

workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3, 1973 ● No 961 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

DEMAND TUC END STATE PAY PLAN TALKS WITH TORIES

LEADERS CRAWL AS WORKERS FIGHT

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

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What such capitulation—if left unchecked—will mean for the working class was shown this week when Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan halted the second stage of a pay agreement for London's West End actors (see pp. 1 and 3).

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Other workers are moving into the front line:

OVER 20,000 British-Leyland car workers at the Cowley assembly-line plant expect a reply this month to their claim for increases of between £5.80 and £7.

THE PAY agreement covering 50,000 Ford carworkers ends in February and stewards are talking of a £10 increase.

SOME 30,000 plumbers have been hit by the halting of a further £1 increase promised for the end of 1972.

AND 70,000 electrical workers have had the second stage of a wage settlement reached in June halted by the government. This involves sums of between £2.80 and £3.80.

THE 250,000 hospital ancillary workers are balloting on nine alternative forms of industrial action, including total strike in all hospitals, over the halting of negotiations on their £4 claim.

AND 339,000 agricultural workers also had their £3.30 award stopped.

SOME 58,000 gasworkers are demanding a substantial rise on their present basic rates of £19.10 and £22.87. 1,000 of them are on a work to rule and overtime ban at two key London plants. Stronger action will be demanded at Monday's delegate conference.

PAY talks affecting 275,000 miners are due to commence on January 10.

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A BIG pay claim covering most of the country's 300,000 railway workers has been submitted by the National Union of Railway men and the Transport and Salaried Staffs Association. The present agreement expires in May and at last year's union conferences delegates endorsed a demand for 25-per-cent rises—£8 a week.

Mr Ray Buckton, general secretary Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, said yesterday his executive had decided not to put an across-the-board wages claim in at this stage, despite decision of three unions last year to submit new claim jointly.

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8,000 Swindon engineers stop over NIRC fines

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KEEP LEFT

YOUNG
SOCIALISTS
OFFICIAL
WEEKLY
PAPER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and National Speaking Contest

**BUILD THE WEEKLY KEEP LEFT
BUILD THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS
STOP RISING PRICES
FORCE THE TORIES TO RESIGN**

Next Saturday—January 6, 2.30 p.m.

East India Hall, East India Dock Road, London E14

SPEAKERS:

GARY GURMEET (Editor Keep Left)
GERRY HEALY (SLL national secretary)
BRIAN PRANGLE (YS Student Society)

Dance 8-11 p.m.

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SHIPOWNERS, port employers and their friends in the Fleet Street Press allowed themselves a restrained gloat yesterday at dockers' postponement of industrial action against the threat to London's meat trade.

With the 'Financial Times', they saw Monday's decision by the men at Thames Stevedoring Ltd as 'a major rebuff' for 'militant shop stewards'. They scented a possible deal with the union leaders to force big productivity concessions from their members.

Workers Press refuses to share the pessimism to which this gloating has given rise among some sections of the trade union movement on the docks.

Monday's decision at Thames is certainly a setback. But it is first and foremost an indictment of the failures of the dockers' leadership since the end of the national strike last August. If the lessons of these failures can be learned, the dockers can take a major step forward.

The 'policy' recommended to the Thames mass meeting by Bernie Steer, the Communist Party steward jailed by the industrial court earlier this year, was no policy at all.

It was merely to black traffic which shipping lines in the South American conference intend to transfer to Southampton in any case.

The aim of the blacking was to force 'meaningful negotiations' with the lines. And no attempt

Dockers, drivers—unite to save jobs

was to be made to stage joint action with transport drivers—themselves deeply affected by the threatened transfer.

No perspective for stopping the continuing job loss from the industry was held out to the Thames dockers.

Since the end of the national dock strike, the docks labour force has been slashed by almost 11 per cent nationally . . . and the onslaught on jobs is continuing.

No less than 4,500 men have already left the industry, another 2,000 have applied to go and, by the time a special severance-pay offer ends on February 4, many more are expected to apply.

This is the real face of the Jones-Aldington report which the union leaders collaborated with the employers in drawing up.

Workers Press insisted throughout the strike—in opposition

to the leaders of the national port shop stewards' committee—that the report was totally unacceptable in principle.

It was a blueprint for attacking jobs and undermining the Dock Labour Scheme, we said. It must be rejected.

But many leading stewards, Steer and other CP supporters among them, maintained that only 'safeguards' were required from the Jones-Aldington committee.

They gave evidence to the committee. And they refused to campaign for the only demand which can stop unemployment eating even further into the dockers' strength: nationalization of the entire port transport industry without compensation under workers' control.

In this way they assisted the union chiefs' plans for betraying the strike and leading the dockers into the Jones-Aldington trap.

Within weeks of the strike ending, the port employers were demanding a 50-per-cent increase in productivity in London. They did so on the strength of threats by the New Zealand meat producers to pull their trade out of the port and transfer to Sheerness.

Meanwhile dockers' attention was focused by the stewards

almost exclusively on the picketing campaign at east London container depots and cold stores, on the theory that the store owners could be forced to grant dockers jobs there.

Throughout this period the need for a policy to unite dockers, transport drivers and container workers in common struggle against the employers and the Tory government was ignored—if not contemptuously dismissed.

Meanwhile the Tories proceeded with their plans for entry into the Common Market—certain to lead to a new attack on jobs and working conditions in every sector of transport—and the employers got on with their plotting against the Dock Labour Scheme.

Unity behind a real policy for the docks and road transport was never more urgent than now.

To wipe the smiles off the faces of the employers, united action against any loss of jobs is required.

All dockers, transport drivers and depot workers must be retained on full pay until the industry can be nationalized under workers' control. The Tories must be forced from office and a Labour government committed to nationalization elected.

Union chiefs offered top Nixon posts

PRESIDENT NIXON has offered leading trade union bureaucrats responsible posts in all departments of his new administration to draw the unions closer to the state.

According to White House aides, the President wants to show that 'his is not going to be an anti-labour administration'.

Yet this year sees the start of phase three of Nixon's state control of wages, which is likely to be even tougher than phase two.

A number of important wage contracts come up for renegotiation this year as well, and even George Meany, the right-wing AFL-CIO leader, has declared that there will be a stiff fight for wages by big sections of workers.

Nixon's corporatist plan indicates his government's fear of the strength of the working class and makes even more urgent the struggle for a Labour Party based on the trade unions and breaking from the parties of capital, both Democrat and Republican.

His offer came at a meeting of the National Productivity Commission in the White House—attended both by Meany and teamsters' chief Frank Fitzsimmons.

Election weakens the franc

FORECASTS of a Popular Front victory in the forthcoming election for the French National Assembly have contributed to a weakening of the franc on the foreign exchange markets.

The French currency was pushing against its parity 'ceiling' only three months ago, but it is now the weakest Common-Market currency apart from sterling.

The drop is attributed chiefly to fears among investors that the March election will be won by the Common Front of Communist and Socialist Parties and the so-called Radicals of the Left.

There has apparently been a certain flight of capital from France, though it has by no means reached panic proportions.

Indeed, the Common Front leaders have taken great pains to assure the bourgeoisie it will maintain the presidential system of the Fifth Republic, which gives the National Assembly only limited powers under the Gaullist president.

Italian police use new laws to swoop on left

Fiat chief leads attack on workers' rights

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE VERDICT of Giovanni Agnelli, president of the Fiat monopoly, on the crisis facing the Italian capitalist class is: No profits!

In a recent interview, he explained how the democratic rights of the Italian working class were the main obstacle to the might of the monopolies.

'My impression is that in Italy today the area of unproductive, parasitic income has grown at a pathological rate. This is because wages cannot be restrained in a democratic society . . .

'The employers have two perspectives only: either a head-on collision with the working class or a series of courageous initiatives to eliminate waste. . . .

This European monopolist in no way veiled his contempt for parliament and the processes of bourgeois democracy:

'The changing of a minister, of the president of the council of ministers or the limits imposed by a parliamentary majority do not modify the decisions of the huge monopolies.

'They make their plans for investment on the basis of their group strategy, taking into account the situation on the internal and international market.'

The Andreotti government has not hesitated to prepare the way for dictatorship and the naked rule of monopoly capital.



ITALIAN POLICE . . . given new, wider powers

It is, in any case, a government which rests on the vote of the MSI, the fascist heirs of Mussolini.

On the pretext of 'giving the police new, more efficient instruments to prevent crime', the Andreotti administration has given

police the power to arrest and hold in jail any suspects for four days.

The police can arrest anyone 'whose conduct looks like leading to the committing of one or more acts punishable with imprisonment or which con-

stitute a serious, concrete threat to public security'.

The police have already mounted one swoop.

On December 15, 240 arrests were made and summonses issued to 1,837 suspects. Over 2,000 offices and factories and 400 houses were searched from top to bottom.

The operation, aimed at rooting out 'subversives' and hoards of arms, was co-ordinated from the Ministry of the Interior in Rome and provincial government.

All sections of the police were used in the raids.

This sinister attack on democratic rights came three days after mass demonstrations of Italian trade unionists and students against the police laws and for wage increases to meet the rapid rise in the cost of living.

The demonstrations took place in cities like Milan despite being banned by the police and boycotted by the Italian Communist Party.

The Italian Stalinists have full responsibility for the confusion existing in the militant Italian working class on the way to defend their rights.

They have fought to convince workers that the Common Market can be 'democratized'.

They have broken down all wages movements with the tactic of one-day strikes.

The attacks launched by Agnelli and Andreotti against democratic rights can only be fought by a resolute struggle for socialist policies.

This must start with an uncompromising rejection of collaboration with the EEC institutions.

Socialist Labour League North West Rally

FORCE THE TORY GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY!

SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 7 p.m.

The Everyman, Hope Street, LIVERPOOL

'RIGHT TO WORK' FILM

G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)

CHRISTINE SMITH (Young Socialists)

In a personal capacity:

CONNIE FAHEY (Manchester Tenants)

ALAN STANLEY (Vauxhall Shop Stewards)

BRIAN GEENEY (U.P.W.)

WALLY FOUCHS (CAV Occupation Committee)

Bangladesh shootings by police to be probed

SHEIKH Mujibur Rahman, the premier of Bangladesh, has ordered an inquiry into the shooting of two students by police during a demonstration in Dacca against the Vietnam war.

Six other students were

injured, one critically, in the police fusillade which came as the demonstrators approached the United States Information Service library in the city.

A Press note issued by the Bangladesh government following the shooting accused the demonstrators of

injuring 59 policemen, including a police superintendent.

The note also said the marchers had hurled hand grenades, explosives and brickbats at the police guarding the USIS office.

Dacca University's cen-

tral students' union denied that a Molotov cocktail was thrown during the demonstration.

They demanded the immediate closure of all USIS centres in Bangladesh because they propagate against the establishment of socialism.

Clay Cross 'welcome' for Tory auditor

THE BATTLE at Clay Cross over the Labour council's refusal to implement the Tories' 'fair rents' Act resumes tomorrow with the return visit of the district auditor.

When he first came in early December to investigate the council's housing accounts, angry tenants and trade unionists besieged the town hall and filled the meeting place to overflowing.

Auditor Charles Lacey, in-

structed by the Tories to conduct a special examination at Clay Cross, agreed to a second meeting tomorrow.

His job will be to find out if any of the 11 Labour councillors are personally responsible for the £7,000 he has calculated to be missing in revenue as a result of the failure to implement the Housing Finance Act.

It is expected that several hundred Clay Cross tenants and workers will turn out to greet

the auditor when he arrives in the morning.

Councillors are also getting ready for the confrontation. Said Cllr David Skinner yesterday: 'I'm not just going to sit there and be dictated to by the auditor.'

● Tenants' associations throughout South Wales are planning a demonstration and meeting at Merthyr Tydfil on January 13 in protest against the installation of a Housing Commissioner in the town by the Tory government.

Officials to go on the hustings

BY IAN YEATS

THE OFFICIAL Sinn Fein will contest local and General Elections in Ulster and the Republic, President Thomas MacGiolla announced at the weekend. The timing of the decision undoubtedly coincides with the collapse of the military wing of Provisional Sinn Fein, which, since 1970, has been a perpetual threat and embarrassment to Gardner Street.

It was the Officials' movement toward participation in elections, with their implied recognition of the partition parliaments in Eire and Ulster, which led to the split in the Republican movement at Dublin's Intercontinental Hotel in December 1969.

At their Ard Fheis (conference) at the Mansion House, Dublin, in 1971 the Officials passed a resolution for the first time formally committing themselves to elections.

At the 1972 conference electoral policy was not discussed, although there were a number of resolutions from branches in the Six Counties calling for an election boycott.

Influenced by the Communist Party, Gardner Street has sought for two years to achieve the status of a legal political party operating freely north and south of the border to promote its policies among electors.

While there seemed a chance that the Provisional IRA could carry the day by armed force, a wholehearted commitment to parliamentary politics was impossible.

Now that it is clear that the IRA's shooting and bombing war has failed, members of both wings of the Republican movement to varying degrees favour the 'parliamentary road to revolution'.

The political wing of the Provisionals led by Rory O'Brady and David O'Connell are firmly in control and on December 17, following their climb-down after the arrest of Chief of Staff Sean MacStiofain, they sponsored the setting up of a new civil rights movement in the 26 counties.

As final proof of the party's movement back to democratic politics O'Brady told the Special Criminal Court in Dublin on Saturday that he was doing nothing illegal and was engaged merely in preparations 'for local council elections with the possibility of a General Election'.

Whether the two wings of the Republican movement will eventually collaborate again is an open question. But events appear to point in that direction.

The weekend statement by the Officials was couched in careful political language preserving the objective of a 32-county Ireland by ruling out the possibility of taking part in

Emphasis on election policy now chief Provos in custody

elections to any Six County assembly, but allowing participation in local government contests and elections to the Dail (the Dublin parliament).

This strategy underpins their policy of a ballot-box revolution to oust both imperialism and native gombeenism.

To it the Officials hope to win ex-Provisionals, Protestants and all other 'progressive' forces, including the Communist Party.

On Monday they held a national 'Day of Mourning' to mark Ireland's entry into the Common Market.

Meanwhile the Lynch-Heath so-called anti-terror campaign, which has created the conditions for this development, continues to forge ahead.

The chiefs of both wings of the Provisionals have been arrested and on Sunday Derry commander Martin McGuinness was captured on his way to Donegal in a car carrying 200lb of explosives and 5,000 rounds of ammunition.

McGuinness' deputy, Sean Keenan, was captured a few days before Christmas.

In a New Year message, the First Battalion of the Derry Brigade vowed to fight on, but they will do so without public support and shorn of their ablest leaders.

Eleven other IRA men were arrested by the British army at the weekend in the Riverdale, Andersonstown, district of Belfast where the Provisionals' leadership was already seriously depleted.

In his New Year message Eire premier Lynch said he hoped to make peace in Ireland a 'dynamic reality' this year.

He said: 'We believe that peace established on the foundation of justice is attainable.'

'History shows, however, that peace is not the product of chance and that it is necessary to work positively and constructively for its realization.'

The arrests of MacStiofain, O'Brady and McGuinness are plainly part of this work.



Equity members on a 1972 lobby of pay talks on the West End claim.

A pauper's life on the boards

BY PHILIP WADE

THE VAST majority of actors and actresses are constantly facing the dole queue and pauperism, said their union Equity yesterday.

And Equity members are earning less and working for shorter periods than they were seven years ago.

A survey of 5,000 actors and actresses shows that for every ten Equity members, six earn less than £1,000 a year, four go on to the dole each year and seven are out of work at any one time.

Many actors in fact say that the figure for unemployment is an under-estimation of the true position and that over 90 per cent are out of work at any time.

The poorest-paid were extras and walk-ons who somehow were expected to survive on just £212 a year. Then came chorus dancers on £611, actors £785, stage management £930, and chorus singers on £980.

But even the highest-paid groups earned far less than the average wage in Britain. For example ballet dancers earned, on average, just £1,143 a year and

variety artists £1,040. Opera singers managed to earn an average of just £1,406.

It is estimated that only about 700 of Equity's 20,000 members earn £5,000 or more a year, while at the peak of their careers, between 41 and 50, most actors were still having to make do with a pitiful £1,140 a year.

Equity's assistant general secretary Peter Plouviez said the position would deteriorate with the British entry into the Common Market.

The only thing the Equity leadership seemed to be worried about, however, and that from a chauvinistic viewpoint, was the flooding of British stages with Continental actors and actresses, most of whom could speak English.

Other actors yesterday pointed out that much more was at stake and the solution did not reside in keeping foreign actors out of Britain.

Value-Added Tax on theatre

seats will have a drastic effect on audience numbers and any slump that followed would be bound to lead to more unemployment.

Attacks on the film industry would also come from EEC entry. The arrangement by which a number of films made in this country had to be British was to be phased out.

And the same would apply to the agreement whereby a percentage of the takings from British films was returned to a central fund for future development.

Taken together with the carve-up of the Shepperton studios, prospects for employment in the film industry look bleak.

Actors are also claiming that the BBC has been allowed to introduce a productivity and speed-up deal which enables the corporation to tailor programmes to the requirements of European television companies. The effect has already been to reduce work and cut wages.

Finally, a further threat to actors comes from the plans for property redevelopment in the Piccadilly and Covent Garden areas which could close up to seven West End theatres.

Writings of Leon Trotsky

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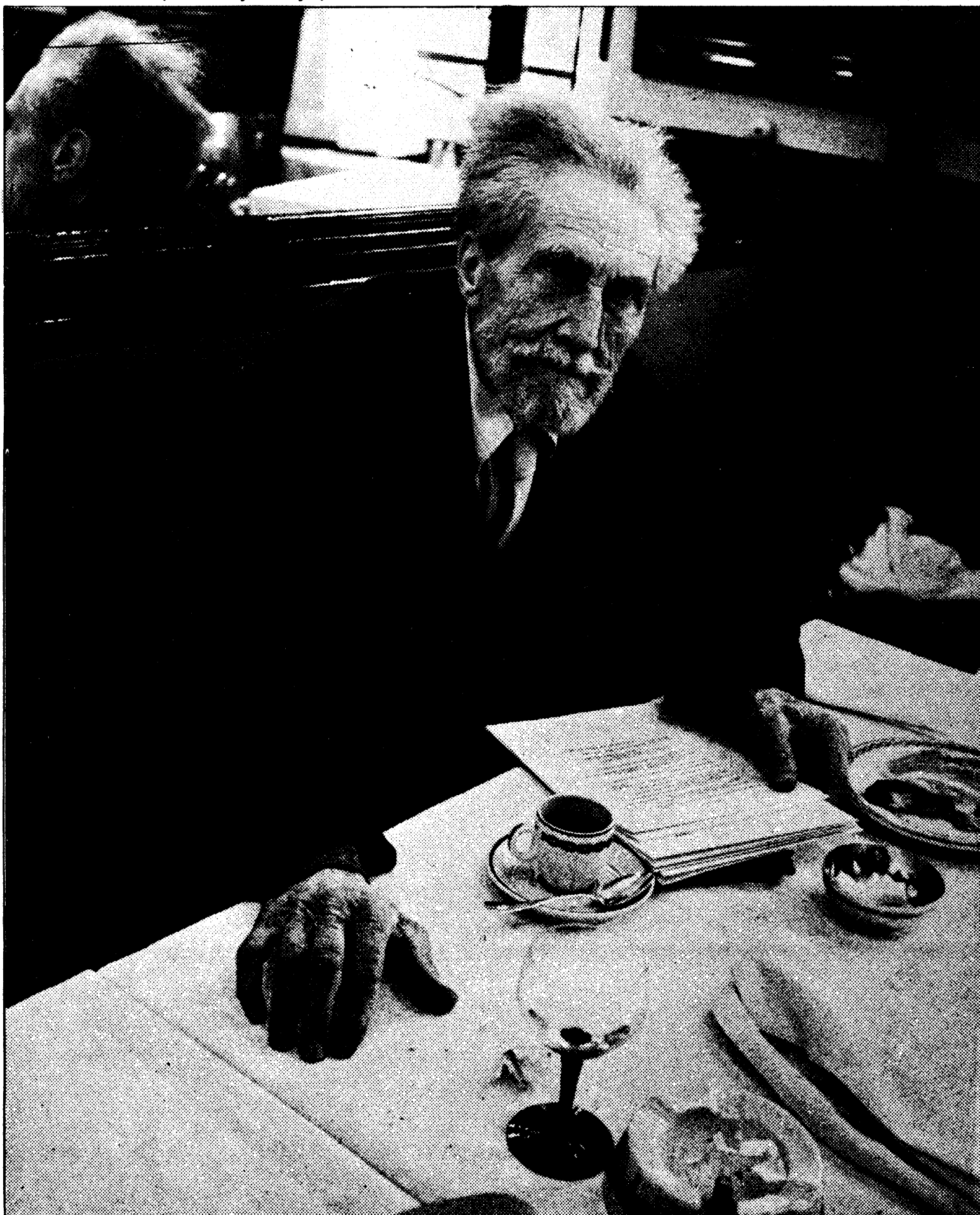
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Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.

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EZRA POUND: THE PRICE OF CAPITULATION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
I'd like to amplify and dispute some of the remarks in the obituary of Ezra Pound (December 11).

There is no question of the profound artistic and political degeneration that Pound underwent in his shift to the extreme right in the 1920s, nor any doubt that elements of a mystical romanticism and barbarism are there in the early poems.

But in his early work Pound opened the way technically for developments by other writers which have enriched our cognition of reality.

Quoting from 'The German Ideology' ('The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas') the correspondent makes the point that: 'Here Marx is not merely talking about philosophical ideas, but also of all the ways in which these philosophical

ideas are propagated and spread [including] the fostering of a "cultural heritage" of artistic production embodying, as Marx put it, "the dominant material relationships grasped as ideas . . ."

'When the capitalists talk about "culture" or "art" therefore, they refer to something with a definite class content.'

The capitalist class would like to have an art that merely propagates and spreads its philosophical (and political) ideas. But art arises from the development of the conflict between man and nature and from the inter-relation between classes in bourgeois society.

It is inadequate to categorize and condemn art on the external basis of its class characteristics or political 'circumstantial evidence', as Trotsky put it.

Trotsky waged war on a one-sided view of art and on

the mechanical views of literary culture that led to the Stalinist conception of 'socialist realism'. He insists in his speech 'Class and Art':

'Art has to be approached as art, literature as literature, that is, a quite specific field of human endeavour. Of course we must have a class criterion in art too, but this class criterion must be refracted artistically, that is, in conformity with the quite peculiarities of that field of applying our criterion.' (My emphasis.)

ROMANTICS

Later, in 'Culture and Socialism', Trotsky writes:

'The ruling ideas of an epoch are essentially the ideas of the ruling class of that epoch. This also applies to culture as a

whole. And yet we say to the working class: master all the culture of the past, otherwise you will not build socialism . . . Over this contradiction many people have stumbled . . .'

Pound's obituary obliterated the struggle of many 19th and 20th century writers—including romantics like Shelley and ironic symbolists like Corbiere and Laforgue—to create an artistic image of reality. You can isolate the spiritual egotism of the early 19th century romantics and trace a line to later Ezra Pound, but this is almost as reactionary as to dismiss Hegel for his frequent idealism and mysticism.

In the 20th century important contributions have been made by writers who were extremely conservative—Proust and Joyce—or who later became supporters of the extreme right—T. S. Eliot, W. B. Yeats and Pound himself.

To write off the whole 'modern movement' and to ransack these writers merely for 'a clear insight into the bankruptcy of contemporary society' is a gross error. It is the propaganda method applied to art.

There is no point in exaggerating Pound's artistic achievement. But he indisputably blasted the way for the emergence of Yeats from his early gloomy Celtic twilight, demolished the effete romanticism of the Victorians, provided the technical basis for the early poems of Eliot ('The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock', 'Portrait of a Lady', 'Gerontion') and pioneered stylistic attitudes and interests that still provide technical material for young poets today.

True, even in his early days he was a limited writer and the political dangers were already there. His work of the period 1908-1916 is dominated by pastiche, by a raiding of the medieval literature of Provence and Italy, by translations of Chinese poetry, and a conflicting attitude to *fin-de-siècle* aestheticism.

His poem 'The Garden' is characteristic. The flatness of its last section is due to Pound's inability to decide where he stands in relation to his content, but it opens the way for Eliot's own superb portrait of the sexually timid and mentally volative petty bourgeois circulating among the anaemic cultured few in 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock'.

STYLISH

Early Pound is stylish, skilful with metre, meaning and allusion, but the whole does not cohere. These are symptoms of his inability to resolve artistically the conflict between the subject (the poet) and the object (the world) through the technique of the poem (rhythm, metre, language, etc.).

Pound pays the artistic price for his capitulation to philosophical idealism. His rhythms stutter and sometimes almost vanish, as, in a very literary manner, he pastes his words onto the page. All his poems are in a state of virtual collapse, complete internal anarchy. From his early days he was a rabid empiricist, and he ends up the most abstract and obscure of modern poets.

Pound, like to a lesser extent T. S. Eliot, saw the poem as a translation of an ideal artefact already existing within the poet's head. All that was required was to polish the surface of this mind-created object in order to perfect the poem.

In 'Hugh Selwyn Mauberley' he attempts, however futilely, to break from his early dilettantism, aestheticism and religiosity.

But he imagined he could make the break by mental activity alone. After 'Mauberley' he abandoned all attempts to make a conscious break and is on the road to the ultraright and to using his poetry for the foulest purpose—demagogic anti-Semitism, exaltation of the strong man, etc.

It was the Irish poet W. B. Yeats, who later in the 1930s was to become a supporter of O'Duffy's Blueshirts and whose poetry was to become increasingly, intellectually hysterical and artistically arid, who in his poems of the period 1916-1926 attempted to synthesize some of the best elements from Pound and Eliot.

The reviewer dismisses Yeats as 'a bridge between the epoch of capitalist rivalry and the epoch of imperialist war'. It would be truer to characterize Yeats of that period as a writer who, despite his reactionary conception of Irish nationalism, was nevertheless reluctantly forced to endorse the leaders of the Easter rising.

Similarly, it would be wrong

to reject the early poetry of T. S. Eliot. Hostility to, for example, the extreme conservative standpoint of 'The Wasteland'—its obsessive fear of vulgarity, its sexual neurosis, its contempt for workers—should not blind us to Eliot's technical advances.

Neither should we condemn the early Pound for his intense literary interest. In order poetically to negate Continental developments in 19th century poetry—and many pre-19th century developments which remained outside the mainstream of English poetry—into English verse, the poet has to work over developments in world literature.

Literary illusion and fiction are themselves inextricably bound up with the reality which the artist seeks to discover from under these layers of illusion which have, in turn, partially created that reality.

The overcoming of the fictional domination of reality is a painful process which only a few 20th century artists have grappled with (e.g. Blok's 'The Twelve', Proust's 'Remembrance of Things Past', Marcel Carne's 'Les Enfants du Paradis', Brecht's epic theatre).

Ezra Pound collapsed under the weight of what became for him an international junkyard of objets d'art. And he became politically an extreme rightist.

In contrast the leading poets of the 1930 generation—W. H. Auden, C. Day Lewis, Stephen Spender—looked to the Communist Party as a revolutionary party.

But by the 1940s they were so repelled by Stalinism that they were on their way to a religious verse, a conception of poetry as a game of words.

Today, the writer who is serious about his art needs to assist in the construction of the revolutionary party and to struggle to express these experiences artistically for himself and the working class and those who fight with it. This is not a prescription but a serious historical necessity.

As Trotsky put it: 'Mastery of the art of the past is a necessary precondition not only for the creation of new art but also for the building of the new society for Communism needs people with highly developed minds. Can the art of the past enrich us with an artistic knowledge of the world? It can, precisely because it is able to give nourishment to our feelings and to educate them. If we were groundlessly to repudiate the art of the past, we should at once become poorer spiritually.'

Below: Ezra Pound in Rome during the war when he was a broadcaster for the Mussolini regime.



KREMLIN MASTERS GET CLOSER TO FRANCO

The Spanish Cortes ratified on December 19, 1972, the protocol for trade between Spain and the Soviet Union. The debate was marked by the enthusiasm of the fascists in Franco's puppet parliament for closer ties with the Soviet Stalinists.

Lieutenant-General Iniesta Cano, head of the Civil Guard and police security, stressed that the 'massive fortress of our regime' could not be threatened by a commercial treaty.

Moreover, he went on: 'The treaty in no way represents a compromise. On the contrary, I think that the signing of an agreement with Franco's Spain by Russia is a great victory for Franco himself.'

Cano was in brief conflict with Blas Piñar who had added his name to an amendment to the protocol deleting those sections granting certain 'immunities' to Russian commercial representatives in Spain.

Piñar, who inspires the right-wing terrorists, the Warriors of Christ the King, and various Falangist youth movements, lectured the Cortes on the 'perversity of communism', claiming that the 'Soviet state is totally devoted to the service of communism and its expansion throughout Europe'.

However, Piñar himself later declared that he was not opposed to a purely commercial treaty with the Soviet Union.

The fascist debate continued: Jesus Fueyo Alvarez, on behalf of the Cortes Committee on the protocol: '... Spain entered the United Nations with the vote and not the veto of the Soviet Union ...

'The protocol is not a transcendental absolute because it does not change the ideological moral opposition of principles between the two countries ... It opens up a commercial mechanism which may be very profitable to Spain in the future.'

Miguel Angel Santamaria, representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: 'We cannot ignore a market of 250 million inhabitants, and the protocol



Left: José Antonio, founder of the Falange. Right: Blas Piñar—not opposed to commercial treaty. Above: Franco—the 'massive fortress of our regime' could not be threatened by a commercial treaty.

gets rid of all intermediaries and allows the export of agricultural produce, industrial plant and the possibility of participating in the development plans of Russia.'

Orti Bordas, provincial procurator: 'I am a convinced and militant anti-communist, and if I had the slightest doubt that the protocol could endanger peace in Spain or damage the integrity of the regime, I would be opposed. But this is not the case.'

'I was born in a part of the country that is depending on the ratification of the treaty. There has been a lot of investment in the Tajo-Segura dam which means a great increase in production and we need markets for this production. In the name of national interest, I am in favour of the ratifying of the treaty.'

Fernandez Sordo, procurator: 'The Spanish people now have

a proper maturity and sensitivity, and the regime of July 18 [the date of Franco's insurrection in 1936 against the Republic], should be proud of this. The axis of the question is the strengthening of ideology.'

Garcia Valdecasas wound up the debate on behalf of the Protocol committee. Valdecasas was one of the co-founders of the Falange with José Antonio and, after Franco's victory, an architect of the fascist state. He is now dean of the Faculty of Law in Madrid University which he runs in close co-operation with the secret police.

Garcia Valdecasas: 'The protocol is a positive step forward for Spain and in no way attacks her sovereignty ... We have been careful in our study of the protocol and have rushed nothing. Moreover, we cannot ignore the existence of Russia.'

The Spanish cannot be hostile to any nation. ...'


The friendly disposition of the fascist Cortes towards the Kremlin bureaucracy is a sinister indication of the Stalinist line-up with the most reactionary forces against the European working class. It also exposes the absolute treachery of the Stalinist policy of 'democratizing' the Common Market.

While Georges Marchais and Antonio Berlinguer of the French and Italian Communist Parties talk of 'democratization', Spanish Stalinist Santiago Carrillo claims that Spain would be democratized through entry into the Market.

As the servants of Moscow cover up the preparations for dictatorship in Europe, the Kremlin masters establish the most cordial relations with the regime of Franco, the old ally of Mussolini and Hitler.

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MINISTERS SWILL WHISKEY WHILE QUAKE VICTIMS ARE SHOT

BY ALEX MITCHELL

An agency reporter who last week braved his way into earthquake-shattered Managua, capital of Nicaragua, found a man in tattered clothing wandering through the rubble.

He fixed the reporter with a piercing stare and said: 'We turn into animals when we get so hungry. We'll do almost anything to get something to eat.'

What the starved and homeless worker did not know was that at the nearby airstrip tons of food and medical supplies were being hoarded in makeshift sheds. But between the worker and this relief stood—invariably—armed soldiers.

It was no accident that within hours of the earthquake which killed an estimated 6,000 people and badly injured 20,000 others—the military dictator, General Anastasio Somoza, mobilized the entire National Guard and declared martial law.

To help with the evacuation of civilians? To assist the pathetically small medical service to bring aid to the maimed and injured?

No, their function was 'to restore order'. In practice this meant that poor workers who had no food, water or shelter, were shot or beaten up by roving bands of militiamen.

Two eye-witnesses saw soldiers kill a four-year-old street urchin as he scrambled through the debris looking for food. The bullets struck him in the stomach and he died painfully.

Meanwhile Somoza was entertaining his ministers in the luxurious gardens of his fortified mansion. The residence was closely guarded by soldiers, tanks and machine-guns. The guests laughed and joked as they drank their tumblers of whisky.

Somoza himself had been talking to the Press about 'looters'. He described them as 'abominable beings'. The National Guard, he said, 'would save the country's honour and that of the armed forces'.

There was a ripple of alarm through the garden party. Reports had just come through of a riot at a petrol station. Some 'agitators' rebelled and demanded food. They threatened to blow up the petrol tanks unless they received food.

Another group of between 300 and 400 stopped foreign correspondents on the road to Las Mercedes Airport. They carried placards saying 'We are hungry'. Food was being sent to the country, they said, and they thanked 'international solidarity'. But they added: 'The army stockpiles the donations. It doesn't distribute them.'

Somoza, in his yellow uniform, restored confidence among his guests. 'There is no cause for complaint,' he said. 'All those protesters should already have been evacuated from the city.'

Fresh rounds of whisky were poured.

Later that day Somoza went

on national radio—who would have had a radio to listen?—to make this vicious announcement: 'Beginning today I have given orders to the National Guard to patrol the city and halt pillaging. They have orders to shoot if necessary.'

'I order that the pillaging stops immediately. Let us establish peace, which is Nicaragua's only salvation.'

The greatest 'pillager' of Nicaragua is, of course, Somoza himself and his century-old dynasty (see story this page). On behalf of his political, financial and military backers in the US his regime has been doing nothing else but pillage. And the 'peace' which his junta urgently needs to enforce is the 'peace' of a clique who fear for the future of their illegal, repressive and corrupt regime.

How did the earthquake, a natural and unpredictable disaster, pose any danger to the stability of this US puppet regime?

In the first place it destroyed property, privately-owned property, which is the foundation of capitalist exploitation.

And secondly it meant no electricity, food, water or shelter for the working class, which has always lived precariously on the borderline of illiteracy, starvation and severe exploitation.

With property in ruins, the general and his National Guard had to defend the ruins! Under capitalism private property is sacrosanct. Even if the masses are starving and bleeding from the effects of floods, fires, typhoons or earthquakes, capitalist property relations must be maintained—with the gun if necessary.

It is at this point that the screaming liberals and the clerics make their appearance. From the pulpits, the television and the Press we are treated to exhibitions of monumental hypocrisy. Please give to the refugees, the old and the suffering of Nicaragua, we are told by a variety of personages, including the Pope, Save the Children Fund, Christian Aid, the Red Cross and the UN relief agencies.

In fascist Spain the Roman Catholic church has been wringing even greater sums of money out of the backs of the population in massive province-wide collections.

Not one of these 'humanitarian' agencies raises the slightest whimper about the mass devastation of Vietnam by Nixon's B52s. There is no great rush by the Catholics or the Anglicans or the crowd from Oxfam to bring relief to the peasants and workers of Vietnam who have been subjected to bombing raids paralleled only by the atomic bombs dropped on Japan.

The reason can be put quite bluntly: they like Somoza and his regime more than they do the liberation forces of Vietnam. Behind their mask of humanitarianism, they're all vicious anti-communists.

The relief industry serves to satisfy the aimless guilt of the middle class. It also collects the sympathies of those sec-

tions of the working class which aren't class conscious. They are both channelled away from the real questions involved in rehabilitating those communities hit by natural or unnatural disasters.

Objectively, the relief industry plays a more sinister role. It has become a common ritual for the relief to colonial countries to fall into the hands of the ruling clique. It is then used as a cynical bargaining counter to drive the shocked and devastated workers into submission.

Because the means of distribution remain in private hands, relief is eventually distributed through those channels which operate on the basis of capitalist supply and demand. In some cases this leads to rampant black marketeering; in every case to profiteering.

The whole exercise is conducted through imperialist agencies like the UN, the US State Department (read CIA) and the British Foreign Office. Thus, behind the prayers, the



One of those who did not remain to assist the Nicaraguans in the relief work was Howard Hughes, the US billionaire believed to be worth some £1,000m. Hughes rushed from the city in his limousine surrounded by his personal bodyguard and flew to London where he is now resting in a Park Lane penthouse suite.

collection boxes, the tear-jerking advertising campaigns, remain the objective requirements of imperialism to maintain its puppets and to keep workers enslaved.

This was the lesson of Bangladesh following the typhoon and floods of 1971. On that occasion the imperialists deliberately withheld supplies in the hope that the masses struggling against the military dictatorship of Yahya Khan would be driven back.

Eventually giant aircraft were brought in to disperse sections of the population in the poorer areas of India in a further attempt to decimate their resistance. This 'relief programme' failed. It only intensified the masses' determination to seize independence from West Pakistan.

Capitalism's interest is not to feed, clothe and tend to the masses damaged by disasters. It is to restore its parasitic, exploitative system as quickly as possible.



Three victims — two little girls hurt in the quake, one small boy shot by the National Guard. He was scrambling through the debris looking for food.



Three victims — two little girls hurt in the quake, one small boy shot by the National Guard. He was scrambling through the débris looking for food.



WHO IS GENERAL SOMOZA?

BY JUAN GARCIA

Washington has good reason to protect Anastasio Somoza, the fifth dynasty to rule the central American Republic of Nicaragua. They can be sure he will continue the family tradition of suppressing all opposition and of allowing US imperialism to exploit the country's wealth.

In the 19th century the US proclaimed as president one William Walker, a pirate who enjoyed the support of southern slave-owners.

In 1912 the US took control of the finances, trade and armed forces of Nicaragua.

During their occupation, American forces combined election-rigging with outright slaughter. Adolfo Diaz was elected with a total of 4,000 votes to the Presidency—out of a population of 800,000. In Leon, the second largest city, only 80 people were allowed to vote.

In February 1926, when Diaz faced a serious challenge from the Liberals who attacked the Pacific coast city of Chinandega, they were driven off by a US aerial bombardment which killed hundreds and burnt down half the city.

The troops were not withdrawn until Anastasio Tacho Somoza, chief of the National Guard, could announce the assassination of the liberation fighter Augusto Sandino on February 21, 1934.

In 1936, Somoza exchanged the uniform of the National Guard for the robes of the President of the Republic. The Somozas' fortunes quickly flourished.

PRIVATE AEROPLANE

Tacho made his elder son the director of the military academy and chief of staff of the armed forces. His second son became President of the Chamber of Deputies. Daughter Lilian was not forgotten: her profile appeared on Nicaraguan banknotes.

The family holdings were consolidated. Somoza soon owned a third of the estates in the country, 50 ranches, coffee plantations, gold mines and cement works.

Tacho held onto the reins of power until shot at a reception in 1956. Summary justice of the Somoza type was meted out to the marksman who was lynched on the spot by a Somoza bodyguard. President Eisenhower sent his private plane and surgeon immediately to save Tacho, but in vain.

The Somoza dynasty is still in power today. The latest

manoeuvre was the announcement last year by Anastasio II that the country would be 'democratized' through elections.

The Nicaraguan Conservative and Liberal parties signed a pact on March 30, 1971, to guarantee the strong man's 'democratic opening'.

According to this pact, Conservative leader Fernando Aguero guaranteed re-election to Somoza, the leader of the Liberal Party and graduate of West Point, in exchange for 60 of the 100 seats in the legislature.

So the Conservatives and Liberals elected in the February 6 elections have to reform the constitution for the 13th time to insert an article facilitating the President's re-election.

STUBBORN OPPOSITION

Meanwhile, a triumvirate made up of two Liberals and one Conservative will govern from April 15 to September 1974 when Anastasio Somoza will once again be sworn in as President.

In the 'democratic' election the Liberals in many places whisked off ballot-boxes in order to hold the count in army garrisons.

The main obstacle to these ploys to maintain Somoza and US power is opposition from the exploited masses. The Somozas have amassed a fortune of some £150m. They do not pay any taxes on their many holdings.

US companies pay less than 1 per cent tax a year on the millions of pounds they extract each year from the exploitation of gold and timber resources.

In the midst of this plunder, the average Nicaraguan peasant and worker has a life expectancy of less than 50 years and 50 per cent of their children die before reaching the age of five. Only 5 per cent of boys and 0.5 per cent of girls receive secondary education.

To fight resistance to this oppression, the US provided \$11m worth of military aid between 1950 and 1960, as well as training in counter-insurgency for 4,000 Nicaraguans.

The US now maintains an estimated 40 military advisers in Managua.

These forces have been occupied in fighting the liberation front led by Carlos Fonseca, many of whose followers have been brutally tortured in Nicaragua's jails.

However, the opposition to Somoza is stubborn; the front has been fighting since 1958. And with all his American aid, Somoza has not been able to destroy this opposition.



D'ARCY-ARDEN INTERVIEW

—A COMMENT

BY CLIFF SLAUGHTER

Playwrights John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy, interviewed in Workers' Press on December 12, explained the important issues behind their picketing of the Aldwych Theatre. It was in protest against the misinterpretation of their script 'Island of the Mighty', and advocated the rights of dramatists to a say in the production of their work.

However, the opinions they express on a whole number of questions require an answer from the standpoint of Marxism.

Not having seen the play which is the subject of the current controversy ('Island of the Mighty') I am at a disadvantage, and my remarks here refer only to the interview.

Arden and D'Arcy are obviously very sympathetic politically to the revolutionary movement, but they are just as obviously in basic disagreement with the Marxist position on the questions they raise.

The most important problem here is that of the working class, its revolutionary role, and its consciousness of that role. All previous revolutions, i.e. revolutions in which one exploiting class was replaced by another exploiting class, had to dress themselves up and imagine themselves in the glory of past heroic ages.

This was not just for purposes of deception, to conceal the real exploitation underneath, but it actually concentrated and made effective the consciousness of the revolutionaries, e.g. the Jacobins of the French Revolution who acted out their parts as Romans.

Superstition

The proletarian revolution is entirely different. It 'cannot draw its poetry from the past, but only from the future. It cannot begin with itself, before it has stripped off all superstition in regard to the past.'

'Earlier revolutions required world-historical recollections in order to drug themselves concerning their own content. In order to arrive at its content, the revolution of the 19th century (i.e. the socialist revolution) must let the dead bury their dead. There the phrase went beyond the content; here the content goes beyond the phrase.' (Marx: 18th Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte.)

Now a play might dramatically recall universal aspects of popular struggle and of the character and problems of men and women fighting oppression, but that is a different thing from the utter confusion expressed as historical judgments by John Arden.

How can it possibly be maintained, as he does, that the Arthurian legend holds the same sort of place in our national consciousness as the war of Troy had for the Greeks or the adventures of Siegfried for the Germans? Greek legend and the Greek 'nation' were a completely different thing historically from Britain or any capitalist nation today.

Today we face an historical crisis in which the final form of state power—dictatorship



A scene from John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy's play 'Island of the Mighty' which is based on the Arthurian legend. It was in protest against misrepresentation of their script in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Aldwych production that the authors picketed the theatre demanding the rights of dramatists to a say in the production.

of the proletariat—is necessary, as the precondition for socialist society and the 'withering away of the state'.

In Greece of the first millennium BC we have the origins of the state, of private property and of classes, overcoming the internal contradictions between tribal communism and the new productive forces (i.e. agriculture, metal-working, particularly the use of iron).

Secondly, to portray the social struggles taking place around the origins of the state as above all conflicts between authority and a struggling people, and then find modern parallels, is historical nonsense. It throws away the whole essence of the materialist conception of history: the necessity of certain historical developments in the mode of production, and their political and ideological reflection.

There is no need to say any more than Engels said 100 years ago. 'Without slavery, no Greek state, no Greek art and science; without slavery, no Roman Empire. But without

Hellenism and the Roman Empire as a basis, also no modern Europe.

'We should never forget that our whole economic, political and intellectual development has as its presupposition a state of things in which slavery was as necessary as it was universally recognized. In that sense we are entitled to say: without the slavery of antiquity, no modern socialism.' (Anti-Duhring.)

'We should never forget! But John Arden wants to contrast 'roads' with 'culture'. The Romans ('like Mussolini') built roads 'but the general effect of the Roman Empire was 400 years of rigid repression and control which actually stultified the culture of all the communities in it.' (Are roads not 'culture'?)

Opposite

What these 'cultures' were we are not told. Arden simply asserts that the Druids were 'reputed' to be 'well educated, scientific (!), artistic, poetic

and philosophical' but all this disappeared without trace! It was 'replaced by roads'.

Finally we get the Common Market compared with the Roman Empire—masses of migratory workers.

Well, you might say that the late Roman Empire, like the EEC, held back the further development of the productive forces by perpetuating an outdated social system. But the content of the two processes is essentially opposite.

The Roman Empire had to give way to a break-up into smaller economic and political units, to permit the development of agriculture. Feudalism, resulting from a necessary period of barbarian invasions, wars, and the actual decline of culture (both material and spiritual), in the Dark Ages, was the necessary development.

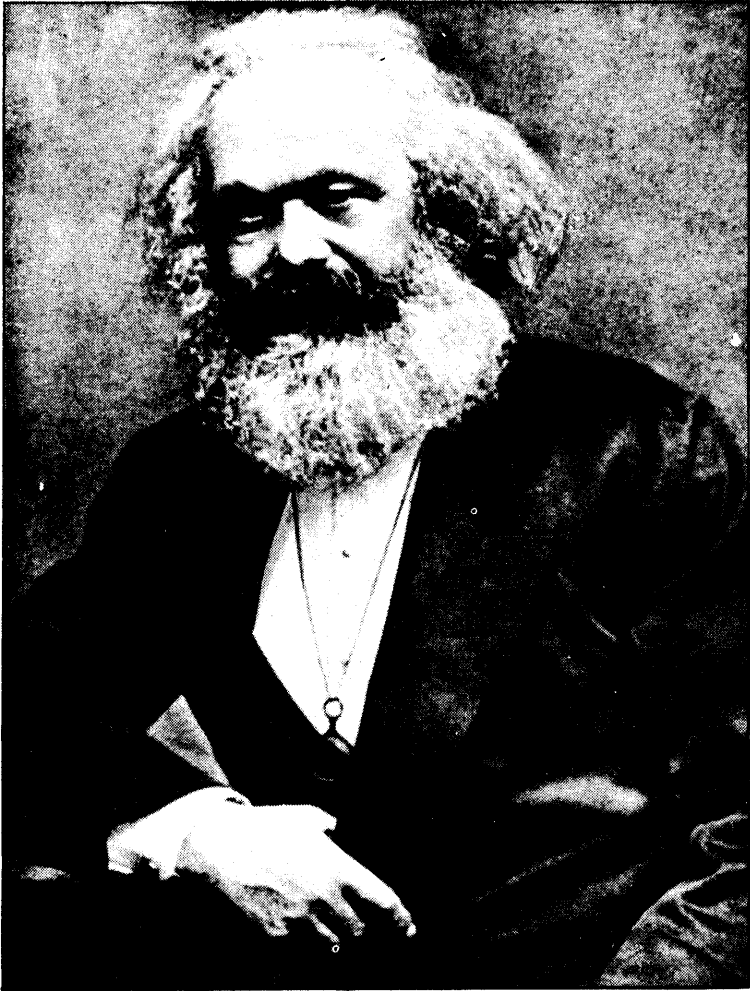
The capitalist system on the other hand must give way to an international socialist economy and the disappearance of the nation-state. The role of the popular masses in the two

cases is completely different because of their relation to the development of the productive forces.

To ignore these historical necessities and make an entirely superficial comparison between the 'large and discontented masses of migratory workers going from country to country' is dangerous. Modern wage-workers looking for work are not in any way the same as marauding bands of warriors or migratory peoples colonizing new land as declining barbarism meets the disintegrating Roman slave empire.

But I wonder if this 'left' interpretation of history in terms purely of oppression and struggles does not imply in fact a rejection of the 'economic, political and intellectual development' referred to by Engels.

Is there not here a tendency to throw out past art and literature as 'bourgeois' and to search instead for elements which can be made over into 'proletarian culture'? What on earth does it mean to say that



Marx: 'In order to arrive at its content, the revolution of the 19th century (i.e. the socialist revolution) must let the dead bury their dead.' (The 18th Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte.)



Engels: 'We should never forget that our whole economic, political and intellectual development has as its presupposition a state of things in which slavery was as necessary as it was universally recognized.' (Anti-Duhring.)

the Arthurian legend is 'sunk into the public mind'? There is no such animal as the public mind.

In the same vein, for example, is the misuse of historical materialism to explain to us the way Tennyson portrayed the Arthurian legend. Because the bourgeois were 'getting rich on capitalist development' and he wrote for them, 'the story is therefore (!) escapist'. Picturesque knights were a diversion from working hours.

Useless

This is to reduce historical materialism to an infallible and therefore utterly useless theory. If you can't explain the economic content of a cultural product, you explain that it was an 'escape' from the economy. Clearly we shall be able to explain everything!

Margaretta D'Arcy's conclusion that: 'The age of the individual playwright working on his own is gone' is, I think, the product of the same ultra-left simplification, where all

theory is reduced to the level of a simplistic, pragmatic 'tool' for the 'obvious' common-sense necessities of the struggle.

Taken together with Arden's home-made banner 'Playwrights are workers before they are artists!' Margaretta D'Arcy's proposition amounts to an assertion that the time has come for some 'proletarian drama', part of a proletarian culture.

This has a long history in the revolutionary movement, and the Ardens should look hard at it. Lenin and Trotsky in particular waged war on the idea.

The mistake is to try and deduce the characteristics of a proletarian art—collective, revolutionary, anti-individualistic, disciplined, atheistic, etc—from the characteristics of the revolutionary proletariat. (see Trotsky's 'Literature and Revolution' for the most detailed reply to this outlook).

A future socialist culture will be based on the acquisition and transformation of all

the culture of past civilization (which of course consists of class societies, with cultures which excluded the working masses).

Playwrights and other artists will continue to work individually in this revolutionary period and under socialism. The individuality of artists and of all other men will develop on the collectivist basis of socialism.

It will be related to and inspired by great collective struggles against nature, for the transformation of education, for the real assimilation of the past, and so on.

D'Arcy is right when she says: 'All we left-wing people have got to put ourselves into a strong revolutionary party and out of that we are going to drive along collectively together.'

That is a political task. The political task will be facilitated by the work of artists, dramatists, actors, etc. But artists and dramatists will continue to work through the art-forms developed in the past, to bring these into conflict and unity with the needs of men today.

No doubt in the course of these struggles, new relationships between artists and the working class will be forged. But the way to this is through the creations of real writers and artists, 'individuals working on their own', and not by decreeing that those days are over.

Capitalism has turned the product of the writer or artist into a commodity, judged by the same criterion as every other commodity, i.e., how much profit can be made out of it?

No control

The writer is like every other worker in this respect, that his product passes entirely into the possession of the exploiter. But there is also a difference. The worker sells his labour-power, and the production of the commodity takes place entirely under the control of the capitalist.

The playwright first creates, then sells, the product to a publisher or a theatre company or a collector, then loses all control over it.

How can this exploitation be fought? The working-class movement has for over 100 years been a battleground between reformism, which sets out to alleviate the workers' situation, and Marxism, directed to the building of a party which can lead the working class to the conquest of state power and the abolition of capitalist property.

These were Marx's conclusions from the analysis of exploitation in Capital. In the course of experiencing the contradiction between their artistic work on the one hand, and capitalist exploitation on the other, many artists and writers are impelled towards scientific Marxist understanding.

These are not petty questions. The profound historical crisis of humanity through which we are living throws elements of the middle classes and even upper classes into crisis as well as the working class.

Their first reaction is often to see the struggle basically in moral terms of revolt. Scientific socialism is a difficult school, and these people must go to this school and learn the materialist conception of history.

There is no vacuum: either Marxism or the impressionistically unified scraps of a decaying capitalist culture which distorts the past in order to rationalize the present feelings of outrage and rebelliousness.

The latter combines easily with ultra-left pronouncements about a new proletarian art. Whether the Ardens want to or not, I think their interview with Workers Press shows that they have this kind of outlook. It is not compatible in any way with Marxism.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

IN THE LEAD

It is now quite clear that British capitalism cannot survive the intensifying competition from the more thrusting bourgeoisies of the Common Market . . . and the East.

If more proof was wanted that the British ruling class has lost its vitality and that the UK economy is the sick man of the imperialist world, it was supplied in Hyde Park on Christmas Day.

Around the Serpentine were various worthy representatives of Britain's upper crust, taking a stroll or taking the children to feed the ducks before going back to Belgravia for a lazy Christmas Day dinner and too much turkey.

When suddenly onto the scene came 20 scarlet track-suited athletes, pounding their way round the lakeside under the stern guidance of their trainer.

On the back of each was the legend 'The Matsushita Electrical Corporation'. It was the London sales staff of one of Japan's biggest monopolies keeping in trim for the rigours of the vicious trade war to be fought in 1973.

As they sweep down Park Lane, the Japanese look to be slightly in the lead . . .

CHILDREN

The National Union of Public Employees has written to Cheshire County Council protesting at the use of volunteer schoolchildren in hospitals in the Stockport area during the recent one-day strike.

Letters have been sent to the Cheshire director of education as well as to Social Services Minister Sir Keith Joseph and Education Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Mr Colin Barnett, Manchester divisional officer of the union, said the matter had been raised at a district committee meeting.

If this kind of activity continued, said Mr Barnett, 'it can lead only to a hardening of our attitude in the dispute'.

EMPTYIES

What to do with those empty beer and soft drink cans left over from Christmas and New Year parties? An American architect has come up with an answer: use them to build houses.

Professor Alvin Miller of Arizona is trying to patent a process for a cement-fibreglass block filled with empty cans. He claims it is inexpensive and waterproof and hopes to

use it for low-cost housing.

Think how much more pleasure a can of beer will give you when you know it is helping to build your house at the same time!

EARL'S PARTY

Revelry went on into the early hours at Eaton Hall, Chester, when 1,000 guests helped Earl Gerald Grosvenor celebrate his £16m inheritance on his 21st birthday just before Christmas.

Chimes on the 178 ft high tower at Eaton, a replica of Big Ben, rang out at midnight. Usually they are turned off because they keep the family awake.

But Earl Grosvenor wanted the hour to ring out. He was cheered as he cut the first slice from a huge birthday cake and a toast was proposed by his father, the Fifth Duke of Westminster, who happens to own most of London's West End.

Now you know how the other 3 per cent live!

THE NEEDY



Michael Clapham of the CBI

Last week came a heartrending statement from Michael Clapham, president of the Confederation of British Industry, about the tough times in industry. Heath's legislation against increased prices of manufactured goods was causing excruciating pain, he said.

He told, for example, the story of the pitifully poor wool manufacturer being driven to the wall by the rising cost of materials. Couldn't a widow's mite be spared for these needy manufacturers?

Cynics might say that Clapham is shedding crocodile tears. Why should he worry about them. He's deputy chairman of ICI, the biggest supplier in the country of synthetic fibres.

BOOKS



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Behind The Moscow Trial
Paperback 75p
ROBERT BLACK:
Stalinism In Britain
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2
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(The Transitional Programme)
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Revisionism Pamphlet 15p
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BBC 1

9.50 Captain Pugwash. 10.00 Desert crusader. 10.20 Unsolved mysteries. 10.50 Huckleberry hound. 11.00 Film: 'The Prince and the Pauper'. Errol Flynn. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 On the farm. 1.45 Made in Britain. 2.00 Out of school. 3.05 The church and apartheid. 3.30 Lord of the Samirs. 4.00 Deputy dawg. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Thursday's child. 5.20 Screen test. 5.40 Crystal Tipps. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.50 TOM AND JERRY. The Flying Cat.
7.00 TOMORROW'S WORLD.
7.25 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. Encore.
8.10 SOFTLY, SOFTLY: TASK FORCE. Time Table.
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.
9.25 FANFARE. Celebration of the UK's entry into the Common Market from The Royal Opera House Covent Garden.
10.35 INTERNATIONAL SOCCER. Highlights of The Three v The Six from Wembley Stadium.
11.25 LATE NIGHT NEWS.
11.30 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.
6.05 MAN AT WORK. Interaction.
6.30 RIPPLES IN THE ETHER. Royal Institutions Lectures. Pictures With and Without Wires.
7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.
7.35 ALL IN A DAY. The Candidate. New series concentrating on a few hours of intense activity.
8.20 MUSIC ON 2. Three fantasies for piano by Mozart, Schumann and Chopin.
9.25 MAN ALIVE. Plimpton: Adventure in Africa.
10.15 THIRTY MINUTE THEATRE: 'THE JAPANESE STUDENT.' Gwen Cherrell, Stephen Murray, Tessa Wyatt, Eric Young.
10.45 EDITION. Kenneth Allsop looks at the world of information, comment and persuasion.
11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.

TV

ITV

9.35 Skippy. 10.00 Film: 'Rhubarb'. Ray Milland, Jan Sterling. 11.35 Galloping gourmet. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Rupert bear. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Sing out with The Settlers. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Looks familiar. 3.25 The saint. 4.25 Lift off with Ayshea. 4.50 Arthur of the Britons. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 News.
6.00 TODAY.
6.35 CROSSROADS.
7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE.
7.30 CORONATION STREET.
8.00 PATHFINDERS. Sweets From a Stranger.
9.00 PUBLIC EYE.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 A PLACE IN THE COUNTRY.
11.00 LATE NIGHT THEATRE.
11.30 FILM: 'THE EYES OF CHARLES SAND.'
12.50 THE FUTURE OF THE FUTURE. Richard Wakely talks to Professor Dennis Gabor.



Tessa Wyatt as Joanna, a university student, with Eric Young as Yoshi, her Japanese boyfriend, in 'The Japanese Student' BBC 2's Thirty-Minute Theatre production.

Regional TV

CHANNEL: 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Man of the South. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.30 News, weather.
WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.25 Let them live. 9.55 Prince and the pauper. 10.50 Rainbow country. 11.15 Jackson five. 11.40 Katie Stewart cooks. 12.05 London. 12.25 Hammy hamster. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary 11.31 Faith for life.
SOUTHERN: 10.00 Torchy. 10.15 Southern scene. 10.40 Bush boy. 11.05 Gilbert and Sullivan. 11.50 Cartoon. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 Lon-

don. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 London. 11.30 What the papers say. 11.45 News. 11.55 Guideline. 12.00 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather.
HARLECH: 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Arthur of the Britons. 7.00 London. 10.30 Time was... 11.00 London. 11.30 Cinema. 12.00 Weather.
HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.
HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.
ATV MIDLANDS: 11.15 L for logic. 11.30 Cartoon. 11.35 Southern scene footpaths. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00

London 10.30 Odd couple. 11.00 London. 11.30 O'Hara US treasury. Weather.
ULSTER: 12.05 London. 1.29 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 Reports 6.35 London. 8.00 Bearcats. 9.00 London. 11.30 World War I.
YORKSHIRE: 9.30 Let them live. 10.00 We need each other. 10.50 Dr Simon Locke. 11.20 Gilbert and Sullivan. 12.05 London. 3.30 Jason King. 4.25 London. 5.20 Bewitched. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 8.00 Persuaders. 9.00 London. 10.30 Adam 12. 11.00 London. 11.30 Spyforce. 12.25 Weather.
GRANADA: 11.03 Felix the cat. 11.15 Bush boy. 11.40 Galloping gourmet. 12.05 London. 3.25 Yoga. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Cross-

roads. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. What's on. 6.30 Here's Lucy. 7.00 London. 8.00 On the buses. 8.30 Anna and the King. 9.00 London. 11.30 What the papers say.
TYNE TEES: 9.25 Out where the new begins. 9.30 Lidsville. 10.00 We need each other. 10.50 Dick Van Dyke. 11.20 Gilbert and Sullivan. 12.05 London. 3.25 Champions. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Persuaders. 9.00 London. 10.30 About Britain. 11.00 London. 11.30 News. 11.45 Edgar Wallace. 12.40 Lectern.
SCOTTISH: 11.20 Katie Stewart cooks. 11.45 Sky hawks. 12.05 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 London. 10.30 Days gone by. 11.00 London. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 Blue light.

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All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

Fight Rising Prices
 Force the Tories to Resign
 Support the Engineers

CROYDON: Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, south Croydon.

TOTTENHAM: Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayer's Arms', Tottenham High Road.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday January 4, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road. 'Build Councils of Action! Defend the engineers!'

LETCHEWORTH: Thursday January 4, 8 p.m. Trades Hall. (please note changed date.)

MANCHESTER: Thursday, January 4, 7.30 p.m. 'The Cardinal's Hat', Wood Street, Middleton. 'Fight Rising Prices—Force the Tories to Resign.'

Speakers: Connie Fahey, Winnie Price (Manchester tenants' leaders).

BRADFORD: Sunday January 7, 7.30 p.m. Talbot Hotel, Kirkgate.

SWINDON: Sunday January 7, 7.30 p.m. 'Locomotive Hotel'.

BRADFORD: Sunday January 7, 7.30 p.m. Talbot Hotel, Kirkgate, Bradford.

WATFORD: Monday January 8, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall (upstairs), Woodford Road, opposite Watford Junction station.

ACTON: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'The Rocket', Churchfield Rd, W3.

WOOLWICH: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road.

SOUTHALL: Tuesday January 9, 8.00 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. (Please note date change.)

HARROW AND WEALDSTONE: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Railway Approach, Station Road, Harrow.

ROCHESTER: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue.

HULL: Wednesday January 10, 8 p.m. White Hart Hotel, Alfred Gelder Street (near Drypool Bridge).

SHEFFIELD: Wednesday January 10, 7.30 p.m. 'The Grape Inn', Trippett Lane, Sheffield 1.

HACKNEY: Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. The Parlour, Hackney Central Hall (opp. Town Hall).

TONBRIDGE: Thursday January 11, 8 p.m. 'The Foresters', Quarry Hill Road.

KINGSTON: Thursday January 11, 8 p.m. 'The Liverpool Arms', corner of Cambridge Road and London Road.

SLOUGH: Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. Community Centre, Class Room, Farnham Road.

LEEDS: Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday January 18, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Rd (near Finsbury Park tube).

An appeal on behalf of the Fine Tubes strikers of Plymouth

The Plymouth Fine Tubes Strikers, their wives and 53 children have just spent their third Christmas on strike with very little money.

These men have waged a bitter struggle for the most basic right a worker can possess—the right to belong to a trade union.

Strike committee members have travelled over 100,000 miles to sustain their fight.

This Christmas has been the hardest of all. It has imposed a great financial burden. Now the 37 strikers face the rest of the winter with a depleted strike fund. January is always a difficult month to raise money to further their fight.

Yet they are determined to fight on. This is a struggle the working class cannot afford to lose. That is why the Socialist Labour League and the Work-

ers Press wishes to make a special appeal to all trade unionists to take collections in their factories and branches for the Fine Tubes men in order that their heroic and determined action can be carried forward. All money should be sent to:

Fine Tubes Treasurer
 c/o 65 Bretonside
 Plymouth, Devon.

Attempts to weaken representation strike

Unemployment bogey used to scare steel strikers

IAN YEATS

THE 'This-will-be-our-last-strike' warning by clerks at the British Steel Corporation's three Scunthorpe plants reflects the power of unemployment to frighten and intimidate workers into submission.

The Redbourne, Normanby Park and Appleby Frodingham works employing 18,500 people are being reorganized around a new £230m steel complex known as the Anchor project involving the loss of 3,000 jobs.

Scunthorpe is virtually a one-industry town and the threat of unemployment is not taken lightly.

Some white-collar workers believe that the present wrangle over bargaining rights at the new complex between the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and the Steel Management Association (SIMA) is putting the future of the whole project in jeopardy.

SIMA has local bargaining rights for middle management at three obsolete plants, but the ISTC has told the Corporation it will represent these workers at the new works and they have instructed their members not to work at the Anchor site until their demand is granted.

The ISTC called out its 6,000 members at the three plants just over a week ago after 40 were sent home for refusing to take part in tests at the Anchor site.

BSC has not divulged which side it backs, but it is understood to privately favour SIMA, which is more of a staff association than a trade union.

The position between BSC and the ISTC is deadlocked and after

the Corporation's recent display of ruthlessness in axing 50,000 jobs over the next seven years, some clerical workers are getting worried that chairman Lord Melchett may put his red pencil through the Anchor project as well unless the dispute ends.

Two hundred of them lobbied the strike committee headquarters last week in an unsuccessful bid to get the stoppage called off.

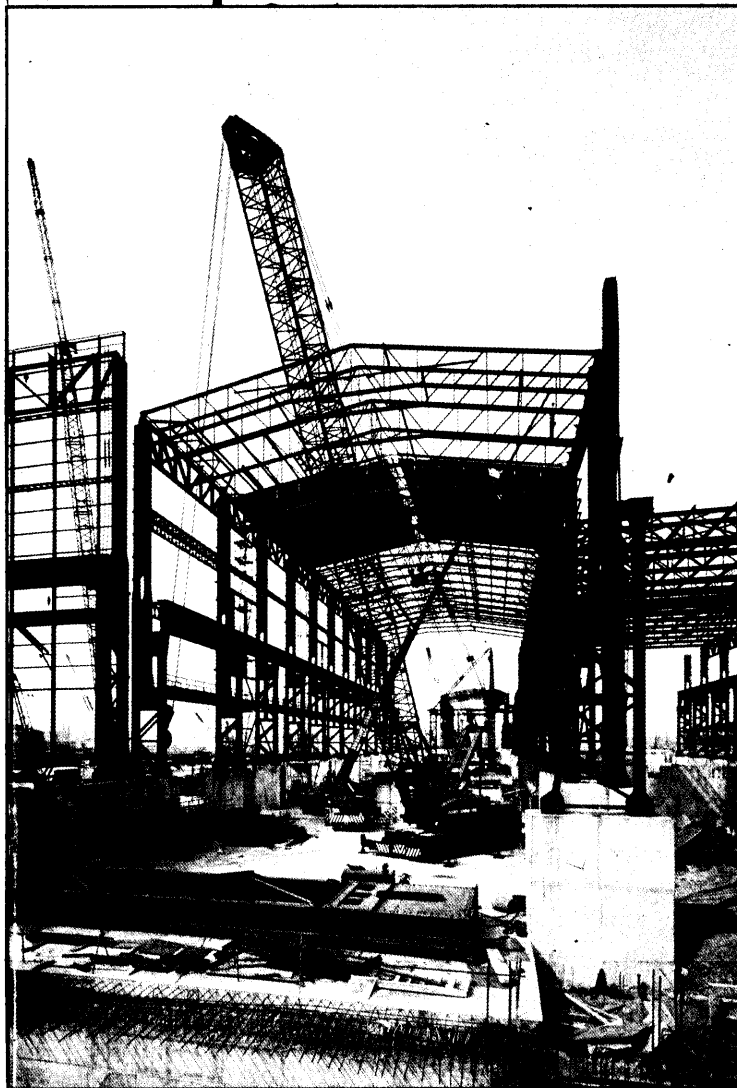
And a handful are thinking about asking the National Industrial Relations Court to uphold their right not to belong to a union rather than, as they see it, allow their jobs to be held to ransom over bargaining rights.

Their fears have been fanned by the laying off of 1,100 production workers and the announced prospect of the remaining 10,000 being sent home before the end of the week.

The ISTC was meeting yesterday to consider their next moves in the dispute.

● The Welsh nationalist party Plaid Cymru has demanded the Lord Mayor of Cardiff call a national conference to discuss the threat to the Principality's steel industry. The Party claims 40,000 jobs will be lost under BSC's new modernization plans and they say the conference should include representatives of Welsh trade unions, the CBI, local authorities, the Welsh Council, MPs, university economists and corporation officials.

The Anchor steelworks under construction for the British Steel Corporation at Scunthorpe, using steel from the nearby Appleby Frodingham works.



Computer delay means no pay for staff

ABOUT 1,500 monthly-paid staff on strike at the British Steel Corporation's Scunthorpe works will have to wait another four weeks for the money they earned last month, a BSC spokesman announced yesterday.

He claimed they had been unable to feed the amount of time the staff had worked into the computer.

'The figures should go into the computer by the end of this week, but as we cannot do this we cannot prepare their pay. They will have to wait for at least another month,' he said.

On Monday 450 workers were laid off and another 1,000 sent home yesterday. Emergency arrangements were being made, however, to pay the laid-off men.

HMSO shop still closed

HER Majesty's Stationery Office, High Holborn, London, and the mail order department remained closed yesterday on the second day of a pay and conditions dispute.

This strike is against the ending of a 48-year-old agreement linking shop assistants' pay with an outside agreement between SOGAT and the Federation of London Wholesale Newspaper Distributors.

Yesterday's unsuccessful talks were held after a walk-out by 170 workers on Monday. National SOGAT officers have been in session to discuss future action. At present the strike is still unofficial.

The Federation wants a house agreement with the bookshop assistants along the lines of those already negotiated with the Stationery Office warehouses and presses.

Tories defend tortures in Turkey

'Sunday Times' investigators reproached

BY JOHN SPENCER

TORY Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas Home has attacked 'The Sunday Times' Insight team which recently published details of tortures inflicted on political prisoners in Turkey.

In an interview with the Istanbul newspaper 'Miliyet', he said the details could only encourage disruptive forces and consequently hamper progress.

His remarkable statements were released by the British embassy in Istanbul, a move which clearly indicates they have full approval of the Tory government.

His solidarity with the Turkish military regime is the more striking in that he makes no attempt to refute the well-attested evidence of torture brought forward by the Insight team and Amnesty International.

'I think the Turkish authorities deserve support and understanding in their obvious determination to retain their democratic institutions in the face of ruthless terrorist movements,' Sir Alec told 'Miliyet'.

He referred to the clandestine Turkish People's Liberation Army which kidnapped and killed two Britons and a Canadian employed on a secret NATO military contract in March last year.

'Turkey is not only a friend but an ally of the United Kingdom in NATO and in CENTO. I am sorry that in recent weeks a number of allegations have been made against her.

'Such action can only encourage disruptive forces and consequently hamper rather than promote progress.'

This is not the first time the

Tory government has defended the Turkish torturers. When asked about well-documented cases of torture in Turkey, Julian Amery, Sir Alec's junior Minister, said:

'I would prefer to pay tribute to the enormous efforts made by the Turkish political parties to ensure that parliamentary government is preserved.'

Sir Alec and Amery, of course, speak for the same Tory government whose troops organized torture of Irish workers at Long Kesh and other centres.

These troops are part of a veritable international of torturers. According to the 'New Scientist', (December 28, 1972):

'Torture has become a science, with schools and research centres and international exchanges of information.'

Last year, the magazine says, Yahya Khan's Pakistan government was able to order a complete torture kit from the US.

And in November six Belgian commandos were found guilty of using excessive violence while torturing soldiers during NATO exercises in November 1971.

'All of those involved in the NATO test were volunteers in an exercise to practice both interrogation and anti-interrogation techniques, using procedures learned from Chinese interrogators in the Korean war,' the 'New Scientist' reports.

The Turkish torturers are only carrying out official NATO policy 'in defence of parliamentary government'. This excuse—advanced by the Tory government to jus-

tify the bestial practices of the Turkish regime—is laughable.

The army seized power in Turkey in March 1971 and converted the existing parliament into a servile tool of military policy. The 11 most important provinces of the country have been under martial law ever since.

Premier Suleiman Demirel was



SIR ALEC . . . Support Turkish government.

forced out of office by the army and his successors have had to exercise a shadowy vestige of power under the constant threat of being swept away by the army.

Meanwhile the jails are crammed to capacity with trade unionists, students and intellec-

tuals accused of subversion and systematically tortured before trial. In a typical recent trial, 52 school teachers were jailed for up to eight years and ten months.

Their crime? They belonged to the Turkish Teachers' Union which has been banned by the military regime and took part in an 'illegal' strike in 1970. They were demanding better living conditions.

These are clearly 'disruptive forces' who must be repressed by every means—in the interests of democracy of course! Just how the Tories' friends in Ankara go about this task is revealed in grisly detail by the Insight team in 'The Sunday Times' (December 10, 1972):

'Sadik Akincilar is a respected Istanbul lawyer. At noon last April 3 plainclothes police searched his house, confiscated documents and took Akincilar to a nearby police station . . .

Akincilar says he was savagely beaten with karate blows: his captors took care not to mark his face. He was then thrown to the ground, his feet were tied together and raised in the air and he was subjected to repeated bouts of falaka—continuous beating on the soles of the feet with a stick or in Akincilar's case, a thin rubber police truncheon.

His feet became terribly swollen and bruised, though, again, care was taken not to tear the skin. At intervals he was forced to walk barefoot on the rough stone floor . . . When beating and falaka failed, he was given electric shock treatment.

'They connected my body to electrodes . . . I was bound to an iron chair with chains and ropes. When they began connecting electricity to my head through the ears, I felt I was about to go mad . . .'

Falaka and electric shock treatment continued for almost three weeks, says Akincilar: between sessions he was chained to his bed in a cell permanently lit by a blinding light. ☺

Akincilar had offended the susceptibilities of the democratic Turkish military by acting as defending counsel in the trials of a number of Turkish People's Liberation Army members.

His case is only one of a large number of similar well-attested instances of torture, which the Foreign Office has made no effort to refute.

It is worth noting that apart from 'The Sunday Times', which has now earned Home's official displeasure, no capitalist newspaper has given prominence to the Turkish torture regime.

No doubt these papers have taken the heavy hints dropped by the Foreign Office through both Sir Alec and Amery. In many cases the same papers devoted acres of space to the case of the young drug-smuggler Timothy Davey.

It is clear that Sir Alec's pose as a defender of democracy is a fraud. The man is simply covering up for the systematic erosion of even the most elementary democratic rights.

After all, the Tories have already done this themselves in Northern Ireland and are undoubtedly planning to do the same in Britain too, if 'disruptive forces' should get out of hand.

'Most painful US defeat' — Hanoi

NORTH VIETNAM has affirmed its determination to fight a protracted war against imperialism and described 1972 as 'a year of the greatest victory in the history of Vietnam's resistance against US aggression'.

This assessment was made public hours before the secret negotiations with the United States reopened in Paris following the suspension of US bombing attacks north of the 20th parallel.

The talks—at technical-adviser level—are designed to prepare the way for a meeting between Hanoi representative Le Duc Tho and Washington's Dr Henry Kissinger.

US planes are still bombing North Vietnam below the 20th parallel, but their attacks on the main cities of Hanoi and Haiphong were called off on December 29 after 12 days of bombardment which reduced much of Hanoi to rubble.

The North Vietnamese army newspaper 'Quan Doi Nhan Dan' published a New Year commentary headed 'A Strategically Significant Victory', explaining why Nixon had called

By Foreign Editor JOHN SPENCER

off the giant bomber raids against the north.

'Our northern armed forces and people have just undergone a very fierce test of strength in their fight against the Nixon clique's air war. Through 12 days and nights of extremely brave and clever fighting we have won very gloriously and have in a short period of time scored an unprecedented victory.

'We have smashed the US imperialists' greatest strategic air raid. . . The Americans deployed in this raid the total number of B52 aircraft which are combat ready in south-east Asia and hundreds of tactical aircraft. They dropped more than 70,000 tons of bombs and used the method of carpet-bombing densely populated cities, aimed at creating the same effect as atom bombs without atom bombs.

'Nixon expected that with the

might of the absolute superiority of the US air force this strategic air raid could rapidly overpower the adversary's anti-aircraft forces and causes terrible losses to subdue the adversary and force him to accept the pirate's conditions. But all this has been upset.

'The Americans have suffered the most painful defeat in this war. In only 12 days—from December 18 to 29 our people's clever ground-to-air fire nets destroyed 34 B52s, five F111s and 42 other aircraft, totalling 81. The number of downed B52s is more than 2 per cent of all combat-ready B52s, not to mention ten damaged B52s as admitted by the Americans.'

This is an implicit rebuttal of the advocates of peaceful co-existence who believe in coming to terms with the imperialists and abandon revolutionary struggle against them. The paper adds.

8,000 Swindon engineers stop over NIRC fines

ABOUT 8,000 Swindon workers stayed at home yesterday when the town's engineers staged a one-day strike in protest against the £55,000 fine imposed on the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in the Goad case.

At the 6,000-strong Pressed Steel Fisher factory, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union joined the strike called by the Swindon district committee of the AUEW.

Engineers also stayed away at the Square D factory, Lister's, Vicker's and British Rail's workshops.

On Monday, up to 2,000 workers at three Plessey factories in Swindon staged a similar 24-hour strike against the fine and the Tory pay laws.

AUEW district secretary Ray Howell told a meeting in the town centre's shopping precinct:

'No one is under the illusion that a few one-day stoppages can remove the Industrial Relations Act or its authors.

'There will undoubtedly be a need for further action. The meetings and demonstrations we have seen in the last few weeks are only the opening shots in the campaign.'

Earlier he told me: 'It needs total action called by the TUC. There should be an indefinite strike until we get rid of this government.'

A General Strike to force the Tories to resign has been the policy of the district committee and Swindon Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions for the past 12 months.

The committee's president Ron Perret said: 'The dispute today is not just a matter of one man. It is a put-up job to immobilize the unions. If you don't defend the union now you won't have one.'

Speakers warned that entry into the Common Market would mean soaring prices and a bitter struggle for trade.

They said the Tories would use every weapon in their armoury to keep wages down.

Prices dam about to burst

THE TORY decision to allow a 7 per cent increase in the price of dried fruit may open another breach in the so-called price freeze.

The Ministry of Agriculture admitted yesterday that similar exemptions might apply to frozen fish, or other foods where the cost of 'treatment' only makes up a small proportion of total price.

The spokesman pointed out that prices would be allowed to rise anyway if the cost of imported foods or fresh foods rose.

First leak in dried fruit

CONSUMER ROUND-UP BY STEPHEN JOHNS

He said that manufacturers had little choice but to accept higher prices from suppliers. The only other alternative was not to buy at all.

The controversy within the industry was sparked off by the ministry's decision not to question a price increase by Britain's leading dried-fruit packers Whitworth Brothers.

A growing lobby in the food industry is viewing the move as the green light for other price increases on other ranges.

A spokesman for Unilever, which owns the big vegetable producers Bird's Eye and Batchelor's, said that any proposal to increase prices would be reported to the government first.

'Certainly we are in touch with the Ministry anyway,' he said.

'Vegetables are seasonal and are subject to price rises. If, for example, we had a hard winter from now until March, vegetable prices would increase on the market and we would make an application.'

Both Bird's Eye and Batchelor's grow all their crop under contract. They negotiate the price with the farmers and supply them with the seed. As such they play a dominant role in the market. Preliminary price negotiations have started for this year's crop and planting begins in February.

The dried-fruit case is an indication of the massive pressure building up in industry for price increases.

There are over 700 applications for price increases outside the food sector. Textiles, leather, timber and shoe manufacturers are all asking for exemption and Sir Geoffrey Howe's 'prices' Ministry is examining their claims.

In the food sector there have been 758 requests for increases. Price rises in canned meats, processed meats, sausages, animal foods, biscuits, dried fruit and breakfast foods have been allowed. The rest have been rejected and a third are still under consideration.

This enormous prices dam is likely to burst on the market after the 'freeze'.

An added inflationary pressure results from Common Market entry.

From February 1 there will be free trade in food throughout western Europe. This means subsidies to importers of Continental foods to make up the difference between the low British and high European prices.

The system will work this way: An exporter of dear French wheat will receive money from the Common Agricultural Fund for the loss he suffers by selling in the cheap British market.

British wheat going into west Europe will have a levy put on it to make the price up to European levels. The money from the levy will be paid into the fund.

Britain's £125m annual contribution to the fund will be collected in taxes, largely from the working class.

Gradually this support system will be run down and prices allowed to rise to European levels, which are often double British prices.

Prices will go up in six stages starting in the spring. By 1977 the entire burden of higher food and commodity prices will fall directly on the consumer.

The question of establishing Councils of Action, which unite all sections of the working class and the labour movement to fight this, is now urgent.

The alternative to Tory inflation is the nationalization of the big food combines, the break-up of the commodity exchanges

and the nationalization of the retail chains—all without compensation under workers' control.

Within this structure of public ownership, committees of housewives and trade unionists could supervise prices and the distribution of essential commodities to those in greatest need, like pensioners.

Actors

FROM PAGE 1

Tories—who have also frozen a £5 pay rise due this week in the second part of the wages agreement—means that minimum wages for West End actors revert back to pre-November levels of £18 a week for shows and £12 for rehearsals.

Yesterday an emergency Equity council session decided to call a mass meeting of actors and actresses in the West End to discuss the government's moves.

But a move for all-out strike action to be called by Equity leaders was heavily defeated. Instead it was decided to hold another meeting of the council—probably next Tuesday—after the full terms of the Tory order are known.

Recommendations from that meeting will then be put to the mass meeting, a date for which has yet to be fixed.

BRIEFLY

A SAILOR was found shot in the head 'during firearms drill' aboard the US 'Polaris' depot ship 'Canopus' at Holy Loch early yesterday. Seaman Robert O'Leary was given emergency treatment on board the ship and transferred to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital, where he was later stated to be 'fairly satisfactory'.

RESERVES fell by \$249m during December to stand at \$5,646m at the end of the month. This was after the normal end-year debt service payments to the US and Canada of \$260m.

BARCLAYS and Midland, two of Britain's largest banks, yesterday raised their basic lending rates by 1 per cent to 8.5 per cent. The moves follow the raising of the Bank of England lending rate to 9 per cent—the highest since World War I.

LEADERS CRAWL AS WORKERS FIGHT

FROM PAGE 1

road haulage are also involved in pay claims. 2,000 lorry drivers in Hull are holding a series of one-day strikes in support of a demand for a £10-a-week rise.

The ferment is affecting sections of the middle class as well as industrial and manual workers. THE 200,000-strong Civil and Public Services Association is to hold selective strikes among civil servants in key government departments.

This step has caused considerable alarm in ruling-class circles. 'The Times' editorial yesterday declared:

'Civil servants have a special obligation of loyalty to the state . . . if they do not back up the state, who will?'

This goes to the heart of the matter. Those workers and sections of the middle class who fight now on wages are challenging the state.

Premier Heath and leading Cabinet members met yesterday to draw up final plans for phase two of their legislation giving the state total control over wages.

To fight on wages, therefore, is not only to fight the employers but to come into conflict with the law of the land backed by the state apparatus.

A victory for the working class in this conflict is only possible through a struggle which brings down the Tory government.

The TUC leaders know this perfectly well. That is why, instead of preparing their members for such a fight, they rush back into the arms of Heath.

As the TUC of 1926 begged and pleaded with Tory premier Baldwin to get them off the hook, so in 1973 Feather and company will beg Heath for some tiny concessions in the hope of heading off the mounting explosion of anger from millions of workers.

They will not be successful. As prices soar following Common Market entry, the employers and their government can only seek to rescue their system at the expense of the working class.

That means pushing down wages, increasing unemployment and smashing the unions.

1973 will not be a year of con-

cessions, but a year of conflict.

The Labour traitors who plead with Heath while their members fight for wages and fight to defend the trade union movement from the Goads and Langstons must be told 'No more talks'.

They must be compelled to mobilize their members in a General Strike to force the Tories to resign and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

In 1972 miners, dockers, tenants and other workers showed that the working class has the strength to do this. 1973 must be the year when the leadership is constructed to carry it through.

The immediate task is to construct Councils of Action in every area to link up and lead the battles on wages, prices, trade union rights, rents and housing.

- End the talks with the Tories!
- Demand the recall of the TUC!
- Make the trade union leaders mobilize a General Strike to force the Tories to resign!
- Build Councils of Action!

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

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THE FIGHT is just starting to build up against the Tory government. Gasmen, steelmen, with car workers following up behind, are joining the struggle for higher wages. Everywhere the movement is growing to defend the basic right to a decent standard of living.

Workers Press will reach out more than ever, in this period ahead, to give a political lead to hundreds of thousands of workers now taking up this decisive fight.

Therefore everything you can raise for our Fund will be needed. Make it a very special effort this month. Let us start 1973 by raising a record amount. Our target is £1,750. Collect as much as you can and post all donations immediately to:

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