIKE by skilled tool-makers at Smiths Industries Limited, Cricklewood, North London, today enters its eighth week.

Yesterday three-day working was introduced for 250 semi-skilled, mainly women, workers at the factory as the strike began to take effect.

The 70 toolmakers are demanding an increase of £8 a week and a reduction in hours to 35. Management's last offer was £2.40.

'Dawn' students arrested

MARTIAL LAW authorities have detained 24 more people, about half of them girls, for printing left-wing pamphlets under the name of the 'Dawn' organization, it was announced in Turkey yesterday.

The security forces' move in

Istanbul came after the detention last week in Ankara of 13 students for similar offences.

The 'Dawn' pamphlets were distributed in Ankara last week following the execution of three left wing 'Turkish People's Liberation Army' members.

TV

BBC 1

9.20 Pogles' Wood. 9.38, 11.05, 2.05 Schools. 10.45 Boomph with Becker. 12.25 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan. 1.00 Disc a Dawn. 1.30 Camberwick Green. 1.45 News, weather. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Swim with Rolf. 5.10 Pixie and Dixie. 5.15 Search. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.45 WHERE IN THE WORLD. Travel quiz.

7.00 SPY TRAP. The Executioner, episode 1.

7.25 STAR TREK. The Trouble with Tribbles.

8.10 THE EXPERT. Where Are You Going?

9.00 NEWS, Weather.

9.20 SPORTSNIGHT. The European Featherweight Championship.

10.20 DOWN TO EARTH. (New Series). Conservation programme with Kenneth Allsop, Spike Milligan, Anthony Smith.

10.50 24 HOURS.

11.25 ANGLERS' CORNER.

ITV

11.00, 1.40 Schools. 12.45 Barbican. 1.10 Time to Remember. 2.32 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Dr Simon Locke. 3.45 Edgar Wallace. 4.40 Hatty Town. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Escape into Night. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 MISS TV TIMES. London Final.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 THE MAX BYGRAVES SHOW.

9.00 CALLAN. Do You Recognize the Woman?

10.00 NEWS.

10.30 ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

11.25 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.

11.55 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. Anthony Howard.

12.10 ASPECTS OF FAITH.



Hurd Hatfield as Dorian Gray and Angela Lansbury as Sybil Vane in Oscar Wilde's 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' tonight's BBC 2 film at 9.20.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.20, 1.40 Schools. 4.05 Paulus. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Good afternoon. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Towards the year 2000. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 11.55 Epilogue. News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.55 News, weather. 11.59 Teach a man to fish.

SOUTHERN: 2.30 Film: 'Lavender Hill mob'. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 11.55 News. 12.05 Weather. Epilogue.

ANGLIA: 2.30 London. 3.15 Mizzen, main, foremast. 3.45 Yoga. 4.15 News. 4.18 Cartoons. 4.30 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00

About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Shirley's world. 7.30 London. 11.55 Music at night.

ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Afternoon. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Mrs Muir. 4.40 Grasshopper island. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Odd couple. 7.30 London.

ULSTER: 11.00 Schools. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 What's on? 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sporting challenge. 7.30 London.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00 Schools. 2.32 Good afternoon. 3.00 The sound of... 3.15 Hadleigh. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 11.55 A policy of appeasement. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 Schools. 2.30 Edgar Wallace. 3.30 Yoga. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55

London. 6.00 News. What's on? 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Dr Simon Locke. 7.30 London.

TYNE TEES: 11.00, 1.40 Schools. 1.25 Enchanted house. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Sound of... 3.15 Hadleigh. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 11.55 News. 12.10 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 11.00, 1.40 Schools. 3.30 Pinky and Perky. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Cartoon. 6.30 More we are together. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 10.30 Organization. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Wrestling.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Schools. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Jimmy Stewart. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Grampian week. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 10.30 Marcus Welby. 11.25 Wrestling. 12.00 Epilogue.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open University. 7.05 Measure of Conscience.

7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.

8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED. Denis Tuohy talks to Denis Rake.

8.10 MAN ALIVE. Pop festivals.

9.00 POT BLACK. Snooker competition.

9.20 FILM: 'THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY'. George Sanders, Hurd Hatfield, Donna Reed. Hollywood adaptation of Oscar Wilde's only novel of youth and corruption set in London society of late Victorian era.

11.05 NEWS, Weather.

11.10 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

Triumph men toss out MDW

TRIUMPH Motors management proposals for abolishing piecework in a new pay deal incorporating Measured-Day Work suffered another rebuff yesterday.

A mass meeting of 650 workers at the Radford, Coventry, plant yesterday endorsed their shop stewards' committee recommendation to reject the MDW proposals.

This follows Monday's overwhelming rejection of the deal by 220 shop stewards representing 9,000 workers at the Canley plant—the largest of the Coventry Triumph car assembly works. Only one shop steward voted for acceptance.

At the Radford plant, however, AUEW convenor Tom Healy told the men that 'sometime in the future' they might have to 'modify' their attitude in relation to MDW, although rejection of the proposals was the correct 'tactic' at present.

For many men in the Triumph factories the ending of piecework will mean a drop of at least £4 a week in wages.

The British-Leyland management is desperate to introduce MDW in all its plants.

As 'The Times' reported on Monday May 15, the present confrontation at Triumph is being closely watched by management at Austin Morris, Longbridge, near Birmingham, the last big obstacle in Leyland's fight to abolish the piecework system.

HEADS of the 219 Inner London Education Authority secondary schools were given full backing today to deal with children playing truant to support demonstrations today (see p. 10)

Dr Eric Briault, the authority's education officer, told the heads in a letter that they had 'full support for all reasonable measures' to prevent pupils playing truant. They also had backing to deal with those who had already stayed away and 'to bring the schools back to normal'.

T&GWU to appeal against expelling 'rebels'

THE TRANSPORT and General Workers' Union is to appeal against the key decision of the Industrial Relations Court which requires them to sack or expel 'rebel' shop stewards from the union.

Counsel for the union, Peter Pain, QC, told the Appeal Court yesterday that his submission boiled down to a point of law—as to the responsibility of a union for its shop stewards in a situation where the stewards were going flatly against the union policy but the union

'rebels'

did not strip them of their authority.

The case involves the blacking of two North West haulage firms by dockers on Merseyside. Fines totalling £55,000 have already been imposed on the T&GWU in connection with the issue.

The Court agreed that the hearing of the appeal should be speeded up and it is likely to start on May 30. Last Friday the Industrial Relations Court adjourned for 21 days action on further contempt of court against the union.

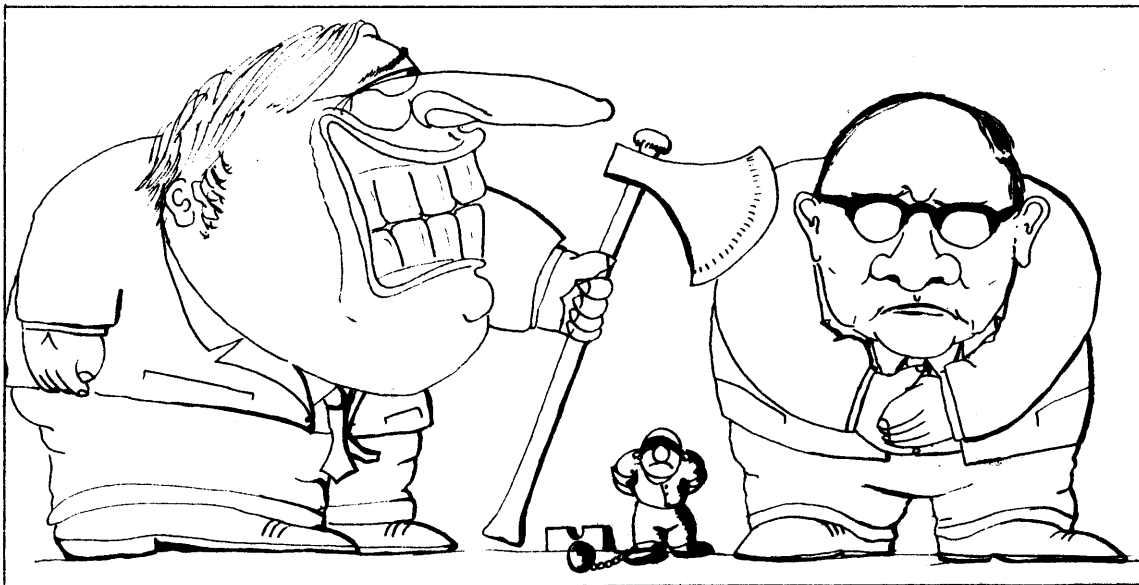
Mr Pain said yesterday: 'The Industrial Relations Court has adjourned the matter for the union to put itself in order—to dismiss the shop stewards or

expel them from the union so as to revoke any authority they may have. Clearly it raises an issue in the industrial world of the up-most importance.

'I feel sure that however tough the Industrial Court might be, if this matter was being debated in this court they would hardly hold my clients in contempt,' said Mr Pain.

Today the Court will rule on another case of blacking—this time on Hull docks—where shop stewards are refusing to handle the lorries of a Bradford-based haulage and warehousing firm.

HERMAN ROBERTS, the first rank and file trade unionist to join the National Industrial Relations Court, yesterday heard his first case. Roberts, a member of the National Union of Journalists, was formerly industrial correspondent of the 'Birmingham Post'. Judge Roberts heard an appeal on a redundancy pay claim.



Here you are Jack! You can do the chopping

Stalinists back Nixon's secret talks

LEADERS of the Stalinist-backed British Campaign for Peace in Vietnam yesterday expressed support for the forthcoming secret talks between President Nixon and Soviet leaders.

Dick Nettleton of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said: 'I would hope that talks would proceed and that Nixon would see the light of day and amend his policy in Vietnam.'

He was speaking at a press conference organized by the BCPV to launch a demonstration to the American Embassy in London on June 4. The demonstration is being supported by

the National Union of Students and 'left' Labour MPs.

Nettleton expressed the hope that Labour Party and TUC representatives would take part in the march and send speakers to a Trafalgar Square rally.

He said TUC policy on Vietnam was 'good and correct' as was that of the Labour Party, although it was 'only really yesterday' in parliament that the Labour leadership had begun to implement its policy.

Digby Jacks, Communist Party president of the National Union of Students, attacked British government support for the Americans in Vietnam.

'Because it is a Conservative

government we are not automatically assuming that it will do the worst,' he said. The government's position had to be exposed by demanding disassociation from American policy.

This demand will be one of the central slogans of the June 4 demonstration which will also call for the immediate withdrawal of US troops.

Arthur Latham, Labour MP for Paddington North, is leading a group of Labour MPs to the Soviet Embassy today to establish the Soviet attitude to reconvening the Geneva conference on Vietnam. Latham is one of the MPs supporting the march.

● See Nixon's Moscow trip P. 2.



Arthur Latham to lead delegation to Soviet Embassy.

Ban on TASS at Parsons extended

FROM OUR OWN REPORTER

THE NATIONAL Industrial Relations Court yesterday continued indefinitely a ban on unfair industrial action by the Technical and Supervisory Section (TASS) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers at C. A. Parsons, the Newcastle engineering firm.

The order stops alleged threats and intimidation by TASS members against fellow workers at Parsons. The interim order was granted to the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers (UKAPE) on April 28.

UKAPE brought the action in the NIRC following a reference to the Commission on Industrial Relations on the question of bargaining rights at Parsons.

After today's five-minute private hearing, when TASS again boycotted the court, Kenneth Peplow, general secretary of UKAPE, said he assumed that the order would continue until the CIR reported back to the court.

'After nearly three years of activity we have protected our members and the claim by TASS for 100 per cent membership at Parsons has been dropped,' he said.

'We now have industrial peace at Parsons—which is something we thought would never happen. Now I hope the company can get a full order book and get everybody back to work.'

Peplow said that following the settlement of the dispute at Parsons which was announced last weekend, UKAPE had to decide whether to discontinue its court action or ask for the order to be continued.

As the Association's purpose in going back to the NIRC had been to ensure peace while the CIR investigated the bargaining rights question they decided on the latter course.

'It is a safeguard against further trouble,' said Peplow.

● Yesterday Eric Hammond, an executive councillor of the electricians' union, made an unexpected appearance before the court. He was representing the EPTU, the electricians and plumbers' union, in its fight against a claim for bargaining rights launched by the 1,000-strong Electricity Supply Union.

The Yorkshire-based 'union' wants the legal right to bargain on behalf of power workers at the Ferrybridge 'C' power station at Knottingley. The court fixed July 11 as the date for the hearing.

LATE NEWS

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PAY OFFERS of between 7 and 10.8 per cent to weekly-paid BBC staff were yesterday rejected by the unions as 'totally inadequate'. A statement from the BBC unions said they also refused to accept the management's rejection of their claim for a shorter working week and the Corporation's refusal to agree to a number of improvements. The unions are the Association of Broadcasting Staffs, the Electrical, Electronic and Telecommunications Union, the National Association of Theatrical, Television and Kine Employees and the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades. The unions will meet again today week.

PRODUCTION was halted at the Chrysler Ryton, Coventry, car assembly plant yesterday where 2,000 workers were idle. They supported night-shift sprayers who walked out on Monday night, supported by the rest of the production force, following a dispute over colour batching.

A PAY dispute between workers and management at John Brown Engineering Limited of Clydebank ended yesterday when 800 employees accepted a rise of £2.50 to all hourly-paid workers, an extra day's holiday in 1973 and an increase in the minimum time rate to £23. In addition, holiday pay for 1973 will be based on average earnings rather than the minimum time rate.

WEATHER

MOSTLY dry with sunny spells over England and Wales, but isolated showers in south-east England. Northern Ireland and southern Scotland will have rain at times. North and north-west Scotland will have scattered showers and sunny spells. Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Changeable. Some rain or showers at times. Sunny periods. Temperatures near normal.

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MAY APPEAL FUND REACHES £928.50

ALL EYES of the working class are focused on the legal attacks by the NIRC. Workers everywhere are becoming more and more determined to fight back in every way they can.

Workers Press must reach out to all those involved in this fight. Help us to expand our circulation into new districts. Take extra copies yourself to sell. And particularly, let's make a special effort this month for our appeal fund. So far it is a great achievement but we still have £821.50 to raise before the end of the month. So press ahead today. Post all your donations immediately to:

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