

PRESS CHIEFS MEET HEATH

PHASE TWO REVOLT IS PLAYED DOWN

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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That is why there has been such a deafening silence in the capitalist Press over the past week about the collision course between the hospital workers, the Ford workers, miners, civil servants, gasmen and the government.

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They were told solemnly that the economic crisis was so severe that if the legal machinery failed, Britain faced financial ruin.

To ride out the political and economic storm, it was essential for the Press barons to play down trade union opposition to the pay laws.

Accordingly, some industrial correspondents were summoned by their editors for unprecedented interviews. The order was that news was to be 'managed' and the growing wave of resistance to the £1 plus 4 per cent wage ceiling was to be toned down—and kept off the front pages.

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Resignation

Another leading personality linked with the case, Mr T. Dan Smith, Harold Wilson's choice as head of the Northern Economic Planning Council, resigned as a director of Tyne Tees Television last Friday. His surprise resignation came as the IBA decision was taken and on the eve of today's reopening of the Poulson inquiry at Wakefield County Court.

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the Border', a film on the Irish struggle, was stopped by the IBA without the board having even seen it!

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This sharp crisis in liberal opinion is now expressing itself in the Labour and Industrial Correspondents' Group on the issue of political discrimination against David Maude of Workers Press.

It has come to light that government Ministers regard the group as a 'club' at the disposal of the government. If the members do decide to let David Maude in, then the government will no longer use it for its own

political purposes because it fears that Workers Press will 'expose it'.

The stripping away of the last veil of deception has forced a number of industrial journalists to face up to the fact that they are part of an unprincipled and outrageous conspiracy.

Exposed

All those who fought in the group to keep out Workers Press—the right-wing Stalinist clique—have been completely exposed.

The biggest Tory papers have already given indications that they will break up the lobby rather than see Workers Press admitted and 'The Times' men have started asking for their subscriptions back.

Derry massacre march in London

ABOUT 3,500 people marched from St Paul's Cathedral to Camden Town Hall in London yesterday to commemorate the Derry Massacre on January 30 last year when 13 people were shot dead. Provisional and Official Sinn Fein members and supporters of the Anti-Internment League provided the bulk of the demonstration. ● DERRY MARCH—See back page.



How

Hitler

came to
power



Forty years ago tomorrow, January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler became the Fuehrer of Germany. On our centre pages tomorrow and Wednesday Tom Kemp looks at the reasons for the fascists' rise to power.

SHAKE-OUT
IN STEEL



50,000 jobs are to be 'axed' in the steel industry in the most massive and ruthless manpower shake-out since the Tory government came to power. Why? Which plants will close? How will the steelmen fight back? IAN YEATS has been to the major steel-making centres in England, Scotland and Wales to find out. He begins his reports on THURSDAY

BE SURE OF YOUR WORKERS PRESS EVERY DAY. EITHER FILL IN THE SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 10 OR RING CIRCULATION 01-822 7029

workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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Welders test Govan 'no-strike' deal

WELDERS' shop stewards will try to extend the week-old Govan Shipbuilders' unofficial strike at a mass meeting in Glasgow today.

The strike has already hit production at the company's Govan and Linthouse divisions and a further 200 welders from Scotstoun yard will attend today's rally to decide whether to walk-out in solidarity with their colleagues.

Yesterday a spokesman for Govan Shipbuilders, the company formed from the remnants of the bankrupt Upper Clyde Shipbuilders consortium, warned that a prolonged stoppage might lead to government intervention.

'It all depends on the way this dispute develops,' he said.

'If the men decide to stay out and if the strike goes on for a long time, the government must be involved.'

One of the conditions for government financial support of the company was a guarantee that there would be no 'unconstitutional' disputes in the yards.

Laid off

Because of the strike a total of 547 men have been laid-off. This total will escalate rapidly if the dispute continues this week. The welders have already rejected pleas from local Boilermakers' Society officials to go back to allow negotiations to take place.

The trouble has been caused by a management bid to introduce

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

a special type of welding machine. Welders are demanding special payments for using the new equipment—talks on the issue have been going on for five years, but agreement has never been reached because of the series of financial crises in the yards.

The dispute, however, is being seen as the first big test of a procedure agreement at Govan Shipbuilders which outlaws unofficial strikes.

The Boilermakers were reluctant to sign this deal and only agreed to it after management made some concessions and after intense pressure from the Stalinist-controlled shop-stewards' co-

ordinating committee which led the UCS work-in.

The unions pledged to 'ensure no impediment to the efficient utilization of manpower, methods and equipment, so that any practices incompatible with this objective would rapidly be eliminated.'

Another section commits the unions to avoiding what is described as 'unconstitutional action'—unofficial strikes—while a grievance is still in procedure.

No sanctions

But unlike the agreement at Marathon Manufacturing—the US company which bought the Clydebank division of UCS—there are no concrete sanctions for applying these clauses.

At Marathon a system of binding arbitration has been agreed and this is re-inforced by management's power to deny six months' bonus to workers who engage in prolonged unofficial strike action.

Behind the dispute is the enormous productivity drive in Govan. Shipbuilding consultants estimated before the government backed the company that productivity would have to be pushed up by 120 per cent. Work-study teams have been in the yards ever since.

So far the main Stalinist spokesmen have been silent over the dispute—which is understandable since they are now the main guardians of the two deals. The CP's 'Morning Star' has also failed to cover this important industrial dispute on the Clyde.

Walker's US trip paves way for Heath

ANGLO-American talks in Washington on trade questions were 'certainly encouraging', according to Tory Minister of Trade Peter Walker, who led the British delegation.

Walker's visit is a preliminary to a summit meeting between President Nixon and Prime Minister Edward Heath, who is due to visit Washington shortly.

Walker conferred with, among others, Treasury Secretary George Shultz, presidential trade adviser Peter Flanigan and trade negotiator William Eberle.

He said the purpose of his visit was to exchange ideas during the formative stages of European Common Market and US attitudes to world trade reform.

International negotiations will begin within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in September.

In March both sides will discuss the issue of compensation to the United States for Common Market enlargement.

With the signing of the Vietnam ceasefire agreement there is speculation in Washington that Nixon may revise his decision not to visit Europe this year and may now personally launch 'the year of Europe'.

The US is also renewing demands for reduction of Japan's trade surplus, currently running at \$4,000m for trade with the US.

Eberle is due in Tokyo on February 7 for the second time in less than a year to read the Riot Act to the Japanese government.

Wilson denies back-room bugging at Chequers

THE LABOUR government concealed a US agent at Chequers during top secret negotiations on Indo-China between Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Soviet premier Alexei Kosygin, an American general said in Los Angeles on Friday.

Brig-General Paul Gorman, testifying in the Pentagon Papers trial, said the spying incident was recorded in four previously unpublished volumes of documents, known as the 'Negotiations Volumes'.

These, he said, provided 'documentary evidence



WILSON

from a high American source' that US agent Chester Cooper, an assistant to W. Averell Harriman, sat in a back room while the British and Soviet leaders talked and even

worked on drafts that were submitted to the two leaders.

Gorman also said the British had tapped a telephone call on Vietnam between Kosygin and Leonid Brezhnev, leader of the Soviet Communist Party.

He said the British had operated 'hand-in-glove' with the United States throughout Kosygin's visit.

The revelations were indignantly denied by former premier Harold Wilson, who claimed that the story reported to the Los Angeles court was a 'totally incorrect version' of what actually happened.

But the Labour leader made no attempt to explain what had happened during the February 1967 Kosygin visit.

Wilson claimed after the talks in a statement to parliament that the summit meeting had created an 'intricate mechanism leading to peace' in Vietnam.

But he also made it clear that there were 'deeply-held differences' between himself and Kosygin.

The Labour government's fawning attempts to justify the American war effort in Vietnam became a by-word.

They culminated in Wilson's visit to Washington in February 1968 where he

expressed full support for the US President's 'San Antonio' formula.

This offered a bombing pause, provided North Vietnam was prepared to negotiate seriously and not 'take advantage' of the cessation of bombing.

During this period the Communist Party Stalinists were urging Wilson to 'speak for Britain' in Washington.

The Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists correctly campaigned for his visit to be called off, as its sole purpose was to prepare new attacks on the Vietnamese revolution.

Viet battles rage

BITTER fighting raged across South Vietnam yesterday, despite the official ceasefire. The bloodiest battles were leading to Saigon as the Thieu regime tried to keep open its lines of communication with the provinces.

There was also heavy fighting around the city of Tay Ninh, where Saigon claims the Provisional revolutionary government wants to establish its capital.

North Vietnam, however, declared that the war was completely ended and said it would seriously and scrupulously adhere to all provisions of the Paris peace agreement.

From the behaviour of the Saigon delegates at the Paris signing ceremony at the weekend, it appears

that the Thieu regime is deeply dissatisfied with the deal.

They complained formally after the signing ceremony to the French government and extracted a formal apology for the presence of demonstrators outside the International Conference centre where the signing took place.

Within South Vietnam the departure of the US forces will leave the Saigon dictatorship in an untenable position.

This regime is entirely dependent on war hand-outs from the US and cannot long withstand the popular movement which is certain to erupt following the ceasefire.

In neighbouring Cambodia, Thieu's fellow-dictator, Lon Nol, has declared that offensive operations against the liberation forces will cease.

But Prince Norodom

Sihanouk, who heads the liberation forces, declared in Peking that the war in Cambodia would continue until Lon Nol and his regime were finally defeated.

The Pentagon is still dreaming of using Cambodia and Laos as a means of hitting at the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam.

Reportedly it has plans to pay over \$400m a year to keep Phnom Penh government in power in order to launch operations against the NLF's Cambodian bases.

It remains to be seen whether these schemes ever get beyond the planning stage.

In any event, once out of South Vietnam, US imperialism has suffered a decisive set-back in Indo-China and will be unable to maintain its puppets for long.

Turkish trial no bar to 'friendship'

SOVIET Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko is expected to visit Turkey soon to press for a treaty of friendship and non-aggression between the two countries, an Ankara Foreign Ministry source revealed at the weekend.

Last April, the military regime turned down similar proposals made during an official visit by Soviet president Nikolai Podgorny. The source said the Turkish Foreign Ministry was studying the new proposal, but added:

'It is not too early to say that such a treaty would appear untimely both from internal and international points of view.'

Gromyko had wanted to

visit Turkey in March, but the Ankara government had suggested April, the source said.

The international obstacles to a friendship treaty referred to include the Turks' membership of NATO, which is currently entering complex European security negotiations with the USSR, and the other East European countries.

Internally, Turkey is an extremely anti-communist military dictatorship. On Saturday in Ankara a military prosecutor asked for prison sentences of 20 years for former law professor Dogu Perincek and 28 other defendants at a mass court-martial of 188 left-wingers.

Dr Perincek, son of a conservative politician, is accused of having been founder and chairman of an underground party allegedly dedicated to overthrowing the existing social and economic order.

The prosecutor asked for 15 years' imprisonment for 126 of the accused, 12 years for another 27 and five years for the remaining six.

They are accused of being members of the Turkish Revolutionary Workers' and Peasants' Party.

According to the High Command of the Istanbul Martial Law Area, the Revolutionary Workers and Peasants' Party 'claimed to be the true heir of the banned Turkish Communist Party and aimed to extend its network over the country'.

East Germans try to justify their diplomatic deal with Spain

BY JUAN GARCIA

DIPLOMATIC relations set up between Franco's Spain and East Germany have met with considerable working-class opposition.

The official Stalinist Press has been devoting some attention to explaining how diplomatic ties are possible with a regime which came to power through an anti-communist crusade in which fascist generals were supplied with troops, arms and aircraft by both Hitler and Mussolini.

The youth newspaper, 'Jungle Welt', said in a reply to a reader's letter last week: 'The

establishment of diplomatic relations between states is no mutual declaration of love, and does not mean that existing objective differences, even anti-these, will be overlooked in the future.'

It was in the interests of peaceful co-existence to promote normal relations, even with states with opposing social systems, it said.

The pro-Franco campaign received a further boost from Ernst-Otto Schwabe, chief editor of the foreign affairs weekly 'Horizont', whose article was published in all the East German national dailies.

He concluded his apologia with the cynical dictum: 'A purposeful foreign policy cannot just be based on emotions, understandable as this might be in particular instances.'

The new friendship was graphically portrayed in the Socialist Unity (Communist) Party daily paper—it published a report of the new diplomatic link with a photograph of General Franco. A mild, potted biography described him as 'the son of a naval officer'.

An accompanying background article simply said at one point 'in connection with the Civil War (1936-1939), the Spanish people experienced difficult years'.

Workers and youth throughout eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are still taught that Franco is a 'fascist dictator' and that he destroyed bourgeois democracy in Spain.

Many workers and intellectuals fought in the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War for the policy of the Popular Front.

The Ernst Thaelmann Brigade from Germany lost many lives in the fighting in the University City in Madrid.

Some were luckier . . . four East German Ministers and two Politburo members fought in Spain and lived to be able to wine and dine with fascist diplomats.

BUILDING MILITANTS ATTACK FINES

Twelve building workers' pickets have been ordered to pay a total of £600 in fines following an incident in Lancashire during last year's bitter building strike.

They also have to pay costs and witnesses' expenses amounting to £200.

When sentencing the 12 men the presiding magistrate at Wigan Borough Magistrates' Court, Mr John Shannon, said: 'We want to assure you that we have imposed the penalties on the men in the court. We have not, in any way, considered the union.'

The men were charged with offences alleged to have occurred outside M. A. Peters in Soho Street, Wigan, between September 4 and 5 last year.

Among those fined was Mike Farley, chairman of the Wigan action committee during the strike.

In a statement to Workers Press Farley said: 'Most of the arrested men were originally charged only with obstructing the highway. It was nearly three weeks later, when the men were asked to come to the police station, that the threatening behaviour and obstructing police charges were made.'

'I see this, and the heavy fines, as part of an attempt by the Tories to isolate picketing workers from the rest of the trade union movement. With the rapid increase in food prices and the TUC's connivance with the Tories' wage freeze, workers will be forced more and more to take strike action and picket to defend their standard of living.'

'It must be made quite clear to workers that the Tory government has to smash the organizations of the workers before they can solve the crisis of British capitalism.'

'The ruling class hopes that by the use of mass arrests and big fines, such as those given to the Wigan builders, they can frighten workers from taking action in the future.'

Another of the fined men, Thomas Cummings (32), a labourer, said: 'The arrests and large fines imposed on us are all part of the government's drive to attack the working class and keep down wages. Workers Press now and during the builders' strike is the only paper to explain this attack and to try and organize the working class to fight back.'

Farley was fined a total of £54.30 while Cummings' fines amounted to £105 plus £19.30 costs.

The men have written to their unions—the Transport and General Workers' Union and UCATT—asking them to pay the fines.

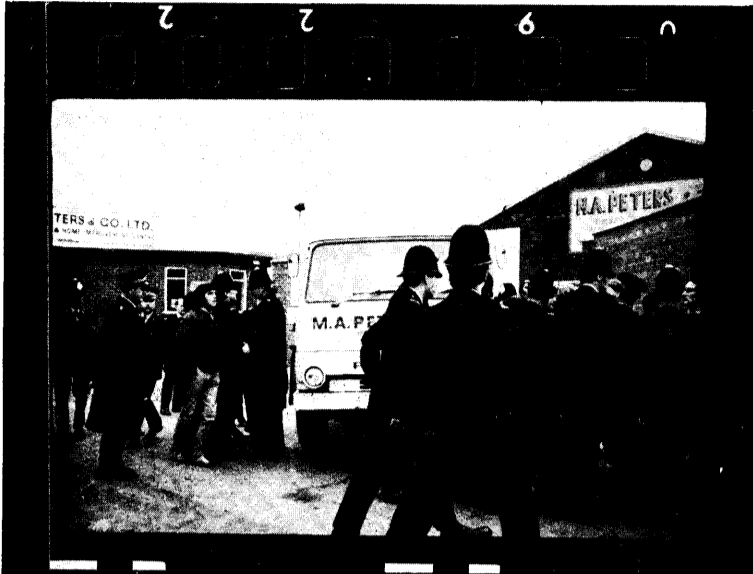
Two other men will be brought to trial on February 8 over the same incident.

These were the fines imposed by the three Wigan magistrates when the 12 appeared on January 19:

Labourer Michael Farley (31) was fined £15 for obstructing a free passage and £20 for obstructing a policeman. He was ordered to pay £15 costs and £4.30 expenses.

Thomas Cummings (32), a labourer, was fined £15 for obstructing a free passage, £20 for obstructing a policeman, £50 for using threatening behaviour, £20 for a further offence of obstructing a policeman. He has to pay £15 costs and £4.30 expenses.

David Berry (22), a joiner, and Kenneth Sell (27) each



KODAK TRI X PAN



This sequence of three photographs shows the actual incident which led to the 12 men being arraigned in Wigan Borough Court on a variety of serious charges. Seconds after taking the pictures, the photographer himself was arrested.

was fined £15 for obstructing free passage and £10 for obstructing a police officer.

They were each ordered to pay £15 costs and £4.30 witness expenses.

Labourer Thomas Topping (26), now living in Carlisle, was fined £15 for obstructing free passage, £15 for obstructing a police officer and was ordered to pay £20 costs.

Labourer William Hitchen (39) was fined £30 for the two obstruction offences and ordered to pay £15 costs and £4.30 expenses.

Plant operator James Harrison (35) and Frank Comerford, (24), a bricklayer, were each fined £15 for obstructing a free passage, £20 for obstructing a policeman and £30 for using threatening behaviour. They were each ordered to pay £20 costs.

Bricklayer Thomas Fletcher

(23), was fined the same amounts for the same offences as Harrison and Comerford. He was ordered to pay £15 costs and £4.30 expenses.

Stanley Wildman (23), a joiner, was also fined £65 for the three offences and also £10 for assaulting a police officer. He was ordered to pay £20 costs plus a doctor's fee of £4.20.

Joiner Edward Jones (29) was fined £15 for obstructing a free passage, £20 for obstructing a policeman, £30 for using threatening behaviour and £5 for using obscene language. He had to pay £15 costs and £4.30 witness expenses.

Labourer Francis Barker (30), was fined £15 for obstructing free passage and £20 for obstructing a police officer. He had to pay costs of £20.

STRIKES THE PRESS IGNORED

The capitalist Press has deliberately tried to belittle the massive wave of indignation among engineers following the £61,000 fines on their union.

At one stage there were headline stories that the right wing intended to recall the national council and reverse the union's policy of non-cooperation with the Industrial Relations Act and its notorious court. No such thing took place.

And when the Coventry district committee decided not to call local action, the Press again had a field day. Stories appeared that the strike movement was crumbling and that engineers were not happy with the union's stand.

Last week, however, the first figures appeared showing the scale of the strike wave. In reply to a parliamentary question, the Minister of State (Employment), Mr Robin Chichester-Clark, said 230,000 working days had been lost in December by engineers on strike against the fines.

This does not take into account the strikes which have continued into this month.

Nor does the capitalist Press make prominence of the resolutions just published for the AUEW national committee meeting in April. The preliminary agenda reveals that as many as 17 of the union's 26

divisions support the official boycott policy.

The tone of these resolutions not only indicates maintenance of the present policy, but there are also calls for national strike action should the NIRC again impose swingeing fines.

For the employers, the cost of the fines has been enormous. Workers Press has compiled a table of the strike wave with the appropriate number of men involved.

This does not include the large number of other trade unionists who came out in sympathy or were laid off:

December 18—London, British-Leyland at Oxford, Ford at Dagenham, Sheffield, Portsmouth	100,000
December 19—Slough	7,000
December 20 — Merseyside, Manchester, Midlands, Enfield, Chatham, Dundee, Bristol, Southall plus 10,000 dockers	250,000
January 1—Leeds and Swindon	8,000
January 2—Swindon	8,000
January 5 — South Wales, Swansea and Cardiff	13,000
January 8 — Tyneside, Wearside, East Glamorgan, Bathgate in Scotland	68,000
January 15 — South Midlands including Vauxhall at Luton	50,000
January 19 — Merseyside car workers, and Shotton steelworkers joined engineers	40,000
TOTAL	544,000

WAKE-UP!

I say to the TUC—Wake up! The way to show our disapproval of the Tory White Paper is for the working class to show them that they are NOT ON!

We must demand a General Election, organize rallies and a General Strike.

Let us show Heath and his government we will not accept a dictatorship government.

Let us also show the Tory government that we will not let them destroy what we have worked for since the trade union movement began.

If we do not fight for our rights now, Heath will know he can get away with anything and then we shall no longer be the working class but the dole class.

Fight for your rights.

A. P. Livell,
Todmorden, Lancashire.

Dear Editor,

The Tory government has taken away the rights of the working class of Britain by:

- Taking away the right to strike.
- Taking away the right to organize a strike.
- Taking away the right to negotiate reasonable wage increases.

Has the trade union movement let them get away with it? Yes.

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MAN CONVICTED FOR PROTEST FIRE

Allegations of Rachmanism were made in a Salford court last week. John William Keeley (29), an unemployed labourer, started a fire in a house where he and his wife rented a flat to draw attention to the deplorable conditions he lived in.

In court his solicitor said there was human excrement in the basement and drunks and vagrants slept in the hallway and landings.

Keeley's flat is on the second floor. He has been trying for two years to get repairs done with no success. There is no lock on the front door of the flats and there is no electricity in the hallway or on the stairs.

Mr Keeley claims that the health department has done nothing about the human sewage in the basement.

He also told the court that two men recently visited his flat, gave him two days' notice to get out as they had taken over the lease and threatened

violence against his wife if the police or rent tribunal were informed.

On November 28 one of the men came again and told the Keeleys to get out in seven days 'or else'. He turned off the power supply in the flat. The Keeleys used to pay £6.50 a week for their flat, but after a visit to a rent tribunal it was reduced to £5.

After the electricity board and the health department had told him they could do nothing, Mr Keeley set fire to an empty flat in the house and called the police.

Mr Keeley was given a six months prison sentence suspended for two years. He faces a bill for damages of £100 and a £140 electricity bill because after the fire it was discovered that there had been some cross-wiring.

He is about to go to a rehabilitation centre in the hope of learning skills which will enable him to get a job.

The chairman of the bench said he sympathized with Keeley, 'but he knew he was breaking the law by setting fire to the flat'.



TORY RENT ACT TAKES ITS TOLL

Those who went along with the Tory Housing Finance Act are belatedly discovering the real venom contained in this measure.

The Tories and their allies in the labour movement—the present leadership of the Labour Party—managed to 'sell' the 'fair rents' legislation to the public.

Tenants were lulled into a false sense of security about the increase. They were told that rebate schemes would help to claw back the higher charges.

It is now patently obvious, however, that the Act is what Workers Press said it was—a legal instrument to attack municipal housing.

The experiences of Robert Pryor, committee member of the Rossendale Tenants' Association in Ramsbottom, Lancashire, are worth recording. Mr Pryor has just written to the local newspaper saying:

May I give a run-down on what the Ramsbottom UDC did to the rents since December 1971. They increased all rents by £1. After protests by residents, it was reduced by 50p in April 1972 then increased again by 54p in October 1972.

All this was done in order to straighten the Housing Revenue Account for the 1972 Housing Finance Act, which, by law, must commence a new financial year with a balanced account.

Due to a re-assessment by the council, which, by the way, is not final, we are now faced with an increase in April of £1.30, for a three-bedroomed house, which brings the net rent to £4.30. The net rent in December 1971 was £2.03 which is an increase of 127

per cent. The same proportion applies to two-bedroomed houses.

Without any further rate increase in April, this will bring the total rent to £5.60 for three-bedroomed houses and slightly less for two-bedroomed houses.

Supplementary benefits cannot fill this gap, as the total income, going into the average home is higher than the tabulated lists set out, and in any case, people already on supplementary benefits will, in some cases that have been investigated, be worse off by 10p to 20p.

May I also point out that the majority of these houses, having been built with inferior materials, i.e. the outside bricks are extremely porous which allows dampness to percolate into the houses, causing falling plaster and peeling wallpaper.

Above: Merthyr tenants on a march to protest against the Tory Housing Finance Act.

Also the window frames and woodwork appear to have been manufactured from what can only be described as box wood, ply wood etc.

Mr Pryor's conclusion from all this is to ask for a 'thorough survey' and a rent re-assessment.

This indicates the degree to which illusions are still rampant about the Tories' intentions.

The Tories are deliberately responsible for raising rents. It's part of their whole strategy—allowing prices to rise, holding down wages—to impoverish the working class.

And don't go to the Tories to complain about building standards. Some of their most powerful financial backers are in the building industry.



STATE PAY LAWS HITS PENSIONS

People due to retire during the next five years could find that their occupation pensions have been cut because of the state pay laws.

The 45,000-strong Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators said yesterday that some expected pensions could be reduced by several pounds a week.

The institute said that in many pension schemes the amount due to be paid when someone retired was a proportion of the amount earned over a specified period or in a particular year before retirement.

If Phase Two stopped the person having a rise, it would also reduce the rate of pension to which he was subsequently entitled.

As an example, someone whose pension was due to be two-thirds of his pay during 1973 might well, under normal circumstances, have been due for a rise of £300 a year on January 1. This would have added £200 a year to his pension throughout retirement. But Phase Two would stop the rise—and thus make him £200 a year worse off for the whole of his pensionable life.

TEST MARKETS FOR KESP

Rocketing beef prices have given a boost to sales of Courtauld's synthetic meat produced at a Coventry pilot plant. A heavy increase in demand is reported in the north-west where test marketing began.

A similar reception is expected when the food—Kesp—is launched in the Midlands next week by the Coventry-based wholesaler Vincent Sorge.

Mr John Lissaman, sales manager of Vincent Sorge, says that with real minced beef at 50p a lb, Kesp had an 'undoubted advantage' at 24p a lb.

It is significant that the company is beginning its sales drive by inviting representatives of industrial catering concerns, hospitals and school meal services to meetings next week and not housewives.

It was recently revealed in Yorkshire that some children were being served meat substitute in their school dinners without either themselves or their parents being aware of it.

SECOND RENT RISE

Most of Stockport's 11,000 tenants face a steep rent increase for the second time within a year. The increases will be in addition to the 66p all-round rise which was introduced as the first phase of the 'fair rents' Act only four months ago.

The new increases, which come into effect in October, will mean 1,600 tenants will be paying 75p above their present rent, 750 tenants between 51p and 75p more than at present, and a further 6,300 tenants paying up to 50p more.

Cllr James Vesey, deputy-chairman of the Labour-controlled Housing Committee said the increases 'in no way imply an agreement, wholly or in part, with the Housing Finance Act'.

Cllr Arthur Bradbury declared: 'We have abandoned our responsibilities to the tenants.'

BOOKS



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NIXON'S MAN HITS OUT AT EUROPE

Economic and political tension between the United States and Europe is rapidly increasing as a result of the monetary crisis and trade war sparked by President Nixon's measures of August 15, 1971.

The US balance of payments continues to slip deeper into the red despite the 13-month-old Smithsonian currency realignment agreement — now honoured mainly in the breach.

Attention is turning to the series of talks between the main capitalist economic powers on trade and monetary questions scheduled for this year.

The Americans have already made it clear they attach great importance to these negotiations, particularly to the Group of 20 discussions on so-called monetary reform and to the trade talks which begin soon with the Common Market and Japan.

The outgoing US Commerce Secretary, Peter Peterson, who played a key part in negotiating the sweeping trade deal with Moscow last autumn, spoke to businessmen in New York recently about the implications of the trade negotiations.

Peterson is one of the inner circle of Nixon's troubleshooters and is due to travel to Europe and Japan later this year as the President's special envoy on international economic and trade affairs.

He spoke of the forthcoming talks as 'extraordinarily important and indeed sensitive' and stressed that the administration was working hard to elaborate a strategy for dealing with the Europeans.

Peterson spoke of the strong feeling on both sides of the Atlantic that the old relations

between Europe and America were deteriorating. 'Some of our allies,' he said, 'have been as heedless of our sensibilities as we may have been of theirs'.

In particular, the Common Market countries were so pre-occupied with enlarging their community that 'they have countenanced the spread of preferential agreements to an extent which far exceeds the expectations which underlay our original policy of support for an expanded community,' he said.

All the spleen of US capitalism and its hostility to the European bourgeoisie emerged in Peterson's speech. His reference to preferential agreements is aimed at the EEC's Mediterranean policy and its recently negotiated special arrangements with the countries of the European Free Trade Area.

American capitalism considers that the Common Market's trade arrangements with the countries of Europe, the near east and Africa cut US goods out of markets which are vital to American exporters.

The accusation is thrown back in their face by EEC enthusiasts, who cite the Moscow - Washington trade deal and the non-tariff barriers of the United States as examples of US restrictive practices hampering their trade.

For all Peterson's talk of 'strengthening the indispensable old bonds' between Europe and America, he made it very clear the Nixon administration will give the Common Market no leeway in the forthcoming talks.

'The Common Market, conceived as a positive step toward economic growth, has adopted more and more the character of an economic perimeter. It is a small but



Outgoing US Commerce Secretary, Peter Peterson—key role in trade deal with Moscow. Right: Nixon.

dangerous step from the perception that you share a common bond with one or more countries to the easy but fallacious concomitant that recognition of the bond can take the form of disregard for interests shared with those outside the group,' he said.

He warned that the current state of US-European relations threatened 'loss of our sense of common purpose' and 'could easily stimulate increasing bitterness and pressure for unilateral, increasingly isolationist and, I believe, self-destructive confrontations'.

Peterson attacked the prevailing approach to trade negotiations, which he described as 'a quota for a quota and a tariff for a tariff'—indicating the degree of mutual suspicion and hostility between the two sides.

He called instead for what he termed a 'total relationship' based on the conception that all aspects of economic

relations—'Trade concessions, monetary adjustments, military support, foreign aid and technological know-how'—should be included as negotiating items.

This idea has already been advanced by spokesmen for US imperialism and it has received a less than lukewarm reception from their European counterparts. The reason is that the Peterson proposal is simply a threadbare cover for the predatory ambitions of his own class.

The American employers are not interested in currency realignment, trade agreements and military burden-sharing as things-in-themselves. For them these are items all of which can be used to force European capitalism to shoulder the burden of world economic crisis.

Peterson even produced a specimen agenda for talks embracing all these questions. And, in case the message has

been lost on his audience, he delivered himself of the following belligerent passage:

'The situation we face is one of exceptional challenge. If we ignore it, we could drift further away from our European partners. The nature of this sort of drift is insidiously imperceptible. It is all too easy to arrive at an undesired destination without having noticed passing of tell-tale way stations.'

'Wars are rarely planned. Countries drift into them. Similarly, economic confrontations are rarely brought on by design. No one intended that the tariff wars in the 1930s take place, yet that happened and a devastating effect on world trade was not corrected until World War II.'

Better than anything else in Peterson's speech, this passage indicates the kind of thinking in Nixon's hierarchy as the President prepares to receive Tory premier Edward Heath at the beginning of next month.

URUGUAYANS WHO MIGHT BE DANGEROUS

The Uruguayan government of Juan Maria Bordaberry is seeking to 'consolidate peace' by passing a law against 'potentially dangerous people'.

The Bill defines a 'state of dangerousness to the legal order' which would make it possible to jail suspects for as long as five years.

The guilty men would not be tried nor would they be entitled to defence: it would be enough for them to be accused of belonging to a subversive organization or of having supported the actions of such an organization.

The Bill also includes a section on 'preventive arrest', which authorizes military judges to prolong interrogation and solitary confinement of prisoners for 30 days.

Bordaberry is not intending to rely on laws alone in his repression of opposition.

This year's budget devotes a quarter of all expenditure to the Ministries of Defence and the Interior. Education and Public Health will receive just 6 per cent of the budget.

The preparation is thus made to confront the Uruguayan working class which will be forced into struggle against the cutting of its standard of living by monthly price increases of 10 per cent.

The Uruguayan Communist Party, the crucial factor in the Uruguayan trade union federation, counters Bordaberry by maintaining its 'Broad Democratic alliance' with the Christian Democrats.



CEAUSESCU WARNS OF CLOSURES

A warning that unprofitable factories might have to be closed down was given by President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania at a local conference of the Communist Party in Iasi County.

This is the first time that the President himself has made such a threat. He urged that factories should be modernized and skills improved and that the quality of goods for export should be improved.

Ceausescu has been on tour in the provinces and laying special stress on the need for more effort to achieve plan targets. At one place he walked for several kilometres through the main street, to the apparent astonishment of the crowd.

FRENCH CP ATTACKS VIETNAM DEMONSTRATORS

The French Communist Party's daily 'L'Humanité' (January 22) carried a bitter attack on the left-wing demonstration against the Vietnam war held in Paris on January 20.

It claims that there was some sinister purpose behind the demonstration, which resulted in violent clashes with the police and 700 arrests. 'It can easily be seen,' writes the paper, 'what benefit the government can obtain from incidents of this sort six weeks from the elections. It is nothing new for it to use disorder to its own profit'.

It refers to the coverage that the demonstrations received on TV and in the press and speaks of 'the same scenario as in May 1968'.

Once again, with elections near, the Communist Party is falling over backwards to appear as 'the party of order' so as not to frighten its coalition partners. It virtually solidarizes itself with the police, whilst insinuating that the whole thing was a provocation of the government.

Unfortunately, 'L'Humanité' asks why the demonstrators should have waited so long, when Hanoi was being bombarded some time ago. Unfortunately, because the British Communist Party's demonstration, under the slogan 'Nixon, Sign Now', was held on the same day as the one in Paris organized by the leftists.



Heath, Hailsham, Carr and Barber are always going on about 'the rule of law'. Those who break the Tory 'rule of law'— strikers, pickets and now workers who want a decent wage packet—are branded as 'criminals'.

Workers Press has been examining the concept of 'British justice' as practised by the Tory government since it seized direct rule in Northern Ireland. In particular, we have been looking at the new courts set up to review the cases of internees in Long Kesh.

These courts are of a similar type which Hitler instituted in Germany. Witnesses need not only not give their names, they give their evidence from behind a curtain. In most cases the accused never hears all the evidence against him—or even the charges!

The introduction of the courts took a parliamentary form increasingly used by the Tories. The courts came into operation on November 7 on an order of council under the Temporary Provisions Act (which established direct rule). But although the courts were operating early in November, the debate authorizing their use didn't occur until December 11, more than a month later.

Mr William van Straubenzee, the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, said the new courts constituted 'a fair system to deal with the situation'.

Speaking for the Labour Opposition, Mr Merlyn Rees, Labour's spokesman on Northern Ireland, asked his own benches to support the Tories. 'I advise my honourable friends not to vote against the order. It is, as the noble lord, Lord Gardiner, said, a step forward. I do not advise my honourable friends to vote against a step forward.'

But a handful of Labour MPs did insist on dividing the house. The Labour Party supported the Tories massively and it was carried by 179 to 32. Stan Orme, 'left' MP of the 'Tribune' group, sponsored by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, deliberately abstained.

INSTANT 'JUSTICE' IN NEW TORY COURT

Long Kesh internment camp is a set of barbed wire-enclosed compounds. In each is a small cluster of Nissen huts. The men in these rough huts live in numbered cages.

At the end of October one of the huts had a remarkable facelift. Internees noticed a great deal of activity as furniture was carted into the hut by groups of tradesmen. The work went on for about three weeks.

On November 7 the word passed from compound to compound about the mysterious refurbishing that had been going on.

The Nissen hut had become a courtroom. A very special courtroom.

It has all the trappings of the Old Bailey. Plush scarlet drapes hang from the ceiling, a deep blue carpet is spread on the floor and the room is cosily decked with polished wood tables. Over the judge's head hangs the British lion and unicorn signifying the authority of the Crown.

The judges, who are imported from the law courts of England and Scotland, live up to the grand surroundings. They appear in full kit, wig included. The object of the tribunals is to comb through all those interned in Northern Ireland since August 1971.

They have so far heard over 200 cases; of this number about 80 have been freed while the remainder have been committed to 'indefinite detention' for 'acts of terrorism'.

We have obtained copies of transcripts of some of the cases that have so far been heard which give an incisive picture of just how these Tory courts are streamlined to dispense 'justice'.

CASE ONE

Sean Murphy, arrested on August 9, 1971, who appeared before the court on November 14 last. He was charged that on or before August 1967 he became the officer commanding the IRA in Belfast and that 'in or about January 1970 and August 1971' (that's a period of 20 months!) he was a training officer in the IRA.

Murphy told Sheriff Dick on the bench that he would not be legally represented, that he did not recognize the court, but that if the occasion arose he would cross-examine witnesses.

The first and principal witness was a Special Branch officer. He sat behind a curtain which screened him from the court. His name was given as 'A'. His real name was handed to Sheriff Dick on a piece of paper.

'A' said that on May 17, 1971, Murphy, along with eight other men, left Belfast in two hired cars and travelled into the Republic of Ireland where he trained these men in the use of a .303 Lee Enfield rifle and a .45 automatic pistol . . . the ammunition had been concealed in the door panels of the hired cars.

Murphy was completely bewildered by this 'sworn evidence'. He asked 'A' how the information came into his possession. 'A' stated that a reliable informer had supplied the information on the morning of May 17.

Murphy then asked 'A' why he hadn't prevented the cars from crossing the border and arrested the men involved.

'A' replied that he had 'no authority to do this'.

Two other Special Branch



officers—'E' and 'F'—gave evidence.

They explained to the court that what they had to say in evidence might place in danger the lives of their informants. Accordingly Murphy was taken from the court for 20 minutes.

On his return Sheriff Dick announced that the evidence given against him in his absence was from 'two reliable sources' and that they both confirmed he had been training officer of the Belfast brigade, Provisional IRA.

Dick then asked Murphy what he would do if he were released. Murphy replied that he would attempt to find employment in his profession.

Would he be involved in politics? Dick asked.

Murphy replied that he was a confirmed socialist who wished to see the establishment of a 32-county socialist republic of Ireland and that he would strive to achieve this.

Dick then gave his verdict.

In the light of the evidence he had heard he was satisfied that Murphy was an intelligent and efficient officer in the IRA. Murphy would not be released, he added.

CASE TWO

Owen Martin, who was arrested in September 1971. He appeared before Commissioner John Dick, a sheriff from the Lothians. He was alleged to have been an officer in the IRA, to have concealed arms and 'it is therefore said that you were concerned in the direction and organization of persons for the purposes of terrorism'.

Martin had an assortment of Kafka-like witnesses. They were Special Branch officers 'A', 'B' and 'C'. 'C', who is known as one of the RUC's chief interrogators, was asked

what Martin might do if released. He said the respondent would rejoin the IRA.

'I am inclined to agree, because I get the impression from looking at him that he is reasonably intelligent,' said Sheriff Dick.

In conclusion, he said that in view of the evidence he had heard he had 'no option' but to sign a detention order. Martin remained almost silent throughout and refused to recognize the court.

CASE THREE

Francis Dougan, arrested on August 9, 1971. He appeared before Commissioner Leonard charged with making petrol bombs, bringing them across the border and with concealing weapons in the garden of his house.

The evidence on the petrol

bombs was given by Special Branch officers 'A', 'B' and 'C'. 'A' told his witness that he had seen the respondent in the garden of his house on February 1971. 'A' also told his witness that he had seen the respondent in the garden of his house on February 1971.

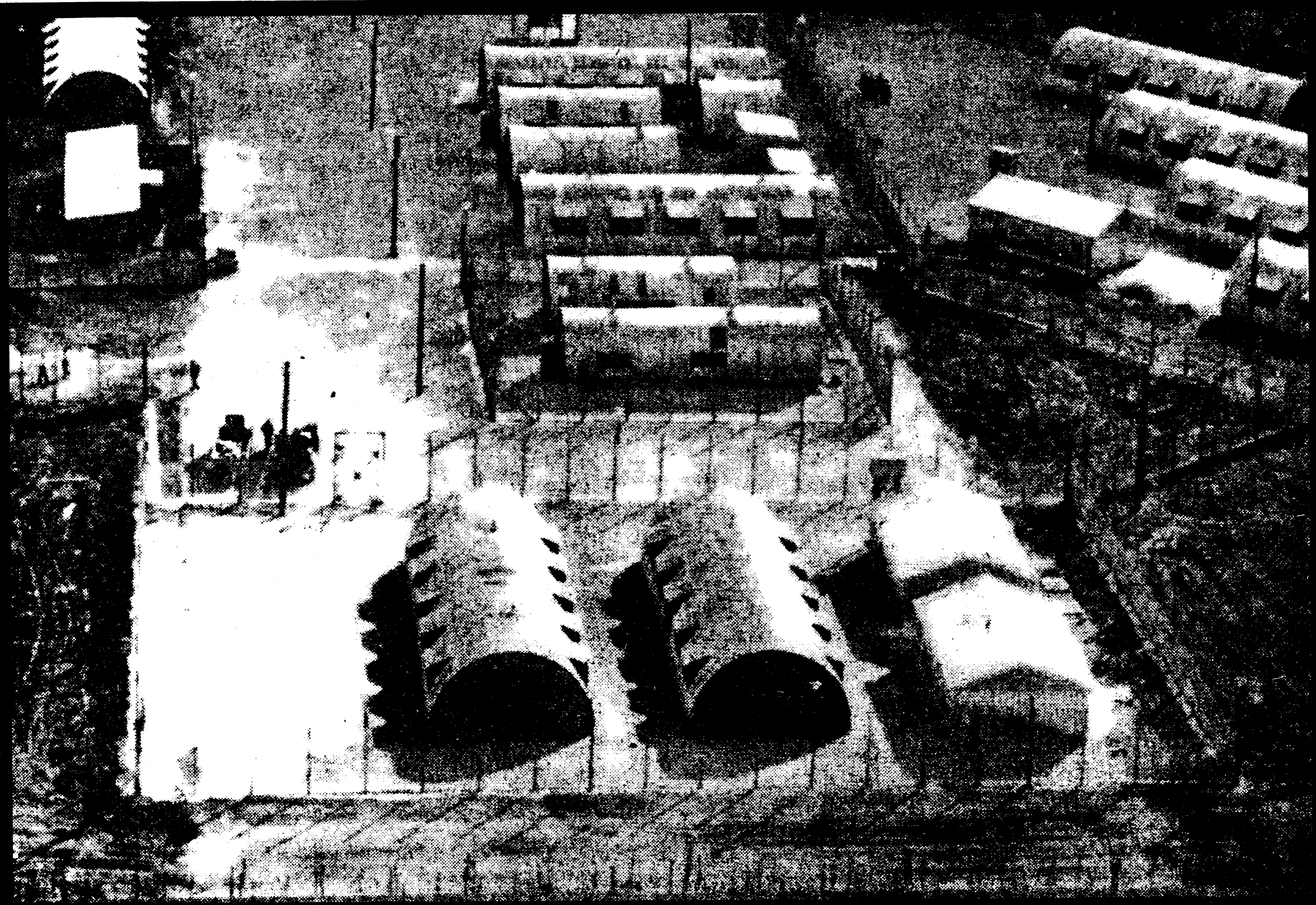
Asked what he had seen, 'A' replied that he had seen the respondent in the garden of his house on February 1971.

The respondent, 'B', told his witness that he had seen the respondent in the garden of his house on February 1971.

Dougan, arrested on August 9, 1971. He appeared before Commissioner Leonard charged with making petrol bombs, bringing them across the border and with concealing weapons in the garden of his house.

The evidence on the petrol bombs was given by Special Branch officers 'A', 'B' and 'C'. 'A' told his witness that he had seen the respondent in the garden of his house on February 1971.

When asked what he had seen, 'A' replied that he had seen the respondent in the garden of his house on February 1971.





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bombs was supplied by Special Branch officer 'A' from behind his curtain. He said that he had received information on February 2, 1970, that the prisoner had manufactured a large number of petrol bombs in the Republic to be used in an attack on Armagh.

Asked if the police informer was reliable, 'A' said 'sometimes'.

The next Special Branch witness, 'B', said that his informer told him that Dougan had concealed weapons in his garden.

Dougan pointed out to the court that none of the houses in his street had gardens.

Disturbed by this and other discrepancies, Commissioner Leonard asked 'B' to find out why, if these weapons, were known to be in or near the house, it had never been raided.

When the case was resumed next day 'B' said that he had discovered that the house had

in fact been raided in October 1970 by the Coldstream Guards who had not found anything.

The army informed him that this was because the weapons had been moved.

A doctor then gave evidence that Dougan was in the early stages of a nervous breakdown and suffered from periodic blackouts.

Commissioner Leonard then simply announced that Dougan could be freed.

It was 15 months since he had been picked up. He had 15 months in the stinking cages of Long Kesh because of the most dubious evidence.

CASE FOUR

Joseph Conway (42), unemployed, from Newry. On November 14 last he appeared before Commissioner Lewis at

a four-hour hearing. He was accused of being in the IRA and that on unspecified dates between April 1970 and August 1971 (that's 16 months) he had made various bombs and blown up 'various buildings in the area of Newry'.

The charge against Conway must rank as one of the loosest drawn up during the recent trials. 'B' said he had received information that Conway had allegedly planted a bomb in a Customs post.

Commissioner Lewis: Without revealing the name of that person, can you say anything about the reliability of that person as a source of information?

'B': He was a previously proven source.

Lewis: What do you mean by that?

'B': Information he had previously given was found to be correct.

Lewis: Had you personally

checked information he had given you previously?

'B': Yes, sir.

As 'B' read the 'evidence', Lewis interrupted to ask: 'Was this information volunteered to you?'

'B': That is correct.

Lewis: Did you pay for it?

'B': Yes, sir.

From behind his curtain Special Branch officer 'C' then produced a document containing further allegations against Conway. This document was not shown to Conway because 'C' stated that, in his view, other people would be endangered if Conway was allowed to hear what was in the document.

While the evidence was given in detail, Conway was removed from the court. (Conway had been represented by a lawyer his lawyer would have had to leave too). On his return Commissioner Lewis said:

'The information such as I can give, I'm afraid, is not

Long Kesh—barbed wire compounds, Nissen huts and now a special courtroom where Internees are tried.

very large, but it is to the effect that in August 1971 information was received that you had in fact been involved in no less than seven separate explosions in Newry during the previous 12 months. Do you wish to question the officer?'

Conway declined to do so. But the invitation was absurd. He had no idea what the details of the charges were against him, the dates or the localities.

Commissioner Lewis sent him back to the cages.

His subsequent appeal has

When the legislation setting up these kangaroo courts came into operation in mid-December, 'The Times' headlined the story: 'Interment replaced by fairer system of dealing with terrorists.'

In Greece today political trials are on the increase and tortures intensify. Yet the Greek Communist Party calls for the restoration of the monarchy and a 'government of national unity'. It was a government of this type which led to the Civil War of 1944 when the British-backed Greek ruling class sought to disarm the working class—with Stalinist assistance. The coming to power of the military junta in 1967 was directly linked to that betrayal.

While Greek communists languish in jail, Moscow has recently signed an agreement with the colonels to inaugurate a railway service linking Moscow and Athens. Other Stalinist countries, like Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Rumania, have trade and cultural pacts with the colonels' regime. In November an 11-man Chinese delegation arrived from Peking to open an embassy in Athens, and in the same month the state-controlled Public Power Corporation announced an \$89m supply-and-install deal with Russia for a new steam power plant to be erected in northern Greece. The Stalinists, in Greece and elsewhere, bear the major responsibility for the sufferings of the Greek masses under the colonels' military junta.

In this series of articles JACK GALE will trace the rise of the colonels' regime and the direct assistance given to it by Stalinism.

Stalinism in Greece Part 1

STALINISTS WELCOME THE KING

Greece emerged as an 'independent' nation in 1829—but was really a semi-colony of the major European powers.

Foreign kings were imposed on the Greek people and exercised their oppressive rule for the benefit of the foreign bankers and the small clique of Greek capitalists and landowners, while the Greek workers and peasants lived in abysmal poverty.

After the Greek 'War of Independence' against the Turkish Ottoman Empire ended in 1829, the new state carried a birthright of over £4m debt to the British banks. It also lived under the shadow of three 'Protecting Powers'—Britain, France and Tsarist Russia.

A 'Royal Line' of Bavarian princes was brought in—basically to act as clerks for the ruling class of these three powers. When these were kicked out by a nationalist movement, they were replaced by a line of Danish kings.

The fictitious nature of Greek 'independence' was revealed by the Treaty of 1864 which entitled any one of the three powers to send in troops, provided the other two agreed. Greek consent was not necessary.

In the 1880s there was a brief period of native capitalist expansion, but this was little more than a pale reflection of the enormous expansion taking place in western Europe. Greek capitalism could never be truly independent and defeat in the war with Turkey in 1897 (the Turks extracted £7m indemnity) led to national bankruptcy.

The three 'Protecting Powers' appointed an International Finance Commission to guarantee payment of the debt to Turkey and of the bond payments to themselves.

Modern capitalism in Greece dates from 1910 when a 'Military League' of army officers, supported by the national bourgeoisie, forced constitutional government from the monarchy.

The first government under this constitution was that of the Liberal Party leader Venizelos. He reorganized Greece on modern, efficient capitalist lines. Two wars—against Turkey and Bulgaria—led to the expansion of Greece to 6 million people. Commerce and government revenue increased.

But only a small clique of bankers, merchants and ship-

owners really benefited. The masses 'gained' only increased taxation and poverty.

During World War I, Venizelos—who represented the native capitalists' dream of a new Hellenic empire—sought to enter the war on the side of Britain and her allies.

King Constantine placed his hopes in a German victory and tried to keep Greece neutral.

By 1917, the 'Protective Powers' had deposed Constantine and recognized the government of Venizelos, who promptly suspended the constitution and ruled by emergency decree. Martial law was introduced and the prisons filled with political prisoners.

Venizelos also sent 100,000 Greek troops to fight with General Deniken against the Bolshevik revolution in Russia.

Pushed forward by the Allies he launched an onslaught on Turkey that cost £80m and an uncounted number of lives.

Massacre

By 1922 Anglo-French rivalry was increasing for influence in the Balkans with the result that France armed Turkey against Greece. This caused the annihilation of the Greek forces and the massacre of the Greek population in Asia Minor.

The Greek economy was ruined. The trade balance had a standing deficit of 50 per cent and the drachma was worthless. 7.5 million people (1.5 million Greeks had been returned from Turkey) were on the verge of starvation.

But a new force was emerging. As everywhere throughout Europe, the Russian Revolution inspired the working class. The Greek Communist Party was formed and rapidly won a leading influence in the growing trade union movement.

The bourgeois monarchists and republicans—united against the emergent working class—discovered that the alliance with foreign imperialism was a life-and-death matter for them.

The economic crisis led to an unending political crisis. From 1920 until the Metaxas regime of 1936, one unstable government rapidly succeeded another. No bourgeois party could find a firm base. So the army became the regulator of political life.

Venizelos was ejected in 1920 and King Constantine recalled.

In 1923 a military junta headed by Colonel Plastiras



Papadopoulos, head of the colonels' regime in Greece, with his bodyguards at a ceremony marking the fifth anniversary of the colonels' coup.

dethroned Constantine and executed a number of monarchist leaders.

The following year the Republic was proclaimed. In 1925 another coup d'état established the dictatorship of General Pangalos. Yet another 'strong man'—General Kondylis—appeared in 1926. Then Venizelos assumed power once again.

By 1930 a quarter of the entire working class was unemployed and the cost of living had gone up 20-fold in four years. That year 100,000 workers took part in strikes and armed clashes between workers or peasant insurgents and police were increasing.

Venizelos declared the Communist Party illegal and introduced an 'Emergency Bill for the Security of the State', under which workers and peasants were deported to the barren Aegean islands.

In 1935 Kondylis, the former republican general, staged a coup d'état to bring back the monarchy. The entire staff of the communist newspaper 'Rizospastis' was arrested.

An army-managed plebiscite resulted in a ludicrous 98-per cent vote for King George II!

The Stalinists had split the trade unions during the Stalin-proclaimed 'Third Period'—thus making it easier for the bourgeoisie to attack them. But this was the period of the Popular Front. Therefore the Greek Communist Party welcomed George II as 'a guarantee against fascism and against any authoritarian regime'.

The Stalinists even sent a delegation to the king and assured him that their party would work 'within the framework of the present regime'.

The election of 1936 ended in deadlock. The pro-Venizelos wing of the bourgeoisie secured 142 seats and the opposing wing 143. The communists got 15.

To the background of a growing strike movement, George II ('the guarantee against any authoritarian regime') appointed the monarchist General Metaxas—whose party had gained a grand total of seven seats in the elections—to be head of government.

The class struggle intensified. A General Strike was called in Salonika, in support of a tobacco workers' strike. Thirty workers were shot dead in the notorious 'Black Saturday' massacre. Over 100,000 marched at their funerals. Demands for a national strike grew.

Banished

With the workers demanding action, the Stalinist and Social Democratic trade union federations issued a joint call for a one-day protest strike and called on the workers to 'hold themselves ready'.

And, while the workers were held in check, Metaxas pounced. The day before the strike he mounted machine-guns at strategic points in Athens, abolished parliament, banished the working-class leaders and proclaimed the dictatorship.

Within a year 13,000 political exiles languished in the Aegean islands. Thousands more were in the jails. Ancient forms of torture were revived.

'Liberty', declared Metaxas, 'was a 19th century illusion.'

The responsibility for this

historic defeat rests with the Stalinist policy of the Popular Front.

The workers were ready to form a workers' and Peasants' government. The Stalinists dominated the workers' movement and held powerful positions in the countryside. In 1936 the soldiers and sailors were sympathetic to the revolution. Several sections of the army had to be withdrawn from action against strikers.

For five years, as everywhere else in the world, the Stalinists had divided and disoriented the working class with their theory of the 'Third Period'—the 'imminent collapse' of capitalism.

By 1936 they had swung to Popular Frontism and, instead of mobilizing a revolutionary working class, concentrated on trying to manoeuvre the Liberal Party—the party founded by Venizelos!—into a Popular Front Alliance.

This was explained by the Stalinist leader, Sklavanas, a few days before the Metaxas dictatorship was pronounced. There was no revolutionary situation, declared Sklavanas, and Greece would have to go through a 'democratic' revolution before it was ready for a socialist one.

Needless, to say, the Liberals preferred Metaxas to the working class, and assisted the police-military dictatorship.

The Metaxas regime lasted for four years, collapsing after the invasion of Greece in 1940. But it came into existence only because of the treachery of Stalinism and survived only because of the exhaustion and disorientation of the Greek masses brought about by that treachery.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

BOTTICELLI

One worker is holding out against commodity fetishism. He earns a salary of £600 a year and lives in considerable poverty in Gragnano, Italy, with his wife and large family—and an original Botticelli worth £100,000.

Why doesn't Gerardo Somma (48), sell the painting, named 'Madonna and Child', and ease the burden of his impoverished life?

'What kind of a man would I be if I sold the Madonna to some stranger for money? I don't think she would ever forgive us for selling her.'

How did a Botticelli painted for a Pope over 300 years ago ever get into the hands of a poverty-stricken, humble worker?

According to Professor Raffaello Causa, director of the Capodimonte Museum in near-by Naples, the canvas was done early in Botticelli's career, about 1470.

In the year 1474 Pope Sixtus gave it as a gift to a parish priest friend in Gragnano where it hung for many years in a small church.

The church, which happened to be next door to Somma's ancestors, eventually crumbled away. And when Somma's great-grandfather purchased the land, he legally acquired one of Italy's great works of art without realizing it.

Handed down from generation to generation, the Botticelli eventually came into Gerardo Somma's hands.

Isn't he afraid the painting will be stolen?

'Since everybody knows I am the owner of this Botticelli, how could any thief ever sell it to anyone? Nobody would ever buy it that way. No, I'm not afraid of it being swiped. Besides, the Madonna is protecting my home. So who can steal her?'

MENU

Having Heath to dinner at your home is a pretty repulsive suggestion. Nevertheless this is what Mrs Elizabeth Morris of Manchester broached when she was surveying the cost of living.

She wrote in a local newspaper: 'My husband and I would like to extend an open invitation to Mr Edward Heath to come to dinner one Sunday. I should explain at the outset that we are pensioners and I am secretary of

the Partington and Carrington branch of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners' Associations.'

She suggested the following menu:

VEGETABLE SOUP
One onion (8p), celery and carrots (14p), meat pieces, cheap (29p for ½lb), savoury flavouring, salt and pepper (3p) 54p

MAIN COURSE
Potatoes, small tin (8p), cabbage, 1 lb (6p), two chops, 3oz each (30p), Yorkshire pud ingredients (20p), gas for cooking (10p) 74p

SWEET
Tin of rice pudding (8p) 8p
£1.36

EXTRA
Sorry, Mr Heath, you cannot have wines, you will have to manage with a cuppa 7p

When we have had this glorious menu one day each week, we have to wait until someone helps us. Our money works out this way:

INCOME
Pension £11.35
Rent allowance £4.35

TOTAL £15.70

EXPENDITURE
Rent £4.79
Coal £2
Gas £1
Electricity £1
Bedroom heating £1
Milk for sick husband £1

TOTAL £10.79

She went on: 'I also forgot to state that we do wash—soap 15p.'

Mrs Morris could have spared herself the labour of writing the letter. Heath won't read it, he wouldn't accept the invitation and what's more, he eats a little more luxuriously than vegetable soup, stew and cabbage.

At the No 10 Downing Street talks prior to the Phase Two laws, the TUC and CBI leaders were treated to smoked salmon, game pie and hock. And at the dinner at Hampton Court to celebrate Common Market entry, Heath stuffed himself with lobster, followed by pheasant and then ice cream cake.

DRY BONES OF DRAMA

TV REVIEW BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

'A Voyage Around My Father'. By John Mortimer. Adapted for television by John Mortimer and Nesta Pain. Produced by Ronald Travers. Directed by Claude Whatham. BBC 2.

The dry bones of bourgeois drama rattled away on Tuesday night, thinly fleshed by favourites like cynical wit, urbanity and that brand of perceptive disparagement that is intended as a disarmer for the audience.

John Mortimer's play 'A Voyage Around My Father' displayed all the technical skill of the experienced writer that Mortimer is and, as its desiccated contents were revealed, a deathhead quality about its philosophy and indifference to the world.

This was made worse by the sort of mummified constraint in the performances by Mark Dignam, Ian Richardson and the rest which always mark them up for high praises like 'polished' and 'impeccably professional' amongst the bourgeois Press and critics.

A successful lawyer, blinded by a gardening accident while still in his prime, is observed through the eyes of his son in their developing relationship over the years. At least, I take it some development was intended, although little enough was apparent from a cowed, passive childhood through to what appeared to be only marginally less cowed and passive adulthood on the part of the son.

Father dominates all—and in fact is the only character to suggest even a glimmer of life in the proceedings. He is callous, contemptuous, bored by his family, by the idiocy of life, unable to express his misery at blindness except by destructive sallies at those close to him and the inference is made persistently that we should find him appealing, amusing and even lovable.

The son is seen delivered into the clutch of the sterile, public-school system with a pompous jingoistic headmaster, tiresome and competitive non-relationships with the boys and aberrations of teachers like the one who periodically explodes into bouts of madness as a result of old war wounds, or the young man who plays the banjo, exudes flippancy and teaches the boys to fox-trot.

He comes to see the one-sided truth of his father's comments 'all education is perfectly useless' and 'no one ever got a word of sense out of a schoolmaster'.

'What's the point of Greek and Latin?' asks the gardener's daughter; 'they train the mind' says the boy parrot-fashion, frozen into submission but confused by the girl's simple curiosity.

The young man moves, blindly enough, on to law school, his first encounter with sex, 'the monstrous persistence of nature' says father; a cursory exploration of law is made, a cynical eye cast as father annihilates a troublesome witness and expounds the art of cross-examination to his son.

'But what is the point of all this actually?' asks son. 'The point is to do down your opponent; roars the old empire-builder. When son takes up writing and appears to desert the law, father is suitably appalled and similarly when son threatens to get married: 'avoid the temptation to do anything heroic' says his father.

However no whiff of ill-bred conflict or taint of passion is seen throughout the action. A stiff upper lip and a sense of correctness are preserved and this is all that matters. Father staggers to his deathbed with the occasional outburst of irascibility and we are startled to hear the son express his loneliness now that father's gone.

Despite a tepid inclination on Mortimer's part to deride and expose the hollowness of his material, finally he does nothing less than subscribe totally to all the sterility and despair of the middle class in its determined regard of life as a whim of fate in face of which, style is all, good breeding the ultimate defence.

It is all utterly removed

from the harsh realities of daily life, from the lives of any but the most secluded minority and is conducted in a bloodless and intellectualized vacuum of the most oppressive kind.

It is no accident that the play ran in the West End Theatre very successfully as it colludes so enthusiastically with all the old crutches of nostalgia and disillusion that the middle classes nourish for themselves. This static, constricted and paternalistic world, glimpsed in plays like this one, is the very stuff of obsolescence and its role is already played out. A new concept of theatre, drama, whatever name it has, must shortly emerge, born of crisis within the coming period.



ACCOLADES TO LBJ

'Midweek: Lyndon Baines Johnson 1908-1973'. Presented by Ludovic Kennedy. Edited by Peter Pagnamenta.

Ludovic Kennedy gave bland guidance to a sickening portrayal on Midweek of Lyndon Baines Johnson and what emerged as his heroic but 'tragic' place in the history of American and international politics.

A documentary film on his origins and career established him as a vulnerable small-town country boy, fraught with inferiority all his life and battling against great odds to become 'a powerful and incisive force' in the US Senate.

He suffered the strains of ill health; he was beset by comparisons with Kennedy during his career as President and on top of it all he had to face the indignity of mass demonstrations, mass hatred directed at his blameless war-making in Vietnam, (he did not start the war and he was pressed by his Generals into increasing the forces in Vietnam).

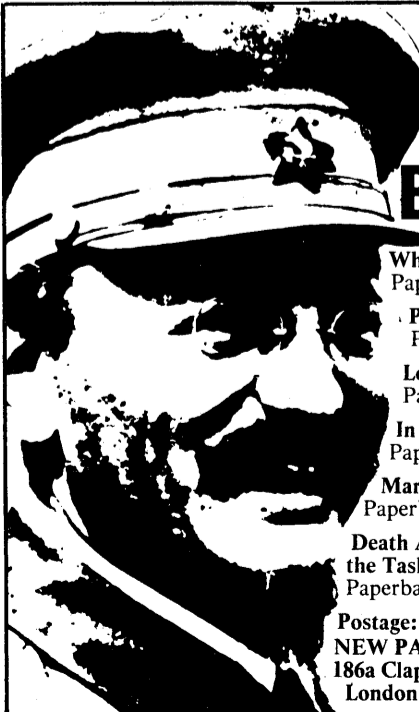
A few willing sycophants added their fulsome memories in the studio — Al Friendly, Luis Heren of the 'Sunday Times' who pointed out that 'his basic simplicity, so often a strength led him to a position where he could not face withdrawal from Vietnam'; also—always a great accolade

in the capitalist world: 'he could be all things to all men without losing any personal integrity'.

All present agreed that Johnson had instigated the greatest reform era ever within the USA. Happily we are not without reminders to carry forward with us of this paragon among men—including the Johnson Library in Texas (costing \$10m to construct and fill) with gems like 2 million photographs of Johnson and his family and friends; 5 million personal and other documented accounts of meetings, letters and telephone calls made by the great man.

We also have monuments like the nauseating interview shown between Walter Cronkite and Johnson where the 36th President gave his tale of 'how I became President', of Kennedy's assassination and the untold suffering of all concerned, particularly Johnson who royally and readily took the oath when called 'to serve his country'.

Thus the arch counter-revolutionary, the architect of four of the bloodiest years of warmongering known this century, the man who made millions out of politics and who used his politics to destroy thousands, suddenly, in death, became a new hero in the obscene mythology of capitalist political history.



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HAIL THE PROGRESSIVE KING

The unprincipled and thoroughly opportunist nature of the revisionist opposition to the Vietnam war is nowhere more disgustingly displayed than in the columns of the 'Militant'—weekly paper of the radical Socialist Workers' Party of America.

On page 4 of last week's Mr Larry Seigle took issue with the Communist Party Stalinists on the 'peace accords' that were being negotiated in Paris between the National Liberation Front and the US imperialists.

The Stalinists launched a

worldwide struggle ostensibly to 'make Nixon sign' the 'peace' agreement. In fact, however, the campaign was aimed at forcing the NLF and Hanoi to agree to a settlement which is the direct product of the betrayal of the Indo-Chinese peoples by the Soviet and Chinese bureaucracies.

The October 'peace' plan was a formal acknowledgement of North Vietnam's failure to win a decisive military victory over the south—a failure due largely to the blockade of Haiphong, the massive retaliatory bombing of the north and the cynical refusal of world Stalinism to provide material aid and political support to the Hanoi regime.

The NLF have as a result notably dropped their demand

for the scrapping of Thieu's regime and the release of all political prisoners. Mr Seigle correctly criticizes the Stalinists for peddling pacifist illusions and quotes an article from the 'Vietnam Courier' published in Hanoi before the NLF agreed to change its policy *vis-à-vis* Thieu.

The article pointed out the consequences of a cease fire agreement which did not give the NLF effective government control of the south:

'First Mr Nixon will be able to present himself to the US electorate as having made peace and, what is no less important, the Saigon regime can appear as the legal government of the country; all attempts to overthrow it being now a violation of the agreements signed, which might set in motion a terrible mechanism of reprisals.'

'Mr Nixon will have won on both scores: to get himself re-elected and to consolidate the power of his placemen in Saigon, not to mention the recovery of captured military-men.'

Seigle continues to warn his readers about the trap which is being prepared in Paris: 'It is an illusion to believe that genuine peace can come to Vietnam through any US-imposed accords... the class struggle in South Vietnam will continue, and, without question, the United States will continue to do everything in its power to prop up the pro-imperialist regime and to maintain a base for itself in south-east Asia.'

Mr Seigle's indictment of Stalinist pacifism and popular frontism, however, is only half the picture of revisionism. Criticism in words—unity in practice remain the guiding line of these opportunists. As Trotsky wrote in relation to the Spanish POUM: 'Ambivalence is the heart of centrism.'

The SWP's real line is revealed on the back page of the same issue of the 'Militant' where a certain David Thorstad unequivocally welcomes the pacifist petition campaign in Sweden which is backed by a coalition of reformist



Above: Nixon, USA, and Thieu, Vietnam

workers' and capitalist parties.

Writes Mr Thorstad: 'The petition which was drawn up in response to the December bombings of North Vietnam calls for an "immediate halt to the bombings of Vietnam" and urges "all contending parties to sign a peace agreement based on the principles that the USA and North Vietnam indicated they had reached agreement on in October".'

The correspondent enthusiastically reports the fact that petitions with space for signatures totalling twice the Swedish population have been printed and that Sweden's reformist premier Olaf Palme has made a 'sharp statement comparing the United States air assault on North Vietnam to Nazi atrocities'.

Mr Thorstad omits to mention that the Swedish premier's hatred for militarism and war does not include the well-known Swedish arms industry which supplies many NATO nations with weapons and components.

Mr Palme's opposition to the Vietnam war is far more closely linked to the anti-US protectionist spirit which animates the European bourgeoisie than it is to the feelings of the Swedish workers. The popular-frontism of the 'Militant', however, does not stop with the Swedish Centre Party of the bourgeois Moderate Coalition Party.

It goes much further. Readers of the 'Militant' who

have in the past been amazed or nauseated by the solicitude shown by these revisionists for the widow of President Kennedy will be interested to know that SWP—for all its republican traditions—is not indifferent to monarchic institutions either.

(Of course they haven't yet reached the depths of the French Ligue Communiste, which recently published a statement of Pope Paul VI without comment—but with obvious approval.) States the 'Militant' in deadly seriousness:

'Speaking from the throne on the occasion of the opening of the Riksdag January 11, King Gustav VI Adolf took a determined swipe [!] at US Vietnam policy. "The Vietnamese people must be given the opportunity to shape their own destiny," the 90-year-old king said. "The merciless bombing must not be resumed."

We would like to point out to the editors of the 'Militant' that King Adolf VI's hypocritical defence of the Vietnamese will not prevent him from using the Royal Swedish Army and Air Force against the Swedish workers if they ever decide to emulate the Vietnamese workers and peasants.

The Vietnamese—we are sure—can do without the regal patronage of a 90-year-old parasite or his revisionist apologists.

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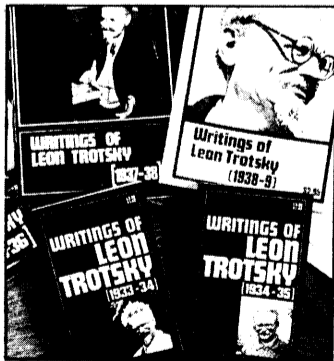
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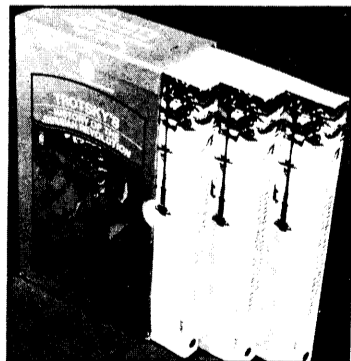
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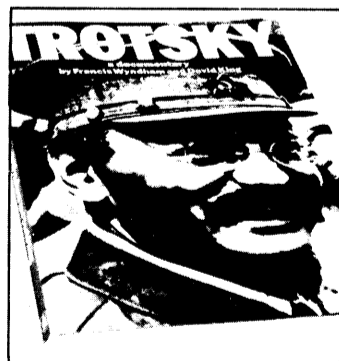
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Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

JANUARY FUND NEEDS £466.26 BY WEDNESDAY

ONLY THREE days to go. It certainly will be a tough struggle to complete our £1,750 total. But our confidence lies in the fact that you, dear readers, have never let us down. Whatever the difficulties, you have always fought back and won through.

We are sure that this month is no exception. We do understand that these last few months, the huge increases in the cost of living must have greatly affected you.

But we also know that this can have only increased your anger towards this Tory government. Not a day goes by without even more sections of workers demanding wage increases in order to defend their living standards.

The fight is building up. Workers Press is needed more than ever to give a political lead. Thousands of workers begun to realize this and are turning towards our paper.

Every effort is needed, therefore, to complete the Fund over these next few days. Try and collect extra amounts—give more wherever you can. Rush every donation immediately to:

Workers Press
January Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High St
London SW4 7UG.

Plessey strikers support sit-in section

ABOUT 4,250 workers at the Plessey telecommunications factories in Beeston and Long Eaton, Notts, are staging a one day stoppage today over a pay dispute.

They are supporting 100 workers in the wiring shop who began a sit-in on January 19.

Another 300 workers at the factory have already walked out

Bentley-Briginshaw in commercial radio consortium

WHILE the film unions are locked in a bitter fight with asset-stripper John Bentley over his threatened carve-up of Shepperton Studios, a print union has joined him in a consortium for a London commercial radio licence.

NATSOPA, led by 'left' general secretary Richard Briginshaw, is co-member of a newly-formed company called All News Radio.

Others in the group, apart from Bentley and NATSOPA, are Alexander Macmillan, a member of Harold Macmillan's family publishing firm, Osbert Lancaster, the 'Daily Express' cartoonist and his wife, Anne Scott James, gourmet Quentin Crewe and the Greater London Fund for the Blind.

The man who worked with Bentley in putting together this amalgam was George Hutchinson, former editor of the right-wing weekly, 'The Spectator'. Hutchinson is remembered for his eulogistic biography of Edward Heath.

How did Briginshaw get involved with Bentley, the man who carved up the toy industry creating hundreds of redundancies and who is now trying to hive-off 40 acres of the Shepperton studio lot for property development?

Bentley's plans for Shepperton amount to an emasculation of the studio and will create more than 200 redundancies among film technicians and electricians.

Briginshaw told the 'Sunday Times': 'When we were first con-

tacted about this we didn't know who else would be in the group and once we'd committed ourselves we weren't willing to pull out.

'What do you do with these people? We dislike their activity; we denounce them publicly; we fight them industrially and will continue to do so. You don't run away from these people. We can't simply jump off the world.'

No one is asking Briginshaw to jump off the world. We just want him to carry into practice what he preaches.

In June last year at his union's annual conference at Bourne-mouth Briginshaw called for a General Strike against the Industrial Relations Act.

Yet within a few months Briginshaw was among those going to Downing Street for talks with Heath. Briginshaw would say that at the first meeting he launched an attack on Heath in an angry face-to-face confrontation.

But this sort of one-upmanship is neither here nor there.

It is like Briginshaw saying he publicly denounces the activities of asset-strippers, but the next instant he is co-operating with them in a commercial undertaking.

The working class—and the Shepperton workers in particular—have had enough of the left fakery.

The task today is the building of an alternative revolutionary leadership which will not make any compromises, pacts or business deals with the class enemy.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight rising rents and prices
Defend basic democratic rights
Force the Tories to resign

WATFORD: Monday January 29, 8 p.m. Trades Union Hall, Watford, near Watford Junction station.

PADDINGTON: Monday January 29, 8 p.m. 'Dudley Arms', corner North Wharf and Bishop's Bridge Road, W.2.

MANCHESTER: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. 'The Maypole', Ford Lane, Pendleton. Speakers: Connie Fahey, Harry Price, Mike Hyndman. 'Fight rising prices! Force the Tories out!'

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.

CAMDEN: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wahrfedale Road, off York Way, Kings Cross.

ABERDEEN: Wednesday January 31, 8 p.m. Trades Hall, 24 Adelphi.

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

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

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday February 1, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday, February 1, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road.

MIDDLETON: Thursday February 1, 7.30 p.m. 'Cardinal's Hat', Wood Street.

CROYDON: Thursday February 1, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road.

MANCHESTER: Thursday, February 1, 8 p.m. Ross Place School, Fort Ardwick. Joe Potts, Winnie Price, Connie Fahey. 'Fight rising prices! Force the Tories out!'

WIGAN: Monday February 5, 8 p.m. Market Hotel, Mesmes Street. Speakers: Frank Kelly, UCATT, Bill Lyons, AUEW, Ray Hudson, UCATT. (All in a personal capacity.)

LIVERPOOL: Tuesday February 6, 7.30 p.m. AEU House, Mount Pleasant.

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.

TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.38-11.55 Schools. 12.00 Office. 12.25 Cywain. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Woodentops. 1.45 Animals at home. 2.05-3.55 Schools. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Fish. 5.40 Magic roundabout. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 YOUNG SCIENTISTS OF THE YEAR. Cod-sall v Hereford v Dundee.

7.10 STAR TREK. The Immunity Syndrome.

8.00 PANORAMA. Too Many Children? Do we need free birth control?

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.

9.25 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'HIGHWAY ROBBERY'. By Michael O'Neil, and Jeremy Seabrook. With John Collin, Angela Crow, David Swift, Rosemary Martin.

10.45 COME DANCING. 11.20 LATE NIGHT NEWS.

11.25 CINEMA NOW. Hal Wallis and 'Bequest to the Nation'. 11.50 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.33 World War I. 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Alice through the looking glass. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Schools. 2.20 Cartoon. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'The Astonished Heart'. Noel Coward. 4.25 Pardon my genie. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 My good woman. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 PROGRAMME IN DISPUTE.

9.00 THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. The Mysterious Death on the Underground Railway.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 THE WILD, WILD WEST.

11.30 DRIVE-IN. 12.00 WORLD WAR I. 12.25 ALL IN THE MIND.



Judy Geeson plays reporter turned sleuth, Polly Burton, in the first of a new series 'The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes' on Independent channels. Polly, seen with her uncle Sir Arthur Inglewood (John Savident) at a coroner's inquest, is out to solve 'The Mysterious Death on the Underground Railway'.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

7.05 PARENTS AND CHILDREN. 7.30 NEWS. Weather.

7.35 LOOK, STRANGER. A Future for the Past.

8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. The Posse that Wouldn't Quit.

8.55 CALL MY BLUFF. 9.25 DAVE ALLEN AT LARGE.

10.10 AMERICA. The Arsenal. 11.00 OPINION. 11.15 NEWS. Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-11.52 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.20 Film: 'Some People'. 4.15 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Maverick. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 News, weather.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 9.30 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 4.15 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 Date with Danton. 10.30 News. 11.55 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.10 Training the family dog. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Film: 'Prince of Pirates'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Southern scene. 11.00 News. 11.05 Theatre of stars. 12.00 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.00 Farm-house kitchen. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Film: 'Counterspy'. 4.25 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'The House on Greenapple Road'. 12.30 Weather. HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 6.01-6.22 Y dydd. 8.00 Yr wythnos. 8.30 Deadline Leeds. HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Saint. 3.55 Romper room. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Russell Hartly. 11.30 London. 12.00 Big question.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 2.00 Dr Simon Locke. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Life For Ruth'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Stories worth telling. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 Film: 'Among the Headhunters'. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Smith family. 6.45 London. 10.30 Loss of the Princess Victoria. 11.00 Monday night. 11.05 Film: 'Pink String and Sealing Wax'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'A Boy, A Girl and a Bike'. 4.25 London. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 Yoga. 12.15 Ugliest girl in town. 12.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 11.55 Bugs Bunny. 12.05 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Film: 'Idol on Parade'. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'A Taste of Evil'.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Communications have broken down. 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 News. 2.31 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 Film: 'Go To Blazes'. 4.25 London. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the Press. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.25 News. 12.40 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 Film 'Made in Heaven'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 Lion and dragon. 11.20 Loss of the Princess Victoria.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 Schools. 12.12 Cartoon. 12.25 London. 1.38 Schools. 3.05 News. 3.08 Film: 'The Day Will Dawn'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Royal Clansmen. 6.45 London. 10.30 Loss of the Princess Victoria. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.25 Mediation.

Savage burden on all workers Rents, rates, prices rise all round

BY PHILIP WADE
OUR HOUSING
CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS OF COUNCIL tenants will get massive rate increases this April, in addition to the second round of rent rises under the Tories Housing Finance Act. Manchester corporation leaders say the rise will be a staggering 50 per cent, while the range throughout Britain is from 30 to 40 per cent.

This savage burden on most working-class tenants will be made heavier by quite separate 50p increases under the 'fair rents' Act—most will have to pay a £1 total to the rent man from April 1.

The last revaluation took place in 1962. Taking account of inflation, the new assessments have pushed council housing from the bottom to near the top of the list of rateable values. Rate increases are also needed to cover the extra £100m local authorities have to fork out under the Housing Finance Act itself.

In Clay Cross, Derbyshire, where councillors are appealing against surcharges and disqualification for refusing to implement the Act, tenants are fighting back. It is estimated that up to 90 per cent have signed a petition backing the councillors' stand and are withholding all their rent.

Meanwhile, the great Tory prices hike goes on. Today, chicken bought at Fine Fare, Britain's biggest supermarket chain, costs 2p a pound more—with government permission. For the housewife, it means the average 5lb bird will go up viciously by something like 10p.

And firms like Tesco say the housewives have forced up the prices themselves by switching to chicken from beef!

Poultry feed goes up £7.50 a ton—also from today. Within six weeks, this will be reflected in even higher chicken prices. In chorus the big food firms have put these rises down to 'world scarcity'.

And the Tories, to no one's surprise, after 'due consultation' have also given permission for rises in the prices of holidays abroad, leather goods and copper alloy castings.

Passes problem facing Lucas-CAV

BY DAVID MAUDE

THE JOSEPH LUCAS combine will today face a new problem at its Fazakerley site in Liverpool, where CAV workers have been on sit-in strike for almost 16 weeks.

Workers at Lucas Industrial Equipment, a smaller factory which shares the Fazakerley site with CAV, are to go into work using passes issued by the CAV occupation committee. If, as expected, management fails to turn up, they will work in.

LIE workers were laid off 12 weeks ago after the occupation committee decided to ban all movement of supplies on and off the site.

In fact the lay-off took place about a week earlier than it should have done. Lucas's sent the 350 workers home after instructing foremen not to accept the occupation committee passes.

Eleven days ago a CAV mass meeting agreed to allow the free movement of supplies again, in order to make clear it was not they who were denying LIE workers their jobs.

But the sit-in strikers decided to keep up the pass system, and to retain control of on-site services, such as the boilerhouse. The combine stubbornly insisted that both be given up.

On Friday a LIE mass meeting voted to accept the passes and yesterday maintenance workers went in to make ready for the return.

It is believed that there are enough materials in the factory to provide work for about a week.

Two Croydon plants to close

TWO Croydon engineering factories are to close. The 250 workers at APV Mitchell have been told the fall-off in the chemical industry means a serious rundown in orders for fabricated equipment. The whole plant will be phased out from March 31.

Shop stewards from the whole APV group will meet in Crawley, Sussex, this week to discuss action.

All 200 workers from both the

Miners threaten walk-out over non-unionist

EVERY miner at Westoe colliery in South Shields will strike today if a man who has just torn up his union card is allowed to start work.

This was the unanimous decision of a 1,000-strong lodge meeting of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday morning, which heard official confirmation that James Calvert Sims had left the union.

Members of the Durham Colliery Mechanics' Association at the pit-meeting on Saturday had already taken exactly the same decision.

Sims, who last year took the NUM to an industrial tribunal during a dispute over overtime earnings, is due to report for work at 4 a.m.

But it now seems unlikely that he will even bother to turn up. Yesterday's lodge meeting was told that the National Coal Board had agreed locally to his suspension 'on a day-to-day basis' and the lodge secretaries of both the NUM and the DCMA will be on hand to see that this agreement is observed.

As Mike Peel, the mechanics' secretary, told Workers Press yesterday: 'If Sims turns up, not a man will commence work.'

KEN WALTON, convenor of Chrysler's Ryton factory in Coventry, has been named in a complaint to the National Industrial Relations Court by non-unionist Joseph Langston. Langston has complained of an unfair industrial practice by Walton and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. They have until February 12 to reply. An industrial tribunal last month backed Langston's campaign against the closed shop by saying that he did not need to belong to a union, but the Ryton workers will not let him back as a non-unionist and he has been suspended.

NALGO wants No.10 talks resumed

WALTER ANDERSON, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, will spearhead a right-wing move on Friday to force the TUC back into talks with the Tories on their pay-control law.

The move will come at a special meeting of the TUC Economic Committee, called to consider draft proposals for a trade union alternative to the government's economic policies.

At last Wednesday's General Council a number of other right-wing union chiefs made it clear that they also want to get back into talks.

The NALGO executive decided on Saturday that while it was opposed to Phase Two of the pay law, consultation with Heath about the economy was still needed. A report was commissioned on the possibility of obtaining 'further concessions' from the government.

So far NALGO members have seen little evidence of any concessions. 34,000 of them in the electricity industry have had pay talks held up. An hours cut for local government staff has been frozen.

Thousands on Derry march

THOUSANDS marched through Londonderry yesterday afternoon in a mass commemoration of the 13 who died there at the hands of the British army on January 30 last year.

A silent column marching three abreast wound its way from the city's Creggan Estate, past the graveyard where the 13 are buried, to a huge meeting in Derry's Central Park.

The demonstration took half an hour to pass the graveyard.

Busloads had earlier arrived from all over Northern Ireland, and from several parts of Eire, to join the mass protest, which was organized by Provisional Sinn Fein.

The British army—normally much in evidence—were nowhere to be seen, despite reports that 200 extra troops had been drafted into the city.

Left: A silent vigil was mounted opposite Downing Street in London yesterday by the Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front.



SLL public meeting

SWANSEA

Wednesday, January 31, 7.30 p.m. Oxford Street School, Oxford Street.

Speakers: Roy Battersby (ACTT), Don Jones (AUEW convenor Viscose), Jim Beavan (mid-Glamorgan AUEW district committee). All in a personal capacity.



SPECIAL LECTURE: Given by G. Healy, SLL national secretary

'Marxism and the Road to Workers' Power'

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 7p.m.

BEAVER HALL, GARLICK HILL (nr Mansion House tube)

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