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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

UNITE IN ACTION TO DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

A CALL TO ALL SECTIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS FROM SLL CENTRAL COMMITTEE

THE TORY government is taking full powers for complete state control over the wages of every single worker. Their new legislation—the so-called Phase Two—wipes off the statute book 'at a stroke' the rights won by the working class in two centuries of struggle: above all, the right to organize, to strike, and to defend and advance standards of living through collective bargaining.

Wage increases are to be held down to a derisory £1 a week plus 4 per cent for each of the next three years. This figure does not even compensate for the price increases which have hit householders since the state pay laws began in November.

Having in mind the effects of Common Market entry—VAT on April 1, rising meat prices, increases in cost of all imported foods—it will be impossible to manage a working-class family budget under the Tory wage-cuts.

But much, much more is at stake than a simple wages issue. The new law is a complete legal straitjacket to slash the living standards of the working class.

Dictatorship by the central government, implemented through courts and the police, now reaches into every corner of life. The Pay Board has the power to decide wages. Those who object to its decisions will be fined and jailed.

These powers are additional to those already exercised by the notorious National Industrial Relations Court.

Millions of workers, such as miners, carworkers and textile workers, with claims already under negotiation, will literally be subject to prosecution if they do not immediately drop these claims. Their unions, under the new laws, are open to be financially bankrupted in the criminal courts.

Under the 60-day extension of the state pay laws, farmworkers are deprived of their increase negotiated in November, for a period when their employers made unprecedented profits. Actors, electricians and others have suffered the same fate.

Heath and the Tories, behind the mask of an 'anti-inflation' campaign, are in fact taking a definite step towards Bonapartist dictatorship, in preparation for massive state repressions against the working class and the Marxist movement in the coming struggles.

Such a Bonapartist type of rule cannot stand still, it cannot last, founded as it is on the rotting frame of capitalist economy. It means only that the ruling class is preparing to impose a lasting defeat on some decisive section of the working class or, more serious still, upon the whole of the working class.

And this is the real meaning of the Tories' new legislation. It can be answered only politically, through a programme to unite the working class for defence of its democratic rights by bringing down the Tories. This requires the building of alternative leadership.

Heath deliberately adopted the style of Bonapartist ruler like de Gaulle, with his theatrically-contrived Press conference and TV performance at Lancaster House. This 'presidential' manner was purposely to emphasize the Tories' contempt for democratic rights, even for parliament.

Just as the most vicious clauses of the Industrial Relations Act went through the House of Commons without debate, so now the 'freeze' is extended and Phase Two announced without even the possibility of parliamentary question.

This is not accidental. It emphasizes the fact that for two years a tiny group of top permanent civil servants (whom nobody ever elected), together with Heath and one or two intimates of Cabinet rank, have taken all the big political decisions and initiated all the major legislation—after consulting, of course, with the representatives of big business.

So arrogant is this dictatorial Tory clique that they put forward a prices policy blatantly discriminating against the working class. All food and all imported goods are excluded from control!

THE PRICES of virtually all goods can be put up given the 'right' circumstances.

PROFITS are supposed to be controlled, but with the saving clause that the 'investment' (which of course comes out of profits) must not suffer!

DIVIDENDS are restricted, but will be calculated on the best two of the last five years! All this in the name of 'fair' measures by the government.

Just as cynically, they announced a pay freeze on the eve of what they knew would be the greatest spate of price increases, foreshadowing EEC entry. This technique of the big lie is the unmistakable mark of their aspiring to follow in the footsteps of the German and Italian fascist dictators.

But they can get further along this road to dictatorship only if they are able to smash the working class in struggle. This is the only way they could create the

necessary social base for their plans. They cannot rely on a force like the millions of peasants and small proprietors who supported de Gaulle. All the more urgent then, for them, to strike decisive blows against the trade unions and whip the middle class into line.

The Tories anticipate great resistance from workers in a whole number of industries in the immediate future. Heath will undoubtedly use emergency powers to deal with strikes as well as implementing the new legislation.

Then it will become clear to millions of
TURN TO BACK PAGE



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A series of meetings have been arranged to discuss what action to take to oppose the Tory policy.

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said there was general support for union action, but members of the committee did not want a General Strike.

But Feather said that talk of resistance to state pay control was merely 'philosophical' at this stage.

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ing of the economic committee also decided not to co-operate with the two proposed boards on wages and prices.

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Defend democratic rights: Rally at Empire Pool, Wembley Sunday March 11

workers press

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Defend democratic rights: Rally at Empire Pool, Wembley Sunday March 11

WHAT WE THINK

Fight for victimized glassworkers continues

BY STARTING an action in the National Industrial Relations Court, former glassworkers' leader Gerry Caughey has seriously blotted a once impeccable record in the trade union movement.

Caughey took this step in opposition to the policies of the Socialist Labour League and Workers Press. We at all times urged him not to take this step. Unfortunately he chose to act on capitalist legal advice.

In doing so he has greatly weakened the struggle of those he once led against a powerful monopoly. And he has handed a dangerous weapon to the rotten, reformist leaderships who prop up such employers. There is no possible justification for Caughey's thoroughly misguided action in going to the court.

For seven weeks in the spring of 1970, Caughey and the rank-and-file leaders of the St Helens glassworkers conducted a determined struggle against the bad old legacy of paternalism.

They resisted the combined attack of the Pilkington glass monopoly, the General and Municipal Workers' Union executive and their witch-hunting friends in the capitalist Press.

On their return to work, they found themselves left wide open to victimization both by the G&MWU top brass and the TUC.

And in their subsequent, bitter struggle to defend the right to work and the right to strike they were abandoned by every union leader from right to 'left' of the entire movement.

Nevertheless they fought on, in an unselfish bid to rouse the unions to defend these rights during the first crucial months of Tory rule. Though they were sacked and blacklisted for their pains, there can be no doubt that their campaign played a key role in developing the vital stages of the struggle against the Industrial Relations Act.

The Socialist Labour League unequivocally supported the victimized glassworkers in that struggle—in fact we were the only organization to do so, in word and deed.

Besides a series of rank-and-file conferences in every area of the country, we organized fund raising operations culminating in a highly successful fair which attracted the support not only of thousands of trade unionists but many writers, actors and filmmakers who wanted to fight the Tories.

We still maintain our support for the struggle of the men who remain without work in St Helens because they refused to bow the knee to the Tories, the employers and their agents in the unions.

In taking his complaint against

the G&MWU to the court, Gerry Caughey has struck a blow against that struggle.

In a period when the Tories are taking away every working-class right by main force of the state, to invoke the forces of the state, in the shape of the NIRC, as he has done, is indefensible.

Caughey claims that 'it is the G&MWU leadership which has forced the industrial court into this issue'.

In defence of this he points to the union's stonewall refusal either to grant him and his former colleagues their rights in the union, or to fight for their reinstatement at Pilkington's.

Everything he says on this point, of course, is true. Right up to the final private hearing for directions in the NIRC last week the G&MWU was insisting that the only condition on which they would admit Caughey to a branch was a lifelong ban on his holding any office.

But neither the dropping of this condition before Wednesday's court hearing, nor the whole out-of-court settlements subsequently reached, can be considered a victory for the glassworkers or trade unionism.

With a majority of the victimized glassworkers still in struggle, we consider that an essential principle has been breached. Last Wednesday was a sad day in the continuing struggle at St Helens.

French front plans modest reforms

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

IF THE COMMON FRONT of communist, socialist and left Radical parties wins the French election in March it will balance the budget and raise the growth rate from 6 to 8 per cent.

According to Georges Marchais, CP general secretary, this will cost only about 40,000 million francs a year, to be raised largely by increased company taxation.

There will also be a cut, of about a quarter, in the current military budget, which at present amounts to 40,000 million francs a year. Marchais was at great pains to indicate the modest scope of the reforms proposed in the common programme.

The Gaullist ruling party is trying to raise the spectre of revolution in France with the aim of frightening the middle class into voting for right-wing candidates.

The Stalinists and their allies are trying to assure these sections that they represent no danger to the established order.

'Nobody can say,' Marchais told a Press conference this week, 'that we will arrive at socialism in France after five years. No, all we say is that the Common Programme opens the road to socialism.'

This road to socialism can apparently be travelled under the presidency of Georges Pompidou.

Gaston Defferre, the social-democrat mayor of Marseilles, told Socialist Party

LATEST opinion polls published in Paris give the common front parties an 8 per cent lead over the Gaullists. The Sofres poll gave 46 per cent of votes to the common front parties and 38 per cent to the Gaullists.

deputies in the National Assembly that a common front government would take its place under Pompidou as head of state, even if it won a big majority.

In fact, it will have little, option.

The constitution of the Fifth Republic empowers the President to dissolve the National Assembly if he considers that the Republic is in danger and rule by decree.

Defferre claimed that since the President was elected four years ago the National Assembly elections in March should be taken as an expression of the will of the people and overrule presidential powers.

'When the people have spoken, everyone must accept their verdict, including the President of the Republic,' Defferre said.

The Bonapartist constitution, however, is specifically designed to elevate the President above the popular will.

It is into this Bonapartist structure that the French Stalinists propose to draw the trade unions in the event of winning a majority at the polls.

Their policy has raised protests even from the reformist CFDT (Catholic) union confederation.

Stalinist union chief Georges Seguy criticized the CFDT recently for adopting what he described as a 'threatening' tone.

He indicated that his own CGT would collaborate very closely with a common front government.

He made it clear that workers would be pressured by his leadership to moderate their demands.

Seguy said this would make the Gaullist slogan of 'participation' a practical possibility for the first time.

Hanoi helped by 'Pentagon Papers'

PUBLICATION of the so-called 'Pentagon Papers' was of 'great use' to the North Vietnamese in preparing their spring offensive last year, claimed Lt-General William Depuy at the trial of Daniel Ellsberg yesterday.

Ellsberg and another former researcher, Anthony Russo, are on trial in Los Angeles for theft, conspiracy and violations of the Espionage Act following their publication of secret documents on the Vietnam war.

They included findings made by a mission investigating the results of the Tet offensive of 1968 which showed that it had nearly succeeded in a dozen places. This helped Hanoi plan its 1972 offensive, claimed Depuy.

INDONESIAN army and naval units have attacked a communist guerrilla stronghold in the West Kalimantan province near the Sarawak border. This is the first operation since the slaughter of thousands of communists eight years ago.

BELGIAN petrol stations are to close this weekend to conserve supplies following a five-day pay strike by 5,500 oil industry workers. Heating oil is also running out and some schools have been closed.

Nazi-style 'justice' aimed at Rhodesian guerrillas

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

CONCERNED at the growth of support for African nationalist guerrillas among the 5 million black Rhodesians, premier Ian Smith has decreed the use of Nazi-style collective punishments.

Under tough state of emergency legislation published yesterday, white provincial commissioners will be able to impose collective fines on African communities without court hearings or listening to representations from these communities.

Unlimited fines can be imposed in any area and on any community provided the provincial

commissioner is 'satisfied' that any individual is guilty of subversion.

The regulation published in the 'Government Gazette' says: 'It shall be lawful for a provincial commissioner to exercise these powers without giving notice to the persons affected and without affording them any opportunity to make representations against the proposed exercise of those powers.'

The Smith regime has previously tried to represent the guerrilla fighters as a negligible quantity and its abrupt change of face is an indication of weakness. Earlier this month Smith ordered the closure of the

Lusaka-Beira railway in retaliation for Zambian aid to the guerrilla movements.

On Thursday he admitted that tribesmen in the north-east of the country had aided the guerrillas.

'I am sure that I do not have to inform you of how easy it is to mislead these simple, gullible people who still believe in witchcraft and the throwing of bones,' Smith said on television.

Smith clings to the far more barbaric conception that the white minority in Rhodesia has the god-given right to rule the black majority.

His system of collective fines is fully in the tradition of this 'civilizing' mission.

Puppet troops are 'stretched'

MAJOR BATTLES are taking place in four areas of South Vietnam as both sides make a bid for territory in anticipation of a ceasefire agreement.

US bombers joined in to fly their heaviest raids since October. They supported South Vietnamese marines in fierce fighting in Quang Tri province.

Around Da Nang North Vietnamese troops brought up heavy artillery for the first time in months.

One of the toughest battles is being fought only 40 miles from Saigon itself where the South Vietnamese admit to losing nearly 400 dead and wounded since Wednesday. Their lines were shelled along the whole front by heavy artillery and have been attacked by tanks.

The Saigon puppet army has

PRG claim

been tied down and stretched thinly and dispersed to the point where it has been unable to support the pacification programme, claimed the South Vietnam Provisional Revolutionary Government Council of Ministers in a communiqué following a three-day meeting which concluded on January 10. The PRG claimed that the Saigon troops had become demoralized and that 5 million people were now living in the liberated areas.

It hailed the victory of the north over the US strategic bombing offensive.

It had resulted in 'destroying the US strategic trump card, burying the prestige of the US Air Force in the black mud, and filling our friends on the five continents and the peace and justice-loving world peoples with great joy'.

In its assessment of the military situation the PRG saw 1972 as a year of great victories in which the US puppets had been pushed back considerably.

It denounced the US double-cross over the October peace agreement.

'More than anyone else in the world,' it said, 'we cherish peace, but it must be peace in independence, freedom and a reunified fatherland.'

The Council of Ministers declared that 'on behalf of the southern armed forces and people, it vows firmly to uphold the following oath which has been repeatedly and solemnly reiterated:

'Vietnam is one and the Vietnamese people are one . . . South Vietnam is resolved to remain forever the brass fortress and vast front line of the fatherland, no matter how long it may have to endure countless sacrifices and hardships and is resolved to fight to the end to liberate the south, protect the

north and proceed to peaceful reunification of the fatherland.'

For the immediate future the PRG called for a strengthening and enlargement of the 'national united front'.

'With regard to those who have gone astray,' it said, with reference to supporters of the Thieu clique, 'but who sincerely desire to break with the past and return to the right path, the national concord policy . . . we will offer them a way out so they can find a place in the nation's heart.'

This Stalinist compromise policy based on an alliance with the bourgeoisie which the National Liberation Front puts forward is a threat to the Vietnamese revolution.

President Nixon's special envoy, General Alexander Haig has been having talks with President Thieu on the conditions for a ceasefire. Dr Henry Kissinger is to return to Paris on Tuesday to resume talks with North Vietnam's Le Du Tho on a ceasefire agreement.

CIRCULATION

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Defend democratic rights: Rally at Empire Pool, Wembley Sunday March 11

Spectacular send-off to pageant campaign

TWO HUNDRED trade unionists, housewives and young workers packed into Middleton Labour Club on Thursday night to give a spectacular send-off to the campaign for the Pageant of Labour History at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 11.

Last night, the campaign rolled into South Shields. On Tuesday it will be the turn of Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, then, next Thursday, it will be back to Manchester for what promises to be an even bigger success at Langley Labour Club.

Middleton had never seen anything like it.

It was standing-room-only for a tremendous cabaret featuring David Hargreaves, Corin Redgrave, Maggie Nolan, Lisa Martin, Malcolm Tierney and Kika Markham with the support of two local singers.

As Stan Thorogood, secretary of the Labour Club, put it: 'Of course any show that starts from getting the Tories out is bound to be a success round here. We want them out, and quickly. But this has been really impressive.'

'We have offered the organizers of the pageant accommodation for rehearsals here, and from the response it looks like it's going to be very successful.'

Middleton is in the heartland of the working class's 19th-century struggle for basic rights.

It is just eight miles from the site of the Peterloo Massacre of 1819 and workers there have a very strong sense of their history. The Chartist struggles of 1838-1848 were born in the area. Already a number of housewives and trade unionists have come forward to present this struggle at the Empire Pool.

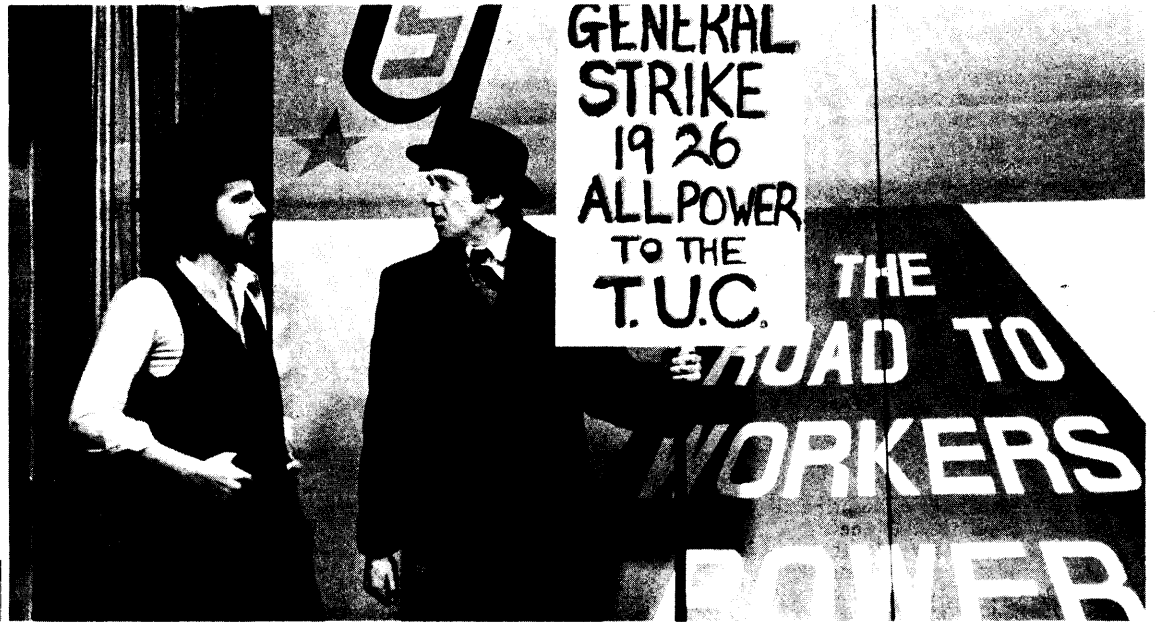
There was a telling incident during the cabaret itself when, after a series of sketches, the company presented a sequence on the 1926 General Strike.

'We lost that one,' came a voice from the audience. Someone else replied: 'But we won't lose the next.'

Then ensued a completely spontaneous political discussion around the lessons of 1926 and its implications for today.

The sketches which had a particular impact on the

FROM DAVID MAUDE IN MIDDLETON PHOTOGRAPHS BY P. J. ARKELL



audience included one by Corin Redgrave and Malcolm Tierney following the pattern of the Western Brothers music hall routine, but updated to deal with the scandals involving members of the Tory government today.

Corin Redgrave and Maggie Nolan pilloried the activities of the present-day asset-strippers—who buy up industries only to sell them off and make thousands redundant.

Peter Armitage, a popular master of ceremonies, led everyone present in what will

be the keynote song of the pageant 'The Road to Workers' Power'.

Right fists clenched, young men and women from local factories jumped on to their seats to join in. Clapping to the beat, older trade unionists and their wives stood smiling at their tables.

Later, while tickets for the pageant were being sold hand over fist, Labour councillor Geoff Luddens told me he was very impressed with the evening's work.

'I think the message really

went home here and I am sure you will win the support from a lot of Labour Party members for this campaign,' he said.

'What has been said about the need to commit the leadership of the Labour Party to socialist policies is right. This must be done. We can get the Tories out, but will only keep them out for good if the compromise with the right-wing around Jenkins is ended.'

Graham Dyer, a young trade unionist from the Langley estate, said he was sure next

Scenes from the Middleton cabaret

week's cabaret on the estate would be a roaring success drawing even more people.

'The prices and the rents have made everyone very militant now. They want to get the Tories right out.'

'All that's needed is a lead. But they are very suspicious. They've been sold out so many times before that it takes something really big and convincing to win them over. I am sure this can do it.'

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AND SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

PAGEANT OF HISTORY
SUNDAY MARCH 11 STARTS 3 p.m.

1832 1873 1842 1868 1901

THE ROAD TO WORKERS POWER
EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY

DEFEND ALL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS DEFEND TRADE UNIONISM AND BASIC LIVING STANDARDS UNITY IN ACTION TO MAKE THIS TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN THE ROAD TO POWER IS THROUGH THE BUILDING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

TICKETS £1

Car fix

SECRET 'summit' meetings have been in progress in the US since 1969 between high-ranking executives of General Motors, Ford's and Chrysler's.

Their main purpose has been to discuss future labour contract negotiations and to work out mutual assistance pacts to commit the American car industry to share the costs of a strike against a single company.

They are also alleged to have entered a price-fixing conspiracy to end special discounts to buyers of fleets of cars.

The US government has filed documents with a Michigan court.

The government suit is directed solely at the price-fixing allegations. It is not opposed to discussions about joint action against carworkers, which is perfectly legal.

Socialist Labour League Yorkshire Rally

FORCE THE TORY GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY!

SUNDAY JANUARY 28, 7.30 p.m.
Great Northern Hotel,
Wellington Street (near Leeds station),
LEEDS

FILM: THREE YEARS OF WORKERS PRESS

Speakers:

G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)
PAUL WHETSTONE (Young Socialists)

In personal capacity:

GEORGE LUBY (U.P.W.)
ROBBIE ROBERTS (N.U.M.)



NEW THREAT TO TILBURY DOCKERS

Top management at the Port of London Authority is looking to Maplin Sands as the next stage in the development of container traffic.

Director-general of the PLA, John Lunch, says Maplin will be able to handle the third, fourth or fifth generation of container ships.

Lunch, who has recently joined the chorus for more productivity by London dockers if they want to retain the meat

trade, sees even greater efficiency for the Maplin plan.

The PLA boss envisages no less than the handling of ships right through 24 hours without tidal restrictions.

'Basically as far as the future, and as far as Maplin is concerned, our ideas can be summed up as deep water, straight quays and lots of back up land, and a vast element of built-in flexibility,' he said recently.

Tilbury is now handling 250,000 containers a year and is second in Europe only to

Above: Tilbury dockers vote to come out during the national docks strike last year.

Rotterdam which has a throughput of about 400,000 boxes each year.

Lunch is quick to point out that the efficiency at Tilbury was the result of extremely high productivity per docker.

But the 2,000 dockers at Tilbury will now have to watch developments at Maplin. For the new generation of container ships will only be able to use Maplin and Tilbury will immediately be threatened.

UNION CHIEFS 'ADVISE' TORIES ON MDW REPORT

Ways of introducing, extending and tightening up Measured-Day Work pay systems throughout industry are reviewed by the Tories' Office of Manpower Economics in a report just out.

The report*—based on returns from over 3,000 firms—claims that it is 'not in any sense trying to "sell" MDW'.

Despite its careful phrasing, however, there is ample evidence in the report of the Office's thoroughgoing support for the system. Its 'dispassionate' pose is therefore a sham from the outset.

This is hardly surprising. It would, perhaps, be news if a government creature like the OME came out against the government. But since no one will deny that this is most decidedly an employers' government, the OME can hardly be expected to do down an employers' brainchild like MDW.

But what is worthy of note is that two leading union officials were prepared to sit on an advisory panel which, the OME team says, 'gave us their comments and advice'.

The two men were David Bagnett and Moss Evans; respectively general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and cars secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Alongside them sat the industrial relations director of British-Leyland, Pat Lowry.

The Office's main conclusion about MDW, which it anxiously makes clear is its own and not necessarily its advisers, is that the system holds out six major advantages for

'the economy at large'. It lists these as 'a more structured wage system, less wage drift, the possibility of better allocation and utilization of labour and equipment, a reduction in disputes and increase in employee performance and a stimulus to managerial performance'.

The careful reader will immediately note two things about this list.

First, there is not a single thing in it which could remotely be described as an advantage to those working under the system. Secondly, while the office obviously expects an actual increase in effort from the worker, its attitude to management is much more lax. All it requires there is a 'stimulus' to do better.

On the debit side, the report says that MDW tends to highlight 'both internal and external pay relativities'.

What it means, bluntly, is that workers on a flat-rate system tend to look round and find they are being paid less than someone else for exactly the same work, and demand that the difference is made up. That the OME sees this as obviously a bad thing is a useful comment on the class character of the whole report.

Its second gripe against MDW is that 'unless schemes are well maintained', there is a risk that 'effort and performance may drift downwards'.

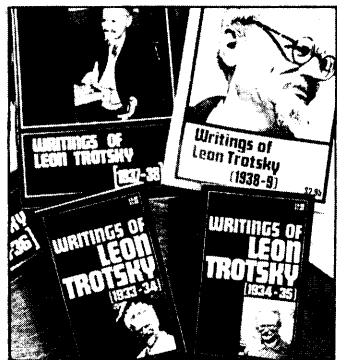
Again the obscure language is just a cover. What the OME means to say is: keep turning the screws.

*'Measured Day Work'. 125pp. HMSO £1.15.

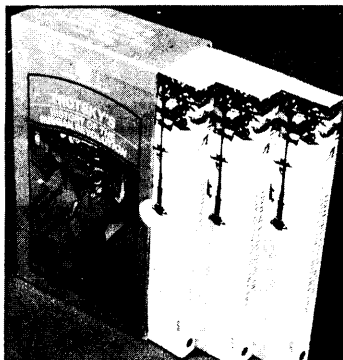
Below: Moss Evans, cars section secretary of the T&GWU, who sat on an advisory panel.



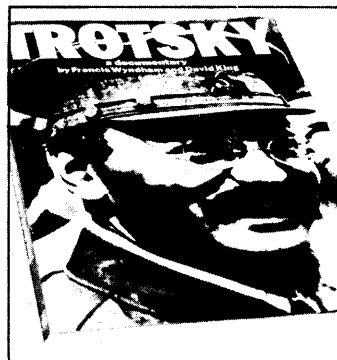
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WHO IS BEHIND THE LETTER-BOMB CAMPAIGN?

BY JOHN SPENCER

Mahmoud Hamchari, Paris representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, died in hospital on January 10. He died of wounds received on December 8, when a bomb explosion ripped through his flat in Paris.

He is the latest victim of a Zionist terror campaign which has gone almost unnoticed in the British capitalist Press. His death led to major demonstrations against Mrs Golda Meir, the Israeli premier, who visited Paris last weekend.

The explosion in Mahmoud Hamchari's flat was the work of experts, according to the French authorities. They have been unable to trace the assassins, though they briefly detained two armed Israelis in the vicinity of the Hamchari apartment not long before the explosion.

The bomb which killed the PLO representative was concealed either in or under his telephone. The explosion occurred shortly after he picked up the phone to answer a call. He was taken to hospital with deep wounds in both legs and suffering from burns.

Police said the bomb could have been detonated from a distance by an electronic system. Before he died, Mr Hamchari told his wife that he had received a phone call the day before from an Italian journalist, who asked him for an appointment at the Arab League office in Paris.

The appointment was not kept and moments before the bomb went off Mahmoud Hamchari heard his caller say that he was the same Italian journalist who had called before. It seems the bomb may have been planted while Hamchari was in another part of the city keeping the bogus appointment.

He is not the only Palestinian representative to fall victim to cowardly terror attacks. On October 17, Wael Zuaiter, PLO representative in Rome, was shot down in the courtyard outside his flat by unknown gunmen.

Before his death Wael Zuaiter received threats from the Jewish Defence League, the organization of Zionist fascists headed by the American Rabbi Meir Kahane. Similar threats were made against Palestinians in Paris before the attempt against Mahmoud Hamchari.

The Israeli authorities recently accused Kahane of planning 'freelance' attacks against Palestinian activists in Europe. The JDL boasted that it had successfully delivered arms and explosives from bases in Israel to 'their destinations'.

Whether or not the JDL was responsible for these attacks, they were part of a major effort to single out and murder Palestinian leaders. On November 29, Adnan Hammad, a leader of the General Union of Palestinian Students in West Germany was severely injured when he opened a letter containing a bomb.

Omar Sufan, a Palestinian student in Stockholm, was wounded in the hand and one eye by a similar package on the same day. The following day Ahmad Awadallah, a Palestinian living in Copenhagen, was extensively burned and mutilated by a third bomb.

Two days later, on December



Golda Meir—met by angry demonstrations in Paris. Above: Meir Kahane—leader of the Jewish Defence League.

2, a dozen Zionist thugs armed with broken bottles, truncheons and hammers, attacked the International Conference of Young Europeans and Arabs in Paris.

They interrupted a speech by British Young Liberal Louis Eakes, a pro-Palestinian, and virtually destroyed all the furniture in the conference hall. Many delegates were hit in the face by the broken bottles and sticks were covered in blood.

The attacks on Palestinians in Europe go together with a highly-publicised campaign of letter-bombings against Jewish targets in countries outside Israel. A large number of letter-bombs, posted in such places as Malaya, have been sent to Jews in Britain and elsewhere.

On several occasions the PLO has categorically denied involvement in the letter bombing and pointed out that even the extreme terrorist wing of the Arab movement, the Black September group, has not claimed authorship of the anti-Jewish postal bombs.

PLO spokesmen have pointed out that the only people who stand to gain from the increased sense of insecurity and anti-Arab feeling generated by such attacks are the Zionists themselves.

They note that the technique of letter bombing was first developed and perfected by the Zionist terrorists of Irgun and the Stern gang, who have a

lengthy tradition of attacks on their co-religionists to create panic and stampede others into closer support for the Israeli state.

Zionism cannot survive without insecurity not only in Israel itself, but even more important in the lands of the Diaspora. In the past the Zionists have not hesitated to use the most extreme methods to create the tension and uncertainty necessary for their imperialist schemes.

One revealing episode in the letter-bomb campaign occurred on November 2 in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia. The Al Fatah representative, Abu Yakub, discovered 40 letter bombs in two brown paper parcels at his flat and immediately informed the police.

According to Reuter: 'There was no explanation of how the bombs came to be in the flat.' A similar attempt to frame a Palestinian had occurred a week previously at Amsterdam airport, where a Palestinian diplomat carrying a Syrian passport was briefly detained.

The Dutch police, who were acting on a tip-off, brought him before a court where the magistrate accepted his story that he was unaware of the contents of his case. He told the court he had been handed the baggage containing the bombs at Damascus airport and asked to take it to South America.

Before the letter-bomb campaign began, Israeli intelligence spread the story that Leila Khaled had been in Amsterdam. The story was false. But shortly afterwards letter bombs began to arrive with Amsterdam postmarks at Jewish businesses and homes in Britain and elsewhere.

The letter-bomb campaign provided the pretext for the systematic and savage bombing attacks against Arab refugee camps in the Lebanon and Syria, killing a number of civilians. At the same time, a series of letter bombs and packages aimed at Palestinians in the Arab world have taken a lethal toll.

Beirut, October 25: A letter bomb blew up in the hands of a postman at Beirut Central Post Office.

Beirut, October 25: A secretary and a male office worker were injured when a letter bomb exploded in the office of an import-export company, whose directors include a Palestinian.

Tripoli, October 25: The PLO representative in Libya was blinded when a parcel bomb exploded in his face as he opened it outside the Central Post Office. He was Mustafa Awad Abu Zeid. Two people to whom he was talking at the time were also injured.

Algiers, October 25: A letter bomb exploded, seriously injuring the PLO representative, Mr Abu Khalil. He was taken to hospital.

Cairo, October 25: A parcel bomb addressed to a leading Palestinian spokesman, Abu Lutof who is a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Cairo, October 26: An Egyptian explosives expert was seriously wounded at Cairo International Airport when a parcel bomb exploded. It was one of two suspected parcels which had arrived from Yugoslavia, the country from which all the letter bombs had been posted.

Beirut, October 27: A letter bomb mailed to 'Al Hadaf', newspaper of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was detected and defused. In July, Ghassan Kanafani, editor of 'Al Hadaf' was assassinated. In August, Bassam Sharif, who was the new editor of 'Al Hadaf' was seriously injured and blinded after receiving a letter bomb.

Cairo, October 29: Another parcel bomb addressed to Abu Lutof was defused. Two letter bombs were also discovered, one addressed to the Fatah representative in Cairo, Hayil Abd al-Hamid, and the other to Jamal Arafat, brother of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Beirut, October 29: A parcel bomb was intercepted and defused. It was addressed to Mr Fathi Doar, a Palestinian businessman.

VIETNAM WAR SUPPLIER BECOMES NIXON'S BUDGET CHIEF

Demands are being made that the Nixon administration severs its huge military contracts with Litton Industries.

This follows President Nixon's decision to make the firm's chief executive the top budget manager in his new presidential team.

The appointee is Roy Ash, who has been named as the head of the Office of Management and Budget in the White House.

Since the US government launched its devastating military offensive in Vietnam in the early 1960s, Litton has been a principal supplier of war equipment.

Recently, however, there have been complaints about financial wastage and inefficiency.

MADE PUBLIC

The Joint Naval Ship Systems Command has just released 'an interim report' on work carried out by Litton at the Pascagoula shipyard in Missouri. The team made the audit between December 1971 and April 1972. It was completed on May 10 last year, but only now have its findings been made public.

Litton was to build nine Landing Helicopter Assault (LHA) ships for \$1.2 billion (\$133m each) under a contract signed with the Navy in 1968. But the contract is now running two years behind schedule. The Navy has trimmed the contract to call for only five LHAs which raises the price per ship to \$237m.

Litton is pressing additional claims to raise the cost per ship to \$294m, which more than doubles the original cost. The investigating team found that there were 'repetitive defects' in the construction and even 'a lack of adequate fire protection' in the yards.

A LESSON

Gordon Rule, director of procurement control for the Navy Materials Command, told a recent congressional hearing that Litton 'ought to be terminated for default'. He said: 'I think we ought to stop kidding around... If there is any lesson to be learned here, it's that the Navy got sold a bill of goods.'

Litton is now pressing the Navy for nearly \$500m in claims for price increases. And the men who will be examining this claim? Nixon's chief budget manager—Roy Ash, the boss of Litton.

Below: US President Nixon, who made Roy Ash, boss of Litton Industries, his chief budget manager.





BLACK AFRICAN DOCKERS DEFEY PO

A wave of industrial unrest among black workers in South Africa has shaken the racist regime of Balthazar Vorster.

The actions involved dockers, textile workers, Johannesburg doctors and miners. On the surface the disputes were over pay, but they also indicate a groundswell of opposition against the intolerable position of black labour in the apartheid republic.

Some observers consider that the unrest may herald the first big step by African labour towards a united class struggle with South African capitalism. As such it would have profound importance for the whole of the continent.

Seven major disputes took place in the latter part of 1972.

In Durban stevedores struck

for more pay and the abolition of compulsory overtime.

The rebellion quickly spread to Cape Town where dock workers launched an overtime ban.

Days later 500 workers at the Witwatersrand factory of Fibres, Spinner and Weavers stopped work in protest against a management attempt to extend working hours.

Then it was the turn of the doctors. They walked out in Johannesburg in protest against pay discrimination between them and white doctors.

The militancy spilled over into the mining industry. One of South Africa's largest mining groups, Johannesburg Consolidated Investments, was forced to increase the wages of 50,000 black workers. This is expected to have a ripple effect throughout the industry, which employs 500,000 black miners.

The fact that this movement

took less than two weeks to spread demonstrates the enormous pressure from South Africa's masses building up beneath the rotten white-supremacist regime.

But it was in the dock strike that the real potential of African trade unionism was revealed. Free trade unions for black workers are illegal. Strikes are also against the law. But despite these difficulties, increased by legalized terror from the police and the secret services, the black workers have built and maintained their organizations.

Conditions on the Durban and Cape Town docks are the same as those which prevailed in Britain during the most savage period of the Industrial Revolution in the west.

Wages are fixed by government-appointed boards and to safeguard themselves from starvation and utter poverty the black dockers have to put

in 70 and even 78 hours of dangerous and back-breaking toil each week.

Such a life reduces men to machines. The dockers live in appalling conditions, often separated from their families. Yet despite these deprivations they still have the strength to fight back.

Trouble broke out first at Durban. On October 23 over 2,350 stevedores failed to turn up for work and the busy port came to a standstill.

The men said their wages, approximately £4.25 a week, were far too low. They wanted a £5 increase.

They also demanded a reduction in the 12½-hour day and asked for one day off a week. Other demands included one for better living accommodation (many said they had to sleep on the floor), sick pay and information on what contributions were deducted from their wages.

The Durban Stevedoring Labour Supply Company, which monopolizes the docks, held a panic meeting.

At first W. F. Dreyer, the manager, attempted a soft approach and asked the men to wait until the publication of the wages board report on the industry.

This caused immediate uproar. The Board had been 'investigating' pay in the industry for over six months. The dockers distrust this government body anyway. Its activities have been largely responsible for the pitifully low wages on the South African waterfronts.

Black workers challenged Dreyer—how would he like to live and feed his family on their wages? How would he like to undergo the long, totally exhausting grind of overtime?

Eventually the velvet glove approach was abandoned by

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the company. The men were told bluntly that strikes were illegal. They had two choices: return to work, or get back to their homelands.

At the back of the meeting stood the rows of police to 'protect' dockers from being intimidated. But the provocation did not work—only 14 men decided to take the firm's advice and return to the interior.

The spirit of resistance soon spread to Cape Town. The employers there had decided to reduce the working day from 11½ to 10½ hours.

This meant that many dockers would be forced well below the poverty line and an overtime ban was launched.

After 5 p.m. the docks became silent as the black stevedores left for home instead of working out their shift until 8 p.m.

On the third day of the mass walk-outs, harbour

officials and employers began to get angry.

One explained the source of the frustration: 'We can do nothing as they are not striking. They are merely refusing to work a night stint—which is, in fact, voluntary overtime on their part. If they went on strike we would call in the police soon enough.'

The employers threatened 'drastic action', police began to appear at mass meetings and the usual scare stories of pickets intimidating other dockers began to appear in the Press.

Both these struggles and the widespread industrial unrest in South Africa are of great significance. The black workers are involved in a struggle similar to the one fought by the British working class under the Combination Laws during the early part of the 19th century.

Like the black dockers the

Black workers struggling to organize unions are met at every stage by intimidation from the state. Above: A police raid on a building site near Cape Town.

power of the state was used against the pioneer British trade unionists, whose activities were totally illegal. Industrial action by British workers meant repression and possible starvation.

But they fought on and built their unions.

There is one big difference however. The workers of South Africa have not had a century and a half to develop their movement, as did the British workers. Their fight for basic rights is an immediate revolutionary task—just as the task of defending basic democratic rights in Britain now poses revolution and workers' power. Hence the bitter fight of Durban dockers lives in the heart of the working-class struggle in Britain today.

PRISON LABOUR CAMPS

White farmers in South Africa are using prison labour on their land. The Africans are taken from their cells and made to work as slave labour.

The Minister of Prisons said recently that several thousand black male prisoners were being employed in this work.

They are hired out to white farmers or to their farming associations.

Farmers in various parts of the country have formed associations which provide capital for the erection of prison outposts, built according to departmental specifications. The outposts are administered by the department. Each farmer who has contributed capital for the buildings is entitled to a *pro rata* number of prisoners to work on his farm. There are 12 of these outposts in the western Cape.

According to an article entitled 'Crime and Employment' in the March 1972 issue of the 'South African Outlook', there are nine more in the Bethal and Middelburg districts of the Transvaal and one near Hennenman in the Free State.

The Cape Western office of the Institute of Race Relations states that the outposts in that region each house about 250 prisoners, 98 per cent of whom are serving sentences of two years or more. They are selected by the Prisons Department in accordance with 'their aptitudes', and may be encouraged to remain on the farms as 'free workers' after their discharge.

The article in the 'Outlook' estimated that convict labour increased the value of a Cape Western farm by at least £600 per convict. The Institute's office quoted 'Rapport' as having stated that a share in a prison outpost undertaking that was bought for £1,200 had recently been sold for £2,400.

The Minister said in his report to the Coloured Persons' Representative Council that the tariff charged by the state for the use of prison labour was, per worker, 15 cents on weekdays and 10 cents on Saturdays.

Besides this, the farmers had to provide watchmen to guard the men while working, transport to and from the prison, and the costs of the erection and maintenance of the building. Working hours must be such that the men are fetched

at 7 a.m. and arrive back at 5 p.m.

The total cost to the farmer is estimated by the Institute's office to be 40 cents a day per worker (including amortization of the capital costs).

According to the article in 'Outlook', the usual defence of the prison outpost system is that it provides useful work for the convicts, who often become skilled labourers. But this does not 'mitigate the fact that the net result is to depress wages of free labourers and to give private employers a vested interest in crime, for no matter how much they deplore lawlessness, farmers who have spent £29,000 building a jail will not willingly allow it to stand empty'.

A farm jail at De Doorns was closed a few years ago after protests from the United States that table grapes from this area were competing unfairly in America because they had been produced with the help of prison labour. Further pressure from abroad to have all the farm jails closed was reported, on the ground that the use of prison labour was a violation of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs.

The National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (NICRO), has advocated that the rates charged for prison labour should be brought into line with minimum wages in the open market.

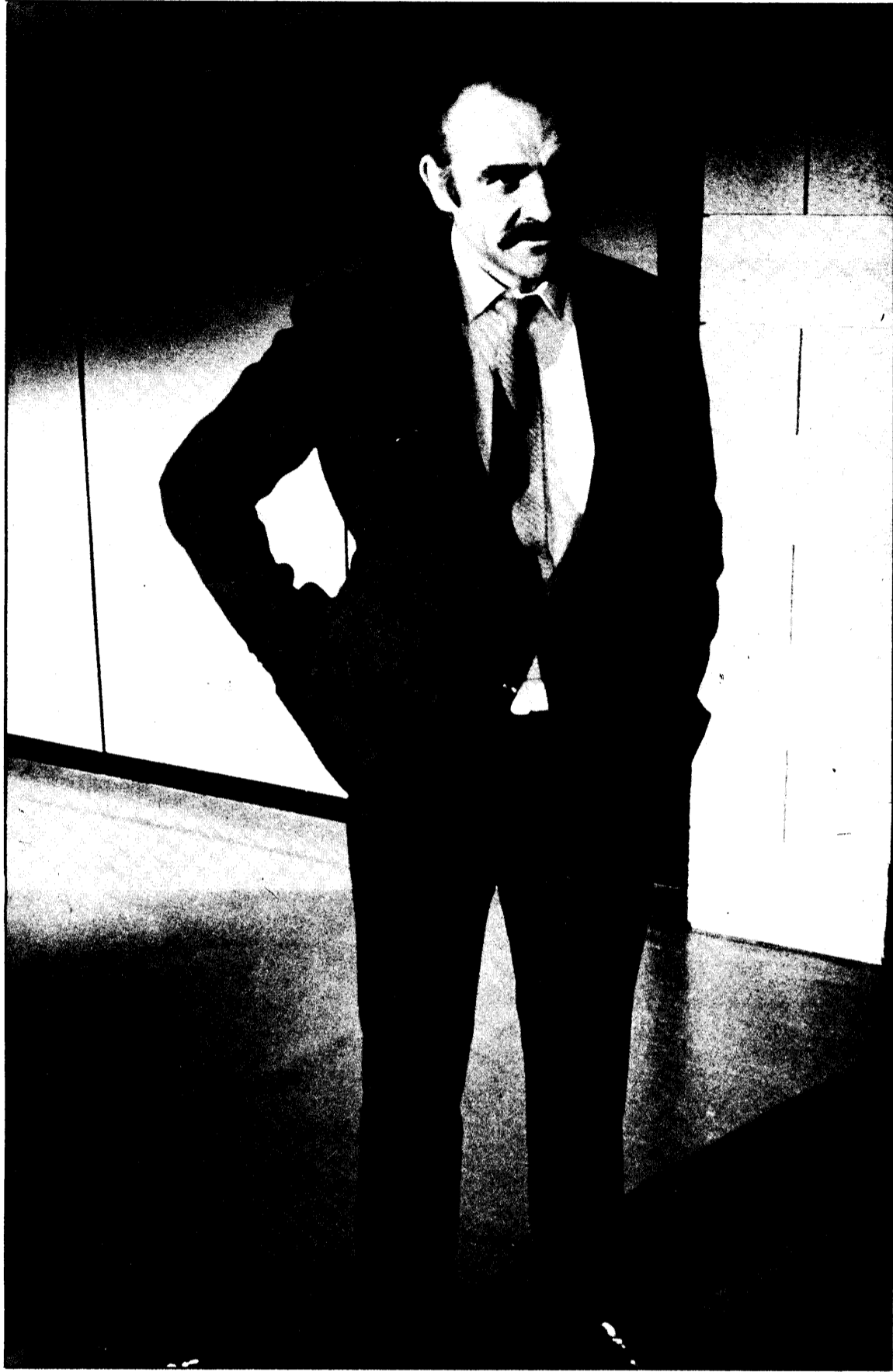
NICRO is reported to have written to the Minister of Prisons objecting to the subsidization of farmers by the hiring to them of prison labour at low rates.

The Cape Western office of the Institute of Race Relations states that when the De Doorns outpost was closed, the farmers formed a labour recruiting organization and ferried contract labour from the Transkei in open trucks, very much overcrowded, and 'virtually non-stop, rain or shine'.

The Institute's Regional Committee was anxious to see all the farm outposts closed, but was concerned lest the farmers affected should follow the example of those near De Doorns. This might mean that there would be at the very least another 3,000 migrants in the Western Cape.

In revealing the prison labour system the Institute has done a piece of valuable research. But it is the hallmark of the liberal that the result of this investigation is to suggest the most worthless 'remedies'. Liberalism has no answer to the smashing of the racist state.

THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED



APOLOGIES FOR ARNOT

TV REVIEW BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

'The Quiet Revolutionary: Robin Page Arnot'. BBC 2.

Most viewers of 'The Quiet Revolutionary' could be excused if they came away with a picture of its subject, Robin Page Arnot, as a rather sincere, gentle and humble socialist.

Nobody could have guessed that Page Arnot has for the last 50 years been one of the most determined and conscious apologists for the crimes of Stalinism in the British work-

ing-class movement.

For the programme deliberately stopped short in 1920 when Arnot joined the newly-established Communist Party of Great Britain—in order to bring about a better society,' as he told his interviewer, Jonathon Dimpleby.

So nothing was learned of Arnot's activities as a leading member of the Communist International during the years of the Stalin terror. It was as a member of the Presidium of the International Executive that Arnot, along with Harry Pollitt, put his name to the now-infamous resolution of

April 1, 1933, 'The Situation in Germany', the opening paragraph of which read as follows:

'Having heard Comrade Hekert's report of the political situation in Germany, the Presidium of the ECCI states that the political line and organizational policy of the Communist Party of Germany . . . up to the Hitlerite coup, and at the moment when it occurred was completely correct.'

It was this 'completely correct' Stalinist line which had asserted that social democracy had gone over to the camp of fascism and was in fact a more deadly enemy of the working class. As such it led to a tragic split within the German working-class movement which directly paved the way for Hitler's seizure of power.

Arnot, to this day, has never repudiated this counter-revolutionary line, either inside or outside the Party. But it did not prevent him from becoming, after 1936, an equally assiduous propagandist for the ultra-right Popular Front line

The outstanding feature of Sidney Lumet's 'The Offence' is that the screenplay was written by John Hopkins, author of several of the early 'Z Cars' scripts and of the famous quartet of plays, 'Talking to a Stranger'.

This script is based on another play, 'Something like the Truth'.

It concerns a Detective-Sergeant Johnson (Sean Connery), who has been stuck at that level for ten years, and his psychiatric breakdown when the accumulated horror of 20 years of dealing with crimes of violence becomes too much for him.

He is involved in a fairly routine case of child molestation. But, when a suspect is brought in, suffering himself from either drunkenness or some form of acute distress, Johnson immediately recognizes the man as the villain and, in a totally illegal investigation, ends up murdering him.

Johnson is then himself the victim, the subject of a new intense interrogation by a superior officer, Cartwright (Trevor Howard), which is almost as violent as the first with Baxter (Ian Bannen). Hopkins's real concern is the psychological roots of violence.

Though many critics have found this theme obscure, partly no doubt because of the ambiguity of the plot with its loose ends, it is clear enough. Hopkins is investigating the close, quasi-organic relationship between the hunter and the hunted, the hangman and the victim, the policeman and the criminal.

ISOLATION

What emerges clearly from this dense treatment is that the two are united in their need for help, both to receive help and to give it, and their need for someone to listen, to understand, to assuage, to comfort. It is a desolate, bleak vision of men in their isolation.

This theme is not only rammed home in the interrogation scene between Bannen and Connery; it is also painfully suggested in a much more subtle confrontation between Johnson and his wife (Vivien

Merchant), where the man's need to rid his mind of the 'pictures' of his violent past through help and consolation from his woman is counterposed by his knowledge in the guts that they are a million light years apart.

The reason why Connery knows his man is that they are much the same, prey to the same hurts and fantasies and desires, victims of pressures within and outside them they cannot control, particularly the dark, subterranean forces of the libido. Bannen could be the rapist, but, then, the film suggests, so could Connery.

At the same time, Hopkins's screenplay acknowledges that social and economic factors are also important, if not primary. Part of Johnson's violence is rooted in the fact that he hasn't made it, whereas Baxter has, and Cartwright snarls this fact into his face in the second interrogation.

EXTRAVAGANT

Within the film, then, there is a searing indictment of a cruel, violent society that alienates men from themselves and from each other. Unfortunately, however, Lumet's direction is so overblown and extravagantly mannered that the treatment of this dense cluster of themes becomes melodramatic.

Admittedly, Hopkins's own language doesn't help, with its descent every now and again into Jacobean-type hyperbole: 'Lines and shadows—marks on your immortal soul.'

But Lumet compounds this by a series of attention-seeking formalistic devices, like the use of jerky flashbacks or blinding white light or contorted camera-movements, that conflict horribly with the naturalistic opening (very 'Z Cars').

The melodramatic technique has an alienating effect. But this is not deliberately designed to allow the audience to concentrate on the themes or ideas. It is simply a grave fault in a film that otherwise has traces of a completely out-of-the-rut British movie that actually tries to come to grips with the violent contradictions of society.

It therefore fails, but it's still encouraging to see some attempt being made.

student of the Bible and an admirer of William Morris and George Bernard Shaw, the two greatest 'inspirations' in his life.

Before joining the Communist Party, Arnot was in fact employed by the Fabian Society. It is not without interest that Shaw, a founder and leading member of the reformist Fabian Society, later became, along with the Webbs in the 1930s, a prominent admirer of Stalin.

The early years of the Communist International—up to 1924—were dominated by a struggle against the tendencies which Arnot represented in the British working-class movement.

It was as a result of this struggle that the young Communist Party began to develop and mature. But it was a process which Stalinism cut short. Arnot became, along with all the Party leadership, a willing tool of Stalinism and a bitter opponent of Trotskyism. It is as such that we will remember the life of Robin Page Arnot, and not in the way this programme attempted to.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

WELL INFORMED

Things have never been the same in Liberia since the death of President Tubman, the dictator who ruled the country with the help of Almighty God.

Recently the Minister of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, Mr G. Henry Andrews, has had a little difficulty with his shopping. He warned the local traders in a letter to the 'Liberian Star':

'I wish to call attention to a grave situation facing us. On Wednesday, November 22, the anniversary of the death of Egyptian President Nasser, I discovered to my utter dismay that I could not buy a cosmetic set for my daughter's birthday. I tried next to buy a charm bracelet, but couldn't either. Next I went to get my clothes from the cleaner, again no luck. I tried the super-market for some groceries, no luck, then to the garage for my car, garage locked up.'

These were not like the days of the dictator whose regime



Ex-President Tubman

was described in a doggerel spoken all over Liberia:

'William Tub is a fountain of progress,
And of wealth unbounded,
and of happiness for all.
More regard to tribal people,
are the principle
Points of Interior Policy
Flowing from this tub with
accuracy.'

In fact Andrews is among that tiny minority of his countrymen who can afford such commodities. Beneath the idiot verse and glory, life in Liberia for the workers and peasants is hell.

In 'Africa Handbook' a journalist writes: 'Liberia for

all her democratic reforms, remains a virtual oligarchy. Corruption is possibly more deeply ingrained in the Liberian policy than anywhere else in west Africa.'

Note: Minister Andrews has since been removed from his post by President Tolbert.

ENCOURAGING

The fighting words of Dai Davies—sorry, SIR Dai Davies—secretary of the country's largest steel union, have been a great encouragement to his 6,000 members who are fighting a closure in Shotton, north Wales.

In his union journal, Davies virtually becomes a tribune for the British Steel Corporation which is planning 60,000 sackings over the next five years.

Davies writes: 'It cannot be denied by anyone familiar with the steel industry that large sections of it need bringing up to date.

'The open-hearth method of large-scale steelmaking [the process used at Shotton] for instance cannot much longer compete with the basic oxygen converter and, like the old puddling furnaces of the last century, will soon be obsolete.'

The key passage reads: 'While it may not be the primary function of a trade union to promote economic logic, to completely disregard it would be a betrayal of the many thousands of workers who will be employed in the modern steel industry of the future.'

The 'logic' Davies seems so keen on threatens Shotton with total economic and social destruction, since everything and everyone in the town depends on the steel works.

Davies began his full-time union career as an organizer at the Ebbw Vale works in south Wales—a works also threatened with devastation under the BSC plans.

He sits with employers on many committees, including the Iron and Steel Training Advisory Committee and the Construction Materials Group Economic Development Committee.

This lifetime of activity has won him a place on the TUC General Council. The greatest honour came at the New Year when he got a knighthood from the Queen.



BEHIND THE 'CONSTELLATION' REVOLT

US ROUND-UP

When crewmen recently refused to join their ship, the US aircraft carrier 'Constellation', it was made out that the main question was over racialism.

What was carefully obscured by the newspapers, however, was the fact that the revolt by black sailors had been supported by many white sailors.

The cover-up job was finally nailed by photographs of sailors standing on the pier facing the carrier and giving the clenched fist salute, which showed a number of white sailors joining in (above).

Troubles on board the carrier, which has a complement of 5,000 men, came to a head last week while the ship was still at sea on a training exercise.

When the ship docked 130 men were put ashore at North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego, California, in what the navy termed a 'temporary beach detachment'.

The move had followed hours of negotiations involving the captain, navy and minority affairs officers and attorneys representing the dissidents.

Sailors had accused the 'Constellation's' officers of 'calculated racism'.

The next day the captain ordered them back on board, saying he recognized the validity of their grievances. But the men refused to come back and sat down on the dockside.

Leroy Templeton, their spokesman, accused the navy of attempting to 'lure the men aboard in order to take reprisals' and added: 'We fear for our lives unless these matters are settled on shore.'

The men complained of un-

fair punishment for minor offences and of being given the most menial jobs.

On that basis they refused to go back to the 'Constellation' and were eventually re-assigned to three naval air stations.

It would be wrong to assume that because no disciplinary action was taken against the sailors that the Nixon administration has suddenly gone soft.

The unrest in the American armed forces, expressed vividly by the 'fragging' of officers in Vietnam, is deep-going and precedes an enormous upsurge in the class struggle in America itself.

Any attempt to impose discipline on a group of dissidents would probably spark off an unprecedented wave of mutinies and the like throughout the navy.

At this stage, at least, therefore, the government wants to keep some form of credible fighting force.

ELLSBERG TRIAL GOES ON

The Nixon regime—apart from its deep involvement in the Watergate bugging affair—is also trying to squash the two men who leaked the Pentagon papers on Vietnam to the world.

When the second trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo began recently in Los Angeles the judge made a good start by striking out a number of questions the defence wanted to ask prospective jurors.

The trial is seen as something of a test case to the President. The government delayed the first trial for four months and then dismissed the jury in December.

In Nixon's mind, no doubt, was the possibility of railroad-ing Ellsberg and Russo to prison in the aftermath of his landslide.

To protect itself, the defence had drawn up a list of 300 questions to be asked of potential jurors. But the judge eliminated questions regarding the juror's attitudes towards Congress and the public's right



Daniel Ellsberg

to know what the government was doing.

Also eliminated or modified by Judge Matt Byrne were more questions on jurors' attitudes towards student protest, authority, youth, the military and the war.

The mounting attacks launched by the government on the Press and television were also sharply revealed in the courtroom when the judge suggested that the Press table be removed.

STRIKES AHEAD AS CONTRACTS EXPIRE

British businessmen are warning each other that this year will see a number of major strikes by American workers.

The daily 'Journal of Commerce', which is read by most transport, shipping and exporting companies says the strikes will 'hamper commerce be-

tween the US and her major trading partners, such as Britain, Canada and Japan'.

A little nervous about trading prospects, the 'Journal' was quick to point out that contracts for 5 million workers expire in 1973.

'Making this year potentially more disastrous will be the simultaneous expiration of all major railway and road haulage contracts,' adds the 'Journal', holding its heart.

First of the major road haulage contracts expires late in March when 14,000 teamsters and 12,000 independent lorry drivers could tie up all haulage companies in the Mid-West.

Contracts between the rest of the industry and 450,000 other Teamsters will expire on June 30, the day before the contract between the railways and their 562,000 workers comes to an end.

'Making matters worse,' says the 'Journal', 'will be the simultaneous expiration — on June 1—of contracts between dockers and all Pacific Coast ports.'

April could see a shutdown of the entire rubber industry by 70,000 members of the United Rubber Workers' Union. The spring sees the ending of contracts with 150,000 electrical manufacturing workers.

Airline workers' contracts expire from the end of May until August. And the postal service could come to a halt on July 20 with a strike by 600,000 workers. Telegraph workers could be out on strike six days later when their contract expires.

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SATURDAY REGIONAL TV

BBC 1

10.00 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.30-10.55 Aventura. 11.00 Croesi' bont. 11.05 Weather. 11.30 The herbs. 11.45 Harlem globetrotters. 12.00 Desert crusader. 12.25 Grandstand. 12.35 Football preview. 12.55 World championship boxing. 1.05, 1.35, 2.05 Racing from Haydock Park. 1.25, 1.55 International boxing. 2.25, 3.40 Gymnastics. 4.35 International rugby union. 4.50 Final score. 5.05 Basil Brush. 5.35 News sport. Weather. 5.50 Dr Who.

6.15 **WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY.** The 101 Problems of Hercules.

6.55 **FILM: 'INVASION'.** Edward Judd, Yoko Tani, Valerie Glaron, Lyndon Brook, Tsai Chin, Eric Youn. Science fiction.

8.15 **CILLA.** Cilla Black with guest John Alderton and Cliff Richard sings the second song for Europe.

9.00 **A MAN CALLED IRONSIDE.** But When She Was Bad. 9.50 **NEWS.** Weather.

10.05 **MATCH OF THE DAY.** 11.05 **PARKINSON.** 12.05 **Weather.**

ITV

9.00 Jobs around the house. 9.30 Getting your money's worth. 9.55 Return to Peyton Place. 10.20 Sesame street. 11.20 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Osmonds. 12.00 Partridge family. 12.30 News. 12.35 World of sport. 12.40 On the ball. 1.05 International sports special. 1.20 ITV seven. 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Newcastle. 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Windsor. 3.10 International sports special. 3.50 Results, scores, news. 4.00 Wrestling. 4.50 Results service. 5.10 Black Beauty. 5.40 Sale of the century.

6.10 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

6.15 **FILM: 'KING KONG V GODZILLA'.** Michael Keith, James Yagi.

8.00 **A TOMMY STEELE SPECIAL.** Tommy Steele with The Norman Maen Dancers, The Peter Knight Orchestra, The Michael Sammes Singers.

9.00 **THE COMEDIANS.** 9.30 **THE VAL DOONICAN SHOW.** With Anita Harris, Bobby Crush, Trio Athenee, Johnny Hackett.

10.30 **NEWS FROM ITN.** 10.40 **RUSSELL HARTY PLUS.** 11.40 **DEAR LORD...**

11.45 **DEPARTMENT S.** The Pied Piper of Hambledown.

BBC 2

8.55-1.30 Open University. 3.00 Film: 'Men of Sherwood Forest'. Don Taylor. 4.15 Play away. 4.45 Inauguration of the President. 5.45 Pets and vets.

6.00 **MAN ALIVE.** 6.50 **WESTMINSTER.**

7.15 **NEWS AND SPORT.** Weather.

7.30 **RUGBY SPECIAL.** Wales v England and Ireland v New Zealand.

8.15 **WAR AND PEACE.** Of Life and Death.

9.00 **FULL HOUSE.** Including at 10.40 The Red Buddha Theatre.

11.15 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

11.20 **FILM: 'TOO LATE BLUES'.** Bobby Darin, Stella Stevens.

SUNDAY

BBC 1

9.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 9.30 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.00-10.25 Aventura. 10.30-11.30 Morning service. 11.35 Cut and thrust. 12.00 Handling materials. 12.25 Let's get going. 12.50 Farjing. 1.15 Made in Britain. 1.30 Parents and children. 1.55 News. Weather. 2.00 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 2.15 Story theatre. 2.35 Ask Aspel. 3.00 Blue Peter special assignment. 3.40 Cartoon. 3.50 Film: 'Hudson's Bay'. Paul Muni, Gene Tierney. A fur trapper wants to open up the Canadian north. 5.20 Woodstock.

6.05 **NEWS.** Weather. 6.15 **SUNDAY DEBATE.** Crime and Punishment.

6.45 **THE NEW BEGINNING.** 6.55 **APPEAL.**

7.00 **THE CHOICE IS YOURS.** 7.25 **THE BROTHERS.**

8.15 **FILM: 'CASABLANCA'.** Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman. One of the great romantic melodramas of Hollywood history.

9.55 **NEWS.** Weather. 10.10 **WHY CULTURE?** Omnibus inquiry.

11.10 **CROSSTALK.** Rt. Hon. Richard Crossman and Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson. 11.50 **Weather.**

ITV

9.30 Why I am a Christian. 10.05 Tomfoolery. 10.35 UFO. 11.30 Weekend world. 1.00 Thunderbirds. 1.50 Brian Connell interviews. 2.15 Big Match. 3.15 Persuaders. 4.10 Junior police five. 4.20 Golden shot. 5.10 Aquarius.

6.05 **NEWS FROM ITN.** 6.15 **ADAM SMITH.**

6.45 **CHILDREN OF THE VICARAGE.** 7.00 **SONGS THAT MATTER.**

7.25 **THE FENN STREET GANG.** Dyspomania On Sea.

7.55 **FILM: 'MURDERERS' ROW'.** Dan Martin, Karl Malden, Ann-Margret. Adventures of Matt Helm, secret agent.

9.50 **POLICE FIVE SPECIAL.** 10.00 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

10.15 **PLAY: 'SARAH'.** Richard Vernon, Ursula Howells, Pat Heywood, Mark Kingston, Kathleen Michael.

11.15 **OPEN NIGHT.** 12.05 **DEAR LORD...**

12.10 **DOCTOR IN CHARGE.** The Minister's Health.

BBC 2

8.55-1.30 Open University. 4.05 man at work. 4.30 Money at work. 5.30 Horizon.

6.20 **NEWS REVIEW.** 6.55 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.

7.00 **DOUBTS AND CERTAINTIES.**

7.25 **AMERICA.** The Promise Fulfilled and the Promise Broken.

8.15 **THEY SOLD A MILLION.** The Young Generation and Vince Hill.

9.00 **SOME MATTERS OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE.**

9.30 **THE VIEW FROM DANIEL PIKE.** None So Blind. 10.20 **UP SUNDAY.**

10.45 **FILM: 'THE INFORMER'.** John Ford film with Victor McLaglen, Heather Angel, Preston Foster. 12.10 **NEWS.** Weather.

CHANNEL: 11.40 Bonanza. 12.30 London. 5.10 Tarzan. 6.10 London. 6.15 Sale of the century. 6.45 Film: 'The War Lover'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Spyforce. 12.25 Weather.

WESTWARD as Channel: 9.55 Jobs around the house. 10.20 Getting your money's worth. 10.45 Woobinda. 11.10 Cartoon. 11.35 Gus Honeybun. 12.20 Faith for life. 12.25 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 Jobs around the house. 9.40 Getting your money's worth. 10.10 All our yesterdays. 10.35 Stingray. 11.05 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Cowboy in Africa. 12.27 Weather. 12.30 London. 5.10 Tarzan. 6.10 London. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Tommy Steele. 7.45 Film: 'Carry On Cruising'. 9.30 London. 10.45 Film: 'Longstreet'. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.00 London. 9.55 All our yesterdays. 10.20 Cartoon. 10.30 Once upon a time. 10.45 Grasshopper island. 11.00 Sesame street. 12.00 Joe 90. 12.30 London. 5.10 UFO. 6.10 London. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'Hell Bent for Glory'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Name of the game. 12.45 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 5.10 It's all in life. 5.40-6.10 Sion a sian.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.15 Jobs around the house. 9.40 Getting your money's worth. 10.10 Place in the country. 10.40 Thunderbirds. 11.35 Jackson Five. 12.00 Skippy. 12.05 London. 5.15 It takes a thief. 6.10 London. 6.15 Doctor at large. 6.45 Film: 'The Dangerous Days of Kiowa Jones'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Gordon Bailey. 11.35 Film: 'You're My Everything'.

ULSTER: 10.30 Sesame street. 11.30 Thunderbirds. 12.30 London. 5.10 Sports. 5.40 Merrie melodies. 6.10 London. 6.15 Beverly hillbillies. 6.45 Film: 'Fantastic Voyage'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Kreskin.

YORKSHIRE: 9.15 Skilful rugby. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Film: 'The Disorderly Orderly'. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'The Gazebo'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 Longstreet. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Place in the country. 12.00 To see ourselves. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.15 Jobs around the house. 9.40 Getting your money's worth. 10.10 You and your golf. 10.40 Sesame street. 11.40 Kick off. 12.05 Arthur. 12.30 London. 5.10 Man from Uncle. 6.10 London. 6.15 Tommy Steele. 7.15 Film: 'Nevada Smith'. 9.25 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Boris Karloff presents.

TYNE TEES: 9.15 Wild life theatre. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Who dun it? 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'Cowboy'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 Longstreet. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 FBI. 12.25 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.15 Jobs around the house. 9.40 Getting your money's worth. 10.10 Tomfoolery. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Dave Cash. 11.30 Sky hawks. 12.35 London. 5.15 Bonanza. 6.10 London. 6.15 Sky's the limit. 6.45 Beverly hillbillies. 7.15 Champions. 8.10 Film: 'Georgy Girl'. 10.30 London. 10.40 Val Doonican. 11.40 Late call. 11.45 O'Hara U treasury. **GRAMPIAN:** 11.15 Jackson five. 11.45 Ron and friends. 12.30 London. 5.15 UFO. 6.10 London. 6.20 Tommy Steele. 7.20 Turnbull's finest half hour. 7.45 Theatre. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 Longstreet. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 O'Hara.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.30-1.00 London. 2.13 Weather. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Go To Blazes'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 6.59 News. 7.00 London. 7.55 Film: 'Robbery'. 10.00 London. 12.05 Epilogue. Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 London. 10.05 Follow that star. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 10.55 Gus Honeybun. 11.00 Tomfoolery. 1.00 Talking hands. 1.15 Branded. 1.45 Acres for profit. 1.55 Farm and country news. 12.05 Faith for life. 12.10 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 Talking hands. 9.30 London. 10.00 Guideline. 10.30 Farm progress. 10.57 Weather. 11.00 World War I. 11.30 London. 1.00 Superman. 1.20 Primus. 1.50 Jimmy Stewart. 2.15 London. 3.15 Turnbull. 3.45 Golden shot. 4.35 Aquarius. 5.30 News. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Our Mother's House'. 10.00 London. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 10.05 Follow that star. 10.35 Farming diary. 11.00 A place in the country. 11.30 London. 1.00 Survival. 1.30 Drive in. 2.00 Cartoon. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'The Ghost Train'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Return to Peyton Place'. 10.00 London. 12.00 Weather.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 10.00 Follow that star. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 Citizens' rights. 11.30 London. 1.00 Champions. 2.00 Soccer. 3.00 Film: 'Crash Dive'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Major Dundee'. 10.00 London.

ULSTER: 11.30 London. 1.00 Getting your money's worth. 1.30 Jobs around the house. 1.55 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Battle Taxi'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Gigi'. 10.00 London.

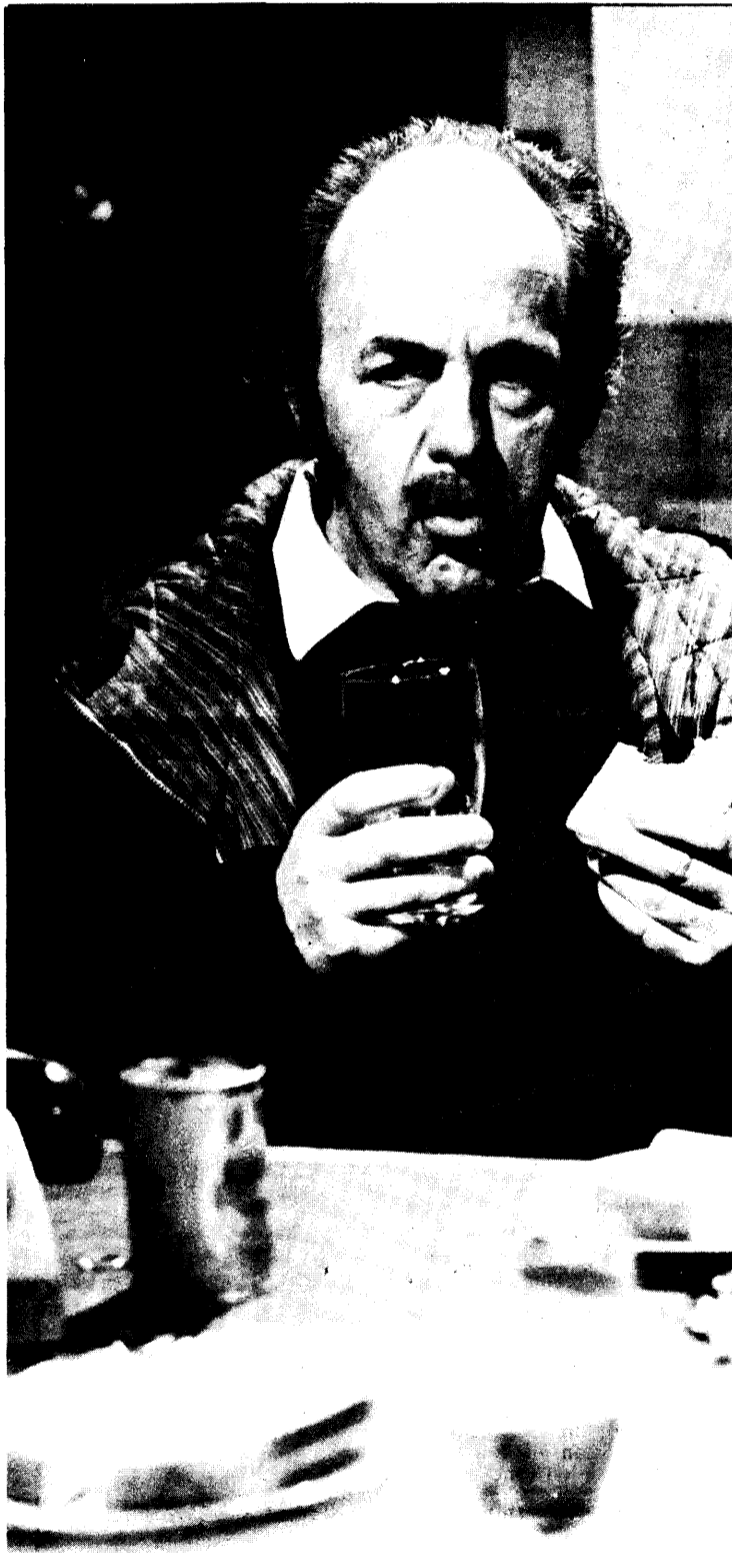
YORKSHIRE: 9.20 Chess. 9.30 London. 10.05 Follow that star. 10.30 Golf. 11.00 Hogan's heroes. 11.30 London. 1.00 Farming outlook. 1.25 Calendar. 1.55 Soccer. 2.50 Film: 'The Bells of St Mary's'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Murderers' Row'. 10.00 London. 12.05 Shirley's world. 12.35 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 10.00 Bush boy. 10.35 Untamed world. 11.00 Time to remember. 11.30 London. 12.55 Saint. 1.50 Jackson five. 2.20 Football. 3.20 Film: 'But I Don't Want to Get Married'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Hill'. 10.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.00 Saints alive. 10.30 You and your golf. 11.00 Doctor in charge. 11.30 London. 1.00 Farming outlook. 1.25 World War I. 1.50 Where the jobs are. 1.55 Big match. 2.55 Film: 'Heller in Pink Tights'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Roman Spring of Mrs Stone'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Challenge. 12.05 Dr Simon Locke. 12.35 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 10.00 World War I. 10.30 Women only. 11.00 Place in the country. 11.30 London. 1.00 Randall and Hopkirk. 2.00 Sport. 3.25 Theatre of stars. 4.25 Golden shot. 5.15 Aquarius. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Mobsters'. 10.00 London. 12.05 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Farm progress. 11.30 London. 1.00 Getting your money's worth. 1.30 Jobs around the house. 2.00 Sport. 3.25 Film: 'Tarzan's Savage Fury'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Sands of the Kalahari'. 10.00 London. 12.05 Living and growing.



Derek Benfield plays Bill Riley in 'Wheel and Deal', the second episode of BBC 1's new series of 'The Brothers', about a family haulage company.

An appeal on behalf of the Fine Tubes strikers of Plymouth

THE Plymouth Fine Tubes strikers have just completed two years and seven months on strike.

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.

These latest months have been the hardest of all for the men, their wives and 53

children. Common Market entry, with rapidly rising prices, has imposed a severe financial burden. The 37 strikers face the challenging months ahead with a depleted strike fund—this is in a period when meat has now become a luxury for all but the highest paid. 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 Workers 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.

TUC-CBI body to hear first case



Peter Kavanagh (in raincoat) joined a builders' demonstration soon after ending his nine-day perch on a crane (see below)

CP 'crane man' goes to arbitration

THE COMMUNIST Party is collaborating with the fraudulent and reactionary arbitration service set up by the Confederation of British Industry and the TUC. A leading CP member in the building industry, Mr Peter Kavanagh, is expected to give evidence before the tribunal and an ex-CP member, Mr Will Paynter, former mineworkers' union secretary, is one of the so-called independent arbitrators.

On January 31 the arbitration scheme will hear its first case — which concerns the building site at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen's Square, London.

This was a site where the Stalinists' Charter group had prominent positions.

The dispute began when Go-Fix Steelfixing Company, a subcontractor on the site, ceased trading on May 5 last year.

Immediately all the company's workers on the site were dismissed. Among them was Kavanagh.

In protest against dismissal Kavanagh staged a nine-day sit-in in a crane.

The chief site contractors, Y. J. Lovell, obtained a High Court trespass order against the 'crane man' banning him from the site.

Lawyers for the company said that once the order had been legally served they would apply to have Kavanagh committed to prison if he did not comply.

Kavanagh eventually came down and the issue was temporarily lost in the three-month builders' strike.

While this strike was in progress, the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians' general secretary, George Smith, was in feverish behind-the-scenes talks as TUC chairman with the CBI about establishing an 'independent' arbitration service.

The talks proceeded apace because Smith and his colleagues were anxious to avoid their dispute being referred to the



National Industrial Relations Court which would have sparked off a massive confrontation with the Tories.

In the strike's closing stages it was rumoured that Smith might recommend that the dispute be referred to the 'independent' arbitration he had helped to create.

Yesterday the CBI sent a circular to the Press proudly announcing that the joint service had snared its first case.

And it is to be between Y. J. Lovell (London) Limited and the National Federation of Building Trade Employers on one hand and UCATT and the Transport and General Workers' Union on the other.

The issue to be settled is 'whether the continuing responsibility of Lovell's as main contractors includes a responsibility

to ensure that an opportunity for further employment on the site is offered to the steelfixers who were discharged by the subcontractors, Go-Fix Steelfixing'.

The Press release says that 'the hearing will be private and no further statement will be issued until the outcome of the arbitration is known'.

The service cannot be brought into disputes unless there is consent from both parties; and the CBI says that its Mr W. O. Campbell Adamson and the TUC's Mr Victor Feather have given their consent.

The 'independent' arbitrators also make interesting reading. They are Paynter and Mr Dan Flanders, a director of Dunlop Limited, which has recently merged with Pirelli of Italy in the biggest yet Euro-merger.

The TUC set up the service as an 'alternative' to the NIRC and the Commission on Industrial Relations. The CBI readily agreed because it knows the service can only work to its advantage. If the 'voluntary' service fails, the employers always have Sir John Donaldson waiting in the wings.

In the long-term the TUC-CBI machinery has dangers.

Feather and Opposition leader Mr Harold Wilson have in mind to repeal the Industrial Relations Act because the labour movement will insist that it should be. But in its place they will elevate the TUC-CBI body with new legislation.

By co-operating with this new body the CP is giving credibility to a voluntary scheme which may shortly come back with the sharpest teeth.

The TUC-CBI body is a fraud. A dangerous one.

Heavy strike tally against NIRC fines

THE FORD Motor Company plant at Southampton may be closed on Monday by a strike against the fines on the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

At a meeting yesterday it was decided by 75 votes to 59 to stage a strike on the day shift. The night shift decision will be known this morning.

The Southampton factory, which employs several thousand workers, makes lorry bodies.

Engineering workers in Essex are to stage a mass lobby of parliament next Tuesday afternoon against the Tories' pay laws and the Industrial Relations Act.

The lobby has been called by the south Essex district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

In a notice to all members, district secretary, J. H. Mitchell has urged shop stewards to call shop and factory gate

meetings to obtain the maximum support for the lobby.

The lobby will also be joined by other district committees in the London area.

The £61,000 in fines and costs against the AUEW has hit industry heavily.

This is the tally of strikes since Sir John Donaldson imposed the fines:

December 18—Oxford, London, Dagenham, Sheffield, Portsmouth.

December 20—West Midlands, Merseyside, Manchester, Dundee, Bristol and 10,000 London dockers.

January 1—Leeds, west Yorkshire.

January 2—Swindon.

January 5—South Wales, Cardiff, Swansea.

January 8—Tyneside, Wearside and south Wales.

January 19—Merseyside dockers and carworkers.

So far about 300,000 engineers have taken part in one-day strikes causing disruption to industry worth thousands of pounds.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign
Support the Engineers

CONISBOROUGH: Monday January 22, 7.30 p.m. 'The Castle Inn'. 'How can workers fight the Tory offensive?'

ACTON: Tuesday January 23, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Street, W3.

SOUTHALL: Tuesday January 23, 8 p.m. The Library, Osterley Park Road.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday January 23, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Market Square, Crisp Street Market, E.14.

LEICESTER: Wednesday January 24, 8 p.m. Queen's Hotel, Rutland Street.

FELTHAM: Thursday January 25, 7.30 p.m. The Co-op Hall, Bath Road (near the Bell Pub), Hounslow.

MIDDLETON: Thursday January 25, 7.30 p.m. 'The Cardinal's Hat', Wood Street, Middleton. 'Stop Rising Prices. Force the Tories Out.'

WILLESDEN: Thursday January 25, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Road, NW10.

LEEDS: Thursday, January 25, 8 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane. 'The state pay plan'.

MIDDLESBROUGH: Sunday January 28, 7.30 p.m. Settlement Community Centre, Newport Road.

ROCHESTER: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue.

BARKING: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, corner of Fanshawe Ave./Lagbridge Road.

HARROW: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Harrow and Wealdstone.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4.

WANDSWORTH: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Tooting Broadway, SW17.

KINGSTON: Thursday February 1, 8 p.m. 'Liverpool Arms', (corner of Cambridge Road/London Road).

CAMBRIDGE: Thursday February 1, 8 p.m. 'The Rose and Crown', corner of Newmarket Road and East Road.

I would like information about

THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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

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.....

THE TORIES are eager to legislate their state pay control White Paper. It will be introduced into the Commons on Monday.

The second reading of the Bill has been arranged for January 29.

The government also intends to begin soon its consultations with the CBI and the TUC on steps towards the third phase of its attacks on wages when the proposed Phase Two comes to an end in the Autumn.

BRITISH RAIL officials will meet the Railway unions on Monday to continue discussions on a proposed £9.25 rise for 27,000 train drivers.

Locomotion's present basic is £30.75. They are proposing an immediate rise to £40 per week and then to £50 in a year.

After the ASLEF executive had voted 6-3 against immediate industrial action, secretary Ray Buckton said they would wait for the outcome of Monday's talks before deciding what action to take.

The other railway unions—the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport and Salaried Staffs Association—are committed by last year's conferences

to pursue claims for £8 increases.

THE 220,000-strong Civil and Public Servants Association has 'violently condemned' Phase Two which 'deprives civil and public servants of the pay increases to which they are entitled'.

The union is to hold a series of nationwide rallies.

Its executive has appealed to other civil service unions to co-operate in joint industrial action and has asked for the co-operation of other public service unions in opposition to the wage control policy.

A resolution calling for an immediate strike was only narrowly defeated on the executive.

The Civil Servants' Asso-

Pressure PAY on Phase Two

ciation—with 60,000 members—is to continue its fight for a 20 per cent increase to bring its members up to the level of their counterparts in commerce and industry.

HULL docks stewards have called a meeting of the city's 2,300 dockers on Monday to discuss their 25-per-cent wage claim and plans for fighting the government's wages policy.

TROUBLE is also likely among schoolteachers, especially in London.

A national pay claim totalling £170m would be slashed to £52m under Phase Two and that would include the London allowance claim.

A National Union of Teachers' spokesman said it was 'highly likely' that

London teachers would take further strike action.

ON MONDAY 1,000 shipbuilding workers at the Vosper-Thornycroft yard at Woolston, Southampton, will hold a 24-hour strike against the government's measures.

OTHER workers in the front line include the Ford workers who are demanding a £10 rise from March 1—the government's legislation would limit this to £2.50 with no further rise for at least 12 months.

THE BUILDERS' second stage rise of £3 to £3.60 due on June 25 also contravenes the government's limit, as does the 8 per cent increase due to be paid to national newspaper printing workers later in the year.

THE BALLOT of 250,000 hospital ancillary workers on various forms of strike action is still going on. Their claim is for a £4-a-week rise.

SEVERAL thousand T&GWU lorry drivers have demanded a £10 rise and 20,000 British-Leyland, Cowley, workers are claiming rises of £5.80 to £7.

ELECTRICAL contracting stewards in London have called a 24-hour strike on February 2 over the non-implementation of wage increases due on January 1.

AND THE miners, whose strike last year brought the government to the verge of collapse, are again in the fight with a wage demand in the region of £7 a week.

JANUARY
FUND
REACHES
£690.27

WE STILL need £1,059.73 by the end of January. More than ever before, a special effort is needed as we are still some way from reaching half our £1,750 target.

This weekend is the time to change it. Help us raise as much as possible to pull our target right up.

Thanks to the unstinting financial support from our readers, Workers Press is prepared for the fight ahead. Our paper, alone, warned right from the start that the Tory attack was no 'wage freeze' but a corporatist dictatorial onslaught against the working class.

Keep Workers Press right out in front with our Fund. If possible, try and add something more yourself. Post all donations immediately to:

Workers Press
January Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London, SW4 7UG

Biscuit PRICES and bread prices up?

CONSUMER ROUND-UP BY OUR OWN REPORTERS

THE GREAT prices hike continues with permission from the Tories already given for staggering increases in raw materials and rises planned for bread, biscuits and sweets.

And an announcement is expected shortly that the big oil companies want a 3p a gallon increase.

Certainly the biggest blow being aimed at the working class by big business comes from the four companies who between them dominate the bread and biscuit industries.

Both Rank Hovis McDougall and Associated British Foods want to put up the price of a large loaf by 1½p in May.

It is claimed that increased wages costs are the reason for 1p or two-thirds of the required increase in the cost of a loaf.

RHM chairman, millionaire Joseph Rank, blames the 'terrific upheaval in the wheat trade' for the other ½p increase—making a total of 1½p in May.

This 'upheaval' had 'affected flour prices'. So higher bread

prices could not be avoided, said Rank.

Provisions are made in the Phase Two proposed legislation for increases such as the ones demanded by the two companies.

Two companies who between them control nearly 60 per cent of the biscuit and cake industry want to raise prices 5 per cent.

They are United Biscuits, with a 38-per-cent share in the market, and Associated Biscuit Manufacturers, with a 21 per cent stake.

Any price hikes would cover the full range of their goods, including many brands of cakes.

Confectionery monopoly Cadbury Schweppes has also informed the Tories of the need for higher prices.

Government officials have sanctioned another five increases in the prices of raw materials, including a staggering 17-per-cent jump in hand knitted wools.

Packing cases will soon be 9 per cent dearer and 7 per cent is being added to the price of pallets. Cabinet furniture has 1.25 per cent added to its selling price.

Auditor RENTS besieged at Conisborough

FROM PHILIP WADE OUR HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

ANGRY TENANTS besieged the district auditor when he visited Conisborough, Yorkshire, yesterday to find out who was responsible for the non-implementation of the 'fair rents' Act.

Over 100 packed the tiny council offices in this small town near Doncaster and shouted 'Tories Out!' and 'Hands Off Conisborough!' Many posters and placards were brought into the room.

Repeated requests to keep quiet were ignored during the 90-minute hearing. Television cameras were thrown out by the auditor.

Conisborough Labour council refuses to put up the rents of its 1,600 tenants. £14,000 is estimated to be missing from the housing revenue account.

Nine of the councillors were asked to explain why the loss had been incurred and to answer charges of negligence and misconduct.

Their solicitor, Mr Barrington

Black, told the auditor: 'We are not preventing or hindering the government in doing its dirty work. But this council is not going to do the dirty work for them.'

His request for a month's adjournment 'in the light of what happened at Clay Cross' was turned down and the auditor said another hearing would take place in two weeks.

Terry Wilde, acting secretary of the local Rossington tenants' association told Workers Press:

'These measures are just part of the exploitation of the working class. They are trying even to take away free negotiations. People must become politically aware of what's going on.'

Percy Riley, a local National Union of Mineworkers' branch official and secretary of the joint miners'-tenants' action committee added: 'We need to involve the tenants as part of the general struggle to get the Tories out.'

Several Clay Cross councillors—surcharged £6,985 the day before—were at Conisborough to offer their support.

Mersey march

THOUSANDS of north Wales steelworkers marched with Merseyside engineers, builders and council workers through Liverpool yesterday in a massive joint demonstration against the Tory government.

Chanting 'Heath Out!' 'Workers' Control In!' they turned a protest against the £61,000 fines and costs taken from the engineers' union into a solidarity action against the Tories' record on every issue.

Gerry Russell, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' Union district organizer, claimed that 40,000 engineers had stopped work against the fines.

Delegations on the march came from all the Merseyside car factories—Vauxhall's, Ford's, and Standard Triumph. Production was affected at all three by the action.

Luke McLoughlin, chairman of the Shotton Workers' Action Committee, said 40 coachloads had come from the closure-threatened steel plant. Many others had come by car and bus.

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UNITE IN ACTION TO DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

FROM PAGE 1

workers just what is the meaning of the wholesale destruction of rights carried out through Tory legislation in the past two years.

The future of every party and political tendency based on the working class is inseparably tied to the successful preservation of basic democratic rights. The attack on these rights is part of the ruling-class strategy to ultimately legalize and suppress every form of political representation of the working class.

Today every attack against the unions is followed or preceded by a witch-hunt against left-wing groups by the Press, TV and government. Soon provocation will be heaped upon cummly to create the conditions to arrest, to detain without trial and to jail militant trade unionists, socialists and communists.

Recent events in Ulster and Dublin and the political trials of 1972 show unmistakably that the Tories are prepared to use the secret police and intelligence forces to infiltrate and create provocations on a massive scale.

As the economic crisis worsens and the trade unions—particularly in the most militant sectors such as car manufacturing—begin to fight the state pay laws, the Tory government will not hesitate to employ, at a certain stage, the same counter-revolutionary techniques against the militants in these industries.

They will attack these militants regardless of their political opinions and affilia-

tions. The sole purpose of such a campaign would be to intimidate and confuse backward workers and stampede the middle class into voting Tory in a snap election. The Tories would then hope to come back with extensive police-state measures under the guise of preserving 'law and order' and safeguarding the 'consumer', the 'small man' from the 'saboteurs' of the 'nation'.

The Socialist Labour League pledges to defend unreservedly all such victims of Tory provocation whether they belong to the Labour Party, Communist Party, International Socialists or International Marxist Group. However, the most effective answer to this counter-revolutionary strategy of the Tories is the maximum unity of all working-class political groups in a combined defence of democratic rights. This sinister Tory strategy can and must be defeated.

We are prepared to discuss with all working-class political groups and parties to support this struggle now. Only by fighting within the context of these policies can our rights be defended and the Tories decisively smashed.

To face these dangers, to turn defence of living standards and basic rights into attack to bring down the Tory government, means to unite the working class in struggle to force the governments resignation.

The TUC and the Labour leaders will fight tooth and nail against this. The TUC's Victor Feather has talked and collaborated with the Tories at every stage of their preparation and will always do

so. Wilson only asks for more 'effective' policies against inflation, and intends to use the Tories' legislation himself in future. He has openly advised the working class to obey the new laws once they are enacted.

These men fear the mass movement a thousand times more than they fear the Tories and their plans for dictatorship. The Tories' attack on basic democratic rights cannot be answered by appeals to justice or by trying to refurbish the capitalist parliamentary democracy.

The Tory Party and the state represent the capitalist class and its interests, and these interests require exactly what Heath is doing, dispensing with democracy.

The only defence of democratic rights today is the struggle of the working class as an independent force to end Tory rule and implement socialist policies against the continuation of capitalism.

Decisive in this struggle is the building of a leadership with the programme to mobilize the whole class in action to create the conditions for the Tory government to resign. A Labour government, pledged to socialist policies, must replace it, in order for the working class finally to settle accounts with its rotten reformist leadership and go forward to workers' power and socialism.

The Socialist Labour League has launched a nationwide campaign in defence of democratic rights through such a programme, culminating in the rally and pageant of working-class struggle for

democratic rights at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 11.

Between now and March 11 we call upon all workers to sign the Manifesto for transforming the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party, build the All Trades Unions Alliance and the SLL, expand the circulation of Workers Press, and ensure that thousands from every area attend the Wembley pageant. There the historic struggle of the working class to win its basic democratic rights will be brought to life before more than 10,000 workers, housewives and youth.

● Defend basic democratic rights, the right to strike, the right to picket, the right to black, the right to organize.

● No halt in the wages fight. Demand the right to a decent standard of living.

● Recall the TUC. No collaboration with the Tories.

● Mobilize the mass political and industrial strength of the working class to force the Tories out of office.

● Recall the Labour Party conference. Prepare a socialist programme of action to deal with the crisis.

● Expose in action the right-wing traitors in the TUC and Labour Party who refuse to mobilize against the Tories and won't fight for socialist policies.

● Build Councils of Action in all areas. Join the Socialist Labour League and take forward its transformation into the revolutionary party.

January 19, 1973