

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● TUESDAY DECEMBER 19, 1972 ● No. 950 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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By Workers Press Reporters

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order to change the union's stand against the Act. Several other speakers from the floor attacked the right-wing's manoeuvres.

There is no doubt that there is a genuine and deep-rooted feeling of militancy against the attacks on the union.

But this runs the danger of being dissipated if one-day strikes, supported by the Communist Party, become the only means of resistance.

For the engineers to win there must be the widest call throughout the entire labour movement for a complete industrial struggle against the Tory government.

Only by removing the Tory government from office can the engineers—or any section of trade unionists—remove the threat of massive fines and jailings from over their heads.

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A section of the Oxford march.

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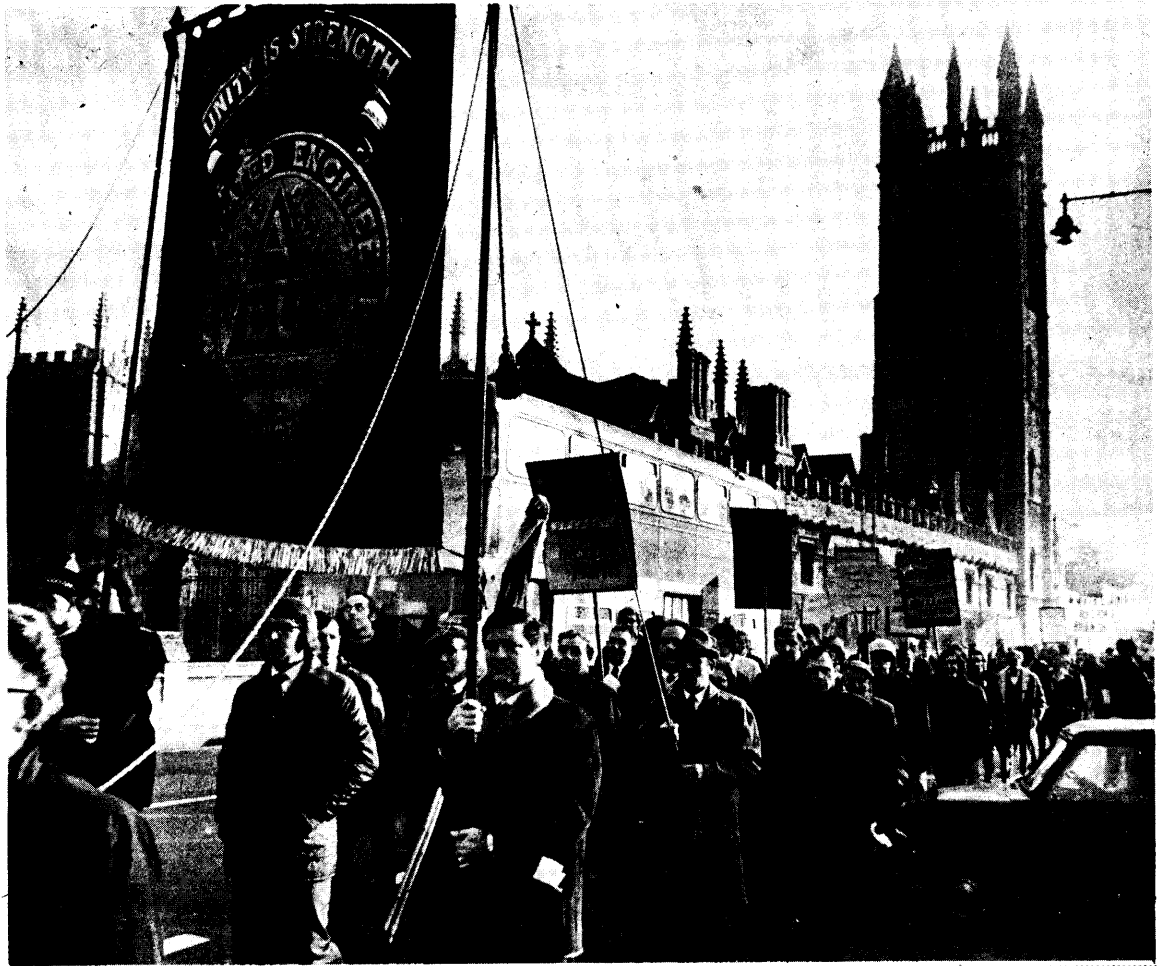
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What we think

THE COLLAPSE of the secret Vietnam talks in Paris has revealed the totally fraudulent character of the British Communist Party's so-called 'sign now' campaign.

Advertising the campaign on December 4 the Stalinist newspaper 'Morning Star' called for 'superhuman efforts to pile up the pressure to get Nixon to sign the peace treaty with North Vietnam without further delay'.

Superhuman the efforts would

The 'sign now' fraud

certainly have to be, for the entire experience of the Vietnam protest movement has demonstrated beyond a shadow of doubt that US imperialism cannot be 'pressurized' by vigils, petitions, protests and the like.

It is clear that if American imperialism were susceptible to what the Stalinists call 'world-wide pressure', the war would have been over years ago. It is equally clear that the war is not over.

The Paris talks, in which the Stalinists placed so much faith, have proved to be simply a means of preparing the next stage of the war. The Americans have shipped in arms,

munitions and 'advisers' and stepped up their savage attacks on the north.

While this goes on, the Communist Party is trying to deluge the chief butcher with appeals to 'sign now'. Could any spectacle be more obscene? This is a policy fit only for pacifist fabians and contented slaves.

The fact is, of course, that Nixon pays no attention whatever to the bleatings of the Stalinists and their hangers-on in the trade unions and show business.

And when you think about it, why should he? This year he went to the leaders of the

world Stalinist movement in both Moscow and Peking and was received like a hero.

He arrived in Moscow within days of the blockade of Haiphong and the renewed bombardment of Hanoi. Yet none of the communist parties which are now so actively bombarding him with appeals made any protest about his visit.

They didn't even apply what 'pressure' they could muster to get their political masters in Moscow to rescind the invitation. The cowardly leaders of the British Communist Party, who are now such paper heroes outside the American embassy and 10 Downing

Street, kept their mouths firmly shut.

Stalin reduced the role of the communist parties to a means of applying pressure to bourgeois governments in the interests of the Soviet bureaucracy. The 'sign now' campaign is fully in line with this basic Stalinist policy.

It is a fraud from start to finish and helps the US government with its own manipulations of 'public opinion' while disarming the working class and spearheading pacifist illusions at a time when the greatest vigilance is required.

International working-class solidarity with the Indo-China revolution is not a matter of petitions to Nixon, but, above all, of struggle against imperialism at home through the construction of the revolutionary party of the working class.

This struggle alone can bring forward the only force capable of effective solidarity action with the Vietnamese revolution—the international working class.

Japan: Plans for military build-up

THE NEW Japanese government is coming under strong pressure from the military to step up its rearmament campaign and widen the base of the armed forces.

The militarists are making their demands despite a government decision to double expenditure on the armed forces in current four-year plan. The general secretary of the National Defence Council, Osama Kaihara, yesterday claimed the present armed forces were far too small to defend Japan.

The National Defence Council is the civilian body charged with control over military policy. Kaihara said the biggest problem facing Japan was the manpower shortage in the army.

The government has at present decided that the armed forces should not exceed a total strength of 260,000—mainly to avoid overseas fears of reviving Japanese militarism. 'But is it possible to defend Japan with only [sic] 260,000 men?' Kaihara asked.

He said: 'In my opinion, for effective defence a national resistance organization of every Japanese citizen is indispensable. The self-defence forces [euphemism for the armed services] will constitute the core of the organization.'

What is proposed in other words, is the militarization of the whole of Japanese society for 'defence' purposes. But just who is threatening Japan? Perhaps nobody asked Kaihara, because he certainly didn't answer this question.

He did, however denounce the constitutional restrictions on sending troops abroad, which he claimed interfered with training schedules.

With Japanese capitalism in great crisis as a result of the American pressure for export cuts and revaluation, the significance of the resurgence of Japanese militarism is clear.

Marchais projects the 'party for the nation'

BY JUAN GARCIA

GEORGES MARCHAIS closed the 20th Communist Party Congress on Sunday with a pledge to 'serve the French people and the nation'.

That was an apt conclusion to four days of debate which made it clear that the French CP is prepared to defend the interests of the bourgeoisie in the event of an electoral victory of the Union of the Left and on the eve of sharp class conflicts in Europe.

If there was a persistent theme in the Congress, it was that the Communist Party was, above all, a party for the nation.

Take the intervention by Jacques Duclos, veteran member of the Political Bureau. He defended Marchais in a speech which placed him firmly in the tradition of Marcel Cachin and Maurice Thorez 'always under attack from men of power who put their class interests before the interests of the nation'.

The inevitable empty optimism pervading the Congress gave way to a more sober tone when Etienne Fajon opened the second session of the Congress devoted to the party daily 'L'Humanité'. It is the first time that 'L'Humanité' has appeared on the agenda of a Congress.

Fajon complained that many members and even branch secretaries do not read the newspaper, thinking they can make do with 'radio and class-consciousness'.

He claimed that sales of the

daily had dropped by 63,000 and the Sunday magazine by 160,000 since 1950.

This had led to a reduction in size. If it continued, prices would have to increase and more reductions were envisaged.

The parlous state of the Stalinist Press in France is only one reflection of the crisis of the main party of the French working class.

The average age of the Party representatives at the Congress was 33 years and 72 per cent of delegates had joined the CP since 1958.

A list of 21 new members to the Central Committee shows that only five of them had joined the party since 1958 and only eight are less than 35 years old.

The French Stalinists, of course, have lost many middle-class youth to the numerous revisionist organizations of the 'extreme-left', and have no policy or wish to attract working-class youth who are suffering from low wages and enormous unemployment. The youth are not willing to sing hymns to the 'greatness of France', in the tra-



Marchais (right) with Claude Estier, Socialist Party secretary, at the CP Congress.

ditions of de Gaulle and Thorez.

However, the CP does still retain a big following in the trade union movement. The trade unionists are under sharp attack from the monopolists' rationalization of Europe and must enter into conflict with their CP leadership which accepts the economic reality of the Common Market.

The Congress deliberately played down the future the working class faces in the EEC.

While delegates spoke about attacks from this and that monopoly, the EEC was scarcely mentioned.

To break the French working class from the weakening grip of Stalinism is an urgent task which can only be accomplished by the building of a section of the Fourth International in France.

Bank strike called off

SEVEN THOUSAND members of the Ceylon Bank Employees' Union returned to work yesterday after an abortive 107-day strike over demands for better promotion prospects and more pay.

The strike, which affected all commercial banks, including two state-owned banks, was called off after a union meeting held on Sunday to consider the union's failure to win its demands.

Government spokesmen said soon after the strike began on September 1 that there would be no negotiations with the union while the strike continued.

Nixon steps up savage bombing of North

NORTH Vietnam yesterday accused the Americans of stepping up the war with savage bombing raids on its towns and the laying of new mines in its territorial waters around Haiphong.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Hanoi said 'large numbers' of American planes had carried out raids yesterday above the 20th parallel, including the suburbs of Haiphong. Mines were laid in North Vietnamese territorial waters and rockets were fired at a number of villages in the suburbs of Haiphong, the Ministry said.

The accusations of American escalation followed the breakdown of the secret negotiations in Paris between Dr. Henry Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho. This series of talks has been used by the United States as a cover for preparing the next stage of war.

Denouncing the US trick, Hanoi radio said not only had the US supplied the Saigon regime with 'tens of thousands of tons' of weapons and material, it has also handed over the entire network of bases in the south to Saigon.

It said Nixon had sent 'tens of thousands' of disguised military advisers into South Vietnam while the latest round of 'peace' talks were in progress. The South Vietnamese regime had meanwhile implemented martial law on US orders and massacred supporters of a peace settlement.

The Americans have now dropped all pretence of seeking for peace. The North Vietnamese position at the Paris talks was not judged 'fair and reasonable' by President Nixon. So the bombing and the massacres continue.

Nixon has not just stepped up the war in Indo-China. Right across south-east Asia the puppet military regimes are being strengthened and the screws of dictatorship tightened. In Japan rearmament is going ahead at a rapid pace with US encouragement.

In South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines martial law has been proclaimed or made more stringent in the interests of fortifying the 'second-line' of anti-communist states.

The purpose of these moves is to provide the framework for continuing the war in Indo-China under the auspices of the Thieu government and with US military advisers in the background.

Japan opens up to firms

JAPAN is preparing to open most of her industries to 100 per cent subsidiaries of foreign firms in a trade liberalization move designed to resist pressure for another revaluation of the yen. Finance Ministry sources in Tokyo said yesterday.

The move is included in a new programme to be submitted to the Foreign Investment Council shortly for consideration and approval.

At present only 50-50 joint ventures are automatically permitted in the majority of Japanese

industries. About 200 industries have already been freed for 100 per cent subsidiaries of foreign firms, but they are either industries in which foreign countries are not interested or those in which Japanese industries are too strongly competitive.

The Finance Ministry sources said a Cabinet Council of Economic Ministers might be held to endorse the proposed new programme even before a new government is formed by Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, expected by Christmas.

Yugoslavs held

JUST OVER 100 Yugoslavs are still in detention after being deprived of liberty in the past ten weeks on suspicion of 'committing a political dereliction or excess', the Yugoslav public prosecutor, Panta Marina, disclosed in an interview published yesterday.

Since October 1, which marked the start of a drive for improved Party discipline and against corruption instituted by President Tito, 131 People were deprived of their liberty on suspicion of political failures or excesses and 101 of these were still detained last Friday.

Engineers in action

Pickets out north and south of the Thames

Pickets were out at Decca's Battersea, south London, factory. Engineers at the plant came out on strike to defend their union against the £55,000 imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court. Workers said this was an important step because the factory has only recently been organized.

North of the Thames, at the CAV factory in Acton, engineers followed the call from their district committee and came out. Right: The Battersea pickets. Below: The Acton men.



Labourite attacks striking engineers

By OUR OWN REPORTERS

REGINALD PRENTICE, Labour's Shadow Minister of Employment, says that engineers striking in defence of their union are being led into 'a lost cause'.

He said workers would lose a day's pay just before Christmas for no good purpose. Their union was pursuing tactics which were not sensible.

He said it would be sensible if the AUEW had defended themselves in the National Industrial Relations Court. To incur large fines, he said, was 'a quite unnecessary waste of union funds'.

He suggested that the AUEW executive should review its policy and consider whether the present tactics were contributing anything to the defeat of the Industrial Relations Act.

Prentice is Wilson's likely appointment as Employment Secretary in the next Labour government!

He is a former full-time official with the Transport and General Workers' Union working in the advice and services bureau at Transport House. When the five dockers were jailed by the Tory court in July Prentice angered his constituents in the dockland seat of East Ham North.

'I have no sympathy at all with Bernie Steer and the others,' he said. 'They were wrong to organize picketing and blacking against the policy of their union.'

Shadow Secretary follows up smear on dockers

They were even more wrong to defy the court. Trade unionists should not rally round these men as though they are latter-day Tolpuddle Martyrs. They are just not worth it.'

But the working class took no notice of Prentice's reactionary statements. They stopped work in their thousands and secured the release of the dockers.

The Prentices of the labour movement do not want to defend

the basic rights of the working class. They want the trade unions to co-operate with the Act and to accept its jailings and massive fines.

Prentice openly says what a number of the other Labourites are privately thinking. In the struggle to defeat the Tory government the masses must also be steered to flush out the fifth column of class-collaborators in their own ranks.

Scottish shipyard stewards give pay ultimatum

EAST COAST shipyard stewards in Scotland are to press managements to honour their agreement to pay finishing trades workers a £3.30 increase.

A joint meeting of stewards from Leith, Dundee and Aberdeen is to be held within the next two weeks, and if the managements fail to pay up

industrial action will be considered.

This action would take place in defiance of the Tories' pay-control law.

Harry McLevy, stewards' convenor at the Robb Caledon yard in Dundee, announced the move following a meeting of representatives from the three ports at the weekend.

BRIEFLY

THREE HUNDRED old people may die from cold on Christmas Day from the illness hypothermia. The Young Liberals said yesterday that official figures show that during the six winter months of each year, 60,000 people die from the cold and illness aggravated by low temperature.

BURTONS, the High Street tailoring chain, has announced record profits of £8m. This was £500,000 higher than the previous year. Sales were up by more than £20m during the 12 months to September 2; this was largely due to the recent acquisitions of Evans (Outsides), Ryman and St Remy. Shareholders are promised a big lift in dividends after Phase One of the state pay plan.

Meat prices will go up again

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

HOUSEWIVES must be prepared for further increases in meat prices, a leading member of the Farmers' Union of Wales has warned.

Robert Hughes, chairman of the FUW policy committee, told members: 'The government is quite right to resist demands for a ban on the export of British beef or lamb to the Continent.'

'The government indicated quite clearly that prices would rise as the industry moved over to a system of direct support. Consumers should steel themselves for further increases in meat prices in the future.'

Hughes said that since the beginning of November when the Common Market reduced its import tariffs by 50 per cent, fat cattle prices in Wales had risen by between £3.16 and £3.36 a live hundredweight. Prices were still rising and there was pressure on the government to curb or ban exports to the Continent.

He added: 'The Minister has quite rightly rejected these demands.'

Hughes' statement follows an announcement by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture that week-end fresh meat prices would rise by as much as 2p to 4p a pound. It was the fourth consecutive week that meat prices had edged up.

Tenants picket rent rise councillors

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

THE ANGRY tenants of Kiveton Park, near Sheffield, may picket the homes of councillors who voted for the implementation of the Tories' Housing Finance Act.

The local tenants' association is bitter that the Labour-controlled council implemented the Act and slapped on £1 increases.

Meanwhile, at nearby Clay Cross, in Derbyshire, the Labour council is putting up a magnificent fight against the Act.

At a weekend demonstration marchers stopped outside councillors' houses in Kiveton Park and demanded to know their attitude.

By loudspeaker each of the councillors, including Jack Field, chairman of the housing committee, was asked to reconsider the decision to serve summonses on those who refused to pay the increases.

Mrs Tina Rzerzuchowski, the association secretary, said:

'We told them the council had acted like an assault force in implementing the Act and attempting to crush opposition. They must rethink their attitude or other demonstrations will be held.'

'If they do not withdraw the summonses we will be organizing much bigger demonstrations early in the New Year.'

Probation officers in grade strike

MORE than half of inner London's probation officers staged an unofficial one-day strike yesterday over a new pay-grade system. About 150 took part.

Many probation offices were unmanned, despite a warning from the National Association of Probation Officers that members should work normally. The service was not represented in some courts.

Probation officers later lobbied at the House of Commons as part of their protest over a scheme introduced in September which puts probation officers doing the same job into two grades—at different pay.

They want the scheme scrapped to give everyone doing the same job the same salary.



SUPER-TRAIN IN BIG CRASH

Rail operators in California hope by next year to have completed part of a new, computerized rail system which will abolish strikes and cut labour requirements by 80 per cent.

The company is Bay Area Rapid Transit, of Oakland, which, despite a number of dangerous problems, is pressing on regardless.

When the problems are fully ironed out of its project BART hopes to carry 200,000 passengers a day—running trains at only 90-second intervals during peak periods—with a total staff of only 1,200.

'We can get away with it because we're starting cold', boasts a BART official. 'We don't have to live with feather-bedding contracts and we can exploit new technologies, which we could not do if we had to deal with existing unions and negotiate for automation.'

Envious eyes are already being turned on Oakland by other rail operators throughout the US—and by the British Rail headquarters at Marylebone, London.

But the cost is prohibitive. Total cost of the BART system, which is finally supposed to cover 75 miles, will be something above £600m.

And on the part of the system which has already gone into service—the 28-mile stretch the company hopes will be complete by mid-1973—there has already been one serious enough accident.

Automatic controls failed to stop a two-car train on the end of the line. The lead car ploughed through a sand barrier and ended nose down in a parking lot below. The train was wrecked.

Just a month before this section went into service the cars were still starting and stopping erratically because of confusion in the signals they were receiving.

What is more, one really serious problem still remains.

From time to time, the computer control centre which runs the system believes a phantom train is occupying a section of track which is actually clear. When this happens train routing is completely disrupted until the faulty signal is tracked down.

So the Public Utilities Commission has required the addition of makeshift red and green light signals, operated by hand. Thus the technology of the future is being operated under conditions reminiscent of the last century.

All the eulogies of the starry-eyed commentators who have uncritically praised the system cannot conceal the fact that capitalism is incapable of operating it successfully.

IRISH GROUP SLAMS TORY PRESS LIES

Letter from the League for a Workers' Republic in Dublin

Dear Editor,
We are asking the indulgence of some space in your columns in order to counter some of the slanders published in an English Sunday newspaper on December 10, as an 'exclusive' in that paper of which it can be truthfully said 'all human vice is there', the 'News of the World'.

Not content with featuring a series vilifying industrial militants in Britain who are standing up for workers' rights, opposing Heath's hideous anti-union laws and fighting for socialism, the proprietors are now mounting a campaign of black propaganda against socialist and Republican militants in Ireland.

We wish in particular to express our disgust at the foul claim that Peter Graham, who was a member of the Young Socialists* at the time of his assassination in Dublin in October 1971, had misused funds and informed on 'Republican militants, who had put him out of the way'.

This gross, disgraceful libel on the name of a great revolutionary fighter has been designed, as when it was first circulated, to cause suspicion among anti-imperialist organizations and create grave distress for his sadly bereaved family.

You will recall that at the time of Peter Graham's murder, leading officers of the Belfast Brigade of the Provisional IRA attended his funeral. The Leinster Command of the Provisional IRA, Saor Eire, the Young Socialists, and the League for a

Workers' Republic issued statements condemning the savage murder and praising Peter's qualities as a revolutionary.

Not one shred of evidence exists to besmirch his name. We wish to repeat that we are proud to have been associated with Peter Graham in the building of the League for a Workers' Republic and the Young Socialists, irrespective of the political differences between us in the last year of his life.

When British imperialism no longer exists, when capitalism has been consigned to its overdue position in the dustbin of history, the name of Peter Graham will be given its rightful place beside the names of James Connolly and Jim Larkin.

We would like further to say that we also deplore the compounded libels against Mairin Keegan and Liam Dalton. Mairin Keegan's death from cancer, a death resulting in the loss of another fine comrade, is attributed to the possibility that certain explosive substances are carcinomous. That the article, if such it can be called, is a concoction of lies and fantasies is indicated by the fact that Mairin Keegan's tragic illness had a history going back almost ten years before her death.

Liam Dalton's death by suicide in London was a fearful shock to all who had worked with him. A selfless man of powerful intellect, he had been involved in the revolutionary movement for

long years, and had fought for revolutionary socialist politics since the late 1950s. Yet some paid hack takes it upon himself to suggest that this most courageous of men 'fled from Dublin' due to 'fear he was going to be killed by an Irish under-cover agent' and that 'suicide was his only way of escaping from a horrible death'.

We personally can state categorically, from our association with him only days before he returned from a visit here to his tragic decision in London, that this is a total fabrication.

The tissue of lies, like all such, betrays itself by its errors. Peter Graham died in October, not November 1971. Mairin Keegan was in her forties, not her early twenties, and was in Derry in August 1969, not 1968 (what happened in Derry in August 1968?). Liam Dalton did not 'succeed' Mairin Keegan in her

Above: British troops on the streets of Londonderry.

capacity in the organization to which she belonged—he died within weeks of her—especially if he had 'fled' to London. Nor did he 'die on a London suburban railway line', but jumped from a bridge to the road below.

The bombs which exploded recently in Dublin, the murder of Peter Graham, and now this renewed attempt to smear his name, can be of benefit only to British imperialism and its hangers-on here, the Irish capitalist class and its political parties.

Yours sincerely,
Basil Miller,
Carol Coulter,
Paddy Healy,
members of the Central Committee of the League for a Workers' Republic.

*The Eire Young Socialists are not connected with the Young Socialists' organization in Britain—Editor.

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AMERICA AGAINST THE EEC ALLIANCES

A major aim of the United States trade policy in 1973 will be to oppose preferential agreements between the Common Market countries and non-members.

The aim of such agreements is to win lower tariffs for trade between the partners to it to the exclusion of others, notably the United States. US policy has been to oppose such discrimination ever since it became widespread in the 1930s.

To deal with its growing balance of payments crisis US capitalism needs new and wider markets. That is why it is opposed to trade blocs and agreements which discriminate against US imports.

This policy is presented as an altruistic desire to see trade restrictions reduced or abolished — especially where the less-developed countries are concerned. The Common Market has preferential agreements with a number of developing countries, mainly their former colonies which

are still economically dependent on them.

The US is after these markets and it is going to stop at nothing to get into them. It will use all the bargaining power it can muster as well as direct penetration of these areas through capital investment.

From their side the Common Market countries, faced by economic slowdown, will not be deterred from discriminatory trade practices. They would like to have free access to the markets of developing countries in return for a few tariff concessions while US exports will face high tariff walls.

The struggle for markets, investment fields, and economic and political influence between the US, the Common Market and Japan, fought out with protective trade practices and tariffs, is the form assumed by imperialist rivalries today. It has been made more acute by the breakdown of the world monetary system established at Bretton Woods and President Nixon's economic declaration of war on August 15, 1971.



5,000 REMAIN IN JAIL

The special tribunal set up by the Sri Lanka (Ceylon) government to try political detainees has been in session for more than 23 weeks.

Before the court are 32 young people who were detained under the emergency regulations following the April 1971 uprising.

At least 5,000 other young people are still held in special detention camps and prisons set up in the aftermath of the revolt.

The 32 are the first to be brought to trial and the slowness of their case indicates that the other prisoners may have to wait for years in prison before they ever get before the tribunal.

The hearing of the case of the 32 at the exclusive Queen's Club in Colombo is not a trial in the normally accepted sense of the term.

To avoid bringing its detainees before the ordinary law courts, the United Front government passed a new law in March this year establishing the Criminal Justice Commission.

The Justice Commissions Act is part of a battery of dictatorial legislation brought in by the coalition since the April uprising last year.

The government is a United Front of the pro-Moscow Stalinists and the renegade revisionists of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party with the bourgeois Sri Lanka Freedom Party of Mrs Bandaranaike.

On election in May 1970 it promised the repeal of all repressive legislation and guaranteed fundamental democratic freedoms, in law and practice.

These pledges have proved to be worthless and fraudulent, as an examination of the Jus-

tice Commissions Act demonstrates.

The Act's provisions radically alter court procedure and legal rules to favour the police and prosecution, thus ensuring the conviction of people the government wants out of the way for political reasons.

The Commissions set up under the Act are selected by the Prime Minister from a panel of Supreme Court judges, up to a maximum of five.

They are empowered to act both as a court and as a commission of inquiry.

They are responsible for cases of rebellion, insurrection, endangering the economy or the national interest and for wrongs committed both against public and private interests.

The Commission has extraordinarily wide powers:

- It can admit evidence—including confessions made to the police—which would be inadmissible in the ordinary courts. The evidence must be held to be true unless proved otherwise.

- It can sit in private and prevent the public and press from attending the proceedings. This is impossible in the ordinary courts of Ceylon.

- It can inflict any punishment contained in the penal law on suspects found guilty, except the death penalty.

- It can impose a time limit on the speeches of defence lawyers—though the tribunal has not yet taken advantage of this power.

- It is allowed to take into account the personality and previous record of a suspect before passing judgement on whether he is guilty or not.

- If a Commission member is unable to continue sitting on the Commission, he can be replaced without the trial beginning again.

- There is no appeal against

Above: Youth held in prison by the Ceylon government.

the decisions of a Commission, which cannot be reversed.

In the light of these sweeping powers, it is worth noting that the commission has no power to order a suspect released, even if the Commission finds him not guilty.

The detainees arrested after the April uprising are detained at the discretion of the Minister of Justice, who alone has the power to order them released.

If he wishes they can be detained indefinitely even if the Commission acquits them.

Even the judges themselves are unhappy about the operation of the Act. Judge Fernando, the court president told a French observer at the Colombo trial that he thought the wording of the Act was of very bad legal quality.

Unhappy they may be, but the judges are soldiering on with their task in the spirit of the Act just the same.

When two of the principal police witnesses in the present trial were shown to have made false statements, one of the judges remarked:

'We do not propose to punish you for those faults and those faults may be known to your superiors. They might punish you, they might not, but they now know your faults.'

'All I wish to say is that by truthfully answering my questions you will be helping the Commission and helping yourself. Now that you have been compelled to tell the truth on some matters, it will help you to tell the truth on other matters.'

Which would seem to show that perjury—in the interests of obtaining a conviction—is not regarded as a very heinous offence before the 'Justice' Commissions of Ceylon.



NIXON'S RIGHT-HAND MAN

'In four years he has become the President's right-hand technician, the one man in government who daily sees all the complex detail of US foreign policy formulation and implementation, a flow of data and recommendations from the Departments of State, Commerce, Treasury and Defence, from the intelligence community and from sources outside government.'

The man described in the gushing handout from the White House is, of course,

Above: Kissinger and Nixon

President Nixon's special adviser on foreign affairs, the Harvard professor, Dr Henry Alfred Kissinger.

Kissinger is certainly a high-powered operator, in many ways a unique figure in the history of diplomacy. As the hand-out says, he 'answers only to Richard Nixon'.

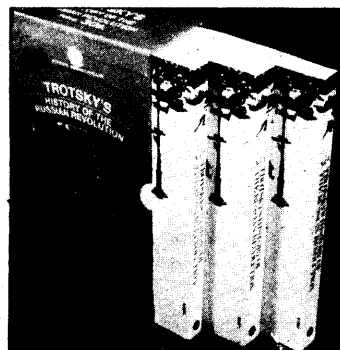
He represents the interests of American imperialism and has been the link-man in the deals which it has made over the past year with the Soviet and Chinese bureaucracies.

Kissinger is a hard-working and faithful functionary. But it is his brain power which Nixon requires. What else but a computer could absorb all the information which the handout claims he goes through daily?

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LIFE IN A CONCRETE JUNGLE

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

The big council estates of London have been undergoing a quiet, almost unnoticed, yet insidious revolution over the past two years.

The approachable local caretaker has vanished. Instead tenants must go to the 'assistaphone' — an austere gadget fixed to the wall of some council blocks—to call for help and advice.

Where they used to leave the rent in his office they must take it to 'collection points' where the uniformed Securicor man calls to collect the money.

The old lady with a fault in her heating system can no longer go down to the local plant attendant and ask him to fix it. The attendant needs a 'job-ticket' from district

office. Meanwhile the repair must wait.

Instead of living with the people they serve the estate staff more often than not come from outside the area and tour the streets in fleets of neat Minis.

The changes are all part of a 'new system' which will be complete in the New Year. It began as an idea in the heads of PA Management Consultants back in 1969 and has ended, say critics, in a worse, more dehumanized service to the working class people who live on the estates.

For good measure the new arrangements have caused great bitterness among some estate staff who see the resulting redundancies and work-study as the start of a drive to break down all conditions in local government. The fact that their union was a prime mover in the scheme increases their anger.

From the start the Greater

London Council bureaucrats made it clear that their concern was to cut costs and reduce job levels (almost as an afterthought they added that the 'revolution' would result in a more efficient service).

In 1969 PA Consultants estimated that the new method would cut down the labour force in the southern London district from 280 to 102. With allowance for supervision (which has naturally been increased) they put the real figure at 169. The saving, they estimate, will be £500,000 by 1995.

In the early days of the scheme the council identified its main target—the local caretaker.

A report by the Director of Housing in September 1970 made it clear that the local man was out.

'The proposed arrangement,' he warned, 'means the replacement of a somewhat easy way of life, with necessarily little

supervision, by continuous spells of employment under full-time supervision; and the cessation of the ability, arising from the present split duty rotas, to take part-time jobs or keep an eye on the children while the wife is at work.'

The new service, he reported gleefully, would operate with 'considerably less employees than at present resulting in substantial financial savings...' and work-study would be able to be introduced and every ounce of productivity thrashed out of the denuded staff.

The scheme that PA suggested proposed a withdrawal of caretakers from local areas to a central depot to cover one or a number of estates.

There they would be split into two gangs. One for estate cleaning and another doing general caretaking work (lights, checking equipment, answering emergencies).

A passage from another

council report revealed that the eager beavers of County Hall had an almost paramilitary concept of the caretaker's daily round.

'It has been necessary,' they wrote, 'to develop the outlook of the staff towards their general responsibilities when on estates, so that they are always looking with a critical eye, and taking immediate steps where they see anything wrong, i.e., dust chute doors open, lights off at the incorrect time and so on...'

Each caretaker was to be called to the scene of an emergency by the 'assistaphone' by the tenants.

SALESMAN

One might have expected some opposition to the scheme from the unions, especially since a jobs cut-back of some 30 per cent was involved. But the opposite was the case.

Officials of Britain's 'fastest growing union', the National Union of Public Employees, converted themselves into the salesmen of the scheme.

After the first 'experiment' was completed in the Brandon estate area of south London in early 1971, they toured the

other districts and slipped in the scheme under the guise of a 'look see' proposition.

The formula was simple. The union official plus management would call the men together and present the productivity scheme in glowing terms. 'Of course it was up to the men to decide—and even then it was only a "look-see" arrangement.'

Invariably, after such a battery of propaganda, the consultants were let in and eventually the district was converted to the mobile method.

This was very effective since it prevented the total London membership from seeing the developing encroachment of the scheme throughout the city. Opposition on a local basis was difficult to organize.

But there were two isolated groups who refused to co-operate. A small band of caretakers are 'holding out' at Tulse Hill in the depth of south London and a section of the NUPE membership have formed their own branch to concentrate opposition to the scheme.

County Hall reports talks of 'long and difficult negotiations'. In fact it took two meetings of the NUPE caretakers'

branch before the deal was pushed through after a disgusted minority, centred on Tulse Hill, marched from the room and subsequently tried to join the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Others who have managed to avoid the clutches of the scheme are the plant assistants on the estates. After several meetings and requests they were allowed to form their own branch. Even then the plant attendants to get the visits from PA. But the ploy backfired when a promise not to use stopwatches was broken. The angry members convinced a second meeting and threw the deal out—much to NUPE's annoyance.

That was 15 months ago. Since then the plant engineers have been subjected to a form of 'creeping work-study'.

They have been put under the chain of command worked out for the caretakers, though their job and routine remain largely unaltered.

Another big innovation has been the introduction of 'job tickets'. These concern the work done by the attendant in tenants' houses — repairs to home boilers and other minor

forms of maintenance. In the past this work was classed as overtime and paid on that basis. Now the attendants have to do the work in normal time and wait for a job ticket before doing the repair. This has increased the red tape involved and the time needed to help out a tenant in distress.

It has also resulted in friction between plant attendant and tenant. One described the effect of job tickets this way:

'In the past an old lady would come down in a bit of a panic: "My heating's off." You would nip round and put it right. Other times she would come down worrying about a washer on her tap. Though it's not our work you would do it for the old girl. Now you just tell them to send their complaint into the depot—all hell is let loose if you do a job without a ticket.'

But perhaps even more serious is an incident in west London where six men have broken away from the plant attendants' branch, resigned from the union and approached the management for their own incentive scheme. The employers have gratefully obliged.

The men are reported to be mobile and doing jobs far

beyond normal plant attendants' schedule. NUPE says it can 'do nothing' about the situation.

The system so far remains at stalemate, but the plant attendants will have to put up a fierce resistance against both the union officials and the management if they are to maintain their standards.

THE MYTH

The whole deal, of course, is typical of the trend in local government. The promise of a drive towards productivity was a major feature of the Scamp report which settled the last council workers' strike. The employers have not been disappointed. In the Brandon area, for example, job levels among caretakers were slashed from 61 to 52, elsewhere greater savings have been achieved.

The myth used to justify redundancy is 'greater efficiency and service for the tenant', but like the one-man buses, the advantages are more apparent than real.

The cars 'fit' around the estates, but for the young and fit the 'assistaphone' that calls them up is at least five minutes

away, for the old and infirm perhaps 15 minutes. Many old people, or mothers with children have lost the psychological reassurance that the caretaker is near at hand to help them in case of emergencies.

And the more human relationships between estate-dweller and staff have dissipated under the new impersonal regime.

The cost argument is also somewhat of a fallacy. Another trend in the GLC is to introduce contractors to take over certain aspects of maintenance—for example the clearing of central heating equipment. Normally the plant attendants would have done this. Now vast sums are paid out to private enterprise for a service which is largely the same, if not inferior, to the old one.

The estate revolution is an example of planning, capitalist style, and an indictment of a union for failing to defend its own members as well as the interests of the London working class.

On the big council estates in London, caretaking services are being ruthlessly cut. One aspect is the 'assistaphone' (above) which tenants must use to call for help or advice.

THE STRANGE SAGA OF THE FALMOUTH TERMINAL

There is to be a second application to the National Ports Council for permission to construct a £10m, fully-automated container terminal at Falmouth.

The application will be drawn up and submitted as quickly as possible, according to the chairman of the company promoting the scheme, Mr Norman Holmes.

Last week the five directors of Falmouth Automated Container Terminal Limited (FACT) met in London to review the embattled history of their project. Holmes told Workers Press that there were going to be 'a lot of changes and alterations' to the company.

However, the directors agreed to release only a brief and tersely-worded statement to the Press. The statement said that the board had agreed to examine the composition of the board of directors and discussions would start with third parties, as yet unnamed.

The FACT plan was unveiled late in 1969 amid a barrage of publicity. It was claimed that Falmouth would become the leading container terminal in Europe.

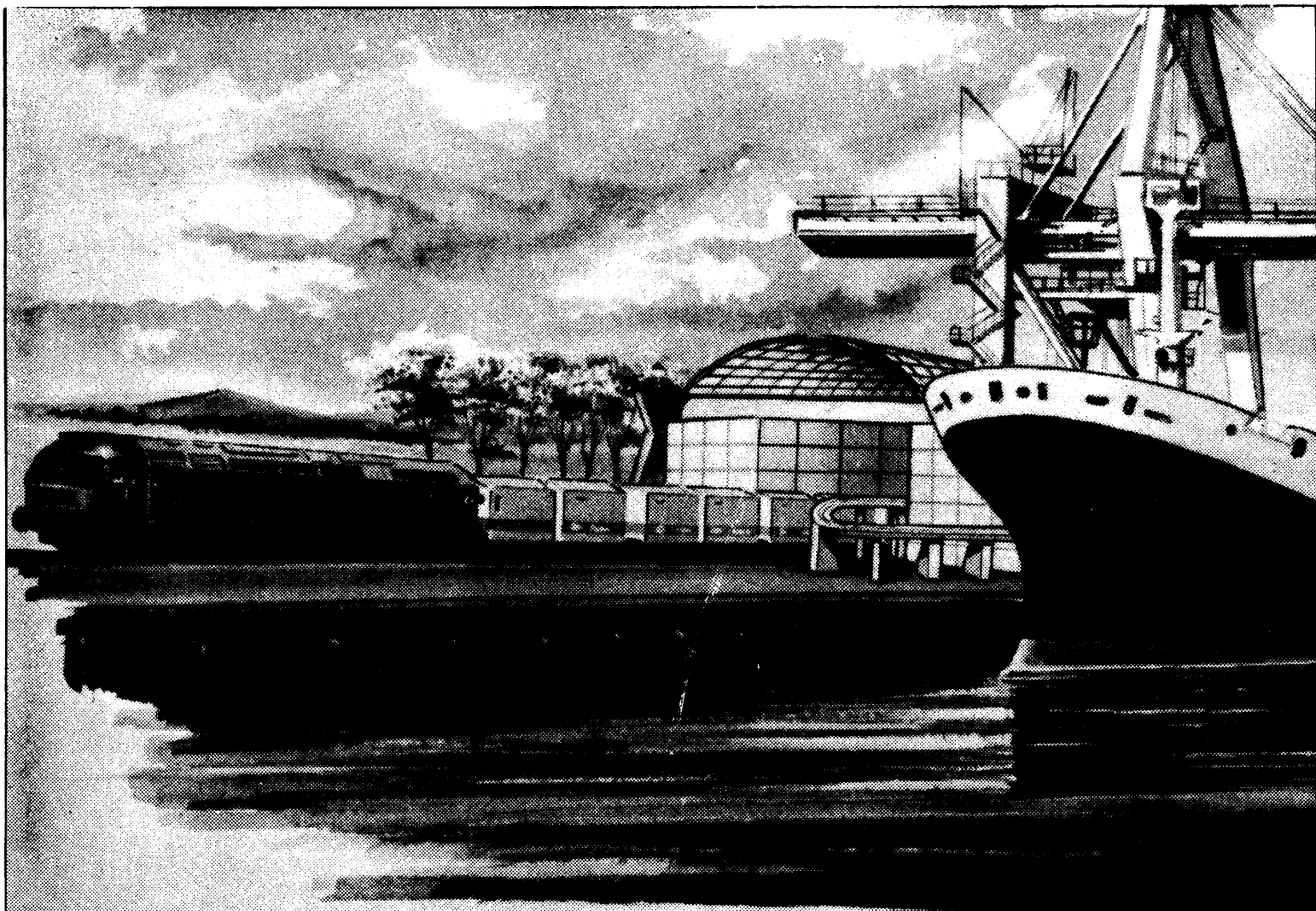
At one time financial backing was offered by Fund of the Seven Seas, a Liberian-registered group run by American financier Jerome D. Hoffman.

The chairman of the fund was ex-Mayor Richard Wagner of New York and one of the principal directors was Lord Brentford, a former Tory Minister and now head of the Automobile Association.

The head of Hoffman's first fund—Real Estate Fund of America—was Reginald Maudling, the deputy Prime Minister who recently resigned as Home Secretary.

The initial publicity has failed to live up to expectations. Despite the fact that the company got a Private Bill for the terminal passed through both houses of parliament no work has been done.

FACT's financial director, Mr. S. H. Fletcher, told the 'Journal of Commerce' last week that £100,000 had been spent on promoting the scheme. But having spent this large sum 'the directors may not wish to throw much more money in at this stage. Indeed, Mr Fletcher has said recently



that FACT 'has come near to the end of its financial resources.'

The situation is so serious that a spokesman for the consultant engineers said recently:

'The present board will not build anything at Falmouth, I am convinced of that.'

Yet despite this sort of warning, the most vociferous supporters of the scheme are local trade union bureaucrats.

The 'Journal of Commerce' says that leading backers are the Cornwall Federation of Trades Councils. Even the 'Journal' is somewhat surprised by their keen interest:

'Members seem to have an unrealistic view of the effect such a port could have on unemployment which in Falmouth has been around the 25 per cent mark.'

'The actual port, if built, would supply between 100 and 200 jobs locally, hardly affecting a depressed local unemployment situation.'



Left: Richard Wagner, one time chairman of Fund of the Seven Seas. Right: Maudling, former chairman of Real Estate Fund of America. Above: Artists Impression of the Falmouth container terminal.

TOUGH TIME FOR DOCKERS

An investigation of unregistered wharfs around the Essex river port of Colchester has revealed a startling tale of casual labour.

Some of the conditions are reminiscent of the ruthless hire-and-fire practices common on the docks a century ago, but now abolished because of the struggles of registered portworkers.

The investigation at Colchester was part of the National Port Council's review of the unregistered ports.

The conditions of hiring

labour were described by one self-employed casual, Mr C. Babbage, who worked for one of the two main Colchester employers, the Dock Transit Company.

It was Mr Babbage's practice to hold his own 'dockers' call'. He got the casuals together and sent men home if there was not enough work to go round. In times of labour shortage students and even soldiers were used on the wharfs.

These men had almost no rights and enjoyed none of the established conditions won by dockers; like sick pay, holiday pay or pensions. They worked on a job-and-finish

basis with no flat rate at all (the 'dockers' tanner' was a basic payment won by dockers in the bitter but victorious dispute of 1888 when portworkers got the right to be paid a minimum of 6d each week even if there was no work).

The casuals were said to earn between an average of £50 to £60 a week. But the pace of work was back-breaking.

One of the NPC team asked a casual if many men expected to last out on the wharfs beyond 35. 'They don't have to' was the reply.

The Dock Transit Company, together with the other main employer, W. Fieldgate and Sons, employed up to 20 permanent employees, but up to as many as 30 casuals.

The permanent Fieldgate men earned a flat rate of £18 for a 40-hour week compared to the £40 earned by registered dockers in the Port of London.

Many of the casual workers do not intend to stay in the industry. One, Maurice Wells, who works for Fieldgate, was saving up to open a car sales business.

'I was penniless,' he explained. 'I came here with nothing. But I've got ambition and this job has given me the chance to earn enough to start my own business which is what I want to do. Other men want to as well.'

The employers exploit these ideas to the full. L. F. Ratcliffe, a director of the Dock Transit Company, described the operations of his firm:

'Our productivity is second to none and we are extremely proud of this. If we have committed a sin, it is that we have been reasonably successful in giving good service.'

'In the last three dock strikes we have had no disputes. That is why we were singled out for attention last time. We are proud of the fact that we kept operating during

a national emergency.'

Naturally with a docile and malleable labour force the Colchester employers are hostile to any thought of being forced into the Dock Labour Scheme.

The port handles a valuable 650,000 tons of cargo a year—over a third of this total is general cargo, the rest bulk and ballast. The tonnage has only increased slightly since 1967, but Colchester is described as a thriving port.

The inquiry lifts the lid off the unregistered ports and exposes the conditions that still apply. As the crisis on the docks gets worse, employers may well turn to places like Colchester in a big way, as they have done to Felixstowe farther up the east coast.

Inclusion in the Dock Labour Scheme would free the men from the arbitrary rule of the small employers. Places like Colchester must be registered. Dockers must not accept anything less than this.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

PUBLIC LIFE

Alderman Andrew Cunningham, one of the central members of the cast of the Poulson affair, is proving a hidebound adversary.

Since revelations that he and his wife accepted financial favours from the Poulson empire, there have been demands that they both leave all public jobs.

This would launch a series of resignations because the Cunninghams are extremely active in public life.

Cunningham is north east officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, chairman of the Newcastle Airport Authority, chairman of the Tyneside Transport Authority, chairman of the Durham Police Committee and sits on the national executive committee (NEC) of the Labour Party. His wife is a local JP.

Last week a second bid was made to oust him as chairman of the police committee.

Leading the fresh attack was Mr Douglas Nicholson, a brewery company chairman. The resolution called on Cunningham to vacate the chairmanship until the Poulson case was over. 'All we ask is that he temporarily resigns until this matter is settled,' Nicholson said.

When a similar motion was put several weeks ago it was ruled 'out of order' and Cunningham stormed out of the meeting.

Following last week's meeting it was announced that the meeting had given a 19 to 11 vote of confidence in the chairman. 'I am gratified to know that my colleagues are standing behind me,' Cunningham said afterwards.

During the bankruptcy hearing at Wakefield it was revealed that Cunningham had taken two overseas holidays paid for by Poulson companies. One, costing £256, was in Portugal.

For many years Cunningham was chairman of the housing committee at Felling Council where Poulson designed many council housing blocks.

MODEST

There's a couple of premises going for a snip in Holland Park, west London.

They are two modest bungalows at Nos 1A and 2 Holland Park. The previous owners, King Edward's Hospital Fund, have flogged both of them to an undisclosed buyer. He is preparing to renovate them and put them back on the market.

Anyway, the fund sold them to Mr X for exactly £1,039,000. So if you've got a spare half a million . . .

DOCKLAND ACCIDENTS

Accident rates on the docks have rocketed over the past few years and the most dangerous sectors of dockland are turning out to be the modern container terminals.

Twelve years ago one docker in 12 was injured so badly he had to take three days or more off work. Five years ago this ratio had worsened to one in eight and in 1969 between one in seven and one in eight dock workers were maimed.

The increasing accident ratios run parallel to the vast rise in productivity and the fast pace of work.

Contrary to popular conceptions the container revolution is not changing this. The senior manpower officer for the National Ports Council, Brian Wilkinson, recently claimed that some container berths have developed so that accidents have been built into them rather than being designed out.

Many berths had inadequate means of testing potential drivers' mental and physical fitness for the job of driving heavy dock vehicles.

A survey carried out in three ports revealed that of 57 drivers, 80 per cent had not been given any medical advice on their suitability to drive a straddle carrier. Forty two per cent had not received a full medical examination for more than two years, one driver was an epileptic and another had one lung.



BATTLE-CRIES FROM LEADING TORIES

An article in last Tuesday's 'Daily Telegraph' set the tone for a week of vehement attacks throughout the national and provincial Press on the unions, strikers and anyone who challenges the Tories' right to rule.

Written by Michael Harrington, the 'Telegraph' article warned that if the Tory government was not prepared for a stand-up confrontation with the working class it had better change its present bid to promote economic growth by monetary expansion.

The big question on the order of the day, he said, was whether there could be a workable Tory version of the corporate state.

Headlined 'Eyeball to eyeball with the unions', the article said that it could no longer be taken for granted that the government's ultimate authority would not be challenged.

The present situation contained all the ingredients for a period of bitter industrial strife. And following his defeats at the hands of the miners, the railwaymen and the dockers, premier Heath was by no means anxious for further confrontation.

But Heath's remarks at the Tory Party conference about partnership between government and unions had led many people to start thinking in terms of the corporate state.

'This', Harrington pointed out, 'is far closer to the basic instincts of the Tory Party than the idea of a liberal, competitive economy.'

There seemed to be little alternative to a general confrontation. The government ought to be getting ready for the collision.

TORY PRESS



Sir Keith Joseph: Looking for ways to starve strikers back to work. Above: Police and dockers. No football matches this time.

Unlike 1926, Harrington argued, the Tories would be unable to rely on the TUC leaders and the middle class to break the strike, 'which means that the government would have to rely on the instruments of public force: the police and the army'.

What is more, he added ominously: 'It is most unlikely that police and strikers would play football matches with each other.'

The political implications of this ruling-class analysis have already been dealt with in detail by Workers Press. Harrington's article has been

followed, however, by a stream of similar battle-cries.

Next day the 'Yorkshire Post' followed up with a call to stop Social Security benefits to strikers' families.

If there was a General Strike, the paper said in an editorial, it would be financed by the taxpayer. 'Literally millions of strikers would be paid from the public purse for bringing the country to its knees.'

So far the government's efforts to deal with this 'very real abuse of public funds' had been half-hearted, the 'Post' claimed.

It went on to praise the 'balanced and humane' remarks on the subject by Sir Keith Joseph, Social Security Secretary, in the House of Commons the previous day.

If this high Tory newspaper thinks anyone's remarks are balanced and humane, they are obviously worth a second look. And, of course, they turn out to be anything but.

Said Joseph: 'A large number of citizens are worried by the fact that sometimes in a strike, apparently against the government of the day, taxpayers' money is used to support strikers' families. This is an important issue and Ministers are trying to arrive at the public interest.'

He had great sympathy with the view that the responsibility for keeping strikers' families should rest on the strikers themselves and the strikers' unions, the Minister added.

The meaning of this is very clear. It is that the government is looking for ways of forcing strikers back to work by starving their families. The only 'balancing' factor is that they know such a crude bludgeon would meet with widespread opposition at present, and are waiting for a more opportune moment to do it.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign

MEDWAY: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue, Rochester.

CAMBRIDGE: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. 'The Mitre', Bridge Street. 'Fight rising prices'.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'Force the Tories to resign'.

KINGSTON: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. 'The Swan', Mill Street. 'Way forward for trade unionists'.

MANCHESTER: Wednesday December 20, 7.30 p.m. 'The Black Lion Hotel', corner of Blackfriars Street and Chapel Rd. 'Fight the Industrial Relations Act—Force the Tories to Resign'.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday December 21, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'Support the Engineers'.

PRESTON: Thursday December 21, 7.30 p.m. 'The New Cock Inn', Fishergate. 'Fight the Industrial Relations Act—Force the Tories to Resign'.

SWANSEA: Wednesday December 20, 7.30 p.m. YMCA. 'Defend the AUEW. Force the Tories to resign'.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday December 21, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, New Cross Road (near station). 'Build Councils of Action'.

CLAY CROSS: Thursday December 21, 8 p.m. Social Centre, Derby Road. 'Fight Tory rent rises! 'Make this government resign'.



Fumble, a group on the bill at the Young Socialists' pop concert and rally at the weekend, tonight takes the 'Grey Whistle Test' on BBC 2.

TV BBC 2

- 11.00-11.25 Play school.
- 7.30 NEWSROOM. Weather.
- 8.00 FLOODLIT RUGBY LEAGUE. Final of the BBC 2 trophy.
- 8.50 WHEELBASE. Christmas Motoring Edition.
- 9.25 THE EDWARDIANS. Baden-Powell. Ron Moody as the Scout movement's founder.
- 10.30 NEWS ON 2. Weather.
- 10.35 TAIZE. A Place for Today. Monastic community in Burgundy.
- 11.15 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. Faces, Fumble.

BBC 1

- 11.45 Engineer's world. 12.10 Schools. 12.30 Ary trywydd. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Camberwick green. 1.45 Canvas. 2.00 Young idea. 2.25 Truly amazing phenomenon. 2.50 Going for a song. 3.20 Soper at large. 3.45 Look. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Crystal Tipps. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Josie and the pussycats. 5.15 John Craven's newsround. 5.20 Vision on. 5.45 News. Weather.
- 6.00 NATIONWIDE.
- 6.50 TOM AND JERRY. Just Ducky.
- 7.00 THE LAST APOLLO. Splashdown.
- 8.10 FRANK SINATRA. A Man and His Music.
- 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.
- 9.25 DOCUMENTARY: 'HOW TO WIN A NOBEL PRIZE'. Eight rules.
- 10.15 FILM 72.
- 10.45 MIDWEEK.
- 11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS.
- 11.35 THE OPEN PERSUADERS. Joan Bakewell talks to Rev Dr Colin Morris.
- 11.55 MEDICINE TODAY. Diabetes in Pregnancy.
- 12.25 Weather.

ITV

- 9.30 Miscellany. 10.30 A season of Gilbert and Sullivan. 11.20 Bellbird. 11.35 Galloping gourmet. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Pinky and Perky. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Lunchtime with Wogan. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 The splendour falls. 3.25 A family at war. 4.25 Junior showtime. 4.50 Maggie. 5.20 I dream of Jeannie. 5.50 News.
- 6.00 TODAY.
- 6.25 CROSSROADS.
- 6.50 THIRTY MINUTES WORTH. Harry Worth.
- 7.20 FAREWELL TO THE MOON—APOLLO 17. Splashdown.
- 7.25 FILM: 'THE RIVER'S EDGE'. Ray Milland, Anthony Quinn, Debra Paget. A professional killer is on the run from the San Francisco police.
- 9.00 THE STRAUSS FAMILY. Adele.
- 10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
- 10.30 DOCUMENTARY: 'THE VOICES OF APOLLO'. What have the Apollo missions achieved?
- 11.30 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.
- 12.15 IT MATTERS TO ME.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.35 Lottery. 4.40 London. 5.20 Shirley's world. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Look-around. 6.25 London. 7.30 Film: 'The Man With A Cloak'. 9.00 London. 12.15 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.25 Rovers. 9.50 Gilbert and Sullivan. 10.45 Let them live. 11.10 Jackson five. 11.35 Better driving. 12.05 London. 12.25 Gus Honeybun. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 12.13 News. 12.16 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 10.00 Torchy. 10.10 Tricks of the good cook's trade. 10.30 Southern scene. 10.55 Windward home. 11.20 Odd couple. 11.45 Cartoons. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.50 London. 7.30 McCloud. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 3.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bugs Bunny. 6.50 London. 7.30 Film: 'Gunfight at Comanche Creek'. 9.00 London. 12.15 Drive-in. 12.45 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30 Llyfrau. 11.00-11.30 Erych yn ol gyda Dr Mary Williams.

HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.25 Report West.

ANGLIA: 10.30 Alan Browning. 11.00 The candidate. 11.55 Cartoon. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Smith family. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.25 Crossroads. 6.50 Harry Worth. 7.20 London. 7.30 Film: 'The Trackers'. 9.00 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.15 A moment's reflection. 11.35 Better driving. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 5.20 Jackson five. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.25 London. 7.40 Film: 'The Ride Back'. 9.00 London. 12.15 Stories worth telling. 12.20 Jason King. Weather.

ULSTER: 12.05 London. 1:32 News. 1.35 Survival. 2.00 London. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.25 London. 7.30 Film: 'High Noon'. 9.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 Douglas Fairbanks presents. 10.00 Scientists. 10.50 Hogan's heroes. 11.20 Gilbert and Sullivan. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Harry Worth. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 McCloud. 9.00 London. 11.15 Professional wrestling. 12.00 Scotland Yard mysteries. 12.35 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.30 Galloping gourmet. 12.00 Paint book. 12.05 London. 2.30 Looking at... 2.55 London. 5.15 Adam. 12. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.20 Crown court. 6.50 London. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Film: 'Cool Million'. 9.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.35 Make a wish. 10.00 Scientists. 10.50 Ugliest girl in town. 11.20 Gilbert and Sullivan. 12.05 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Kreskin. 3.00 London. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.25 London. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 McCloud. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.30 Christmas 1822.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Dr Simon Locke. 11.30 Rovers. 12.02 News. 12.05 London. 1.30 Bugaloos. 2.00 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Animal stories. 6.25 London. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 McCloud. 9.00 London. 12.10 Meditation.

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SLL LECTURES SHEFFIELD

Monday January 8
Marxism and the revolutionary party
FORRESTERS HALL
Trippett Lane, 7.30 p.m.

TODMORDEN

Monday January 8
'The economic crisis'
Monday January 22
'Stalinism'
Monday February 5
'Trotskyism'
THE WEAVERS' INSTITUTE, Burnley Road,
7.30 p.m.

HULL

Wednesday January 10
Stalinism and Trotskyism
Wednesday January 24
Marxist theory and the revolutionary party
WHITE HART HOTEL
Alfred Gelder Street
(near Drypool Bridge)
8 p.m.

Qualified teachers cannot find jobs

TEACHER unemployment is rising rapidly according to a letter from the National Union of Teachers published today.

Mr Fred Jarvis, the union's deputy-general secretary, in a letter to Tory Education Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher lists reports from 41 teacher-training colleges and polytechnics throughout the country which show a total of almost 800 newly-qualified teachers without jobs and another 400 teachers on whom the colleges have no information.

Jarvis' letter to Mrs Thatcher is in reply to her challenge, during a recent television confrontation, to produce evidence of unemployment among newly-qualified teachers.

Mr Jarvis also reveals that the union itself has requests for help in finding jobs from 167 newly-qualified teachers.

He adds that there appears to be a shortage of posts on the lowest salary scale, especially in primary schools.

The only authorities to have advertised in a general way for a limited number of primary school teachers to start employment next term have been Barking, Croydon, Jersey and Redbridge, while the Liverpool authority has approached the union directly for primary teachers.

Gasmen demand strike action over pay warning

SHOP STEWARDS at North Thames Gas are urging industrial action unless negotiations on their pay claim are resumed.

The stewards, representing 8,000 manual workers, members of the General and Municipal Workers' union, have voted to press the union's executive to authorize strike action from January 28 unless the Gas

Council resumes negotiations.

The union has submitted a four-part claim which includes:

- A 'substantial' increase on the present £19.10 labourer's and £22.87 craftsman's basic weekly rates.

- A reduction in hours.
- More holidays.
- Better redundancy terms as plants close down with

the switch to North Sea gas.

John Edmonds, the union's national officer for the gas industry, said:

'The stewards are extremely angry that the government has stopped us negotiating a new pay deal while many private industries are still talking about money during the current pay freeze.'

This is a reference to

Edward Heath's letter to the G&MWU's leader, Lord Cooper, last Friday in which it was stated that pay talks should not proceed to a firm offer.

Heath's statement completely wrecks the theory put forward by many trade union leaders that as soon as the First Phase of the state pay plan was over, wage increases would automatically be forthcoming.

The reason Heath has stopped all wage talks in the public sector is that he has already drafted Phase Two of his wage laws. And this will be a permanent, legally-binding structure which will hold down wages to government imposed 'norms'.

The next G&MWU meeting will be held on January 16 at which strike action will be discussed.

Ballot on OTOs' job-cut deal is scrapped

POST OFFICE union leaders have declared invalid a ballot held among their overseas telegraphist (OTOs) members on a pay-and-productivity deal.

The deal, signed on October 26 over the heads of the telegraphists and their union branch officials, should now in principle be at least held up.

In practice its initial stages have already been implemented. At Electra House, London's overseas telegraph headquarters, branch officials estimate that several hundred jobs have already been lost.

News that the ballot of the 4,500 telegraphists has been scrapped came in a letter from Tom Jackson, Union of Post Office Workers' general secretary, yesterday.

The decision had been made, the letter said, after complaints from the branch that some union members had not received ballot papers, that others had received two and that a large number of non-members had voted.

Even under these circumstances 833 votes against the deal, which gives telegraphists flat-rate payments of up to £95 a year, had been shown. 1,093 votes were cast in favour.

With a big intensification of work already under way, the new ballot promised for early in 1973 is expected to show even stronger opposition to the deal.

The productivity aspects of the deal pave the way for a 36-per cent cut in the telegraphists' grade over the next three years.

Official IRA continues its rightward turn

FROM IAN YEATS IN DUBLIN

THE OUTCOME of nine months' debate within the Official Sinn Fein about the revolutionary perspectives of the movement emerged fairly conclusively here on Sunday on the last day of the Ard Feish.

One of the first acts of the rejuvenated party was to ban Mid-Ulster MP Miss Bernadette Devlin from addressing the conference on the pretext she was only a visitor.

In the stormiest session in the Ard Feish speakers from the Six Counties said they should be strong enough in their beliefs not to fear the effect on Sinn Fein members of what Miss Devlin had to say. The ban was consistent with the leadership's new anti-'left' line.

Ever since the Tory government imposed direct rule in the north last spring, Official Republicans have been questioning the movement's practically exclusive involvement with the Civil Rights Association.

Some rank and filers were for a new movement altogether based on Marxism, but other sections favoured the idea of transforming Sinn Fein into a revolutionary class-based party dedicated to the reconquest of the 32 counties for the working people of Ireland. Civil Rights would form part of this struggle.

For the time being this tendency has won, although it is notable that workers were less in evidence at this year's Ard Feish and the new policy was agreed primarily by small farmers and businessmen, professional people, students and delegates from the north.

There has been no formal break with the Civil Rights movement, but the Ard Feish passed almost unanimously an amendment shifting the emphasis



Bernadette Devlin . . . barred from making a speech.

firmly back to traditional Irish nationalism.

Proposing the amendment, Seamus Costello of Bray told the conference that reformist demands for civil liberties would not solve the problems of poverty and unemployment faced by Irish workers on both sides of the border.

What was needed, he said, was a revolutionary Republican party based on the working class which would put all its energies to winning sovereignty and freedom for the people of Ireland.

Moving an amendment to an earlier resolution Costello said the Officials had recognized there were sectarian bigots on both sides of the religious divide and that the only way to unite the

IN THE first major move against the Provisional IRA since the introduction of new repressive laws by the Lynch government an unsuccessful attempt was made on Sunday night to arrest Provisional Sinn Fein president David O'Connell.

He escaped in a car while his wife held detectives at bay.

The move coincides with continuing Tory harassment of the IRA in the north. Sean Keenan junior, a leading Derry Republican, was captured by police and troops at the weekend on the road between the city and Moville.

In the past week guards and Eire army units have adopted a noticeably more aggressive role in border areas, appearing within minutes on the scene of alleged IRA attacks.

In a bid to short circuit the new laws and broaden their political base the Provisionals sponsored a new Irish Civil Rights Association at a 400-strong inaugural meeting in Dublin on Sunday night.

Other sponsors included northern Nationalist MP, Bernadette Devlin, southern Labour Party Deputies and writers like Edna O'Brien and actors.



David O'Connell . . . gone underground.

two communities was through the fight for independence.

Sections of the Dublin leadership favour talks with the Protestant organizations UDA, UVF and Vanguard to try to bring about peace in the north, but Costello said there was nothing to be gained by looking for what he called 'socialists in fascist organizations'.

The vote on this amendment was tied and the resolution from Sinn Fein's executive, the Ard Comhairle, calling for talks with Protestant organizations and for the setting up of a non-sectarian corps of workers under the aegis of the trade unions to end sectarianism was passed overwhelmingly.

In his report Director of Operations Sean Garland said 1973 must see the expansion of

all those activities for which Sinn Fein has been known for decades crystallized in the building of a revolutionary party 'responding only to the needs and interests of the working people of Ireland'.

There was unanimous condemnation from the platform and from the floor of the Provisional IRA for doing more than anyone else in creating the deep sectarian hatreds and divisions between Protestants and Catholics in the Six Counties and action was demanded on issues affecting all workers in a bid to rally Protestants to Republicanism.

Costello added that the Civil Rights movement had also played a part in alienating Protestants by stressing what appeared to be exclusively Catholic grievances.

He summed up the Officials' new policy line with the phrase: 'The fight for Republicanism is a fight for socialism.'

The Ard Feish demanded the immediate withdrawal of British troops from the Six Counties and the setting up of an all-Ireland conference under the aegis of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to draft a 32-county secular constitution.

It called on the British government to grant immediate civil and religious liberties throughout Northern Ireland, to release internees and to declare a general amnesty.

In addition the Leinster House government was called on to repeal all repressive legislation and take steps to 'curtail' the exploitation of Irish assets by British and other foreign capital.

Massey clerks vote to stay out

SIX HUNDRED clerical workers at the giant Massey Ferguson tractor factory in Coventry yesterday voted by an overwhelming majority to continue their strike.

They decided not to meet again until next Wednesday, December 27.

The strike began a week ago over the suspension by the company of five girls who refused to work on 'black' work.

Originally eight key-punch operators were out on a constitutional dispute involving a demand for upgrading.

Phil Keenan, the convener of the T&GWU clerical section, told Workers Press:

'The firm sent the key-punch operators' work to outside contractors and then instructed these five girls to work on this black work when it returned to Massey's. We had already warned the company that under no circumstances would our members touch such work.'

Picketing is going on night and day at the gate. And after yesterday's meeting it will be intensified.

Most lorries have been stopped. But Phil Keenan said that the company is now employing

'cowboy firms' to try and get supplies in.

This was confirmed by Peter Lees, senior steward of APEX, the other clerical union out on strike.

Mr Lees said: 'If the firm sends manual workers home they would have to pay them a guaranteed week. They have avoided this so far by getting the supervisors to work on some of our jobs.'

This state of affairs is being allowed at Massey's because no lead has been given by the joint shops stewards' committee.

A motion last week calling for a stoppage in support of the clerks was defeated on the joint

shop stewards' committee.

The strikers, engaged for the first time in a big battle, are determined to fight this one through, as yesterday's vote showed. Only 20 hands went up against the recommendation to continue the strike.

W. STRATTON MILLS, one of Northern Ireland's eight Unionist MPs at Westminster, yesterday resigned from the Party. His decision to quit follows his failure last week to end the links between the Unionists and William Craig's Vanguard Movement. Mills felt that the Tory Unionists were increasingly becoming the 'political prisoner' of the para-military Vanguard group.

Engineers in action

BY PHILIP WADE

THE FEELING among Oxford engineers on the march yesterday was that it was time for the AUEW's executive council to give a lead on all-out action and for the TUC to organize other unions in support.

'The whole fight boils down to the need for leadership from the TUC who are as usual still fence-sitting,' Peter Biggs, British-Leyland AUEW maintenance steward, told me.

'Our union is now having a go and making a stand. But a one-day stoppage isn't going to do it.

'The executive must call an all-out indefinite strike supported by the TUC. We have to use the strength of the whole working class.'

Vic Foyle, AUEW steward at Morris radiators, told me: 'The

OXFORD: 'TUC must organize support from other unions'

fine takes us back to the 1800s. It means we've got to fight to the bitter end.

'The trade unions started in Britain—and we're not going to give them up easily.

'The Tories have found that on entering the Common Market wages had to be suppressed. This is the way they are trying to do it. I see the fine as an attack on the whole working class. The

TUC must now give a lead in this fight.'

AUEW member Bill Fox said the Tories had wanted 'to sneak up on the unions'. Now they were 'going to take us on, but



(Left to right) Peter Biggs, Vic Foyle, Bill Fox and Andy Devlin.

are not prepared for the reaction here', he added.

'This thing is going to snowball. It's time for the EC to take the kid gloves off and give the lead we've been waiting for. They should call for a General Strike and the recall of the TUC.'

Andy Devlin, T&GWU steward from Leyland's body plant, said: 'I'm supporting the AUEW 100 per cent. There is an enormous feeling about this in the factories. Now all we want is for the leadership to lead.

'The laws in my own country, in the Republic of Ireland, are the same as Heath wants to bring in here.

'If the Tories can carry the Industrial Relations Act through they will then pass more laws to stop us striking and even demonstrating.

'In Dublin someone, and it wasn't the IRA, planted some bombs to keep the government in power. That shows how desperate the Tories are getting.'

LONDON: Support grows for all-out action

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

DELEGATES representing an estimated 40,000 engineers on strike in the London area yesterday pledged to go on fighting the Industrial Relations Act.

They called on their union leadership to involve the whole membership in action next time the AUEW was challenged under the anti-union laws.

But many delegates representing over 40 factories hit by strike action wanted to go further. A resolution demanding that the union executive call an indefinite national stoppage was defeated, but attracted a substantial minority vote.

One notable opponent of this line was Kevin Halpin, chairman of the so-called Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, which initiated a series of one-day strikes two years ago.

The two resolutions came at the end of a discussion which centred primarily on the role of the AUEW leadership. Many delegates, from plants in London and Essex, criticized the AUEW for not calling official action. They said that one-day protest strikes were inadequate.

Others congratulated the leadership for their firm stand against the Tory government and its laws.

John Paxman, convenor at CAV, Acton, west London, said:

'I believe that one-day stoppages have run their course. I feel that certainly we should look towards the executive council to give a direct lead and call for a national stoppage.'

Another Acton steward, Tom Hillier, said it was a pity that the 'Morning Star' had been unable to come out. Holding up a copy of the Workers Press he demanded that all the publications of the labour movement should be exempt from this kind of industrial action.

Tim Cowan, convenor of the Decca radar factory at Battersea, said that the right wing had been encouraged because the engineers leaders had left an element of choice on whether to take strike action.

He demanded a campaign in the TUC to mobilize the working class against the Tory government.

'There is no possibility of ridding ourselves of this legislation until the Tory government is removed and replaced by a Labour government pledged to socialist policies and repeal of all anti-trade union legislation.'

Ted Rycroft, member of the

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north London district committee of the AUEW, which called yesterday's strike action, demanded that other unions get off the fence.

He said the strike had signalled an end to the 'ducking and diving' which had begun at the Croydon conference in March 1971, where a united strike campaign against the Act was rejected.

The climax of the meeting came when an amendment demanding indefinite strike action and a campaign to call on the TUC to bring the government down was proposed.

The platform emasculated this policy by separating the political demand from the call for a strike. Even so it attracted a substantial minority in the meeting.

The final resolution stated: 'While congratulating the executive council on the stand in defence of the union to date,

we urge them to call on the whole of the membership on the next occasion that action is deemed to be necessary in order that our efforts and our strength is co-ordinated.

'We further call on other unions to give their support to any action in the future.'

Factories affected by the stoppage were Ford's, Dagenham, where 15,000 failed to turn in; Victor Engineering, Rainham;

CAV Acton, where there was a near-total stoppage, and six power stations.

Solidarity action came from busmen in Dagenham, who refused to man services to and from the Ford plant.

● After the meeting a 350-strong delegation of stewards marched on the TUC headquarters and handed a message to Victor Feather asking for support for the engineers.

Portsmouth factories stop

In PORTSMOUTH there were widespread stoppages; production came to a complete halt at several factories while most in the area were partially affected. The call for one-day strike action came from the quarterly meeting of shop stewards last Thursday.

There are 7,500 AUEW in the Portsmouth district and it

was estimated that at least half responded to the shop stewards' call. Firms hit by the strike include Power Brakes, Goodman's loudspeakers and Evans.

In LEEDS a decision on whether to hold a one-day stoppage will be taken at a district committee meeting tomorrow.

Lucas fail to undermine CAV sit-in

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE LUCAS combine has failed in another bid to undermine the ten-week-old occupation of its CAV vehicle-pump factory at Fazakerley, Liverpool.

Bargaining counter in Lucas's ploy was the Lucas Industrial Equipment factory on the same site as CAV, which has been laid off because of the occupation.

It appears the combine management hoped to split workers from the two factories with threats against LIE's future.

Last Friday union officials were called in to hear that unless LIE were able to open within the next few weeks the 450-

strong factory would have to close permanently.

The factory has been 'turning the corner' as far as profitability was concerned, management said. But the enforced shutdown meant that the way was open for competitors to steal its market.

Hundreds march in Sheffield stoppage

SOME 28,000 workers struck in the Sheffield district, and hundreds marched through the city chanting 'Heath out!' and 'Tories out!'

Shop stewards from several big factories—the River Don steelworks, Ambrose Shardlow's, Bone Craven's and others—brought their banners onto the demonstration.

At a meeting which followed, Albert Knight, president of the AUEW district committee, said that the struggle against the fine involved not just engineering workers, but the whole of the working class.

The TUC was not fighting the Industrial Relations Act, he said. The Act had to be kicked out along with the government that created it.

But the meeting was marred by an incident in which George Caborn, the union's district secretary, tried physically to prevent a member of the district committee addressing the workers present.

The member concerned, Paul Littlehales, a shop steward from Daniel Doncaster's engineering factory, twice indicated to the chairman his wish to speak to the meeting. On both occasions he was refused.

In a statement to Workers Press afterwards, he described what then happened:

'When the chairman closed the meeting after my second attempt to speak, I tried to address those present on the need for a General Strike in support of the engineers and Councils of Action to defeat the Tories.

'Caborn and a number of others from around the platform came down the steps and tried to pull me out of the crowd. He then threatened me with disciplinary action.'

Stewards from both LIE and CAV heard a report on these discussions on Sunday morning.

Their response was to call for a strengthening of the campaign, led by the CAV occupation committee, for the backing of Lucas goods entering three other Liverpool factories: Ford's, Standard-Triumph's, and Lucas's Victor aerospace works.