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T&GWU MAY ACT AGAINST MILITANTS

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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Their formula will be put to mass meetings in every port in Britain as soon as possible.

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The union officers will ask the dockers to lift their action against container firms until the notice for a national strike over the issue runs out in two weeks' time.

In person

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He and the Hull docks secretary Brian Barker were the first officers of the T&GWU to appear in person before the court.

They were answering charges of unfair industrial practice arising out of the blacking of Panalpina (Northern) Limited, a Bradford-based container firm.

For the third time Walter Cunningham, chairman of the Hull docks shop stewards' committee, who is named in the injunction, failed to appear.

Shenton said he had done all he possibly could to get his members to lift the black. When he was asked why the stewards had not been disciplined, he replied:

'I think the shop stewards know equally as well as I do, that if we took action against individuals, rather than improved the situation that existed, it would exacerbate it. It may be that even at the end of the road when every avenue has been investigated we may have to do this.'

But, he said, for the present, removing the stewards' credentials would only play into the hands of militants and people who would disrupt the port.

● SEE LATE NEWS.

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THE PUSH-BUTTON grain terminal at Liverpool's newly-opened Seaforth dock built to specifications required by speed and high productivity claimed its first victims yesterday.

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A third man and workers who dived into the dock to try

and rescue the trapped men were taken to Walton Hospital.

Divers were called in to search the wreckage of the gantry which was part of a 175 ft high grain unloader.

The dead men were Wolfgang Henseleit (34) of Stonechat Avenue, Gloucester, and 33-year-old Thomas Judd, of Frome Park Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Who they're blacking

BLACKING is being supported by the national docks shop stewards' committee. A leaflet on the London docks sets out the blacked firms and says: 'The companies mentioned are not to be worked under any circumstances.'

The list is:

LONDON: Hays Produce Company, Dagenham Storage Limited, United Kingdom Cold Stores.

LIVERPOOL: Heaton Transport (St Helens) Limited, Bishops Wharf, Craddock Brothers.

HULL: MAT Transport, Panalpina.

MANCHESTER: Springfield Warehousing Transport, Thomas Meadows.

PRESTON: Containerway Road Ferry.

SOUTHAMPTON: The stewards in this port are making inquiries but are fully supporting the blacking of the companies named above.

Miners' pickets charged with riot

THIRTEEN men were sent for trial at Dunfermline yesterday accused of rioting during the miners' strike picketing at Longannet power station.

Eleven miners, a draughtsman and a research student, including Graham Steel, area secretary and agent for the National Union of Mineworkers, were remanded on £20 bail until June 6.

The dock at Dunfermline court was rebuilt to hold the 13. They all pleaded not guilty.

Chaos during pupils' strike



Thousands of London schoolchildren yesterday joined the one-day strike called by the Schools Action Union. Some of them are seen above walking along Pall Mall. Their demands are quite plain, but the organization of the proposed marches through the West End left many of the youth dissatisfied, disillusioned and confused.

For story and another picture, see p. 12.

workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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Bonn parliament ratifies Eastern pacts

THE West German Bundestag (lower house of parliament) yesterday approved Bonn's conciliation treaty with the Soviet Union after a three-week political crisis which threatened to bring down the ruling Social-Democrat-Free Democrat coalition.

A total of 248 deputies in the 196-member house voted for a parliamentary Bill ratifying the pact, concluded in August 1970, with ten voting against and 238 abstaining. The vote cleared the way for the Bill's early passage into law.

A similar treaty with Poland was later ratified by the same number of votes, with 17 against.

After lengthy discussions with members of his Christian Democratic Party, opposition leader Rainer Barzel urged opposition MPs to abstain on the treaty vote.

Earlier he had tried to commit the Christian Democrats to vote for the treaties—Brandt's 'Ostpolitik'—which were modified earlier this month as a result of opposition pressure.

But he ran into opposition from the

Bavarian Christian Social Union, led by right-winger Franz-Josef Strauss. Strauss has consistently opposed the treaties on the grounds that they ratify the division of Germany and make permanent the post-war transfer of German territory to Poland and the USSR.

The treaties are a key element in the Soviet government's preparation for a European security conference. Moscow had watched with obvious anxiety while the three-week parliamentary deadlock kept the Bill in suspense.

Gold price record rise

THE UPWARD surge in the price of gold continued dramatically yesterday with a record one-day increase of \$2.25 on the London market, taking the price to \$57.50 an ounce.

In Zurich the situation was the same. Frantic buying pushed the price up in 50 cent steps and it finished at \$56.50-\$57.50 at midday.

The upward trend gathered momentum at the beginning of the week. Gold has now risen \$13.50 this year.

A recent survey by the Consolidated Gold Fields mining group, which predicted that the price could go to \$85 an ounce by 1980, has given support to the speculation in the metal.

No one piece of hard evidence in San Jose trial



A drawing of Angela Davis in court by Jim Webber—Exclusive to Workers Press

Brazilian inmates chained to wall

PRISONERS in Brazilian jails are still chained as in the Middle Ages, according to an official Justice Ministry report published in Rio de Janeiro.

The report described the prison regime as 'sub-human' and notes that in Rio, for example, 'prisoners are chained at night to keep them from escaping'.

The report offers a sombre picture with hair-raising details and confirms that prisoners are exploited as a 'market' to maintain an 'intensive drug traffic'.

Prepared by a commission of inspectors on orders from Justice Minister Alfredo Buzaid, it says 'these centres for rehabilitation are real schools for the training and professionalization of criminals'.

Many prisons, particularly in Rio and the Matto Grosso, lack minimal hygienic conditions, the report says. In some jails, the prisoners come into contact with water 'only when it rains'. In others the governor does not possess a register of the inmates giving their sentence, the kind of crime and the date they are to be released.

Brazil's prisons are crowded with political prisoners jailed by the military regime. There have been persistent allegations of torture and systematic ill-treatment of detainees.

Japanese strike record

A JAPANESE seamen's strike—now in its second month—was yesterday only three weeks short of becoming the longest ever, with no sign of weakening by either side.

Angela subjected to 'terror and agony'

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

THE DEFENCE in the Angela Davis frame-up trial has demanded the dismissal of murder, kidnap and conspiracy charges against her and declared that she has been subjected to the 'terror and agony' of a useless prosecution.

Angela Davis stood beside attorney Leo Branton in the San José court on Tuesday as he demanded her acquittal because 'none of the essential elements of conspiracy has been proven'.

After seven weeks, during which 100 witnesses were heard and 200 exhibits produced, the state rested its case on Monday. The prosecution has produced no hard evidence to link the 28-year-old black Communist Party member to the courthouse gun-battle in which four people, including George Jackson's brother Jonathan, died in August 1970.

The prosecution had 'proven a helluva case against Jonathan Jackson', Branton said, but 'against Angela Davis the only thing you have proven is that she is a warm, articulate human being, who has love and compassion—yes for George Jackson, but for all humanity and especially for black people whom she represents so well'.

He added that the court had heard 'not one word of any discussion about a plan to do anything criminal' and the state had kept Angela Davis in prison for 18 months needlessly without sufficient evidence to convict.

Judge Arnason is expected to rule on the defence submission

on Thursday—but is almost certain to order the case to proceed. The defence case will then open and is expected to last about one month. Conviction for Angela Davis could mean life imprisonment without possibility for parole.

California's extreme rightist governor Ronald Reagan is seeking to overturn a recent Supreme Court decision which declared the death sentence a cruel and unusual penalty. If he succeeds, Angela Davis could be sent to the gas chamber by the court.

Ammo dumps blow

LIBERATION forces yesterday touched off a huge series of explosions at a South Vietnamese ammunition dump on the outskirts of Pleiku.

American B52 bombers flew eight strikes against targets around Kontum on Tuesday and

The explosions lasted several hours and destroyed thousands of rounds of howitzer shells. Liberation forces also attacked the airfield at Kontum, the central provincial capital now surrounded by North Vietnamese and National Liberation forces.

four other strikes were made outside the besieged town of An Loc, north of Saigon.

In Moscow, however, the Soviet leaders are preparing an enthusiastic welcome for the leader of US imperialism and making an effort to ensure that President Nixon's visit next week goes off smoothly.

The Communist Party newspaper 'Pravda' yesterday devoted its editorial to praising 'peaceful co-existence' with the US, saying it was 'possible and desirable', though not at the expense of other countries or peoples!

Milan police chief assassinated

DR Luigi Calabresi, head of the Milan police political bureau, was shot dead yesterday in a city street.

He was fired at from a passing car and collapsed. He died on his way to hospital, police said. They mounted an immediate manhunt to find the assassins.

Calabresi was responsible for

the investigation into the bombing of the Milan agricultural bank in December 1969. One of the men he arrested on suspicion of the crime, the anarchist Giuseppe Pinelli, 'fell' to his death from a window while under interrogation at Milan police headquarters.

Pinelli was only one of a number of inconvenient witnesses who disappeared in the course of

Dangerous right-wing swing to Wallace

GEORGE WALLACE, the wounded racist governor of Alabama, won a big victory in the Democratic primary elections of two northern states yesterday.

In industrial MICHIGAN he won close on 50 per cent of the vote, easily beating his two main Senators McGovern and Humphrey.

In MARYLAND, with 90 per cent of the returns in, he topped the poll with 40 per cent of the votes. Humphrey trailed in second place with 26 per cent and McGovern took only 22 per cent.

To win this position, particularly in Michigan, Wallace must have gained votes from many thousands of working-class voters.

The results show a dangerous swing to the right behind the Alabama governor, whose campaign is backed by every fascist and racist in the US.

Wallace's victories in the primaries are part of the process of break-up of the two-party system under the impact of world economic crisis and recession.

They demonstrate that the Democratic Party, which has traditionally enjoyed the support of the reformist labour leaders, is irrevocably divided and that the old-style discredited capitalist politicians, can no longer pull votes from the working class and the middle class.

Wallace is aided by the union leaders' retreat in the face of Nixon's wage-freeze policy. On the eve of the latest primaries, dock union chiefs backed down to the Pay Board rather than fight a government-imposed wage-cut.

Above all, their refusal to fight for an independent Labour Party based on the trade unions ties the workers to the Democratic Party machine and fuels the frustration and anger expressed in the big vote for Wallace.

Calabresi's investigations. The crime is widely believed to have been committed by extreme right-wing terrorists with whom Calabresi is known to have sympathized.

Before he was assassinated the police chief was involved in a court action against the left-wing magazine 'Lotta Continua' which had accused him of causing Pinelli's death.

'Financial Times' seminar

TORY EMPLOYMENT Secretary Maurice Macmillan went out of his way yesterday to calm fears about the Industrial Relations Act, but his conciliatory remarks were linked to a sharp warning.

He told businessmen at a 'Financial Times' industrial relations conference at London's Hilton Hotel:

'I am convinced that the Act would be working much better—and to the advantage of individual unions and their members — if trade unions would register and so put themselves in a position to take advantage of the legislation.

'It is my aim to encourage trade unions to register as quickly as possible, if only because I believe the greater status and authority which registration gives trade unions will help to galvanize management. And it is management which, above all, needs galvanizing.'

Macmillan chose deliberately to play on the reformist belief held by many right wingers on the TUC that bad management rather than recession was the root of many of the country's problems.

He said: 'What we need in industrial relations in Britain is a new dynamic which a constructive trade union movement can give it by jolting management out of the inertia which negative trade unionism encourages.'

Only last Monday the TUC sent a circular to its 140 affiliated unions criticizing inefficient firms and called for a policy of rationalization and better allocation of investment and manpower.

Macmillan said yesterday: 'I want trade unions to abandon their defensive posture. Instead I want them to join in a co-operative effort with management and with government to create a new and much more humane industrial society.'

'Let's talk constructively about building something instead of negatively about destroying things.'

'Let's work positively for better training; a better flow of information; better communication, the development of bargaining rights on a wider scale; more equitable pay systems; better grievance and disputes procedures; greater security for the individual worker; more comprehensive, more comprehensible and more effective collective agreements which stick.'

'I refuse to believe that once the trade union movement has got used to this legislation, it will not go out and use the law to

Unions must register to play my corporatist game

SAYS EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY MACMILLAN

the advantage of its millions of members.

'I believe we shall see a creative trade union movement not merely living within the Industrial Relations Act, but thriving on its use of the law as a catalyst for the very reforms it has long been in business to secure.'

'The British trade union movement has an honourable tradition of respect for the law. It also has in the long run a very keen appreciation of where its advantage—and more particularly the advantage of its members—lies.'

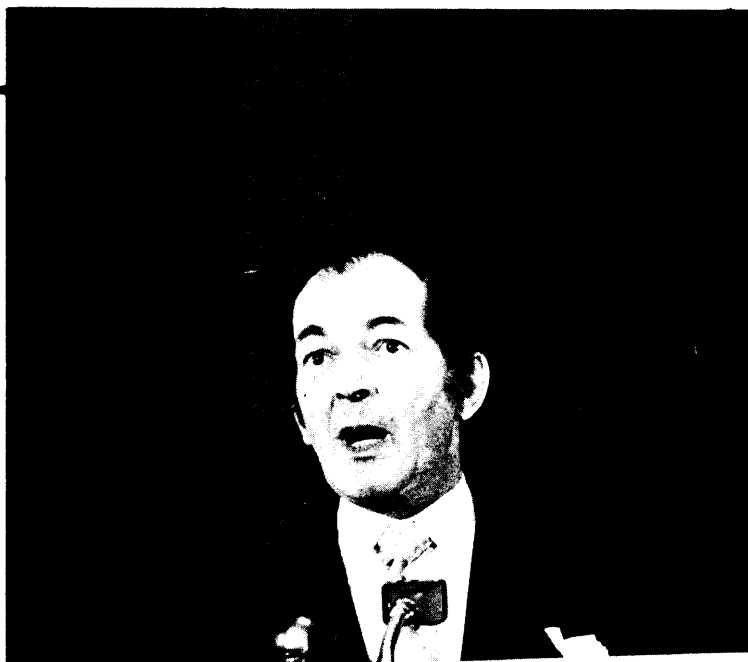
'It is therefore very much my conviction that a coming to terms with the new framework of legislation is more a question of when than if.'

Macmillan made it clear that he appreciated the difficulties trade union leaders were facing as a result of the working of the Act.

'No one should underestimate the heartsearching that it requires of the trade union movement. No one should fail to recognize that trade unions are being asked to make a complete reappraisal of their role in an industrial society.'

While going out of his way to paint union leaders a shining vision of the corporatist future under the Act, he warned that new conciliation and arbitration procedures currently under discussion between the TUC, the CBI and the Prime Minister must not be seen as some kind of substitute for the Act.

He said: 'I think it important to say at this stage that it would



Rt Hon Maurice Macmillan



be a curious commentary on a government which had sought to activate the community interest in industrial affairs through the Industrial Relations Act to anaesthetize it with a new system of conciliation that takes account only of the needs of the protagonists—regardless of wider consequences.'

He said the central problem, even more acute than industrial relations, was the need to deal with 'the consumptive disease of inflation'.

'Our overriding objective must be to overcome inflation—rising prices. We need a collective effort on the part of government, management and trade unions to eradicate it.'

But inflation cannot be eradicated. Like recession, it is a

symptom of the contradictory working of the world capitalist economy.

What Macmillan is really telling the unions is that the employers and the Tory government intend to do everything necessary to weather that recession.

He knows that the TUC is moving towards playing the corporatist game and is making it as easy as possible for them.

But while holding wide the door of collaboration, he has made it very plain that the Tories do not intend to be deflected from their aims and that if the unions choose not to co-operate their only alternative is to pick up the gauntlet of class war the government has thrown down.

Rail union seeks legal permission to discuss dispute!

RAIL TRADE unionists holding their annual conference at Weymouth, Dorset, are unable to discuss their current wages struggle because of the legal armoury of the Industrial Relations Act.

Delegates attending the conference of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association are now asking for a ruling from Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, on whether the current pay dispute can be discussed without fear of contempt of court.

The 500 delegates at the conference have been warned by their officials on several occasions this week that the matter is *sub judice* while the ballot appeal continues.

Many delegates believe that the legal threat being used by the TSSA executive is simply a device to prevent discussion on the way the wages issue has been fought by the union.

It is entirely ludicrous that union delegates at their annual meeting cannot discuss and take decisions on questions which vitally effect the standard of living and future of their membership because of legal intimidation.

The experience of the TSSA conference is further evidence that the Act is designed to strip away the democratic rights of trade unions.

Rank-and-file trade unionists who want to defend these hard-won rights can intervene by demanding a recall of the TUC to stop the retreat of the trade union leaders.

Such a congress would also have to prepare the political and industrial conditions to force this hated Heath government out of office. Only by ending the reign of the Tories can the Act be obliterated from the statute books.

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.



Pickets at the gates of Benford Machinery.

Magazine witch-hunts striking convenor

MANAGEMENT of Benford Concrete Machinery in Warwick is attempting to witch-hunt the factory's convenor by blaming him for the week-long strike of its 350 workers.

In the company magazine 'News and Views' they devoted 12 pages to their side of the dispute and include a photograph of the convenor, Mr Duffy, with the information that he comes from Ireland.

The company account of the strike is being treated contemptuously by strikers, who claim 100 per cent shut-down of the factory.

Ray Newel, a leading AUEW steward in the plant, said: 'We put in a claim for £6

across-the-board increase on March 24. We demanded an overhaul of the piecework system because of the wide differentials in earnings and also demanded payment for shop stewards' functions.'

'We didn't get an answer, so we banned overtime. The company refused to negotiate until we lifted the ban.'

But when the ban was lifted the company turned all the workers' demands down flat at a works conference and asked that the conference be adjourned for two weeks.

In spite of AUEW official Frank Chater's suggestion that the men agree to this proposal, the men gave the firm seven days' strike notice.

Plant deals split union

COLNBROOK and Poyle branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has passed a resolution asking the union's executive council to recall the National Committee to reconsider their position on plant-bargaining.

The resolution says plant-bargaining is splitting the union and demands a nationwide fight on the engineers' claim for a £6-a-week rise, a 35-hour week and extra holidays.

BOOKS



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Paperback 37½p
- Revolution Betrayed**
Paperback 62½p—cloth £1.05
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Paperback £1.12½—cloth £1.87½
- Permanent Revolution: Results and Prospects**
Paperback 75p
- In Defence of Marxism**
Paperback 75p
- Lessons of October**
Paperback 60p

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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'.

UNION-BASHING IS A SPECIALITY

One month after the June 1970 General Election, 'The Sunday Times' delight at the Tory victory was on the wane.

The stock market had slumped, the balance of payments was hovering over the red, the pound had fallen to its lowest point for some time and troops were poised to go into the docks.

Growth without inflation was 'The Sunday Times' battle cry—not unnaturally since it is the sole means of recouping value and safeguarding profits.

The paper's advice to the Tories on the eve of their first big industrial dispute was uncompromising. To give in to the dockers, it said on July 19, 'would set a catastrophic pattern for wage settlements under the new government'.

On August 18 as the economy deteriorated and the Tories remained inactive 'The Sunday Times' rallied:

'Two months after the election the Tory promise of muscular dynamism remains, puzzlingly, but almost completely, unrevealed.'

And on what was now regarded as the central issue—wages:

'We believe that a government policy for incomes and some governmental role in determining them are an essential accompaniment to any policy for sustained and controlled growth.'

On September 6 the government was still unmoved and 'The Sunday Times' weighed in: 'Let government commence':

'It is essential to the government's reputation—not to mention the prosperity of the bourgeoisie—that it should take some interim measures against strikes and wage inflation.'

'A stand must be made against gigantic claims... (and) the cabinet must examine the deterrents against strike action.'

'It should make PAYE rebate arrangements less favourable to strikers than they now are and should study the range of social security payments and sickness benefit fiddles which cushion the striker who has any foresight.'

If the milk of human kindness still ran through the feature pages, it had clearly dried up in the leader column.

The big stick was brought out again on September 27: 'Mr Feather and his colleagues have grown too accustomed to governmental retreat.'

By October 11, when the Tories were showing some signs of resisting the dustmen's pay claim 'The Sunday Times' chortled:

'The Industrial Relations Bill is certain to become law. This is one government which the unions won't terrorize into submission.'

'Rather than negative and dumb hostility, the TUC and the big union leaders should show some sensitivity to Mr Carr's offer to talk.'

Subtle

'The Sunday Times' attitude to the dustmen's strike was subtle in terms of its readership. It did not oppose the claim—a fact which may have contributed to the familiar confusion about the paper's liberality.

Instead it said: 'No one can feel anything but rage for the shop worker on £16, the municipal worker on £14, the pensioner.'

And added: 'All these disputes and stoppages have done nothing for the poor. The rich pilots, car workers, printers, dockers have got richer.'

This was a formula to be repeated in December when the power workers struck and were crucified by just about everybody.

The idea was that large increases should be resisted and redistributed to the poor. By the miners' strike even this hint of humanitarianism was to disappear.

After seeing the size of Sir Jack Scamp's award to the dustmen 'The Sunday Times' stamped its foot. The settlement was a betrayal of all hopes in the government. Next time Heath must stand firm.

By December 8 the trade union leaders were beginning their feeble agitation against the Industrial Relations Bill and 'The Sunday Times' saw it as a challenge to the very foundations of bourgeois society.

'... the strike being organized on December 8 against the Industrial Relations Bill is a shameful attempt by one section of society to upset by force the unambiguous verdict of the majority.'

'The undermining of this (democratic) process which is now being attempted is therefore peculiarly ugly.'

Consistent with their wage-redistribution theory, the paper saw it as 'unfortunate' that the Tories had chosen the power workers to make their stand on inflation because of the men's 'record of responsibility and productivity'. But just before Christmas when airline staff worked to rule 'The Sunday Times' called it 'vicious'.

December 20: 'It falls to the airline management to resist firmly, if necessary by exacting the maximum penalty from people who refuse to work properly.'



Post workers during the 1971 strike which for 'The Sunday Times' grew to be 'very nasty.'

Despite all previous anxiety for the low paid, by February 1971 this was exposed as strictly vintage 1970.

February 21: 'After weeks of strange indifference most people are at last seized of the fact that the postal strike has grown very nasty.'

As cash arrived at UPW headquarters from transport, engineering and rail workers the paper said:

'It is becoming more not less intense and it has now been played at the front of the total war in which the unions see themselves engaged as against the government.'

In March the Ford strike precipitated a stern lecture on the need for secret ballots to make sure union leaders really had the support they claimed.

By April 1971, 'The Sunday Times' was despairing. On April 11 it said: 'The government's approach to incomes policy is palpably collapsing.'

There had been two recent settlements with car workers.

'Just as significant as the size of the rises offered by Vauxhall and British-Leyland is the fact that they have been offered without a fight.'

'They are inflationary in themselves. They poison the atmosphere of restraint which the government has tried to create.'

Revolutions

After persistent exhortations to the Tories to free themselves from Treasury conservatism and go for growth, on June 20, after '12 months of the new Tories', 'The Sunday Times' discovered happily: 'Two great revolutions have been begun—the Industrial Relations Bill and the Common Market.'

Despite these 'hopeful' signs, a month later industry was contracting and slump was on every economist's lips. In view of this 'The Sunday Times' said of the collapse of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders:

'In economic terms the

decision to contract shipbuilding on the Upper Clyde cannot be criticized.'

Music to Heath's ears, it went on: 'It is better that the brute realities of shipbuilding should be recognized and not permitted to foster false hopes among another generation of Glaswegians.'

As to the 'human tragedy': '... the government must show more involvement with the Clydesiders than Mr Davies managed last week.'

They did. Heath visited them. But the plans to 'butcher' the yards continued.

By January 1972, as the industrial barometer turned more and more decisively toward slump, 'The Sunday Times' business interest was well to the fore.

January 9: 'An excessive award to the miners, apart from once more imperilling the Coal Board's position, will be the pretext for more inflationary demands elsewhere.'

And then, on February 13, the most brutal anti-working class statement since the Tories came to power.

'The price of submission [to the miners] would be a sharp reversal of the limited success against spiralling wages and prices.'

'Unions have simply not been willing to make the sacrifices which are entailed for some workers if other workers are to get better treatment.'

'In the absence of such agreement it remains unconvincing to defend as "special" a case which is in fact based on brute force.'

'It would be an even more damaging and insidious prospect (to submit) than the imminent national stoppage of industry.'

Every possible effort was to be made to get the miners to accept the recommendations of the Wilberforce inquiry.

'But if they do not there should be no question where the public interest lies.'

'The government cannot

permit the industrial hierarchy to be reordered and the national economy to be re-ordered by 280,000 men.

'... the government is here as in few other situations the citizens only defence against force.'

'Whether through inflation, which destroys his wealth, or through intimidation, which destroys his freedom, the citizen will be the real victim if the miners get what their leaders uncompromisingly demand.'

Who, one wonders, is the citizen with all this wealth and freedom? Surely only the bourgeoisie.

The lead that day also noted: 'Another lesson is that picketing law and practice needs much clearer definition than it receives in the Industrial Relations Act if intimidation is not to become a recurrent weapon of industrial action.'

Gloom

A week later gloom was at boot level in the Gray's Inn Rd and 'The Sunday Times' attacked the award to the miners as 'disastrous'.

It returned to its long-held belief that only a prices and incomes policy, operated with the co-operation of the Confederation of British Industries and the TUC could now stave off imminent disaster.

With hearts hardened by the miners' 'victory' and the sharply-deteriorating economic situation on March 5 returning to the plight of British shipbuilding the paper said:

'We must face the fact that a point could come where there are just not enough working taxpayers left to pay the subsidies involved.'

Humanitarian to the last, the lead concluded:

'It is no kindness to leave [men] building over-expensive, outdated ships for which there is no further demand.'

CONTINUED TOMORROW

SPANISH STALINISTS SUPPORT FOR COMMON MARKET

BY OUR SPANISH CORRESPONDENT

The Spanish Communist Party has committed itself to support for Spain's entry into the Common Market by claiming that certain sectors of the big bourgeoisie are in favour of democratic reforms in Spain as a preparation for entry.

This treacherous acceptance of the capitalist reorganization against the European working class is fully in line with Moscow's acceptance of the economic reality of the Market, and the rapid development of trade between Spain and the Stalinist bureaucracies of Eastern Europe.

The Stalinists seek an alliance with the most reactionary political and monopolistic forces in Europe against the revolutionary development of the working class which is fighting to maintain living standards and independent organization threatened by the world-wide economic crisis.

In July the Spanish Foreign Minister, Lopez Bravo, will visit London for talks with Sir Alec Douglas-Home. Bravo, the main Spanish architect of the détente with Moscow, will not have as the central topic for discussion the status of Gibraltar but the opening up of Spain to investment by British monopolists.

CHEAP LABOUR

A recent survey by the Tory 'Economist' pointed out the advantages to strike-bound British capital of Franco's fascist state, and quite explicitly the meaning of the 'European dream' of capital: 'Spain could become a productive base for many of the big multi-national companies in Europe . . . it offers relatively cheap labour, a very liberal attitude to foreign investors and comparative freedom from strikes.'

It is interesting to note the pro-Europeans in Spain whom Stalinism and British Tories share as mutual friends.

Lopez Rodó, Minister for Development, made a major statement of fascist policy on Europe in the Cortes, the puppet parliament in Madrid, when introducing the Bill for the Third National Development Plan.

Rodó prefaced his speech with praise for fascist ideologist José Antonio, whose great plan for 'the reconciliation of the individual and the community' was the inspiration of 'the heroic mobilization of the generation of 1936'.

He then proceeded to a bitter attack on the Marxist thesis that 'consciousness develops from matter': 'Our philosophy recognizes the freedom of man as the decisive factor in history.'

He made it quite clear that no freedom should be allowed

for Marxist socialism: 'Far from giving it facilities for propaganda and organization, the defence of freedom cannot be rhetorical, but active, in order to silence those who today clamour for freedom in order to submit us tomorrow to oppression.'

Rodó called for a gradual movement into the European Common Market. Spain was already economically and mentally a part of Europe.

His speech ended with a series of promises which would be received with contempt by Spanish workers, though they might be welcomed in the pages of 'Pravda': 'It is comforting to think that by 1980 all Spanish families will have a telephone, television, and a house, and eight out of ten will have a car.'

'Illiteracy will have disappeared and the university will be open to all those with the necessary intellectual aptitudes.'

Another pro-European favourite of the Stalinists is Gil Robles. He was the leader of the fascist CEDA before the Civil War. After trips to Germany and Italy, he modelled the political work of his organization on that of German and Italian fascism. He now enjoys the open support of the Spanish Communist Party for European policies and his call for greater power to the regions within Spain.

In a recent speech to the Christian Association of Employers, Robles quoted Hitler against excessive nationalism. He praised Schumann and Adenauer as supporters of a Christian and democratic Europe.

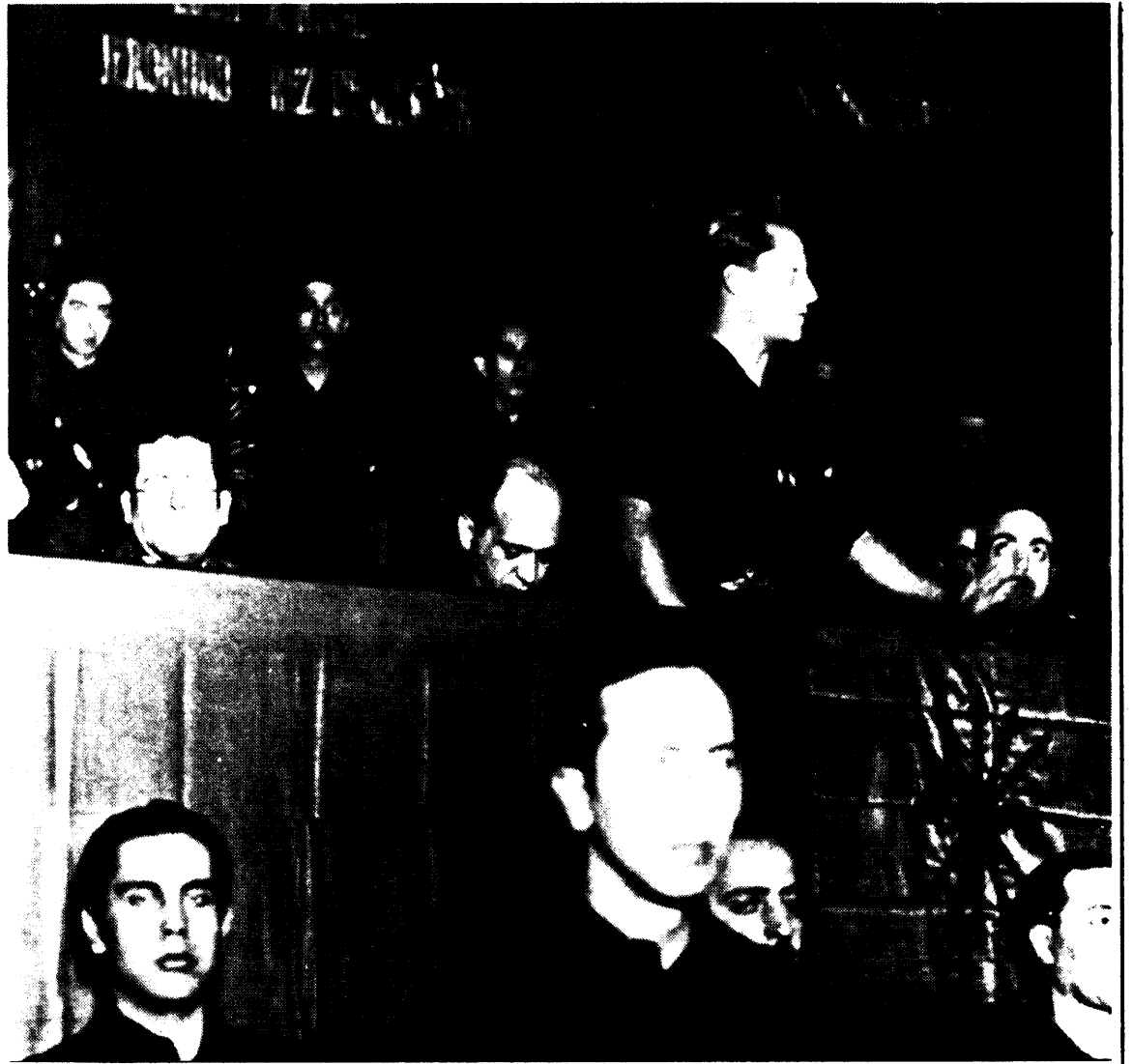


Gil Robles: Quoting Hitler

Central Bank director Alfonso Escamez, told a meeting of shareholders on May 6 the bank should prepare 'for a future called Europe'.

Escamez outlined the need for a greater mobilization of banks in Spain in order to cope with the European market. Another main responsibility would be the development of solid international economic relations and co-operation with multi-national companies who looked to Spain as a good base for their investment in Europe.

The Central Bank had already formalized an agreement for co-operation with the



José Antonio Primo de Rivera, fascist ideologist of the 1930s who is praised by Spain's Minister for Development, Rodó, in his recent speech on fascist policy toward Europe.

German firm 'Metallgesellschaft' for the development of a mining project in Aznalcollar.

To complete this spectrum of Spanish pro-Market men is General Diaz-Alegria, a leading general in the Spanish army. Described by the 'Economist' as 'very humane and a convinced European', he has warned that 'one thing that might induce the army to attempt "a Greek solution" after Franco would be a wave of political strikes or a sustained campaign of urban terrorism'.

So those sections of the bourgeoisie in favour of Spain's entry into the Common Market are quite clear on the need to suppress the working class. They are also conscious that it is the illegality of trade unions and the low wages paid out to Spanish workers which makes Spain so attractive for investment by international capital.

Spanish Stalinists support these plans by saying they will open the way for the growth of real Spanish capitalism. They know that this is impossible, making it the basis for calling on Spanish workers not to prepare for civil war and socialist revolution as the answer to the plans of the monopolists but to work for harmony with the progressive bourgeoisie.

While the diplomatic negotiations for Spain's entry into the Common Market continue, investment in Spain by European monopolies is proceeding very rapidly.

The Italian car giant, Fiat, has plans to make its Seat plant in Barcelona its production base for the European and Latin American market. The Barcelona plant already has exclusive rights for the production of the Fiat 600 model.

Fiat hopes to make Seat the sixth largest car producer in Europe by 1975 with a £95m investment programme.

At the Seat shareholders general meeting in Madrid on April 25, the company's president, Juan Sanchez-Cortes y Davila, revealed that in line with its long-term strategy for export that in 1971, the company increased its exports by 49.3 per cent over the 1970 figures. Seventy-seven per cent of these exports were sold to countries in the Common Market and EFTA groups.

In 1970 the company made a gross profit of about £4½m and paid out a 12 per cent

tax-free dividend to shareholders.

The growth of Seat is a remarkable piece of profiteering by the Catholic Church. As is well known, a substantial slice of Fiat profits goes into the Vatican's coffers.

Seat is expanding by kind permission of the Opus Dei men in Franco's government. Opus Dei member Lopez Rodó lives in an Opus community in Madrid, whilst the Opus leader Escrivá sends out directives to Madrid from his busy retreat in Rome.

Citroen, Chrysler and Renault have also big expansion programmes under way in Spain.

FOREIGN CAPITAL

Seat, with 24,000 employees, remains the largest firm in Spain, it is based on foreign capital.

Some years ago, the Madrid evening newspaper 'El Pueblo', organ of the fascist vertical unions, ran a competition 'Design the first really Spanish car!' This car and independent economic development in Spain remain—and will remain for ever—dreams of the Spanish petty-bourgeoisie, dreams which determine the policies of Spanish Stalinism!

One of the main monopolies leading the race into Spain is that backer of the Tory Party, the Rio Tinto Company. In 1971, its main activity in Spain in the Union Explosives Rio Tinto (ERT), has been a merging of companies, rationalization of production and expansion.

Its labour force of 13,500 produced 35 per cent more than in 1970, spanning over a wide range of products from explosives to plastics.

The ERT group continued its mopping up of the plastics industry in Spain by adding two more companies to the seven already taken over.

ERT took the initiative in the development of the petrochemical complex in Tarragona. An important element in this complex is the Sociedad Anonima Explosivos Total Aquitaine (SAETA). Sixty-six per cent of the capital came from the ERT and the rest belonged to the French firm Aquitaine Total Organico. The object of this investment is the manufacture of polyethylene by a process patented by the French company.

Another project for the Tarragona complex is the Rio Mit Company in which ERT will have 60 per cent of the investment, the Mitsui Petrochemical Industries Ltd 32 per cent and Mitsui and Company 8 per cent.

Alongside this project for the manufacture of the basic materials for synthetic fibres is an agreement for the building of a factory jointly with the Canadian company, Polysar.

Profits from petrol are also the great ambition of Rio Tinto in Spain. Having entered this field by taking over the Rio Gulf de Petroleos Company, in which it owns 60 per cent of the capital, ERT was chosen by the Spanish government as the private company to invest in the refinery to be built in Tarragona.

Babcock and Wilcox is another international monopoly which has taken the lead in investing in Spain. In eight years, trade by their Spanish section has quadrupled, with production based in Bilbao factories.

Babcock have created in a modern plant a centre for manufacturing tubular steel products, electrical and diesel engines. Two hundred electric diesel engines have already been exported.

It is probable that the recent large order from Yugoslavia for rolling-stock will be supplied by Babcock's and also the millions of pounds to be invested by the Tory government in railways material in Spain could very easily find its way into the coffers of Babcock and Wilcox.

Britain's entry into the Common Market can only accelerate the movement of British capital in Spain.

The Stalinist bureaucracy is fully behind these moves. The breaking of the Asturian miners' strike by the Polish Stalinists was part of their effort to create a 'new Europe'.

The British and Spanish Communist Parties have both refused to condemn such actions from the standpoint of principle; for these Stalinists certain 'economic realities' are more important than socialist principle.

Now that the Spanish Communist Party is in favour of the Market, one must ask British CP Secretary John Gollan and his King St company why they do not condemn this acceptance of the plans of the monopolists.

HOW BRITAIN BEGAN THE VIETNAM WAR

As American bombers drop their murderous cargo on Hanoi and Haiphong and Nixon risks even nuclear war, a special correspondent recounts a long-forgotten episode in Asia — when the British army occupied Vietnam in a bid to restore French imperialism.

In 1945 the British working class gave the Attlee government an overwhelming mandate to carry out socialist policies at home and abroad.

Instead, social democracy conspired with world Stalinism to give capitalism a breathing space to re-establish its grip on its Asian colonies.

In Asia an upsurge of the liberation movements had forced British imperialism to grant nominal independence to the Indian sub-continent and nationalist-bourgeois regimes were installed to secure capitalist investments and property.

This was not possible, however, in Vietnam. This country had been submerged in the Indo-Chinese empire ruled by the French. Since 1883 the Vietnamese people had suffered poverty and great exploitation at the hands of their colonial masters but World War II decisively altered the situation.

When the Japanese overran the country the French colons put up no resistance. They collaborated with the invaders just as Vichy welcomed the German fascists in the French homeland.

Vietnamese resistance against the Japanese invasion was put down ruthlessly by the French. In one uprising in Cochinchina in the south, 6,000 Vietnamese were killed or wounded and thousands imprisoned.

It was only the Vietminh, an alliance of several nationalist movements, led by the Communist Party under Ho Chi Minh, that carried out any resistance struggle. It was the Americans who recognized them as a valuable ally against the Japanese and smuggled in large quantities of arms.

The Vietminh were so successful that after the collapse of the Japanese army at the end of the war, they were strong enough to set up a provisional government in Saigon known as the Vietminh Committee.

The Allied High Command, however, decided that the British army, under Mountbatten, would enter Vietnam to disarm the surrendered Japanese troops, arrange their repatriation and bring out Allied prisoners of war. Nothing was decided, however, at that stage about the future of Vietnam.



Armed Japanese guards greet HMS Wavenny arriving in Vietnam, October 4, 1945.

Though the Vietminh were in control of Saigon and a good part of the countryside, the French were determined to regain control of what they considered their colony.

British imperialism sided decisively with the French. They were afraid that any concessions to Vietnamese nationalism would have a profound effect on the people of Burma and Malaya.

At the Yalta conference, President Roosevelt suggested that Indo-China might be ruled by a trusteeship. Churchill firmly opposed this.

'The British didn't like it,' Roosevelt wrote later. 'It might bust up their Empire, because if the Indo-Chinese were to work together and eventually get their independence the Burmese might do the same thing.'

Eventually agreement was reached, without, of course, consulting the Vietnamese people. Lord Mountbatten's South East Asia Command would be responsible for South Vietnam up to the 16th parallel. The Americans, in alliance with Chiang Kai-shek, the



the British, the Vietminh attacked, killed and arrested large numbers of Trotskyists.

This made little impression on British imperialism. Gracey's first move was to demand the handing over of all Vietnamese arms. He then took over all vital installations, such as the airfield, the power station, banks, police stations, and so on.

The Vietminh Committee was concerned, but still determined to co-operate. Despite this, spontaneous demonstrations did take place.

Gracey's next move caused even more disquiet. Far from disarming the Japanese, the British began to organize them into an armed police force, using them to maintain law and order against the Vietnamese.

Protected by British, Indian and Japanese rifle butts, which were used liberally against anyone showing any opposition, the French colons who had been keeping off the streets for fear of Vietnamese reprisals, began to gain confidence. Life for the French began to resemble the carefree party it had been before the war.

They demanded that Gracey allow them to re-arm so they could prepare to remove the Vietminh Committee from power.

The Vietminh protested as British rule became more and more openly pro-French. During the war, they pointed out, it was they, not the French colons, who had helped the

Allies win the war.

Gracey refused to listen. He would not even talk to them. 'I was welcomed on arrival by the Vietminh,' he boasted later, '... and I promptly kicked them out.'

The Vietminh organized a strike of Saigon market traders in protest against British connivance with their former rulers. In retaliation, Gracey ordered the closing down of the Vietminh press.

But still clinging to the peaceful co-existence policy urged on them by Stalin, the Vietminh offered to allow the British to censor their papers. But to no avail. The press remained firmly closed.

On September 21 Gracey issued a proclamation stating his intention to maintain 'law and order'. It was a deliberate provocation.

In it he warned 'all wrongdoers, especially looters and saboteurs of public and private property, and those also carrying out similar criminal activities, that they will be summarily shot'.

It also stated:

- No demonstrations or processions will be permitted.
- No public meetings will take place.
- No arms of any description including sticks, staves, bamboo spears, etc., will be carried except by British and Allied troops, and such other forces and police which have been specially authorized by me.

● The curfew already imposed on my orders by the Japanese authorities between 21.30 and 05.30 in Saigon and Cholon will be continued and strictly enforced.

With no press and no possibility of holding any meetings or demonstrations, and with all the arms concentrated in the hands of the British army and their new Japanese allies, the Vietminh had no means of answering this attack.

The Trotskyists had been right. The sell-out they feared was about to take place.

PRISONERS RE-ARMED

Gracey began to hand over guns to the French colons and on September 22 the British took over Saigon jail, disarmed the Vietnamese staff and re-armed the French prisoners who had been held as Japanese collaborators. The following day, with British permission, the French struck against the Vietminh Committee. They stormed its headquarters in Saigon Town Hall.

An American reporter who witnessed the scene described how 'sentries were shot down. Occupants of the building were either killed or taken prisoner. Records were seized and scattered. Scores of Annamites [Vietnamese] were trussed up and marched off. Foreign eye-witnesses that morning saw

blood flow, saw bound men beaten. They saw French colonial culture being restored to Saigon'.

The French colons went mad in their desire for revenge. Armed mobs rampaged through the streets beating, shooting and arresting any Vietnamese they could get their hands on.

The Vietminh, who had been patiently trying to negotiate with the British for weeks, were now driven into a corner and forced to fight.

Frightened of the consequences, Gracey tried to put a stop to further excesses. Attempts were made to disarm some of the colons. Armed Japanese units were sent out to deal with the enraged Vietnamese people. But it was too late. Saigon was at war and guerrilla forces were organizing in the countryside.

The 'maintenance of law and order' now meant openly what it had secretly meant all along — the suppression of the Vietnamese workers and peasants so they could be handed back to the brutal exploitation of French colonialism in an effort to stem the tide of anti-imperialist struggles throughout Asia.

Heavy fighting took place throughout the south. Vietnamese guerrillas were dealt with without mercy. Thousands of peasants were rounded up or killed.

Many of the tactics used by the Americans today were started under the British army

—the wholesale rounding up of villagers, destruction of villages suspected of harbouring guerrillas, indiscriminate shooting of unarmed men, women and children.

Operational Instruction No. 220 issued to British and Indian troops stated:

'We may find it difficult to distinguish friend from foe... beware of "nibbling" at opposition. Always use the maximum force available to ensure wiping out any hostiles we may meet. If one uses too much, no harm is done. If one uses too small a force, and it has to be extricated, we will suffer casualties and encourage the enemy.'

And later:

'If when following up a report no enemy is met with, suspects must be brought in from the area concerned. They are probably the hostiles reported, who have for the moment become friendly villagers.'

LIBERATION BATTLE

And so the battle for Vietnamese liberation entered a new stage. After fighting for their freedom against the French and then against the Japanese, the workers and peasants of Vietnam were now once again having to fight the French, who were supported with utmost brutality by the

British army under orders from a Labour government.

Defeated Japanese troops were forced to take up arms again, this time to defend their former enemies from the Vietnamese. Japanese soldiers were put in the front line and suffered more casualties than all the British, Indians and French put together.

Attlee's war minister, the Rt Hon J. J. Lawson, on a visit to Singapore, stated that 'British obligations to her allies will not involve fighting for the French against the people of Indo-China', but a few days later Mountbatten received instructions from the British Chief of Staff that he was to 'use British-Indian troops to give assistance to the French throughout the interior'.

It has been suggested that the Labour government did not know everything that was being done there and that Gracey often acted off his own bat. This may be partly true. But at no time did the government disown what he did or attempt to remove him from his position.

When questions were raised in the House of Commons, they were sidestepped by the Cabinet Ministers. Assurances were given that British troops were not being used to put down popular movements in Indo-China or to help re-instate the French.

By March 1946 the last of the British and Indian troops had left Vietnam and the

French were in full command again.

For their splendid work there, all ranks involved in Vietnam were awarded the General Services Medal.

'We have done our best for the French,' Gracey said. 'It is up to them to carry on.'

They did. And the Vietnamese workers and peasants were involved in a war which was to lead to the rout of the French at Dien Bien Phu, and now close to the defeat of American imperialism.

But direct responsibility for the rivers of blood which have flowed in Vietnam lies with British social democracy.

Just as the post-war Labour government held back the struggle of British workers for socialism and opened the door for the return of this most reactionary Tory government, so in Vietnam they paved the way for the massive French, and later American intervention which has cost millions of lives.

The working class must ensure that they are never allowed to carry out such betrayals again.

Much of the information in this article was drawn from 'The British in Vietnam—How the 25-year war began', by George Rosie, Panther (1970) 8s. (40p).

Pages from Railway History 1839-1972 by Ian Yeats.
Part seven

1948-1972 STATE CONTROL AND LORD BEECHING

Since 1948 and with additional boosts in 1954 and 1961, the history of British railways has been one of modernization, increased productivity and redundancies.

And the history of the leadership of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) has been one of 'emphatic protest' which failed completely to alter successive governments' intentions.

The pattern for the future was set less than a month after the post-war Labour government took the railways into public ownership—studiously ignoring widespread demands for workers' control.

The government stressed that there would be no wage rises except in cases where it could clearly be shown that productivity was increased or sections of the industry were undermanned.

The plan was to try to limit inflationary price rises by the well-known Tory tactic of clamping down on wages.

This was not likely to be acceptable to men who, at the outbreak of war in 1939, had launched a nation-wide wave of unofficial strikes for more pay and who, a decade later, were considerably worse off.

Sure enough, in the summer of 1948 they asked the Labour government for a 10s.-a-week rise—they were offered 3s.

A whole year later a special NUR general meeting called for a work-to-rule in support of the 10s rise but was persuaded by the leaders to call it off in return for a government promise of an inquiry.

The NUR leaders accepted, under protest, the inquiry's recommendations, only to be faced immediately with another demand from the rank and file—this time for a £5-a-week rise coupled with yet another call for a work-to-rule.

General secretary Jim Figgins urged delegates at a second special general meeting in 1948 to think again.

He told them: 'Such a policy would considerably undermine whatever little chance they had of economic recovery and political independence.'

He also warned that the railwaymen must do nothing to harm the chances of the Labour Party at the next General Election—then only a year away.

Disillusioned with their leaders' milk-and-water policies, men began drifting away from the union and the industry.

Paltry wage increases were conceded to the remainder, but by 1950 the popular demand was for a 10-per-cent pay rise for all grades.

While the railwaymen and big sections of the working class were demanding pay rises to meet escalating living costs the TUC was helping the bourgeoisie out of its post-war difficulty with a policy of voluntary wage-restraint.

NUR historian Philip Bagwell notes that 'by the late summer [of 1950] economic conditions had improved and

the TUC had conceded the need for greater flexibility on wage movements.'

As we started by saying, the logic of reformism required the unions to retreat whenever the enemy advanced.

Now favourable economic conditions were enabling the capitalists to be marginally more generous (under pressure) and the trade union leaders discovered the courage to ask for more.

The Tory government offered less than half the 10 per cent the men were demanding and even this, the 1951 Guillebaud Inquiry stressed, was regarded 'as an advance or mortgage on economies to be effected in the future'.

Not even the NUR leaders could accept this bare-faced promise of certain future sackings and the executive committee rejected the inquiry by 19 votes to one.

The rank and file left no doubt how they felt and unofficial strikes broke out at Liverpool and Manchester.

The confrontation was, unsurprisingly, avoided. The NUR leaders accepted 7½ per cent at first glance, without strings. They had asked for 10 per cent.

But they also accepted a separate document headed 'Measures for Increased Efficiency' which recognized:

'The imperative need for the fullest possible co-operation with the railway executive in the elimination of waste of manpower, in increasing efficiency and improving productivity within the railway industry.'

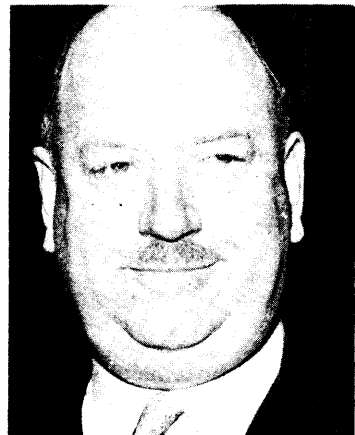
The NUR leaders agreed to a joint committee to look into what economies might be effected—thus accepting, and even helping, in the rationalization to which their members had been bitterly opposed.

One factor more than any other tied the hands of both the immediate post-war governments in granting the wage rises the railwaymen were demanding in the years on compensation stock.

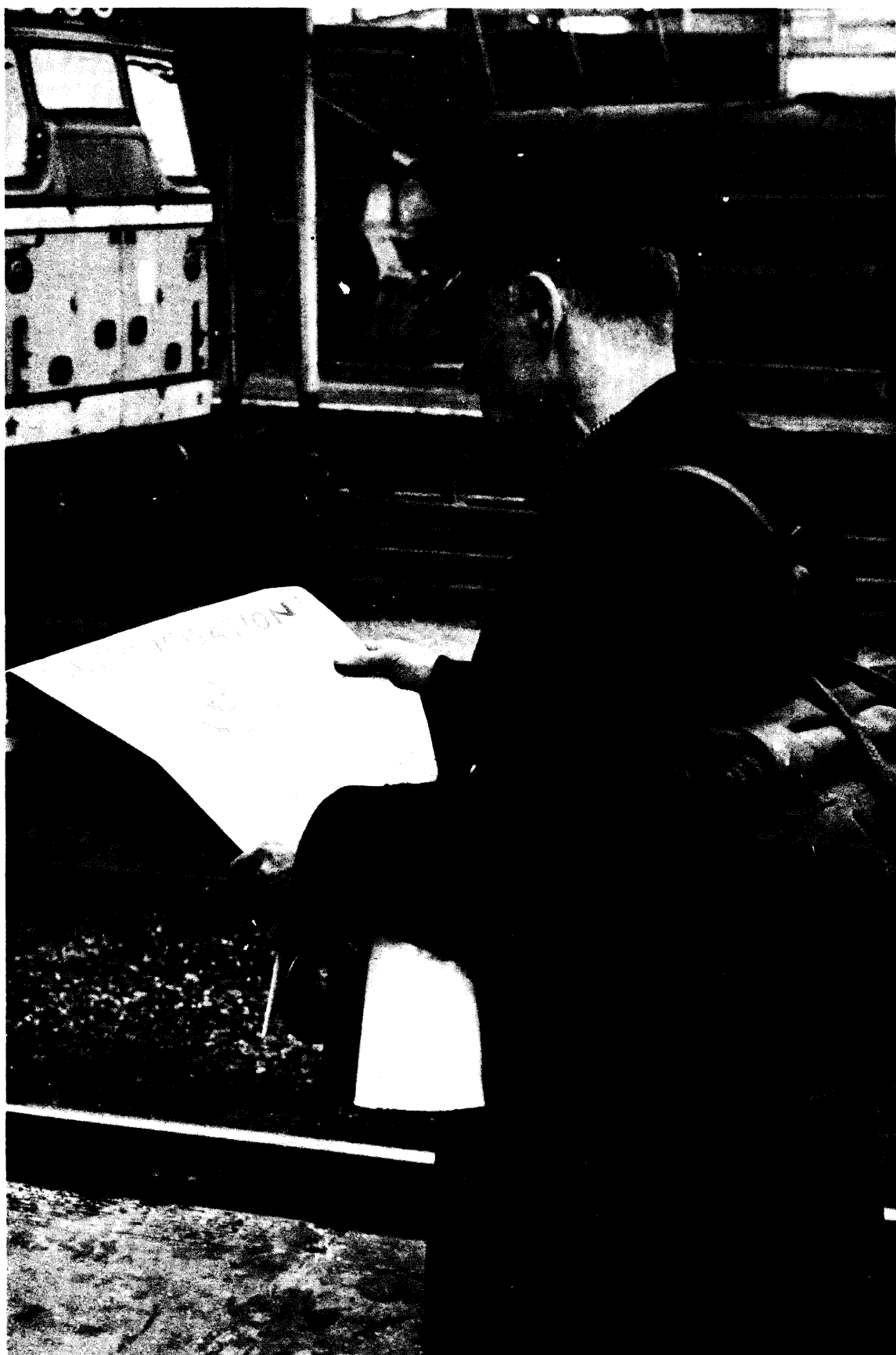
Throughout the period the railways notched up a profit of £165m, but the old rail owners demanded £176m—result: loss.

The Tories were not the men to stand losses for very long if it could be avoided.

A massive modernization programme was launched in 1954 which included the switch from steam to diesel trains, electrification, extension



Lord Beeching in 1963



1963: announcement of the Beeching plans for productivity increases and redundancies on British Rail

of power signalling, centralization of traffic control and even the mechanization of office equipment—nearly all of it labour saving.

A year later the NUR leaders welcomed the proposals, which by 1971 had been the basis for sacking about 66 per cent of the 1948 workforce.

While workshops and depots closed right, left and centre and thousands of men were sacked, Begwell notes that:

'In the 1950s the executive committee of the NUR had a well-deserved reputation for its moderation and sense of responsibility.'

A whole new era of 'sense of responsibility' was opened up in 1961 when Tory hatchetman Dr Robert Beeching took over control of the railways which he had been told to make pay—at any cost.

In May 1955 rank-and-file pressure against closures, sackings and derisory pay rises looked like forcing the NUR leaders to call a national strike.

The men wanted a 15-per-cent increase, but the government was not playing ball and a state of emergency was declared in preparation for the fight.

At the last minute the strike was called off in return for a promise of further negotiations which eventually yielded increases of between 2s 6d and 6s 6d.

Over the years the NUR leaders had become renowned for their brinkmanship, for carrying their fight to the last possible ditch and then, almost invariably, agreeing to an inquiry when it looked as if they could not win without

crossing the frontier of reformism.

Throughout Beeching's ruthless programme the NUR leaders ultimately gave in on every important issue.

They did not prevent

- Speed up.
- The axing of guards' vans over which in the late 1960s there were long and bitter unofficial strikes.
- The use of non-union labour at the new freightliner terminals.

● Widespread closure of depots, yards and workshops and massive sackings.

Huge productivity concessions by no means matched pay rises and in 1968 British Rail's labour overseer Len Neal noted jubilantly that they entirely covered the cost of increases.

Unofficial strikes against the NUR leaders' policies of co-operation, which almost always led to outright surrender, broke out in 1962, 1964, 1967 and 1969 and official strikes were called off in favour of the now famous negotiations formula in 1960, 1963 and 1966.

Sidney Greene was asked to take disciplinary action against the wave of unofficial strikes in 1969. Instead of rebuffing the suggestion he replied:

'What disciplinary action can you take? They are defying both the management and the union.'

In 1972 Sir Sidney whipped his members into line with the orders of the Tory National Industrial Relations Court and voted against the recall of the TUC Congress to discuss the working of the Act.

In 1969 he said angrily: 'The

recent demonstrations aimed at putting pressure on the union were quite unnecessary and unjustified.'

But the men thought differently. They accused their leaders of doing nothing for them, of giving too much for too little and of selling them out.

In the same year Greene's own salary was increased by 30 per cent to £5,000 a year.

Amid familiar pleas from NUR leaders to 'work normally pending negotiations' the wave of unofficial strikes spilled over into 1970.

Headlines appeared in the capitalist press 'Rail unions fight to avoid strike'.

Meanwhile passenger guards, drivers, signalmen, shopmen and platform staff periodically stopped work either for more pay or, more typically, against technical changes to encourage productivity and sackings.

They had been given a 5½-per-cent pay rise in 1969, but with NUR membership at its lowest since 1913, in 1970 they asked their leaders to negotiate a giant 25-per-cent, strings-free increase.

A railway wall newspaper appeared called 'The Railway Underground' and among other more abusive things mentioned it complained of a 'total lack of any lead by our so-called leaders'.

Greene said he was 'convinced the paper was part of an ultra-left campaign to provoke strikes and unrest among members'.

Only members of the Labour Party are allowed to stand for the NUR executive—thus excluding communists.

In March 1970 Greene, now



Sir Sidney Greene: at pains to emphasize that the unions were obeying the law to the letter

on record as realizing that without increases in productivity fares would have to go up, accepted an 8-per-cent rise with 3-per-cent more six months later.

Less than two months afterwards 50,000 London railwaymen called for a national strike in support of a 25-30 per cent pay rise.

An unofficial national strike was threatened by militants and rather than lose complete control of the situation the NUR leaders agreed to negotiate on the 25-per-cent claim.

The promise had the desired effect of calming the bulk of the members and temporarily isolating the militants and in July 1971 the NUR leaders felt able to accept an 8.5 per cent pay rise.

Throughout 1971, as prices soared and living standards plummeted in the hands of the most reactionary Tory government since Baldwin, the frustration of railwaymen at their leaders' inactivity bubbled angrily.

The spate of unofficial strikes tailed off, partly because there was a lull in further modernization and sackings on the railways—soon to be renewed—and partly while workers watched to see how the new government would implement its declared aim of smashing the so-called wages spiral.

In 1971 the new Rail Board chief and Labourite Richard Marsh made the shape of things to come unmistakably clear when he said that his job was to 'run a business not a social service'.

By the end of the year—as good as his word—it was

known that 6,500 clerical jobs were to be axed and three railway workshops at Barrasie, Ashford and Swindon closed, sacking 5,500 workers.

And by the end of the year the 8-11 per cent pay rise, accepted in March 1971 amid calls for a national strike from the rank and file, had been absorbed by inflationary rises in the cost of living.

The NUR, together with the two other unions, ASLEF and TSSA, put in for a 16-per-cent pay rise — double the Tory wages norm (until it was breached by the miners). On Saturday April 15, 1972, they were offered 11 per cent by Alex Jarratt.

But the rank and file were adamant — £20 minimum a week now was the only thing they were prepared to listen to.

A work-to-rule and go-slow began at midnight on April 16 and lasted until the reformist leaders of the three rail unions bowed to the 'law of the land' on Friday April 21 and ordered the resumption of normal working in response to an order from the National Industrial Relations Court.

The enemy was once again advancing and the reformists were once again retreating.

The Tory decision to use the NIRC against the railwaymen with penalties for disobedience threw the entire trade union bureaucracy, from the TUC downwards, into confusion and led, ultimately, to a reversal of the policy of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act.

The climb-down of their leaders threw rank-and-file railwaymen into confusion.

It took two days to get angry and rebellious drivers on the Southern Region and in Scotland back to work and there was talk of a breakaway union.

The leaders of the three rail unions recognized that they dare not ignore the obvious militancy of their rank and file.

It had its counterpart in other key sections of the working class—the miners, the engineers and the dockers.

As the hours ticked away to the expiry of the 14-day cooling off period at midnight on May 8, it became clear that the railway unions felt unable to settle for less than their members were demanding.

NUR leader Sir Sidney Greene, closely followed by Ray Buckton of ASLEF, was forced to tell the Tories that he could not agree to less than £20 a week to be paid from May 1.

None of this meant that the reformists had changed their spots. Sir Sidney was at pains to emphasize on Monday night—when the 14-day order expired—that the unions were obeying the law to the letter.

It was in fact the familiar game of pushing the government to the legal limit.

We would like to thank the National Union of Railwaymen who kindly loaned the historical photographs used in this series of articles.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Move

Herman Roberts, described as 'doyen of the country's industrial correspondents', has finally taken the plunge. He's left his berth on the 'Birmingham Post' to become a member of the National Industrial Relations Court.

Sitting alongside Court president Sir John Donaldson,



Sir John of the NIRC

Roberts can now fine and imprison trade unionists along with the best of them.

Roberts is an active member of the National Union of Journalists and was head of the industrial correspondents' group.

Reporting his move to the NIRC, the 'Daily Telegraph' industrial correspondent wrote:

'A principal reason for his acceptance of membership of the Court, I understand, was disenchantment with the recent decision of the annual conference of the NUJ to de-register under the Industrial Relations Act despite a large ballot vote by members to register.'

Roberts thus becomes the first rank-and-file trade union member of the Court.

Which says something about the NUJ and journalists on the capitalist press.

Grim

A health official was lecturing on the dangers of drugs at a California university. To impress his students on the grimness of drug-taking he handed around a loaded hypodermic and a marijuana cigarette. He was immediately arrested by one of the students who turned out to be a reserve policeman and charged with possession.

Standing order

Norman Mikardo, brother of Ian, on behalf of the standing orders committee of the recent Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs' conference tried unsuccessfully to rule out of order an emergency motion calling for a complete boycott of the National Industrial Relations Court.

He said: 'It is the practice of Standing Orders Committee to rule out of order those motions which if carried would put conference in conflict with law.' The resolution might be taken as conspiracy . . .

The vicar

A vicar in Newham, East London, has joined the 'fight against moral pollution'. He is the Rev Geoffrey Raggett of St Paul's, who is busy circulating a petition to be presented to the Prime Minister later this year.

The petition is organized by Mary Whitehouse's National Viewers' and Listeners' Association and has the support of the Festival of Light movement.

'If you are concerned about standards of decency in our national life today, please be sure that your signature is included,' says Raggett.

There is no decency in national life today, particularly in the Tory Party. But I suspect the vicar wouldn't go along with that.



Mary Whitehouse

FOOTNOTE: Ray McKeeganey, an East End businessman, says many people in Newham are turning to the occult and witchcraft as a means of solving their personal problems.

BOOKS



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MAX SHACHTMAN:
Behind The Moscow Trial
Paperback 75p
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Stalinism In Britain
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2
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Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

BY PHILIP WADE

Our Housing Correspondent

IN MANY parts of the country tenants are now coming face to face with the right wing in the Labour-controlled town halls who plan to implement the Tory 'fair rents' Bill.

Just ten days ago angry tenants besieged Islington Town Hall in North London when the council—which is 100-per-cent Labour, apart from six Tory aldermen—held a regular meeting.

But the right wing—which had previously swung the Labour group 34-20 in favour of implementation—refused to take motions on the Bill from the minority group, ruling them out of order.

This week I spoke to two leaders continuing the fight against the Tories. They are Harry Weston, chairman of Islington Council Tenants and Private Tenants' Action Group and secretary Vic Cordwell, who is also a Labour councillor, now threatened with expulsion.

'The reasons the council have given for implementing are just not on,' said Mr Weston. 'I think they are nothing more than a smoke-screen to get off the hook. The main reason for going ahead is their fear of being surcharged by the government.'

'All those councillors who have capitulated before the Bill is even law have played no part in stopping it coming into force.'

Mr Weston showed me a leaflet published by Islington Labour Party urging all tenants to vote Labour in the 1971 council elections. Point three on a statement on rents said: 'Opposition to the Tory standards of the so-called "fair rent" levels'.

'It's no good opposing it in words if you take no action when the time comes. Opposition has to be downright refusal—not capitulation.'

'They should refuse to be the tool of the government, the rent collectors. If they all did this, the Tories would be in a difficult position.'

'There is no doubt this Bill is the follow-up to the Industrial Relations Act—the two go hand-in-hand. It is a further attempt to

knock back wages. Anyone who goes out to work will be forced on to a rebate. And extra money he earns will mean a reduction in the rebate.'

'The Tories accuse the working class of dictating and holding the country to ransom. But they are becoming dictators with the law they make.'

'If all this goes unchallenged, the working class will be finished. It will be so disunited that it won't be a force to be feared in elections or anywhere.'

'The attitude of the Labour council is killing any chance of a Labour government. Because if tenants think their behaviour is what to expect from another Labour government they won't go out and vote.'

'This is not preparing the people for a fight. Islington tenants are feeling vicious and bitter about the majority of the Labour councillors for their action. When I listen to those councillors with their weak excuses I feel betrayed.'

'And out of all this what I think is most shameful is that there has been no directive from the top in the Labour Party to say: don't implement the Bill.'

'If a Labour government is returned they must repeal the Bill, bring down rents and fetch in some control. But all I've heard in the past from them is promises and no action. In 1965 they brought in a Rent Act which is nothing more or less than the "fair-rents" Bill we see today.'

'It's time for Vic Feather and his colleagues to wake up and line up. As tenants' associations we can only go so far. It is time for the leadership to move instead of being afraid of threats of the Industrial Relations Act and imprisonment.'

'It's a showdown with the trade unions and the Tories won't change their mind and drop anything. We have to say all out and no work for a week. And then we could get them to go to the country again,' said Mr Weston.

Vic Cordwell has been a Labour councillor for two years now and represents the Canonbury ward of Islington. The council majority is now threatening him and other opponents of the Bill with expulsion from the Labour group.

'There is nothing any council can do to soften or change it if it becomes law. When our council says you can soften the blow by implementation they're wrong.'

'I've been fighting for non-implementation and have got 22 councillors on my side. As far as tenants are concerned—and I've talked to leaders of the associations—they are against the Bill.'

'We've had a number of resolutions from them saying don't implement. And the three Constituency Labour Parties in Islington say the same thing.'

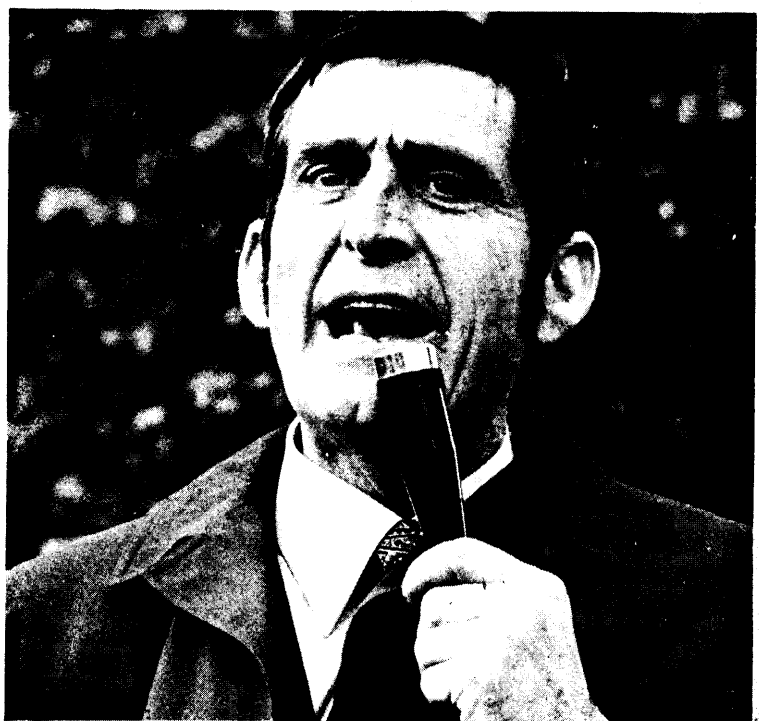
'Our leadership doesn't take notice of their feelings. They say they will hold consultations and arrange some meetings. This means going right into July and it could be too late by then.'

'If the council was to implement it we won't get elected again, that's for sure. In 1965 we put up the rents 25s. and tenants just didn't turn out and vote for us. They stayed at home.'



'Rebel' Labour councillor Vic Cordwell looks at a new housing development which could demand £12-a-week rent.

Labour must refuse to be tool of the Tories says Islington tenants' leader



Harry Weston, chairman of the Islington council and private tenants' association, speaking at a recent protest meeting outside the town hall.

'Are the majority frightened of being surcharged? If this is so, they should resign and be replaced by those who will fight for tenants and others.'

There are some 10,000 people on Islington's council house waiting list. Already the soaring cost of land has pushed rents on new buildings up to a phenomenal level.

'The rents of the flats over there will be about £12 a week,' said Mr Cordwell, pointing out of the window to some new flats going up opposite.

'The Bill doesn't give the homeless a chance. Whoever goes into a flat will have to go on a massive rebate. If the Bill goes through the basis of council housing will be undermined.'

'This issue is just as important if not more important than the Industrial Relations Act. Rents will go up to such a point that everyone will need a rebate. Then all future wage agreements will mean a drop in rebate. So you will never be able to increase your standard of living.'

'The unions have to play a great part in this fight because the Bill is linked up with the

destruction of the trade unions and has far wider implications than many people think.'

'I call all these moves of the Tories dictatorship. What's the point of having an elected council if they can step in and take over local services just like that?'

'The trade unions have to make their voices heard. There is some talk of a General Strike throughout the country. I do hope there is such a big upheaval and there is another General Election.'

'When Labour is returned not only do they have to repeal the Housing Finance Bill, but they have to take over all rented accommodation. More money has to be put into council housing with bigger grants.'

'Housing must be No. 1 priority. Decent housing is the foundation of everything. Without it there's often vandalism and delinquency and all manner of social upheavals.'

When as a salutary note of warning Mr Cordwell said:

'We've had too many promises in the past from Wilson, Crossman and Mellish. We'll have to keep a finger on their pulse all the time.'

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Trades council expels seamen

SOUTH SHIELDS Trades Council has sent an emergency resolution to the annual conference of trades councils in Hastings next weekend.

The resolution demands an emergency congress of the TUC to be convened on the Industrial Relations Act. The decision to send the resolution was taken unanimously.

Another resolution passed on Tuesday night stated:

'In the light of the decision of the National Union of Seamen to register under the Industrial Relations Act, the South Shields Trades Council expels the South Shields branch of that union from membership.'

A letter has been sent to TUC general secretary Victor Feather asking why NUS secretary Bill Hogarth is retained as a member of the general council while the NUS is under suspension.

Trades council secretary Jack Grassby said: 'I hope that other trades councils will follow our lead and expel local branches of the NUS, together with the branches of many other trade unions who register with this Act. In this way a lead can be given to the TUC to resist the attacks on the trade union movement.'

Standard workers reject MDW—New fight to come

ALL WORKERS in the Standard-Triumph factories of Coventry have now overwhelmingly carried the shop stewards' recommendation that British-Leyland's latest Measured-Day Work proposals be rejected.

Since this document seems to be the company's final words on months and months of discussions between it and the stewards, the remaining questions are: When will the confrontation take place and how will the existing reformist leadership of the Coventry factories react to this? If, as seems inevitable, a struggle takes place, what forms and content will be given to it?

These questions are pertinent because a strike of 10,000 key motor workers will come slap up against the Tory government

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

and its Industrial Relations Court. The MDW document freezes existing piecework earnings and in some cases lowers them.

In the company's preamble it says: 'The company said that its needs require fundamental changes, including the replacing of piecework by a flat-rate payment system containing guarantees and an annual wage review. You [the stewards] did not agree.'

'The company then attempted to accommodate your views by suggesting as a compromise a banded incentive system in which pay would have been related to bands of performance. This again did not find favour.'

'Your own proposals were that piecework should continue, but based on work-measurement and

on a reduction in the proportion of the bonus in the total packet... The company's conclusion, based on factual investigation, is that we must develop proposals for a flat rate payment system based on work-measurement if we are to secure our future...'

Eddie McGarry, the T&GWU convenor at the main Canley plant, says the stewards' proposals were to reverse the proportion of piecework bonus to basic rate payment which at the moment is roughly an 80 per cent piecework factor to a 20 per cent basic rate factor.

This would still leave a piecework element, although on a much reduced level.

But the company has rejected this. 'They want the lot', says McGarry.

This seems natural considering that the stewards were prepared to go such a long way to reducing the piecework element.

As far as McGarry is concerned, the next stage will be to inform the company of the workers' rejection of their document and he expects the joint negotiating committee, consisting of the convenors, would meet the company again.

But in fact the crunch is very near and in nearby Birmingham there is the mighty Longbridge complex also lined up by the British-Leyland parent company for the MDW axe.

The company document is plain, brutal MDW without any trimmings!

Those famous words of engineers' president Hugh

Scanlon 'Mutual agreement—or mutuality' do not appear.

The company states: 'Manning levels will be set for each direct and indirect section to correspond with different volumes of production... Full use will be made of all working hours; occupations and grading to be structured to encourage full use of manpower at standard performances; mobility and flexibility to be accepted between occupations, grades, shifts, and locations.'

'Overtime to be codified and consistent. Traditional demarcations and customs and practices hindering full use of manpower to be discontinued. Clocking arrangements to be reviewed...'

And if the workers accept this destruction of all the safeguards they have built up over the years—the company will give one day's extra holiday, improved holiday payment and ten days lay-off pay provided there is no 'industrial action in British-Leyland' and that a lay off is not due to 'a state of emergency declared by the government'.

Standard workers must be prepared for the company to move swiftly and they can well impose this document as a new contract of employment.

At the Radford factory Tom Healy, the right-wing AUEW convenor, finally recommending the vote for non-acceptance of the company's document, said that in the event of a confrontation, workers might have to modify their objections to the document.

That is already the formula for capitulation and must be thrown out.

'Mounting anger' at farm pay

A COMMONS motion signed by 174 Labour MPs draws attention to 'mounting anger' among farm workers over their poor wage structure and conditions.

It mentions the Agricultural

Wages Board's rejection of their claim for an £18, 40-hour, five-day week.

Farm workers' output in recent years has risen by 6 per cent annually, it is pointed out.

The signatories call on Minister of Agriculture James Prior to investigate urgently both the working and constitution of the Board as a step towards 'securing a just and realistic award and conditions comparable to those of the average skilled industrial worker'.

BSC sackings

ABOUT 30 men at the British Steel Corporation's Trafford Park works, Manchester, are to be sacked because of 'a shortage of orders'. The plant makes railway wheels and axles and has been hit by the run-down on the railways.



Diana Ross has her first TV spectacular on BBC-2 at 9.20.



Nigel Stock plays Arthur Palmer and Daphne Slater his wife, Mary, in tonight's Play for Today on BBC-1, 'I Can't See My Little Willie'.

BBC 1

9.20 Mr Benn. 9.38, 2.05 Schools. 12.55 Arall Fyd. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 News, weather. 3.45 Working with Youth. 4.10 Parsley. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Boss Cat. 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 2. 7.25 TOP OF THE POPS. 8.00 THE GOODIES. 8.30 THE FRENCH WAY. Add Penicillin, Stir Well. 9.00 NEWS, Weather. 9.20 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'I CAN'T SEE MY LITTLE WILLIE'. When it's time to wet the baby's head, it's surprising the secrets that emerge. 10.35 24 HOURS. 11.20 MISTRESS OF HARDWICK. 5: The Shrewsbury Scandal.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 6.35 Working with Youth. 7.05 Open University. 7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather. 8.00 EUROPA. 8.30 THE GOLDEN BOWL by Henry James. 3: Charlotte. 9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK: DIANA! Diana Ross in her first television spectacular.

TV

ITV

10.20, 1.40 Schools. 1.10 Remember. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Jokers Wild. 3.45 Marcus Welby. 4.40 Nuts and Bones. 4.55 Secret Squirrel. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 TODAY. 6.35 CROSSROADS. 7.00 FILM: 'JESSICA'. Angie Dickinson, Maurice Chevalier. American nurse and midwife arrives at Forza d'Agro and completely upsets the life of that village. 9.00 LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR. 9.30 THIS WEEK. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 CINEMA. 11.00 SOMETHING TO SAY. 12.00 ASPECTS OF FAITH.

10.10 NEWS, Weather. 10.15 WORLD CINEMA: 'THE FIRST CHANGE OF THE MACHETE'. The peasants' machetes, normally used for harvesting sugar, proved a powerful weapon in Cuba's struggle against their Spanish oppressors in 1868. 11.30 LATE NIGHT LINE UP.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.20, 1.40 Schools. 3.50 Lottery. 4.05 Yak. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Funny face. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. What's on where? 6.15 Farming news. 6.20 Sports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Gun-smoke'. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 10.30 Maverick. 11.20 News, weather. WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 10.30 Report. 10.59 News, weather. 11.03 Theatre of stars. 11.55 Teach a man to fish. SOUTHERN: 2.30 Afternoon. 3.00 Afloat. 3.30 Bird's eye view. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Sean Leprechaun. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Richard Lionheart. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 7.00 Film: 'The Nutty Professor'. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Drive in. 11.40 Ceilidh. 12.10 Weather. As long as you live. ANGLIA: 2.30 London. 3.15 Randall and Hopkirk. 4.05 News. 4.10 Jimmy Stewart. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Capt Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'I Could Go on Singing'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Documentary. 11.05

Cinema. 11.35 Avengers. 12.30 Epilogue. ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Afternoon. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Family affair. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 Secret Service. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Shockproof'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Marcus Welby. ULSTER: 10.20 Schools. 4.30 Romper Room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Forest Rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Tommy. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Dr Simon Locke. 7.30 Film: 'Frankie and Johnny'. 9.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Avengers. YORKSHIRE: 11.00 Schools. 2.32 Afternoon. 3.00 Sound of... 3.15 Department S. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Bugs Bunny. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Shirley's world. 7.00 Cartoon time. 7.10 Six days. 9.00 London. 10.30 Yorksport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive in. 12.35 Weather. GRANADA: 11.00 Schools. 2.30 Saint. 3.25 Yesterdays. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.50 Make a wish. 5.15 London. 6.00 Newsday, Police file. 6.25 I dream of Jeannie. 7.00

Sky's the limit. 7.30 Film: 'Columbo: Short Fuse'. 8.50 Cartoon. 9.00 London. 11.00 On the line. 11.30 Whiplash. TYNE TEES: 11.00, 1.40 Schools. 1.25 Enchanted house. 2.30 Afternoon. 3.00 Sound of... 3.15 Corwin. 4.10 Newsroom. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Shirley's world. 7.00 Popeye. 7.10 Six days—Caprice. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sporttime. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive in. 12.00 News. 12.15 Out of the darkness. SCOTTISH: 11.00, 1.40 Schools. 3.30 Once upon a time. 3.45 Once upon a time. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Fireball. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Place of her own. 7.00 Film: 'The Best of Enemies'. 9.00 Short story. 9.30 London. 10.30 Love thy neighbour. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Beagan Gaihligh. GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Schools. 3.34 News. 3.35 Job look. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Rumble Jumble. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Folk afore us. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Andy. 7.30 Film: 'The Seven Faces of Dr Lao'. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. 11.00 Viewfinder. 11.30 Survival. 12.00

Campus staff strike

CATERING staff in two of Kent University's four colleges staged a two-hour walk-out yesterday in protest against the proposed 189 redundancies and 10-per-cent price increases.

Determined picketing by academics, caterers and students, effectively disrupted meals facilities in a third college.

The actions were supported by the university branches of NUPE, G&MWU and the Kent students' union executive. Further actions are envisaged.

Clydebank pay and jobs still vague

VAGUE DETAILS were released yesterday of the Marathon Manufacturing deal to takeover the Clydebank yard at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders.

Backed with Tory government capital, Marathon, a Texas-based company, intends to build oil rigs in the bankrupt shipyard.

The most striking aspect of the deal between Marathon and the unions is that it covers a four-year period, one of the longest labour agreements reached in Britain for years.

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

At a press conference yesterday neither Marathon representative Mr Eldon Nuss nor the Stalinist leaders of the shop stewards' co-ordinating committee gave any indication on wages.

There was even less information on the size of the work force.

At the time of UCS's liquidation a year ago, there were 2,600 men at Clydebank. This number had dwindled to 2,100 during the so-called 'work-in'.

In the agreement now reached Marathon has agreed to employ 'as many as possible'. The number

of 2,000 is mentioned, but it is not stated when this target work force will be reached.

Nor is there any indication of the composition of this work.

What, for example, will happen to the men in the finishing trades? What can they contribute to oil-rig construction?

Nuss assured reporters there was no no-strike pledge in the agreement but went on:

'The contract we have agreed upon binds us and the unions to resolving any difficulties through democratic processes and

administrative procedures in order to avoid loss of earnings to our employees and inconvenience to the company.

'Extended conversations with union representatives and shop stewards have convinced us they are honourable men who will live up to their agreements, just as we are bound by ours.'

James Reid, chairman of the co-ordinating committee, has now to pilot the agreement through the co-ordinating committee, the shop stewards' committee and a mass meeting of Clydebank workers.

Chaotic day for striking pupils

BY SARAH HANNIGAN

CHAOS and confusion reigned at Trafalgar Square yesterday as pupils from schools throughout London gathered to join the one-day Schools Action Union strike and demonstration.

£10-a-week occupation

ABOUT 250 members of the Transport and General Workers' Union occupied a Midlands factory yesterday in support of a £10-a-week wage claim.

Negotiations broke down when the Blackheath Stamping Company, Staffordshire, made a derisory £1 offer. Since last Thursday the men have been staging a series of lightning walk-outs but without result.

Works convenor Maurice Brown said that when the 6 a.m. shift arrived the workers were told that work cards would not be issued on the instructions of senior management.

The men replied to this lock-out by chaining the gate and piling bins of work across the entrance.

The firm makes drop forgings for the car industry.

Bid for Doxford's

COURT Line, the shipping, ship-repairing and aviation group, has launched a £10m take-over bid for the Doxford and Sunderland shipbuilding firm.

The group is offering 11 shares for every six Doxford, making the bid worth 330p a share.

Court's managing director John Young commented:

'We are convinced that with the backing provided by the government's regional development plan and the co-operation of the trade unions, we could make Doxford and Sunderland a very profitable business.'

Police refused to let the youth into Trafalgar Square where they had intended to assemble for their march to London Education headquarters at County Hall, Westminster.

They were directed to County Hall and from there re-directed to Trafalgar Square. Pupils wandered round in groups, some trying to fight their way through police cordons. Scuffles ensued and two youth were detained.

SAU leaders then decided to march the remaining youth to Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park.

Meanwhile, several hundred pupils reassembled at County Hall and tried to invade the building. Police forced them into the streets and scuffles again broke out after at least one youth had been carried away by police and attempts were made to stop a police van leaving the area.

When the remainder of the demonstration, about 600-strong, arrived at Hyde Park, Maoist SAU spokesman Simon Stayne told the marchers: 'We cannot now march to County Hall and most of you here don't want to march either.'

He said that they had delivered an ultimatum to the Inner London Education Authority that if their demands were not met by tomorrow, they would 'reserve the right' to call 'days of disobedience' in the schools until their demands were met.

Without any more explanation the youth were then told to 'go home'.

Almost all of the youth still remaining with the march at that point expressed extreme dissatisfaction with the way the march had been organized and wandered about trying to find any remains of the contingents they had arrived with in the morning.



In London's West End yesterday—pupils with definite demands

Violence, crime and dirt—but not corruption

REG GALE, chairman of the Police Federation, yesterday launched a full-blooded attack on violence, vandalism and hooliganism—but failed to mention the corruption in his own ranks.

'The violence has got to stop,' he shouted.

'The kid gloves have got to come off. Any cause is an excuse for violence. Law-breaking is excusable if you hang the right label on it.'

'Violence in crime produces its own monetary rewards and filth is justification for selling entertainment. No society can survive when it accepts these standards and no government or police service can uphold the level of a society unless ordinary public actively supports them.'

'We must all join together and say, "This violence, this crime, this dirt, must stop—and stop it we will".'

Gale, who was speaking at the Federation's annual conference at Eastbourne, called for the restoration of hanging.

He was supported in this plea by the guest of honour, Reginald Maudling.

He said the Tory government intended to strengthen the police 'in an age of increasing violence, both political and traditionally criminal'.

He supported the policy of increasing the number of civilians in police forces and of strengthening the special constabulary.

● A police officer was accused at Thames court yesterday of demanding money with menaces from another man. PC Arwel Roberts (27) of Kennryl Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex, was remanded until June 21 on bail totalling £1,000.

He was charged with demanding with menaces from Patrick David Lewis, between May 12 and May 16 by saying that Lewis would be falsely accused of a crime.

Secret ballot rejected

BY 335 votes to three engineers at Cleveland Twist Drill's factory at Peterhead, 30 miles from Aberdeen, have rejected a management formula to end their month-old strike.

The latest offer was a rise of £1.94 a week backdated to April, plus two days extra holiday. This offer was conditional on acceptance of a secret ballot of all

hourly-paid employees, prior to future strike action.

Shops stewards' convenor Steve Thomson told the press that a £2.50 rise—£1.50 less than the original claim—would now be acceptable.

But he said that the men were totally opposed to the secret ballot condition.

LATE NEWS WEATHER

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T&GWU in court, p.1.

Hearing concluded. Judgement 10.30 today.

ASSOCIATED Newspapers—the 'Daily Mail' and London 'Evening News' group—has formed a commercial radio company, Associated Independent Radio Services.

The group said yesterday that the company's managing director would be Philip Birch, who formerly headed the pirate 'Radio London' station.

AIR Services will handle all Associated Newspapers' radio interests in London and throughout the UK.

EASTERN coastal areas of England will be cloudy with some rain, especially in the south east.

Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be rather cloudy with local drizzle.

Eastern and Southern Scotland, western districts of England and also Wales will be mostly dry with sunny spells. Temperatures will be near normal in most districts, but it will be rather cool in East and South East England. Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Changeable with showers and sunny spells, and near normal temperatures.

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£778.80 to raise during the next 14 days—we are sure you will do it. So far it has been a great effort this month. Your response to our appeal gets better and better.

It is a real barometer of the feeling building up inside the working class for defeating this Tory government. The use of the Industrial Relations Act is only making trade unionists everywhere even more determined.

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