

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31, 1973 ● No 985 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## MARKETS AND CURRENCIES TAKE A DIVE

# NIXON-HEATH CRISIS TALKS ON FRIDAY

BY JACK GALE

TORY PREMIER Edward Heath and Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home flew to Washington yesterday in the hope of forging a reactionary world alliance against the working class.

The first item on the agenda of their meeting with President Nixon on Friday will be the political implications of the break-up of their economic system.

The stage has been set for the meeting by Nixon's budget which intensified the attack on the health, education, housing, employment and welfare of the American working class.

Such an onslaught has already been mounted in this country, centred around Phase Two of Heath's state pay laws.

These attacks are being launched on the American and British workers not because the capitalists are strong, but because they are weak. The facts which Nixon and Heath will discuss are:

LAST WEEK'S US trade figures showed a further deterioration to a £2,680m deficit, dashing hopes that the underlying trade position was being reversed. It is now 13 months since the Smithsonian currency re-alignment provided the dollar with an across-the-board devaluation of about 10 per cent. But this measure is clearly not working.

THIS WEEK the dollar has fallen sharply throughout the European money market and also in Tokyo. In Zurich yesterday it fell to its lowest ever rate at 3.60000/50 francs. This was 6 per cent below its middle rate of 3.84 francs before the Swiss franc was floated last week.

And the Tokyo stock market suffered its sixth-largest one day fall in history yesterday, following a steep decline in New York.

The Dow Jones industrial index dropped 7.38 to 996.09.

In London the closing rate of sterling on Monday represented a devaluation of 8.9 per cent from its pre-float rate of \$2.6057.

Such mounting pressure has intensified capitalist fears about the present fragile structure of parities. The world currency system is close to the point of collapse. It has been impossible to stabilize it ever since Nixon took the dollar off gold in August, 1971. The Smithsonian formula is in ruins.

Meanwhile, William Eberle, Nixon's trade envoy travels to Japan on February 7 for the second round of trade talks in less than a year (see page 2). The

TURN TO BACK PAGE

### *but Labourites see nothing*



WILSON and FEATHER . . . Impossible reforms.

THE TUC-LABOUR Party joint statement on economic policy — issued this week — makes no mention whatever of the crisis to be discussed in Washington this week.

It promises a programme of reforms which are totally impossible within the framework of the world economic crisis of capitalism which dominates politics today.

On the basis of tripartite agreement on wages

—a corporatist structure involving unions, government and employers — the TUC-Labour Party Committee, which included the 'lefts' Jack Jones and Ian Mikardo, claims it will be possible to introduce real prices and rent control and an end to Health Service charges.

This is deliberate deception.

Such reforms could only be introduced on the basis of taking economic and political

power out of the hands of the ruling class.

That involves the nationalization under workers' control and without compensation of all major industries, the land, and the banks and finance houses.

The Labourites' document makes no mention of such socialist measures. In fact, it completely ignores the decisions of both the TUC and Labour Party conferences which only a few months ago called for extensive

nationalization measures.

The Tory attacks on the working class, which have intensified since then do not stem from stupidity or mismanagement, but from the economic crisis which the Labourites ignore.

This amounts to disarming the working class in the face of ominous preparations being made by the capitalist leaders on a world scale.

No more valuable time must be given to the forces of reaction.

How

## Hitler

came to  
power



Forty years ago yesterday, January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler became the Fuehrer of Germany. On our centre pages today is the second part of Tom Kemp's look 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 TOMORROW

BE SURE OF YOUR WORKERS PRESS EVERY DAY. EITHER FILL IN THE SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 10 OR RING CIRCULATION 01-622 7029

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.



# workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31, 1973 ● No 985 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## MARKETS AND CURRENCIES TAKE A DIVE

# NIXON-HEATH CRISIS TALKS ON FRIDAY

BY JACK GALE

**TORY PREMIER** Edward Heath and Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home flew to Washington yesterday in the hope of forging a reactionary world alliance against the working class.

The first item on the agenda of their meeting with President Nixon on Friday will be the political implications of the break-up of their economic system.

The stage has been set for the meeting by Nixon's budget which intensified the attack on the health, education, housing, employment and welfare of the American working class.

Such an onslaught has already been mounted in this country, centred around Phase Two of Heath's state pay laws.

These attacks are being launched on the American and British workers not because the capitalists are strong, but because they are weak. The facts which Nixon and Heath will discuss are:

LAST WEEK'S US trade figures showed a further deterioration to a £2,680m deficit, dashing hopes that the underlying trade position was being reversed. It is now 13 months since the Smithsonian currency re-alignment provided the dollar with an across-the-board devaluation of about 10 per cent. But this measure is clearly not working.

THIS WEEK the dollar has fallen sharply throughout the European money market and also in Tokyo. In Zurich yesterday it fell to its lowest ever rate at 3.60000/50 francs. This was 6 per cent below its middle rate of 3.84 francs before the Swiss franc was floated last week.

And the Tokyo stock market suffered its sixth-largest one day fall in history yesterday, following a steep decline in New York.

The Dow Jones industrial index dropped 7.38 to 996.09.

In London the closing rate of sterling on Monday represented a devaluation of 8.9 per cent from its pre-float rate of \$2.6057.

Such mounting pressure has intensified capitalist fears about the present fragile structure of parities. The world currency system is close to the point of collapse. It has been impossible to stabilize it ever since Nixon took the dollar off gold in August, 1971. The Smithsonian formula is in ruins.

Meanwhile, William Eberle, Nixon's trade envoy travels to Japan on February 7 for the second round of trade talks in less than a year (see page 2). The

### *but Labourites see nothing*



WILSON and FEATHER . . . Impossible reforms.

**THE TUC-LABOUR Party joint statement on economic policy — issued this week — makes no mention whatever of the crisis to be discussed in Washington this week.**

**It promises a programme of reforms which are totally impossible within the framework of the world economic crisis of capitalism which dominates politics today.**

**On the basis of tripartite agreement on wages**

**—a corporatist structure involving unions, government and employers—the TUC-Labour Party Committee, which included the 'lefts' Jack Jones and Ian Mikardo, claims it will be possible to introduce real prices and rent control and an end to Health Service charges.**

**This is deliberate deception.**

**Such reforms could only be introduced on the basis of taking economic and political**

**power out of the hands of the ruling class.**

**That involves the nationalization under workers' control and without compensation of all major industries, the land, and the banks and finance houses.**

**The Labourites' document makes no mention of such socialist measures. In fact, it completely ignores the decisions of both the TUC and Labour Party conferences which only a few months ago called for extensive**

**nationalization measures.**

**The Tory attacks on the working class, which have intensified since then do not stem from stupidity or mismanagement, but from the economic crisis which the Labourites ignore.**

**This amounts to disarming the working class in the face of ominous preparations being made by the capitalist leaders on a world scale.**

**No more valuable time must be given to the forces of reaction.**

How

## Hitler

came to  
power



Forty years ago yesterday, January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler became the Fuehrer of Germany. On our centre pages today is the second part of Tom Kemp's look 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 **TOMORROW**

**BE SURE OF YOUR WORKERS PRESS EVERY DAY. EITHER FILL IN THE SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 10 OR RING CIRCULATION 01-622 7029**

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.

TURN TO BACK PAGE



**POULSON**

IN 1966 Anthony Crosland, the Labour Education Minister, opened a new school in Bradford. For performing this ceremony he received an expensive antique coffee pot from John Poulson, the architect tycoon.

Crosland and his wife, journalist Susan Barnes, both wrote letters to Poulson thanking him profusely for the gift. Crosland wrote that he was 'most grateful for the coffee pot you so kindly gave me.'

He went on: 'You gave us a quite exceptionally beautiful gift and I tremble to think how much it cost. I shall treasure it in memory of a very beautiful building.'

Within minutes of the revelation of the gift and the letters in Wakefield Bankruptcy Court on Monday, Crosland was telling a quite different story.

'It is common practice for ministers of all governments when

# Riding the 'gravy train'

## WHAT WE THINK

they visit an establishment or open a school or college, to be presented with a memento of the occasion.

'I had no recollection of the coffee pot or the occasion, still less Mr Poulson.' By Monday night Crosland had become even more adamant about the position.

'I don't care twopence about the pot and, if this is stirring up trouble somewhere, the trustees can have it. I don't care. It is of no interest to me in the slightest degree, this damned pot.'

But this is no storm in an ordinary coffee pot. It raises some very important points for the working class to take note of.

First of all, there is Crosland's bland assertion that accepting £500 coffee pots from building contractors is 'the done thing'. Everyone does it, he says. It's a custom of Ministers in all governments.

This shows the extent to which the leadership of the working class in the Labour Party is

corroded by the capitalist system.

In the Poulson hearing it has been shown beyond doubt that ministers, MPs, senior civil servants, councillors and trade union officials are all on, what Mr Muir Hunter, QC, calls 'the gravy train'.

There is absolutely no evidence that Crosland accepted the gift for any ulterior motive. But in his easy acceptance of it are the seeds of danger.

At the close of Monday's Wakefield hearing Mr Hunter presented a diagram to the court which showed a series of interconnecting circles and lines. 'This,' he said, 'has been described as the Poulson network. It is only part of the facts because they cannot be represented on one sheet of paper.'

'You and your organization are in the middle and around you are your principal clients.'

'The black lines are links established by the evidence. The red lines ending in arrows represent the movement of money—cash, cars, presents, mortgages, holidays and so forth.'

This web of contacts included such personages as Mr Reginald Maudling, the ex-Tory Home Secretary; Mr T. Dan Smith, the one time leader of Newcastle Council and first chairman of the Northern Economic Planning Council; Andrew Cunningham, northern organizer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and a member of the Labour Party's NEC; Mr Albert Roberts, NUM-sponsored MP for Northampton; Mr George Pottinger, permanent secretary at the Scottish Office and close friend of the Fraser family who own Harrods, plus an assortment of officials from British Rail, the Coal Board, the Ministry of Transport and hospital boards.

Since the hearings began, more than £165,000 has been returned to the Trustees from an enormous variety of anonymous sources.

Crosland is to send back his coffee pot.

There can be no doubt that the court is shortly to be inun-



**CROSLAND**

dated with solid gold cigarette lighters, pearl necklaces, diamond tie pins and cuff links. The turkeys and champagne that were lavished around will, of course, not be recoverable.

This gravy train regime runs to the heart of the capitalist system. It is the capitalist system in all its rottenness which plunders the poor for the aggrandisement of the rich and their hangers-on.

The Poulson revelations, as minimal as they are, will serve to redouble workers' hatred of the ruling class and its agents in their own ranks.

It means that the task of sweeping away the rottenness and decay of capitalism is on the immediate agenda. This can be taken forward concretely by helping to transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party in the coming weeks.

## Japan goes deeper and deeper into the black US trade war with Tanaka

JAPAN'S trade balance with the rest of the world increased last year to nearly \$9,000m, compared with only \$7,800m in 1971.

The rise took place despite the Smithsonian agreement of December 1971, which fixed the parity of the yen at 16.88 per cent higher than its previous rate. The Smithsonian revaluation was supposed to cut Japanese exports, particularly to the US.

It has failed, as is clearly demonstrated by the \$4,500m increase in exports last year. The total value of Japanese exports was \$28,000m in 1972. By contrast, imports increased only \$3,300m to \$19,000m.

The Japanese surplus is a major factor in the continually widening American trade deficit and the Nixon administration is planning a fresh assault on the trade practices of the Japanese employers.

For the second time in less than a year, William Eberle, the chief US trade negotiator, is due in Tokyo for talks on what the Japanese Foreign Ministry calls 'effective measures for improving bilateral trade patterns'.

He will also give the Japanese an outline of the Trade Bill soon to be introduced in Congress, which American officials are hinting could be damaging to Japan unless the trade surplus is done away with.

### Threats

US ambassador Robert Ingersoll returned from consultations in Washington in mid-January to warn the Japanese that serious consequences could follow unless sure signs appeared in two or three months that the huge American deficit was being corrected.

He spoke in veiled terms of protectionist feeling in Congress, hinting broadly that there might be an import surcharge on Japanese goods entering the United States, still Japan's largest market.

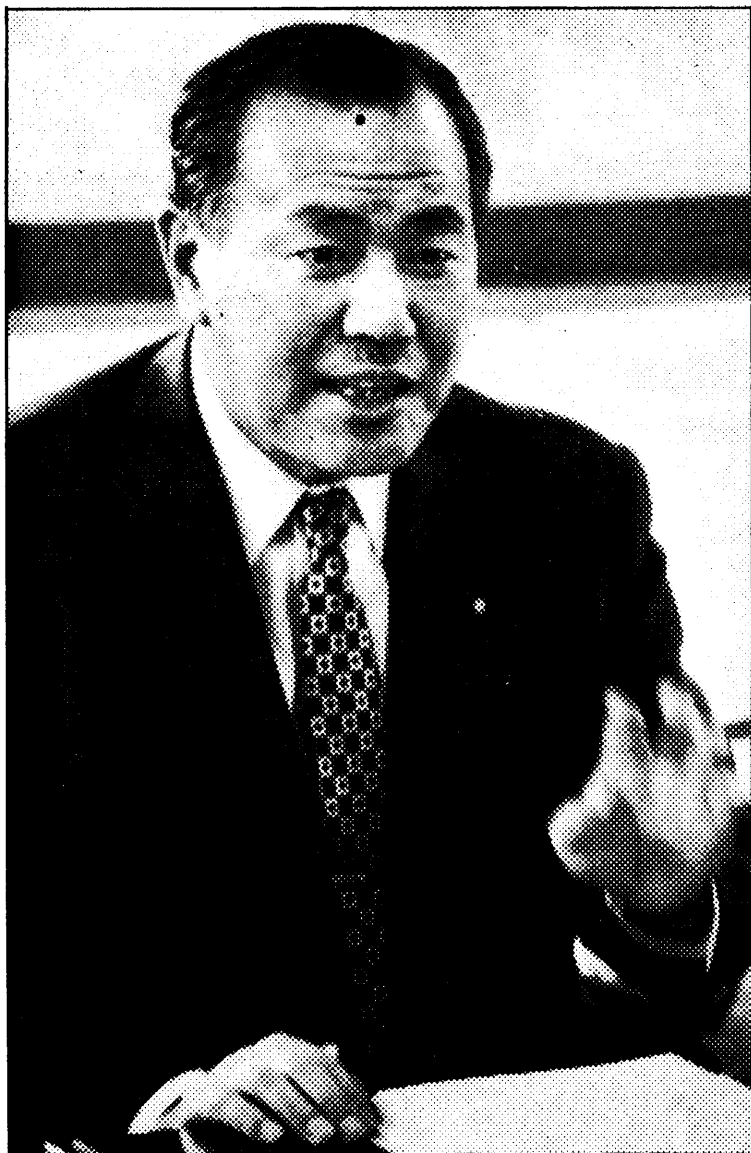
By Foreign Editor  
**JOHN SPENCER**

President Nixon launched his trade war on his capitalist rivals in 1971 with a 10 per cent surcharge lifted in December following the Smithsonian agreement. The Japanese are now resisting foreign pressure for another revaluation which would help make other countries' goods more competitive.

Similar 'protectionist' warnings have been given to the Tokyo government several times in recent years, and each time the Japanese have promised to take action. Each time, however, the action has failed to produce the desired effect.

The Americans felt they had finally got a firm Japanese commitment when Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka met President Nixon in Hawaii last August. He demanded that Tanaka cut the trade gap by \$2,000m at least by March next year.

Tanaka promised to try and achieve this in two or three years, and meanwhile committed Japan to one-time emergency imports of \$1,000m worth of goods from the US in the 1972 fiscal year to narrow the gap. Instead of narrowing, however, it has still widened.



Japan's premier Kakuei Tanaka . . . Exports problem

The Tokyo Trade Ministry refused to say how big the US deficit will be, but banking sources believe it will be more than \$4,000. Tanaka had hoped to at least bring the figure below \$3,000m.

### Record

Japan has enjoyed an advantage in trade with the US since 1965. In the year ending March 1972 the imbalance was a record \$3,200m. When Eberle arrives, the Japanese will explain they are doing their best to live up to the promises made to Nixon, according to Trade Ministry sources.

He will also be told that Japan cannot revalue the yen again at this stage without seriously hurting smaller industries, and that the effects of the last revaluation will finally be felt in the trade figures within another year.

The latest Japanese government bid is a five-point programme adopted last December for expanding imports, curbing exports, free entry of foreign

capital, more overseas aid and increased government spending at home.

But there is little to indicate that this policy will be any more successful than previous efforts. Many economists believe that Japan's declared foreign exchange reserve will soon reach the \$20,000m mark, making it the world's largest foreign holder of US dollars.

Washington has made it clear on every available occasion that this is totally unacceptable. But many observers believe it will now be impossible for Tanaka to carry out his promise to halve it.

Even the 'emergency import' programme has lost most of its effectiveness, as the Trade Ministry plans to spread the \$1,000 loss over three years, completely defeating the whole object of the original Japanese commitment.

Given the Japanese reluctance and inability to take 'voluntary' action against the trade deficit, the only course left for Nixon is punitive tariffs on Japanese imports, raising the trade war to a new height of ferocity.

## Cane and rubber plants hit by strikes

THE WAVE of strikes for higher wages in Durban, South Africa, spread to the rubber and sugar cane factories on Monday after workers in the textile industry had gone back to work with promises of wage increases.

The Frame Group, which owns all four textile mills in Durban, announced immediate pay increases for 7,000 African workers at the mills where there were strikes by 3,000 people for higher pay last week.

But police with dogs rushed to a Durban rubber factory after about 1,000 workers came out on strike on Monday for higher wages.

All but one of the Natal Canvas Rubber Manufacturers' departments came to a halt and workers surrounded the factory gates before dispersing as police reinforcements arrived.

Meanwhile, about 180 sugar cane workers struck to back demands for a minimum wage of £7.50 a month.

Police patrolled in riot cars as textile workers were told at factory gate meetings of their pay increases. Some workers jeered at police, but there were no incidents.

The Frame group announced that across-the-board increases ranging from 90p to £1.50 were being introduced in the group's cotton division throughout the country.

## Police and students clash in Beirut

SEVERAL students and security men were injured in student demonstrations yesterday in support of striking government school teachers in Beirut and in Sidon, south Lebanon. Eye-witnesses said security men retaliated when the students hurled stones at them.

In Beirut, the security men trained coloured water cannons at the demonstrators, who broke up into small groups.

The school teachers went on strike last Tuesday to press demands for better pay and working conditions.

Five brace of pheasants-valued at £8-brought a savage sentence and enormous family problems

# 12 months for poaching... in 1973!

**ERNIE CRITCHLEY** is prisoner No. 670796 at the grim Armley jail on the outskirts of Leeds. He's doing 12 months. His crime is that he was caught poaching.

No, this isn't a story from the pages of 16th or 17th century history. It is ruling-class 'justice' in 1973.

Ernie Critchley (34) is a miner at Fryston pit at Airedale near Castleford. He lives with his dark-haired wife Joan and two daughters Ann (14) and Jean (seven) in a small but well-kept council house.

After the long and back-breaking shifts in the pit most of Ernie's mates go to the local miners' club or to the pub. Some spend their time at the betting shop.

From all local accounts, Ernie is a quiet, retiring lad. His hobby, his relaxation, is rabbiting with ferrets or bagging a few pheasants.

This type of sport has been pursued by the working men of the Yorkshire moors for centuries. At one time if you were caught on the lordly estates, you could be flogged on the spot. But that's all over now... or is it?

When Ernie and his friend, Roy Wright, a miner from Knottingley, were caught on the Escrick Park Estate, near York, the game warden was accompanied by the local police.

Ernie was slapped around the face and one of the police officers drew his truncheon and menaced him with it.

Mrs Critchley said: 'They've given him 12 months for poaching. It's like the olden times, isn't it?'

**Ernie, Roy Wright and another man planned their poaching expedition last October. They had bagged ten pheasants when a shot was fired and the forces of 'law and order' closed in. The third man got away and he hasn't been located.**

'Ernie would never tell,' said Mrs Critchley. 'They could cut off his hands, but he'd never tell. He's like that, our Ernie. He's respected by everybody.'

Ernie and Roy were committed to York County Court on January 15 for sentence. Ernie said goodbye to his wife and told her he'd probably be back at tea-time.

The judge, Mr Justice Nield, asked why the accused weren't represented. The answer was given that they had been told it would cost £80 and that they had been refused legal aid.

Mr Geoffrey Rivlin of Leeds was appointed on the spot to defend them. As they had both pleaded guilty, however, little could be said.

Ernie was given a year's jail on account of his three previous convictions for poaching. Wright was fined £100 to be paid at £2 a week or six months' imprisonment in default.

Mrs Critchley was growing anxious. Afternoon tea had passed and then the children had come home. Still no Ernie. There was a knock at the door at night-fall. A man announced himself as a probation officer and said that Mr Critchley had been taken off to prison for a year. 'I fell

into a chair,' said Mrs Critchley. 'I just felt numb all over. It was a terrible shock. I didn't think they jailed people for this.'

Mr Rivlin wrote a commiserating note to the family in which he said: 'I am sorry that things turned out so badly for you. Your husband's sentence was not one which was easy to foresee and I hope that his appeal will be successful.'

**The savage sentence on Ernie Critchley has created enormous problems for the family—though they would try to play down these difficulties.**

They belong to proud mining communities in which people don't like to seek charity or plead their problems in public.

But for stealing five brace of pheasants—worth about £8—one man is in jail losing a whole year's salary while the other is fined £100!

The household income has been more than halved by the removal of the family breadwinner to prison. Mrs Critchley is drawing benefits of almost £12. After council rent and food for the two children, very little, if anything, is left for new clothes or 'luxuries'.

Mrs Critchley has the additional responsibility of caring for

her mother, Mr Mary Mountain (58), who is stricken with cancer.

The whole family is being made rudely aware of the cruel bureaucracy of prison life.

Mrs Critchley thought she would regularly be able to make the two-hour bus trip to Armley to see her husband. But a small, anonymous note from the Home Office put her straight about that.

It stated: 'Sentenced prisoners are entitled on reception and every 28 days thereafter to an open visit lasting half an hour.' In other words, one visit per month.

She then took consolation in the fact that they could be in regular correspondence with him. Wrong again. Another circular stated that Ernie could write one letter each week and receive one letter each week.

It stated that she could not write on more than four sides of sheets of paper eight inches by five inches. It went on: 'Letters to and from prisoners are subject to censorship to prevent breaches of the Prison Rules and Regulations.'

When I visited the house, Ernie's two daughters were planning their next letter to their father. They were going to tell him about school and the ferrets and wish he were home soon. The censor at Armley will have a field day with this 'subversive' message!

**As Mrs Critchley was explaining to me the shock of her husband's sentence, a most revealing interchange took place between mother and daughter.**

'They're treating him like a common criminal, she said. They're doing this to our Ernie because we're miners. We're working class.'

'What's wrong with that?' 14-year-old Ann asked.

'Nothing,' her mother replied. 'They think they're better than us.'

'But we're not scruffy,' Ann said indignantly.

'I know we're not. I bet we're more honest than all of them at the top.'

It is indeed ironical that her husband's case should come before the courts at a time when Wakefield Bankruptcy Court is hearing evidence about gifts handed out to a collection of Tory and Labour Cabinet Ministers, MPs, senior civil servants, hospital board officials, NCB officials, British Rail executives, architects, councillors and surveyors.

They were all, as Mr Muir Hunter, QC, so elegantly put it, 'on the gravy train'. It is also ironic that the Critchley case should be heard only a stone's throw from Leeds where, it is said, there is the finest police force money can buy.

The whole of this part of Yorkshire reeks with these situations—yet a miner enjoying his after-hours hobby is rounded up and carted off for 12 months, breaking up his family and impoverishing them.

The vindictive sentence on Critchley is a warning to all working-class families that the Tories have at their disposal a mass of legislation which can be brought into action at any time. Ernie was convicted under the Night Poaching Act of 1828.



**ERNIE CRITCHLEY . . .** his relaxation after a hard day at the pit was ferreting

INVESTIGATION  
BY  
ALEX MITCHELL



**Mrs Joan Critchley with her daughters Ann (14) and Jean (7) . . . 'It's like olden times, isn't it?'**

## Shipbuilders want to know Tory plans for the industry

EARLY DISCLOSURE of the government's long-term plans for the shipbuilding industry is vital, says a report from the employers out today. Foreign competition is soaking up new orders on a world scale. And large gaps are starting to appear in this year's production schedules.

The Shipbuilders' and Repairers' National Association is extremely worried that uncertainty over what support the Tories intend giving the industry will cut back still further the number of orders going to Britain yards.

Its report warns that last year's orders were already well below the current production rate. Owners were reluctant to commit themselves with the government's plans not announced.

Fresh contracting continued at

a low level during the last quarter of 1972.

A substantial proportion of the tonnage 'booked' was accounted for by a single order for three ships placed with one yard. Some improvement in the freight market had been insufficient to stimulate significant fresh ordering.

Thirty-six merchant ships of a total 548,000 gross tons were ordered from British firms in the final quarter, bringing the 1972 total to 109 ships of 839,000 tons.

This compared with 24 ships of 32,000 tons booked in the final quarter of 1971 and 70 of 1,027,000 tons during the whole year.

The industry's total order book at the end of 1972—excluding naval work—stood at 220

ships of 3,969,000 tons, with an estimated value of £644m.

For most of last year—according to figures published today by Lloyd's Register—world-wide demand for new tonnage was dropping. But in the last few weeks there was an upsurge of orders, most of which went abroad.

More than 84 per cent of the increase in the world order book over the year went to Japan, while West Germany and Sweden also showed large increases.

The British industry was placed sixth in terms of ships under construction or on order. Compared with Japan, which increased its order book by 6,428,874 tons, British yards won only 117,729 tons of new orders.

## 'Beef prices won't drop'

**THERE is no prospect of any fall in beef prices, the chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission, Peter Coleclough, said yesterday.**

If people wanted to retain most home-produced beef for sale in Britain, they would have to pay the going market price, Coleclough insisted in introducing the commission's annual report.

Now Britain had joined the Common Market, beef supplies would 'inevitably move to those markets which are prepared to pay the higher prices, indeed the highest price'.





# BRITISH CP MAKES A FURTHER SHIFT TO RIGHT

BY TOM KEMP

The extent of the rightward shift in the policies of the Communist Party of Great Britain is shown by an article in the current issue of 'Marxism Today' by one of its leading economists, Ron Bellamy, entitled 'Trends in British Capitalism in the 1970s'.

The article begins with a confused excursion into theory which amounts to a rejection of historical materialism. According to Bellamy, scientific and technological advance makes possible what he calls an increase in 'the potential productive forces'.

## Conscious

Whether this potential is used will depend upon whether 'the owners of the means of production have an interest, through the position they inherit in a given historical set of productive relations, in using it'.

He speaks about them making 'a conscious and deliberate change in their own relations with the owners of labour power'. In other words, he is talking about a conscious

act of will on the part of the capitalists.

They can, he says, 'decide to use the potential available to them, and thus [establish] a new and different, structure of relations'. Theoretical gibberish of this kind is used to draw conclusions from Stalinist theory of 'state monopoly capitalism' with a very definite political content: class collaboration.

He argues that, for British capitalism, the gains from international co-operation within the Common Market are too low, some other form of co-operation must therefore be envisaged.

The purpose of such co-operation is to make possible the utilization of 'the potential of the newly available productive forces'. He adds a typically under-consumptionist argument which runs as follows:

The increased output of consumer goods made possible by full employment and rising productivity are bought back by the workers: 'In the 1970s,' he says, 'rising real wages, and the increasing leisure to enjoy what they will buy, will lie at the heart of the struggle for job security.'

Bellamy sees no reason to explain why, over the past two or three years, unemployment in the capitalist countries of western Europe and North

America has been increasing.

He is more interested in the effects of concentration and monopoly on small traders and 'the growth of anti-capitalist ideology among the traditional recruits for higher management', not to speak of the leftward movement in the Labour Party and trade unions.

This is taken in conjunction with the 'objective weaknesses in the position of British imperialism' (not crisis but 'weaknesses'). 'British imperialism can survive,' he concludes, only if the 'domestic industrial base is reconstructed'. He hunts around for some solution for the capitalists.

After raising the spectre of 'attacks upon the working people,' he finds one. Britain needs a more modern industry. This means taking part in the international division of labour. 'But if that modernization,' he writes, 'is to be compatible with job security, rising living standards and increased leisure, it can be so only with a quite different conception of Britain's role in the world.'

'When we say "No" to the Common Market, we also say "Yes" to the European security treaty, and to new forms of all-European economic co-operation. It is tragic that at a time when Japan and the US

are proposing, through necessity, increasing their trade with the socialist countries in a massive way, and West Germany and France have recognized some of the realities of the balance of forces, it is the British government which plays the most reactionary role.'

## US policies

This passage needs careful reading to bring out its real meaning. It is being assumed here that in the 1970s a modernized British capitalism can bring 'job security, rising living standards and increased leisure' for the working class if it 'modernizes' and turns towards economic co-operation with the USSR and eastern Europe.

In other words, ignoring altogether the depth of the international crisis of capitalism, Bellamy is arguing for 'peaceful co-existence' between states with different social systems. He is even pointing to the policies of the USA and Japan as models which the British ruling class might emulate with profit.

'If there is going to be a drive for modernization of industry,' says Bellamy, 'all the efforts of the working people will be required to ensure that

On the eve of Common Market entry, the CP reported the above anti-EEC march without mentioning the fact that the National Front marched in a large contingent.

its benefits go to them and not to the monopolists.' So there will still be 'monopolists'.

Bellamy says 'monopoly capitalism is anti-democratic, robs people of economic and political control over their environment (!) and increasingly puts them at the mercy of remote forces, not only in the boardrooms and in Whitehall, but in Detroit and Brussels'.

## Reformist

He goes on to call for the typical Stalinist anti-monopoly alliance to include 'many small and medium, and even some big capitalists whose widest interests are damaged by monopoly capitalism.'

It is clear that this is a reformist programme for a refurbished capitalism in Britain as a friendly trading partner of the USSR and eastern Europe.

Despite some Marxist terminology, the whole method of this article, first given as a paper to the Economic Advisory Sub-Committee of the CP in October 1972 is completely reactionary.

# FOREIGN BOSSES INVEST IN APARTHEID

Apartheid in South Africa means starvation wages as well as humiliation for black African workers. It means fat profits for capitalists and investors in that country, which is a favourite outlet for British capital.

There is mass unemployment among Africans, who cannot organize for better wages and are subject to slave conditions arising from apartheid legislation.

Many British firms take advantage of these conditions to invest in South Africa. The General Electric Company, for example, paid its African workers £6 per week; average wages for similar work in Britain was £27 in 1972. The South African Chamber of Commerce itself says that a wage of less than £10.50 per week means life below the poverty line.

Hundreds of millions of pounds of fresh British capital has flowed to South Africa in recent years to take advantage of the 'opportunities' offered by cheap labour and apartheid. A great deal of money has gone into engineering. British subsidiaries operate with British techniques and designs and produce mainly for the South African market.

Close contact is maintained between the home firm and its branch plant. Motor manufacturers like GMC, Fords and Leylands are rapidly expanding their engine-assembly and machinery plants in South Africa. The great attraction always, is cheap labour.

A new stage is beginning in which South African manufactured goods, produced by British subsidies, are exported back to Europe. GM began exporting its South African assembled car, the Rangei, in 1970. Electronics firms are following the example.

Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe advocates the purchase of shares in companies with South African subsidies so that shareholders (while drawing their dividends) can press for reforms. 'I am sure that the British directors and share-



Workers in a Volkswagen plant in South Africa—starvation wages mean fat profits.

holders are not aware of the treatment the African workers are receiving,' said the ineffable Thorpe after a visit to South Africa last June.

What a story! The directors and executives of the firms concerned are constantly on the move between Britain and South Africa. They know perfectly well what wages are paid and how apartheid works. They like it that way. So do the shareholders — who are attracted by high dividends and

condone the system which brings them.

Such 'liberalism' stinks! The solution proposed by some trade unionists is not very different. They emphasize that low African wages are a threat to the wages of British workers, but they want an end to the capitalist connection with South Africa. 'Investigate whether your firm has any connection with South Africa', runs an article in the January 'TASS Journal'.

'If you discover any connection at all, let the company know your distaste,' the article suggests. What sort of working-class solidarity is that supposed to be?

British workers must support the struggles of their African brothers against the Vorster regime in South Africa. The best assistance they can give is to end the capitalist system in Britain which means exploitation for the workers of both countries.

## JAPANESE COMPUTERS MOVE INTO EUROPE

FUJITSU, Japan's leading computer manufacturer, is moving into Europe in a big way and confidently expects to corner 10 per cent of EEC computer sales within two years.

As a first step it has nominated Incompto of Utrecht, Holland, as its sales agent for the Benelux countries. But Masamichi Nakamura, Fujitsu's European manager, plans to expand throughout western Europe.

At present he has three types of computer on offer—a mini-computer, a time-sharing system and a small-to-medium sized machine. These can be leased through another Netherlands company set up for the purpose.

The Japanese company is already firmly established in eastern Europe, with bases in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. It has sold 44 computers to various countries in eastern Europe, mainly from its Bulgarian base.

The buyers included Hungarian, Rumanian, Czechoslovak, Polish and Soviet enterprises. Before entering the unfamiliar west European markets, Fujitsu organized a painstakingly detailed market survey.

The entry of the Japanese firm into the EEC market is a big blow to British and other EEC computer manufacturers, who are already facing stiff competition from across the Atlantic.

## POLAND'S LAYABOUT PROBLEM

'Layabouts' and 'loafers' are causing problems in Poland, according to a radio report. Thousands of people find pretexts for not turning up for work and many flock into cafés for a beer or a coffee.

The other day an outside broadcast reporter followed them in and interviewed the 'loafers' for the edification of listeners. The report went like this:

It is 11.30 a.m. and you are sitting in a café drinking beer — 'I have a medical certificate.'

This is the Karmazyn catering enterprise, it is full of men.

'Gentlemen, it is in working hours, and you are sitting here drinking beer.' — 'Occasionally you have to have a beer; you work hard, and if you manage to knock off for 15 minutes its nice to drop in for a beer.'

'Do you think your neighbour is right?' — 'I don't think so.'

'Then why are you here?' — 'I'm all right. My wife and daughter are ill and I have been excused work.'

'Are you unemployed?' — 'No.'

'Why are you at Karmazyn and not at work?' — 'I've been sent to buy certain things and dropped in; ten or 15 minutes don't matter.'

'Why shouldn't we be allowed to pop in, when the managers spend two or three hours drinking coffee in various places? We've got the right to quench our thirst too.'

The broadcaster did not draw any moral about the habits of the bureaucracy or go on to drop into the places where it guzzles coffee—and no doubt other things. But she did promise to return to other drinking places in the campaign against 'loafers':

## FRENCH CP'S 'WIN-EVERYBODY' CAMPAIGN

With the elections five weeks away, the French Communist Party's Central Committee meeting on January 24-25 called for a new-style campaign to win votes from wide strata of the electorate.

Main speaker Rene Piquet said, the aim should be to win over people from all classes, 'with the exception of the big bourgeoisie and its political agents'.

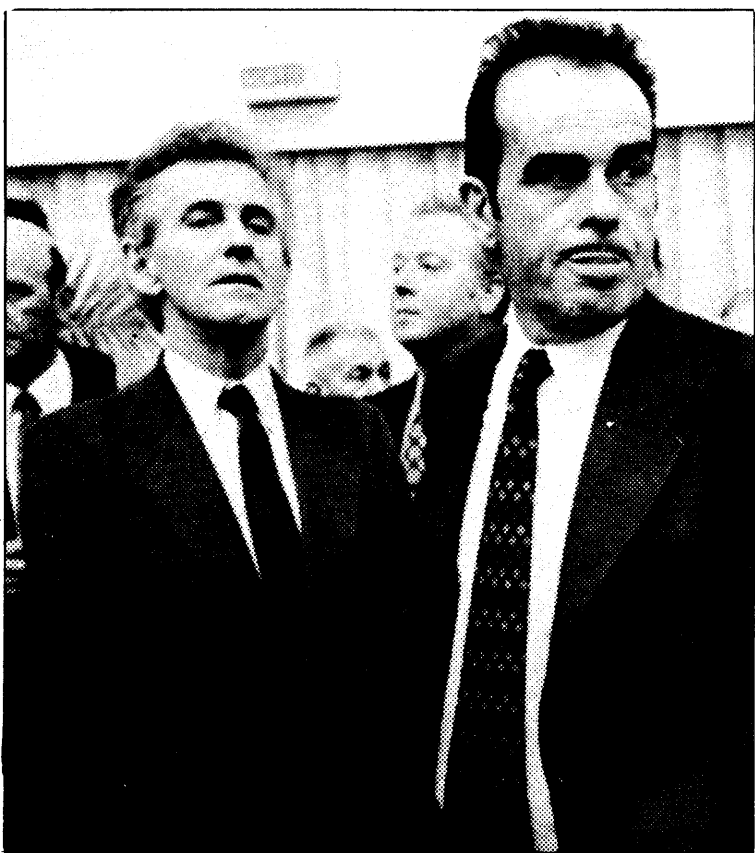
He called for the party to demonstrate its 'seriousness, dignity and serenity' during the campaign. It should win to the party's ideas and proposals 'everybody including those who until now have not been susceptible to our arguments, but who progressively are discovering us, and may perhaps on the occasion of this unprecedented election be receptive to our ideas'.

This broad-front campaign is intended to establish the

position of the Communist Party as a respectable partner in a ruling coalition which includes not only its campaign allies—the Socialist Party and the 'left' Radicals — but bourgeois groups still further to the right.

Piquet also called for a big effort in the factories, from which the party expects to draw the major part of its support. Here the party has to sell a reform programme to many workers ready for action as in 1936 or May-June 1968.

That is why Piquet says that there 'must be a great ideological and political battle waged' in every enterprise. At the same time he wants assurances and guarantees to be given to bourgeoisie that a coalition elected on the basis of the common programme would not step outside the limits of the bourgeois social order and the Gaullist Constitution.



Communist Party chief, Marchais: 'new-style campaign to win votes'.

# HOW HITLER CAME TO POWER

BY TOM KEMP

If the majority of the working class still continued to support the Social Democratic Party (SPD) when Hitler took power 40 years ago yesterday (January 30, 1933), this was mainly the fault of the Communist Party (KPD).

In 1923 it had failed to rise to the great revolutionary opportunity then presented. Within the next few years the party came under the control of the Stalinists and had to accept the policy which was laid down in Moscow.

After the 6th World Congress in 1928 the KPD, under the direct instruction of Stalin, embarked on the ultra-left turn required by what was called 'the third period'. The main struggle was supposed to be against the SPD, dubbed for the occasion 'social fascists' and with whom, therefore, there could be no co-operation.

From 1930, in a brilliant series of articles, Trotsky denounced this policy as bound to open the way for the Nazis and bring about the defeat of the working class. KPD policy made it impossible to break away the social democratic workers from the SPD and the trade unions dominated by the reformist bureaucracy which ignored the fascist danger and had no way of meeting it.

The bankrupt theory of 'social fascism' made it impossible to grasp the real danger represented by the Nazi movement and to understand how fascism differed from other kinds of bourgeois rule, including the 'Bonapartist' type governments which ruled Germany after 1929.

In his writings of the period Trotsky made these questions perfectly clear and appealed to the communists who wanted to fight Hitler to change their party's policy before it was too late.

In defining the historic role of fascism, when capitalism requires the complete destruction of the workers' organizations in order to deal with the economic crisis, he pointed to a number of characteristics which sharply differentiated it from other forms of bourgeois rule.

'It raises to its feet those classes that are immediately above the proletariat and who are ever in dread of being forced down into its ranks; it organizes and militarizes them at the expense of finance capital, under the cover of the official government, and it directs them to the extirpation of the proletarian organizations from the most revolutionary to the most conservative,' wrote Trotsky in 'Germany—What Next', in 1931.

'Fascism is not merely a system of reprisals, of brutal force and of police terror. Fascism is a particular governmental system based on the

uprooting of all elements of proletarian democracy within bourgeois society. The task of fascism lies not only in destroying the communist advance guard, but in holding the entire class in a state of forced disunity. To this end the physical annihilation of the most revolutionary section of the workers does not suffice. It is also necessary to smash all independent and voluntary organizations, to demolish all the defensive bulwarks of the proletariat and to uproot whatever has been achieved during three quarters of a century by social democracy and the trade unions. For, in the last analysis, the Communist Party also bases itself on these achievements.'

These points obviously have great importance for workers today as they face the attacks of the Tory government.

At the time, although Trotsky's writings were quite widely read and discussed, his supporters in Germany were few and he was not able to change the course of either the Social Democratic or the Communist Parties. To the end they blindly pursued a policy which could lead only to disaster and the complete destruction of both organizations.

As for the Stalinists' fatuous writings on the theme of 'social fascism', they would not bear reprinting today and they try to draw a veil of oblivion over them. In fact the KPD, on Stalin's instructions, carried out a policy which opened the way for Hitler and brought a terrible and undeserved punishment down upon the heads of the German workers.

The suicidal policy of the 'third period' thus made it impossible to build a united front as a barrier of all the working-class organizations in defence of their basic rights against the mounting brown tide. Instead it spread confusion and desperation.

How could there be an alliance with one sort of fascist ('social fascists') against the full-blooded variety? Social Democratic workers could hardly be expected to trust those who described their own leaders as only a 'left' variety of Nazi.

Though the responsibility of the Social Democrats for January 30, 1933 and its terrible sequel is deep, the KPD's guilt is all the greater because it could have reversed the tide. It did not even make the attempt and continued with the policy of 'social fascism' even after the depths of the defeat were plain to all.

Yet objective conditions were driving workers all the time towards the KPD which they saw as a revolutionary party. But once there they found no leadership in the fight against fascism. Those who remained faithful to the SPD leaders could not be broken away by the arguments of the KPD based on the 'social fascist' theory.



Autumn 1932, on the eve of his coming to power. Hitler swears Nazi members of the Reichstag to allegiance. The Communist Pa

Of course, the Social Democratic leaders were treacherous and did not want to fight. But that had to be demonstrated to their own members and supporters. The responsibility for doing this lay upon the KPD leadership—it could come from nowhere else.

The only way to erect a barrier to fascism and to prepare the working class for power was to propose a united front programme directly to the SPD leadership. The mobilization of all the strength of the SPD, the KPD and the trade unions could have made a Nazi defeat certain.

## SUPPORTERS LOST TO KPD

In 1920 united action by the working class, taking the form of a General Strike, had stopped the Kapp putsch, supported by a section of the army, dead in its tracks. Similar action could have stopped Hitler and destroyed his movement. Masses of German workers were looking for such leadership both before and after January 30, 1933.

Those SPD leaders who refused to accept such a fight could have been exposed before their followers and driven out

of the movement. Once the working-class movement had demonstrated its strength and determination it would have attracted to its side many hesitant elements in the middle class and broken away a section of the Nazis' support.

In fact, the 1932 elections showed, as already pointed out, that the Nazi movement had reached its peak as far as the ballot box was concerned. It was not able to hold its supporters. The Nazis themselves admitted that in some places they were losing members and supporters to the KPD.

Although the Nazi Party itself was deeply divided on the question, in 1932 Hitler was desperate to find a way into the government because he felt that otherwise he would never get into power. Therefore he entered into a series of conversations, in which Papen acted as a broker with big business, to find a way into the government by the back door. And for Hitler only the Chancellorship would do.

Meanwhile, precious time was being lost by the working-class parties whose united action could have posed a barrier to fascism. Large numbers of workers were eager and ready to strike at the fascists.

The KPD leadership grossly

underestimated the Nazi danger. The whole theory of 'social fascism' led to such a conclusion. If Brüning, Papen, Schleicher and the SPD leaders were all varieties of fascism, why should the Hitler variety be much worse? Indeed KPD secretary Ernst Thaelman and the others thought that Hitler's accession to power would be his undoing. Or, as another KPD leader, Remmele, put it: 'After Hitler, our turn.'

If the KPD spurned the 'social fascists', it entered into tacit combinations with the Nazis on a number of occasions. In 1931 it supported the referendum, initiated by the Nazis, to unseat the Social Democratic government in Prussia. In April 1932 it supported a Nazi vote of censure in the Prussian Landtag (state parliament). In the autumn of 1932 it accepted Nazi support in the strike in the Berlin transport system against wage cuts.

Such manoeuvres only confused the working class and played into Hitler's hands. At the same time, both the SPD and the KPD disarmed the workers by proclaiming the impending decline of Nazi influence.

On the very day that Hitler became Chancellor, the SPD





Autumn 1932, on the eve of his coming to power. Hitler swears Nazi members of the Reichstag to allegiance. The Communist Party and Social Democrats continued to proclaim the decline of Nazi influence, thus disarming the masses.





glance. The Communist Party and Social Democrats continued to proclaim the decline of Nazi influence, thus disarming the masses.

Nazi  
ry of  
uch a  
open,  
eaders  
icism,  
ariety  
KPD  
a and  
Hitler's  
ld be  
other  
ut it:

the  
l into  
the  
occa-  
d the  
Social  
in  
sup-  
nsure  
(state  
on of  
pport  
Berlin  
wage

con-  
and  
s. At  
SPD  
the  
Nazi

Hitler  
SPD

daily, 'Vorwärts' wrote: 'Faced with the threat of a coup d'état, Social Democracy bases itself firmly on the Constitution and legality.' So did Hitler!

The working-class leaders gave no instructions to their members to resist the new government. Hitler had his plans laid and the forces of the Nazi organization at his command. For the first weeks there was an appearance of normality. Persuading President Hindenburg to dissolve the Reichstag, preparations were made for an election intended to give the Nazis a majority. Legality once again.

In the meantime the police were brought firmly under Nazi control and an auxiliary force of SA and SS men was formed. Covered by the police, the stormtroopers began systematically to break up the workers' organizations, preventing meetings, smashing up premises. Official figures showed 51 anti-Nazis killed in street fights between January 30 and March 5.

On February 24 police raided the KPD headquarters, Karl Liebknecht House. The Nazis claimed that they had found documentary evidence of a communist plot to seize power.

Press and radio were full of stories of red plots. Then, on February 27, there was the burning of the Reichstag, immediately attributed to the KPD. Although not formally illegal, the KPD was virtually forced underground and many of its members arrested.

In the elections held on March 5 the Nazis still failed to win a majority of votes. The campaign had been organized on a massive scale with unsparing financial assistance from Thyssen, Krupp and the I. G. Farben chemical trust and the business heads of other big firms.

Despite party and state propaganda the working class remained faithful to its organizations. The SPD polled over 7 million votes; the KPD, although losing a million votes, still had over 4.8 million. The Nazis increased their vote by 5 million, chiefly at the expense of the conservative and middle-class parties. The Catholic Centre Party even increased its vote: its leaders had already compromised themselves with Hitler, but many of its supporters evidently intended their vote to be an anti-Nazi one.

In this, the last election before the total Nazi takeover, Hitler's party won only 43.9

per cent of the poll. If it had not been for the fact that the 81 communists were not allowed to take their seats, Hitler would have had to depend on the votes of the Nationalists to secure a majority in the Reichstag.

## ALL POWER

Hitler then proceeded to obtain, quite legally, an Enabling Law from the Reichstag which gave the government powers to make laws, to deviate from the Constitution and to make treaties with foreign states. Laws to be enacted by the government were to be drafted by the Chancellor (i.e. by Hitler) and to come into effect on the day after publication.

This was dictatorship by constitutional means, carried through with the support or acquiescence of the bourgeoisie, the landowning class of eastern Germany and the Reichswehr.

Hitler, backed by the industrialists and assured of army support, with the great mass of his middle-class supporters in a state of nationalist euphoria, moved methodically to achieve his aims: to con-

centrate all power in his hands and to smash his main opponents, the working class and its organizations.

Still the KPD and SPD leaders gave no call for action, even when their members demanded it.

A few weeks before Hitler took over power, the Nazis had organized a vast demonstration in front of the KPD headquarters, Karl Liebknecht House. The Stalinists meekly requested that the government should ban the demonstration — which it refused to do. Meeting without opposition the Nazis were greatly heartened by their triumph in the enemy's territory.

## 'NO PROVOCATION'

After January 30 the KPD was content to await the elections of March 5, apparently unaware of the significance of Hitler's accession to the Chancellorship. On February 23, Wilhelm Pieck called on the workers to remain prudent 'and not to provide the government with a pretext to take further measures against the Communist Party'. Four days later the Reichstag went up in flames and the suppression of the KPD began in earnest.

The KPD had certainly made no preparations for revolution — Dimitrov made a boast of it at the Leipzig Trial in which he was accused of complicity in the burning of the Reichstag. But it had no plans either to mobilize the working class in the event of a backdoor accession to power of Hitler of the kind which actually took place. The Stalinists' policy was passive and treacherous: an appeal to legality while holding the workers in check: 'no provocation' was the cry.

The SPD chiefs led their supporters to the slaughter in exactly the same spirit. 'Above all do not allow yourselves to be provoked' Kunstler, head of the SPD's Berlin federation, told the Social-Democratic workers. 'The life and health of Berlin workers are too precious to us to be lightly put in the balance. They must be kept for the day of the struggle.' The day never came.

Hitler was already in the Chancellery and the SA and SS were making themselves masters of the streets, killing and terrorizing workers. Speaking a few days later, another important SPD leader, Otto Wels, said that the elections 'would give the people the opportunity to take its destiny into its own hands once again'. What an illusion!

The SPD had a powerful para-military body, the Reichsbanner, which could have been used to protect workers' organizations from Nazi attacks. On March 5 and 6 leaders from all over Germany called on headquarters to give the order to begin the fight. They were told to be patient and to avoid bloodshed.

The capitulation of the trade unions was still more abject. When the stormtroopers began smashing up trade union premises the TUC sent a protest to President Hindenburg, proclaiming its loyalty and disclaiming violence.

To pleading from the leaders to avoid bloodshed, to prevent violence, to observe legality, the German working class saw all its rights stripped away and its most active elements arrested, tortured and killed.

Then, when Hitler had taken over complete and arbitrary power, the trade union leaders tried to come to terms with the Nazi government to safeguard their jobs and their organizations. The German equivalent of the TUC began by breaking off all its ties with the Social-Democratic Party, so that it could appear non-political. On March 20 it issued a manifesto expressing its willingness to co-operate with

the Nazi regime.

The manifesto said: 'It is in the nature of things that the trade unions should be more and more integrated into the state. The social tasks of the trade unions must be fulfilled whatever the nature of the regime of the state... The trade union organizations do not pretend to influence directly the policy of the state. Their task can only be to place at the disposition of the government and of the parliament the special knowledge and experience which they have acquired in this field [industrial relations, etc.]'

On April 7, the union boss Leipart went a stage further in servility when he affirmed that the trade unions and the [Nazi] government 'pursue the same great objective which is to establish the internal and external freedom of the nation over the productive forces of the people'.

When Hitler appropriated May 1 as a Nazi labour day the German TUC leaders invited trade unionists to participate in the official demonstrations as a symbol of the incorporation of the working class into the national-socialist state!

Next day their offices and other buildings were occupied by stormtroopers and police and most of the trade union leaders were swept into the concentration camps. On May 10 the Labour Front was founded under the leadership of Dr Ley.

A few days later the right to strike was legally abolished. All rights of collective bargaining were withdrawn. The Labour Front acted to discipline the working class on behalf of the employers with the help of the Nazi cells in the factories. The working class was completely atomized and clapped in a legal straitjacket and anyone who got out of line put his life in jeopardy.

That was the trap into which the cowardly and treacherous Stalinist and reformist leaders had led the German working class by paving the way for Hitler and refusing to put up any kind of fight.

This was the fate against which Trotsky had warned ever since the Nazi threat began to become serious in 1930. Almost a year after Hitler had taken power Trotsky wrote: 'Reducing the programme of petty-bourgeois illusions to a naked bureaucratic masquerade, National Socialism raises itself over the nation as the purest form of imperialism. Absolutely false are hopes to the effect that Hitler's government will fall tomorrow, if not today, a victim of its internal insolvency.'

'The Nazis required the programme in order to assume power; but power serves Hitler not at all for the purposes of fulfilling the programme. His tasks are assigned him by monopoly capital. The compulsory concentration of all forces and resources of the people in the interests of imperialism — the true historic mission of the fascist dictatorship — means the preparation for war, and this task, in its turn, brooks no internal resistance and leads to further mechanical concentration of power. Fascism cannot be reformed or retired from service. It can only be overthrown. The political orbit of the regime leans upon the alternative, war or revolution.'

Trotsky drew the only possible conclusion from the role of the Stalinists in opening the way for Hitler. They had passed definitely to the side of the defence of the bourgeois social order. They were no longer a revolutionary force.

It was necessary to set to work to build new revolutionary parties and a new, Fourth International to lead the working class out of the defeats which would otherwise be inevitable.

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 3

# STALINIST DEALS WITH THE COLONELS

In November 1969 Soviet Ambassador Levitchkin visited Greece and held friendly talks with the junta's Foreign Minister Panayiotis Pipinelis. The purpose was to strengthen economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

The British Stalinists' 'Morning Star' remained silent on this—although it was campaigning at the time for the British government to support the expulsion of Greece from the Council of Europe.

The 'Morning Star' had earlier said nothing when the Soviet Union participated in the European Games held in Athens in the summer of 1969.

On November 26, 1969, a Soviet trade delegation visited Athens.

In January 1970 a Greek trade mission was established in East Berlin to expand trade with East Germany.

## Deal signed

In November the same year a Greek-Yugoslav trade protocol was signed worth £21m on each side.

During 1970 the Greek military regime signed trade agreements with the Soviet Union, East Germany, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania and contacts were established with China.

In February, 1971, Bulgaria proposed long-term technical and economic co-operation and also suggested co-operation in the fields of transport, communications and tourism.

In May, 1971, Albania opened up full diplomatic relations with Greece.

On June 11, 1971, Rumania's Foreign Minister Corneliu Manescu visited Athens.

At the celebration banquet were present all the leaders of the Greek ruling clique who were delighted to hear Manescu reply to the official toast with the words:

'Your honour, Mr President [to Papadopoulos]. Gentlemen, [the Rumanian Stalinists] agree absolutely on our foreign policies, for the security of Europe and co-operation in peaceful co-existence,' etc., etc., continuing: 'I drink your health, honoured Mr President, and that of your wife and the others here present.'

During the visit, when hundreds of political prisoners

were incarcerated in the junta's prisons, many of them, students, were brought before a students' disciplinary committee for a supplementary trial.

Among them was Sterios Katsaros, studying practical mathematics in 1969 when he was sentenced to life imprisonment by the military courts in Salonika for his support for a Trotskyist organization sympathetic to the International Committee of the Fourth International (the Students' Struggle).

The previous January the Rumanian Stalinists had sent some 300 Greek specification trucks ordered especially for the transfer of political prisoners.

On June 27, 1971, the junta's Minister of Commerce Spyridon Zappas left Athens for a week of trade talks with Rumania. An agreement was signed establishing a joint ministerial committee to develop economic co-operation.

In July, Greek Foreign Under-Secretary Christian Xanthopoulos-Palamas visited Bulgaria in return for a visit to Athens of Bulgarian Foreign Minister Ivan Bazhev.

By July 1971, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary and East Germany were all building electrification networks in Greece and sending technicians to help on construction projects.

The Salonica Trade Fair, in August of that year, was attended by delegations from seven Stalinist countries.

Referring to these countries junta boss George Papadopoulos said: 'We have offered them our friendship and co-operation for peaceful co-existence and we feel satisfied because they have shown they are inspired by similar feelings.'

In September, Under-Secretary Palamas made another visit—this time a three-day trip to Belgrade at the invitation of Yugoslav Foreign Minister Mirko Tepevac, who had visited Athens on June 16.

In the same month Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Trade, Ivan Nedev, visited Athens to set up a joint committee for economic co-operation.

In December a Greek-Yugoslav long-term trade agreement raised Yugoslav exports to Greece by 20 per cent to a total of \$100m.

Talks for establishing full diplomatic relations between Greece and East Germany



A staunch supporter of the colonels' regime, US Vice President, Spiro Agnew with Aggellis (left) and Papadopoulos in Athens. Above: Rumania's Foreign Minister, Corneliu Manescu drinks to the Greek president's health after signing the recent trade deal. Above right: Arrest in Athens of a demonstrator against the regime.

were opened last December.

But Stalinist overtures to the colonels' Greece have gone far beyond diplomatic and trade agreements.

For example, in July 1970 Bulgarian Foreign Minister Ivan Bashev headed a deputation to the Greek Embassy in Sofia to offer condolences in the death of Greek Foreign Minister Panayiotis Pipinelis.

But even more abject Stalinist crawling was to greet Greek National Day on March 24 last year.

Albania, China's ally, sent two messages of congratulations to Greek premier Papadopoulos.

The messages came from Haxhi Lleshi and Mehmet Shehtu, both prominent members of the Enver Hoxha regime.

The Minister of Trade, Kico Ngjela, the Minister of Communications, Milo Qirko and the deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Reis Halile, all attended a reception in

celebration of the National Day at the Greek embassy in Tirana.

Across the border in Yugoslavia, Tito confined himself to sending a telegram of congratulations to Papadopoulos, while in Rumania the Greek ambassador addressed the nation over television on March 25 and Ceausescu sent yet another congratulatory message to Papadopoulos.

## Servile

Perhaps the most servile bureaucrats of all, to judge from the extent of their congratulations, were to be found in Bulgaria.

There was the obligatory reception at the Greek embassy attended by top Stalinist functionaries, of course.

But that was as nothing compared with the outpourings of the Stalinist Press.

'Rabotnichesko Delo', for example, scaled heights of mystical adoration for the

colonels' blood-stained regime:

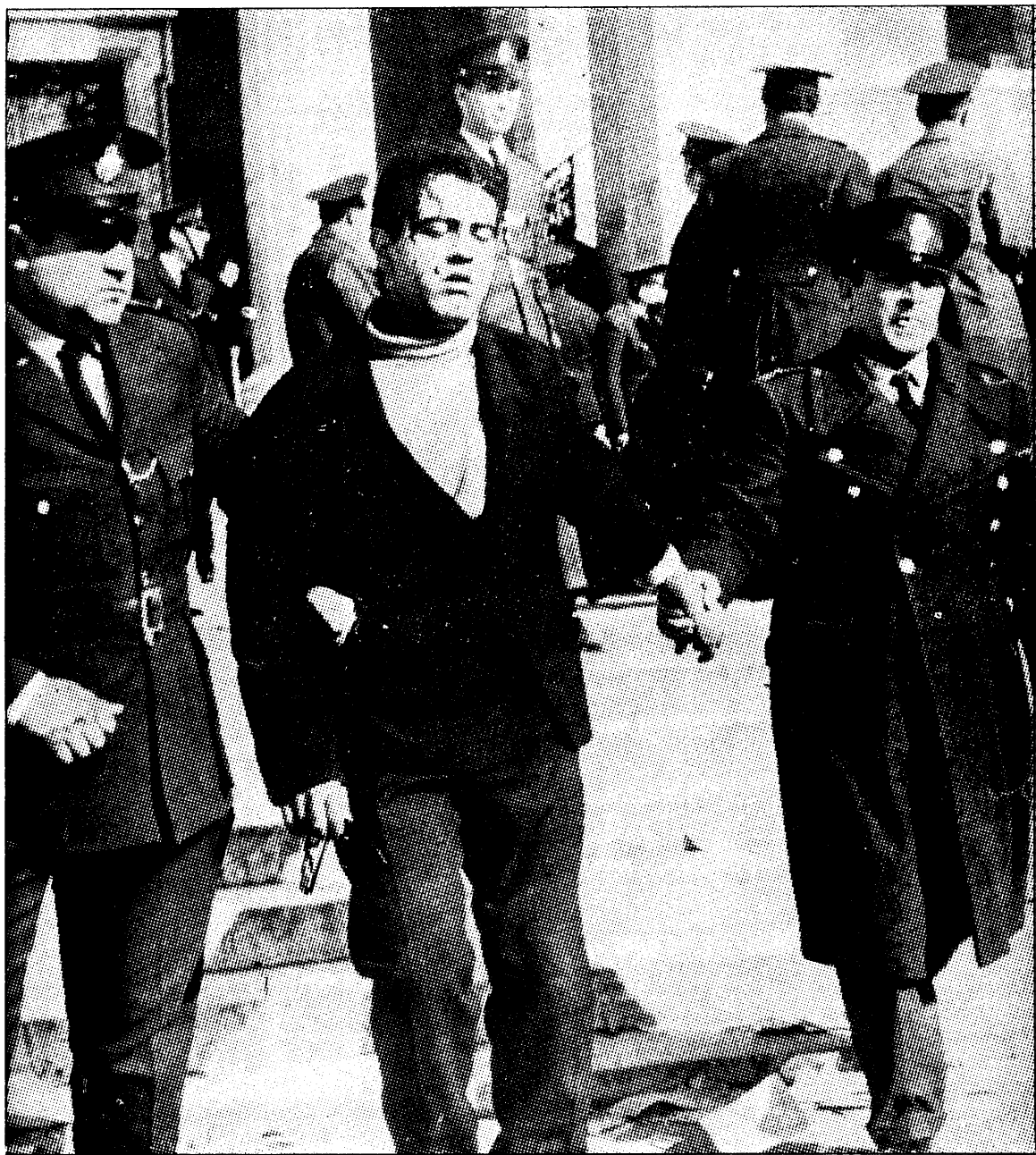
'There are many things in common in the destinies of the Bulgarian and Greek people. What links us is the contribution to and sympathy of the Bulgarian people in the struggle waged by their Greek neighbours for freedom and independence. The Bulgarian people firmly believe that the two peoples can live in peace, understanding and co-operation for their own well-being.'

Another anniversary article, by G. Ivanov in the paper 'Otechestven Front', stated:

'It is to be regretted that the imperialist powers are again striving to spoil the atmosphere and increase tension in the Balkans and east Mediterranean region, involving some Balkan countries in the carrying out of their military-strategic plans and trying to set them against each other.'

'This cannot but cause alarm among the Balkan peoples who have learnt to value peace along their borders, as well as





peaceful co-operation and good-neighbourly relations.'

In ordinary language this is called making friends with the jailers of the Greek working class.

The friendship between the Stalinist regimes and the Papadopoulos gang was raising an international outcry among the working class.

In February 1971, the banned Greek Communist Party (the EDA) denounced the visit of the Russian Irina Gijebina ballet to Athens. The ballet gave a special performance before members of the junta and their wives.

Yet the following month the junta's paper 'Free World' praised the Russian government for its 'constructive' attitude to the Greek regime.

In May 1971, the Geneva International Labour Office published evidence to show that the Russian, Bulgarian and Yugoslav governments had refused to co-operate in exposing suppression of the trade unions in Greece.

The 52nd International Labour Conference in 1968 had considered charges laid against Greece by Josef Hlaviki of Czechoslovakia. The ILO requested the governments bordering Greece to supply information on the treatment of trade unionists in the country. Three years later it had received no reply from Russia, Bulgaria or Yugoslavia.

The main service provided by the Stalinist states to Greece, however, is the return of political refugees. In July 1970 Bulgaria handed over a Greek Maoist student.

The case of Theologos Psaradelles, a young Trotskyist worker, is particularly well documented.

Psaradelles was arrested by the junta's police, imprisoned and later escaped to Turkey and then Bulgaria. In 1970 the Bulgarian regime refused his political asylum and he was recaptured by Greek police while seeking to return to Turkey.

There is also evidence that Greek Stalinists within the colonels' prisons collaborated with the prison authorities against Trotskyists.

In January 1971 a group of

Trotskyists in the Aegina and Krydallos prisons smuggled out a statement in which they declared:

'From the start of our imprisonment the Stalinist leaders tried desperately to slander us in order to isolate us from the imprisoned militants who are misguidedly trapped in the various Stalinist factions.

'The systematic cultivation of every dark taboo to prevent discussion with Trotskyists is accompanied by all sorts of dirty conspiracies and threats to any of their militants who dares to try and pull himself out of the Stalinist swamp.

'Thus, when our comrade Panayotis Doumas was transferred in November 1970 to isolation in the Eftapyrgion jail of Salonika, he was accompanied by a constant slander campaign that he was a "police agent" and that the police had supplied him with a saw in order to stage his escape.

## Tortures

'The "escape" would then be used, according to the Stalinists, to take disciplinary measures against the other prisoners.

'Their lies must be nailed! 'Comrade Doumas is under twin sentence of life imprisonment plus eight years.

'When he arrived at the prison his foot was broken and completely disfigured by the constant tortures in the hands of the security police.

'A few days later, a new Stalinist conspiracy came to the surface against another comrade, Sofronis Papadopoulos, held in the Korydallos prison.

'On December 10, 1970, a group of Stalinists of the "interior" (Partsalides) faction (this is the faction supported by Theodorakis, ideologically akin to the Italian brand of Stalinism, the so-called 'liberal', anti-Moscow wing) requested from the prison authorities (always in the framework of their mutual 'co-operation' and 'understanding') that they remove our comrade from this prison in order to isolate him from the other political prisoners.

'This second case has particular significance as the Stalinist delegation which carried out the "negotiations" for our comrade's removal was caught red-handed while explaining to the guards that "... if he remains in this prison he will be harmful both to you and to us ..."

'At the same time they had spread their usual slander that the comrade is a "police agent".

'The uproar and general protests by the other prisoners held up for a time his transfer which in the end took place on December 29, 1970.

'Thus comrade S. Papadopoulos, under twin sentence of life imprisonment plus four years is now in the damp, medieval prison of Corfu, isolated and unable to denounce the inhuman conditions of his imprisonment, cut off from all contact from the outside world.

'We denounce the bureaucratic clique of these supporters of the so-called "Bureau of the Interior" of the CP of Greece.

'We denounce in particular their delegation which played the key role in the despicable haggling that secured our comrade's transfer.

'Their names are: Thanassis Grevias, Thanassis Panoutsopoulos, Yiannis Stratis.

'But we must stress the fact that many imprisoned rank-and-file militants and even some cadres of the various CP factions daily manifest—directly or indirectly—their opposition to the filthy campaigns against us.

'Workers of the world, militants of the vanguard, we submit the facts to your conscience, your fighting spirit and your judgement.

'(You are) the only forces able to assist in defending us against ideological and physical destruction.

'We denounce the cowardly and counter-revolutionary acts of the Stalinist bureaucracy against us and call on the revolutionary anti-capitalist vanguard to condemn these acts by a bureaucracy only capable of crimes and betrayals against the world labour movement.'

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## TAX HAVEN

'Time' magazine has reported on the newest tax haven to provide some respite for the harassed speculators, off-shore conmen, and tax dodgers of the western world—the Cayman Islands in the Caribbean. Many big businesses are moving there from Nassau, apparently.

In describing this Voelkerwanderung of the trust fund era, 'Time' unwittingly reveals a lot about the nature of latter-day capitalism.

The Cayman Islands, appropriately enough, began their recorded history 300 years ago as a pirates' stash. Since then, they have done little more than soak up the sun—until just recently.

Nearly 90 banks have opened business in tiny Georgetown, the capital, in the last few years, 33 of them since last July. The Cayman Islanders now have one bank for every 170 citizens.

'Time' reports: 'The banks are rushing in to service approximately 5,000 corporations registered with the local government. These firms operate by buying stocks through brokerage firms in Manhattan, London, and other financial centres.

'As long as US shareholders do not report the earnings from such investments to the inland revenue, they can escape—illegally—the taxes due on them.

'The islands' registrar is several months behind in processing companies' new applications, and plane-loads of businessmen arrive daily on flights from Miami, Nassau, and Costa Rica to file new ones.

'Aside from meeting a few rudimentary regulations, they are free to run their firms with no government interference.

'Says a recently arrived investment banker: "We like the place because it is suitably devoid of law".'

The bold entrepreneurs of the 1970s are getting out of Nassau because of their fears of the Bahamas' black nationalist government under Prime Minister Lynden Pindling, soon to get full independence from Britain.

The Cayman Islands, on the other hand, are still sleeping peacefully in the cosy embrace of the British Empire. The place is still run by the British Governor General.

## RUMOURS

It's good to see that the ugly rumours about the Labour pre-selection procedure at East Dumbartonshire have been knocked on the head.

You will remember that we reported—we were the very first to report—that the selection decision had run into difficulties.

Some churlish fellows made the suggestion that the choice of Mr Edward McGarry was 'a fix'. McGarry is joint chairman of the British-Leyland combine shop stewards' committee and is the Transport and General Workers' Union convenor at Standard Triumph in Coventry.

It was said that on the day McGarry won pre-selection a number of people who had not previously been active in Labour Party affairs turned up and voted for the outsider from Coventry.

A complaint was made to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party. This fearless body of investigators looked into the matter and last week the party's general secretary, Ron Hayward, reported: 'They found the constitution and the rules had not been breached, but fully carried out.'

## IN BUSINESS

The thousands of householders caught in the Rolls Razor washing machine crash might like to know how the head of the firm is doing.

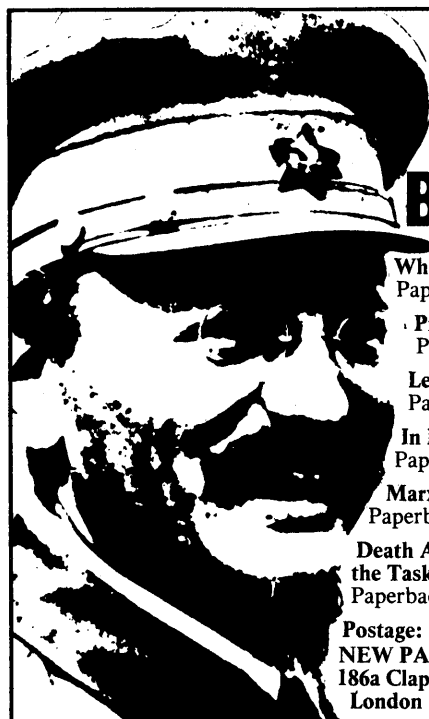
He now directs a medieval restaurant in Los Angeles. It is called '1520 AD' and the decor is in keeping with the period.

Customers lounge around on bearskin rugs and eat off rough hewn tables. Waiters masquerade as jesters and musicians.

There are some quaint customs exercised in the joint. If women customers fail to sing to order they are thrown into the stocks—to be kissed and manhandled by all the males present.

Very amusing? When his company collapsed, thousands of shareholders were wiped out while people who had part-purchased his washing machines were left in the lurch.

His banking advisers included Edward du Cann, chairman of Keyser Ullman, and former chairman of the Tory Party.



## BOOKS BY TROTSKY

Where is Britain Going? Paperback 37½p

Problems of the British Revolution Paperback 35p

Lessons of October Paperback 60p

In Defence of the October Revolution Paperback 15p

Marxism and the Trade Unions Paperback 25p

Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International Paperback 10p

Postage: 10p per book. Order from:  
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG





## Land now £25,000 an acre

THE AVERAGE price of building land per acre during 1972 was more than £25,000 and the average price of an individual plot £5,000.

This was stated yesterday in the 'Digest of Building Land Prices', a new publication produced jointly by the House-builders' Federation and the Estates Gazette.

There were wide variations in land prices from area to area. An acre in Yorkshire cost less than £10,000 and an acre in Surrey fetched £100,000.

Individual plot prices ranged from £1,000 to more than £20,000.

**SIT-IN** strikers from the CAV factory at Fazakerley in Liverpool met leaders of the Liverpool Trades Council last night in a bid to win wider support for their 16-week fight against closure. Workers at the Lucas Industrial Equipment factory, which occupies the same site as CAV, worked in without supervision or management for the second day running yesterday. They have accepted passes issued by the CAV occupation committee for entering and leaving the site. Lucas management refuses to accept the pass system and will not pay the LIE workers for their work.

## Stoves men to meet on redundancy plan

THE 1,200 strikers from Stoves Limited, St Helens, Lancashire, will meet this morning to discuss a redundancy agreement drawn up between management and unions.

A walk-out took place two weeks ago when 61 redundancies were announced. They reaffirmed the stand of first in, last out.

On Monday the men were told by Jack Hyam, general secretary of the National Union of Domestic Appliance and Metalworkers:

'Obviously your proposal for a four-day week could not work. Your committee was shown this by management.'

On the strikers' demand for

# Glass workers fear asset strip

BY PHILIP WADE

**WORKERS** at the Rockware factory at Greenford, west London, have formed a co-ordinating committee to fight the threatened closure.

Rockware, the big glass container firm, told its 900 Greenford workers two weeks ago that the factory was to close down completely in January next year.

Workers believe they are the victims of a land speculation deal involving the sale of the 35-acre site.

'The managing director told us the land had a £3.5m book value, but that the real value was something like £6m,' a spokesman for the co-ordinating committee, George Cowley, said.

'We think Rockware will use money from the sale of the land to rationalize production and cut jobs throughout the group's five factories,' he added.

The work force also fears that the threatened closedown may have been speeded up by a decision not to rebuild a main tank used in the production process.

A **SECOND** big union yesterday joined the right-wing revolt against TUC policy on the Tories' pay-control law. The Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union called on the TUC to reconsider its refusal to allow representation on the pay and prices board. This should be left to the individual unions' discretion, the EPTU executive said.

only voluntary redundancies, Hyam said: 'I don't know if we can get away with redundancies on a voluntary basis. The committee will have to put something in its place.'

He claimed the company would be 'embarrassed' if the men returned. As the strike was now official, strike pay would be handed out when they returned.

One striker commented after the meeting:

'We went out to get the 61 back. Now they want us to go back with 104 gone and more to come. We should fight for no redundancies whatever procedure is used.'

## Spanish Maoists face death sentence

**SIX YOUNG** Spaniards went on trial before a fascist military tribunal yesterday in connection with a bomb attack which killed the French consul in Zaragoza last month.

The prosecution is asking for death sentences by firing squad for three of the defendants, all students, who are accused of planting a bomb at the French consulate which killed M. Roger Tur (67).

Defence lawyers are pleading that the three, Alvaro Noguera Calvet (20), Luis Xavier Sagarra De Moor (21), and José Antonio Mellado Romero (21), did not intend to kill the consul and are asking for 12 years and a day prison sentences in the place of the death penalties.

The prosecution has called for prison terms of 30 years—the maximum in Spain—for two others, Claudio Solsona Aznar

(21), and Fernando Burillo Garcia (22), for alleged complicity in the attack.

They have recommended that the case against the sixth defendant, Juan Ignacio Vigil-Escalera Azcoaga (18), be dismissed.

The defendants were alleged to have been members of the 'Collective of the Hammer and Sickle', a clandestine Maoist organization.

Two years ago, a Spanish court-martial sentenced six young Basque nationalists to death for killing a policeman. They were saved only by an international movement, including mass strikes and protest demonstrations.

## Attempted murder charge after 'porn' swoop

**ELEVEN PEOPLE** were remanded at Old Street Court yesterday following a weekend swoop by Scotland Yard's 'Porn Squad'. Four of the defendants, who are accused of attempted murder, are to be held in custody until their next court appearance.

The seven others—including a woman—were granted bail totalling £170,000. They will appear again on February 6.

The woman defendant is Mrs June Humphreys, housewife, of Dean Street, Soho.

Among charges against Mrs Humphreys is that she conspired with another man to cause grievous bodily harm to a man named Peter Garfath.

Last year the head of the Flying Squad, Commander Ken Drury, resigned from the force following newspaper revelations that he had gone to a Mediterranean holiday resort with strip-club owner James Humphreys.

## 'Nasty Tales' to pay costs

**AN OLD BAILEY** judge yesterday refused an application for costs from Bloom Publications Limited, publishers of the 'Nasty Tales' comic.

Last week the company and three of its former directors and its secretary were acquitted of possessing obscene articles—275 copies of 'Nasty Tales' No. 1—for publication and gain.

When the not guilty verdicts

were returned, Mr Robin Grey, on behalf of the accused, applied for costs.

In his reserve judgment yesterday Judge Alan King-Hamilton said: 'This prosecution, in my judgment, was quite properly brought, having regard to the complaints which had been made to the police.'

'For this reason, I don't think the company should be indemnified from their costs out of public funds.'

## Socialist Labour League Public Meetings

### UNITE IN ACTION TO DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

#### CLAPHAM

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 8pm  
South Island Library  
South Island Place  
Stockwell, SW9  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

#### WATFORD

MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 8pm  
Trades Union Hall  
near Watford Junction stn  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

#### ACTON

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 8pm  
Woodlands Hall,  
Crown Street  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

#### GLASGOW

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 7.30pm  
Govan South Town Hall  
Langland Road  
nearest underground  
Govan Cross  
speaker: G. HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

### London

#### NORTH KENT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 8pm  
The Shakespeare,  
Powis Street  
Woolwich  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

#### WANDSWORTH

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 8pm  
Wandsworth Town Hall  
Wandsworth High Street  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

#### MIDDLETON

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 8pm  
Middleton Baths,  
Middleton, Manchester  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

#### MEDWAY

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 8pm  
Aurora Hotel  
Brompton Road  
Gillingham  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

#### SLOUGH

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 8pm  
Britwell Community Centre  
Long Furlong Drive  
Britwell Estate  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

#### DAGENHAM

THURSDAY MARCH 1, 8pm  
Manor Park Library  
Romford Rd/Rabbitts Road  
opp Rabbitts Pub  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

#### BIRMINGHAM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 7pm  
Digbeth, Civic Hall  
Digbeth, Birmingham  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

## SLL LECTURES GLASGOW

Sunday, February 4  
The Left Opposition's struggle  
against Stalinism.

**MID HALL**  
Patrick Burgh Halls  
7.30 p.m.

Lectures by Tom Kemp, SLL  
Central Committee member

## DONCASTER

Sunday February 4  
The crisis and the  
socialist answer.

Sunday February 11  
The revolutionary party  
in Britain.

Lectures given by  
Cliff Slaughter.

**SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL**  
Westlithgate  
7.30 p.m.

## TODMORDEN

Monday February 5  
'Trotskyism'

**THE WEAVERS' INSTI-  
TUTE, Burnley Road,**  
7.30 p.m.

Lecture 1  
1919-1924—The Communist International in the days of Lenin and Trotsky

Lecture 2  
1924-1933—The Left Opposition's struggle against Stalin

Lecture 3  
1933-1938—From the German defeat to the founding of Fourth International  
given by TOM KEMP  
(SLL Central Committee)

## ACTON

Wednesday January 31

Lecture 1

Wednesday February 7

Lecture 2

Wednesday February 14

Lecture 3

**Woodlands Hall**  
Crown Street, W.3. 8 p.m.

## EAST LONDON

Thursday February 1

Lecture 1

Thursday February 8

Lecture 2

Thursday February 15

Lecture 3

**Old Town Offices**  
Poplar High Street  
E.14. 8 p.m.

## Lorry ferries hit by bonus fight

PRODUCTION at British-Leyland in the Midlands was seriously disrupted yesterday by a lorry drivers' bonus dispute.

The company is expected to lay off thousands of workers today at its factories in Birmingham, Coventry and Abingdon.

More than 1,000 drivers have handed in their heavy goods vehicle licences to the Transport and General Workers' Union in a bid to force British Road Services to pay them a bonus of £2.50 a week for driving heavy lorries.

The £2.50 is already being paid by 171 firms in the area to men holding HGV licences and also by BRS car transporter drivers.

The claim was placed before BRS management last November.

On January 25 at a meeting of union officials and BRS the union was informed that the drivers were only entitled to the amount laid down under the government pay laws—£1 plus 4 per cent. This comes to an increase of £1.96.

The men are adamant that they are fighting a bonus issue and not for wages. They have discovered belatedly, however, that both come under the state pay laws.

When the drivers reported for work yesterday without their licences they could not take out the heavy lorries including transporters used to ferry car bodies from British Leyland factories in Castle Bromwich and Bordesley, Birmingham, to assembly plants.

As a result mini-car production stopped at the Austin Morris factory at Longbridge and 1,100 assembly workers had to be re-deployed to other jobs.

Sports car assembly at Abingdon, Berkshire, was also halted and 400 men were given other duties.

Last night's night shift at Longbridge—about 1,700 men—have been told not to turn up. In Coventry today production of Jaguar and Daimler saloons will grind to a halt.

British Leyland production is also being hit by a bitter dispute with another haulage group—Curtis Limited at Swindon.

The firm transports car bodies from Pressed Steel Fisher to the Cowley works at Oxford.

## Right wing will not fight actors' pay cut

RIGHT-WING actors' leaders yesterday rode roughshod over their members' call for strike action over pay—only to hear the Tories have in fact extended their wage-cut order in the West End.

By 16 votes to 5, the executive of the actors' union, Equity decided to ignore a resolution carried by a clear majority at a mass meeting of actors in London on Sunday.



CAP in hand, Jack Jones was again knocking at the door of the Tory government yesterday. This time he was seeing the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Anthony Barber, at the Treasury building in Whitehall.

Accompanied by the Transport and General Workers' Union cab section officer, George Abrahams, Jones was pleading with Barber to get taxi fares exempt from VAT.

The new Common Market tax, which comes into force on April 1, will cut taxi drivers earnings by up to 10 per cent.

Barber did not offer any hope for the cab drivers. But one thing is guaranteed—Jones will be back seeing the Tories on many, many occasions in the coming months. Mind you, he won't call a conference of his own union to formulate a policy to fight the state pay laws!

The motion demanded a strike for the full £12 increase stopped by the Tories, immediate wage claims for all sections of the union's membership and de-registration under the Industrial Relations Act.

The Tories' state pay law should be defied, the motion said. Equity should join with the whole trade union movement to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour government committed to repeal-

ing all anti-union legislation. Implementation of any section of this motion would be 'suicidal', right-wing leaders claimed at yesterday's meeting.

They felt sure a majority of the membership would not support it, so they turned it down in its entirety. But the motion's opponents said nothing about how they proposed to fight the wage-cut.

The meeting was also told of a new order issued by the

Department of Employment, which extends the cut to assistant and deputy stage managers in the West End and to freelancers at the BBC.

Up to now these sections have been receiving increases in their minimum rates, denied to the actors. It is thought that about 100 people are affected.

The D of E's new order tears the guts out of the right-wing argument that their policy of 'lawful' resistance to the Tory orders had proved effective.

## Pay strikes in slow build-up

BY DAVID MAUDE

THOUSANDS of gasworkers staged token strikes yesterday against a derisory £2 pay offer, made under Phase Two of the Tories' pay-control legislation.

The strikes hit Northumberland, Durham and parts of Yorkshire and Cumberland as union leaders rejected a 24p increase in the offer.

Although opposed by the union leaders, the strikes undeniably expressed the growing movement in the rank and file for real, decisive action against the Tory laws.

This movement is by no means confined to the gasworkers. The leaders of several unions are now trying to head off demands for strike action.

As yesterday's gas talks were beginning, the executive of the actors' union Equity was completing a stormy meeting on the

demand of its London members for strike action over pay.

The right wing of the executive wanted to ignore the demand—made at a mass meeting on Sunday—for a strike to win full payment of the £12 rise stopped by the government.

Meanwhile civil servants' leaders were considering possible overtime bans and selective strikes against the government's refusal to raise their pay from January 1.

A meeting of five civil service unions in London was attempting to agree on a policy of joint action, to be referred back for approval by individual executives within the next week.

Unions represented at yesterday's meeting were the Civil and Public Services Association, the Society of Civil Servants, the Customs and Excise Group, the Civil Service Union and the radio officers' union.

After receiving the report of the government's Pay Research Unit, on which civil service pay reviews are normally based, they say their members' pay is lagging 20 per cent behind equivalent workers in commerce and industry.

Teachers' leaders are not saying what they think of a 6.4 per cent, Phase Two pay offer made to their 400,000 members on Monday.

Further talks will take place on February 16. The teachers' claim was for 21 per cent.

But leaders of the rail locomotives union ASLEF, have rejected the latest British Railways Board proposals for restructuring drivers' pay.

The nine-man executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen unanimously decided to carry on talking with the Board. Another meeting is expected later this week of the joint working party looking into the dispute.

## Briant work-in: Conference called off



The Press conference that never was

MYSTERY surrounds the latest moves in the fight of Briant Colour Print workers to save their doomed factory.

A Press conference due to be held yesterday by the work-in committee was cancelled at the last moment after three hours of talks between print workers and union officials.

Leaders of the three unions involved, NATSOPA, SOGAT and NGA, left the Connaught Rooms with long faces and SOGAT general secretary Mr Vincent Flynn waved photographers away angrily.

Liquidator M. P. Granville White has obtained a High Court order instructing the work-in committee to hand over the company's documents he needs to wind up the business once and for all.

On Friday the Briant workers will be faced with a demand to hand them over. Failure to do so will mean further High Court action.

## NIXON-HEATH TALKS

FROM PAGE 1

trade war battle lines are being drawn.

Yet Mr Peter Walker, British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in Canada it would be 'absolute disaster' if Europe turned inward and America became protectionist in trade matters. Such a situation 'would be ghastly, disrupting and thoroughly bad'.

Walker—who, before taking office in the Heath government, was connected with the leading financial firm Slater-Walker—is asking the American capitalists to call off their trade war against Europe.

He is appealing for a world alliance of the ruling class against the working class.

The only way out for capitalism is to destroy the working class, drive down living standards and intensify the rate of exploitation. This is what drives the Tories to impose state control of wages, entry into the Common Market, laws against the unions and deliberately inflationary increases in the cost of living.

As the international money market sinks ever-deeper into chaos and economic crash looms ahead in major capitalist countries, the stage is set for vital revolutionary struggles.

There must be an immediate campaign for the recall of the TUC and the Labour Party conferences. The spurious TUC-Labour Party document (see page one) must be rejected along with the leaders responsible for it.

These conferences will have to discuss the real political and economic crisis of capitalism and, flowing from that, prepare a real fight against the Tories which will compel this government to resign.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.



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)