

CHARTIST

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LABOUR MUST CALL

FULL PRE-ELECTION CONFERENCE!

HAROLD WILSON has said the coming election will take place against "the gravest economic situation Britain has faced since the war." There can be no argument about this. Over the last few weeks we have seen:

- Share prices fall to their lowest levels in 15 years. All major Stock Markets from Wall Street to Tokyo show similar falls.
- The July Balance of Payments revealing a trade debt of £478m which puts the annual deficit rate at £4,400m.
- The complete collapse of Court Lines, the travel, holiday and shipbuilding company.
- Industrial production figures showing virtual stagnation. No recovery since oil crisis and 3 day week.
- Britain leading the world in Overseas borrowing this year. For the first six months \$4,800m was borrowed compared to France who borrowed \$2900 and Italy \$2200m.
- The second biggest jump in the number of unemployed since

1971 - 606,000 now jobless. If students and school-leavers are included in the figures, the number unemployed rose by 89,526 to 656,367 - the biggest ever rise since records in present form began in 1948.

This catastrophic crisis is not merely a temporary aberration in the post-war boom. Neither is it primarily the result of the "bad economic policies" of Tory governments - as some Labour leaders would have us believe. It marks the conclusive end of the inflation-led boom.

A global slump has begun which signifies the death agony of capitalism on a world scale. Until the capitalist system itself is put an end to by the transfer of power to the working-class-mass unemployment and galloping inflation will be the only alternatives.

There is only one road open to our Labour leaders. And that is to call a full L.P. conference to thrash out a strategy for implementing a socialist nationalisation programme and prepare workers' for the coming mortal struggles with the employing class.

LEICESTER ANTI-FASCIST MARCH DWARFS FRONT

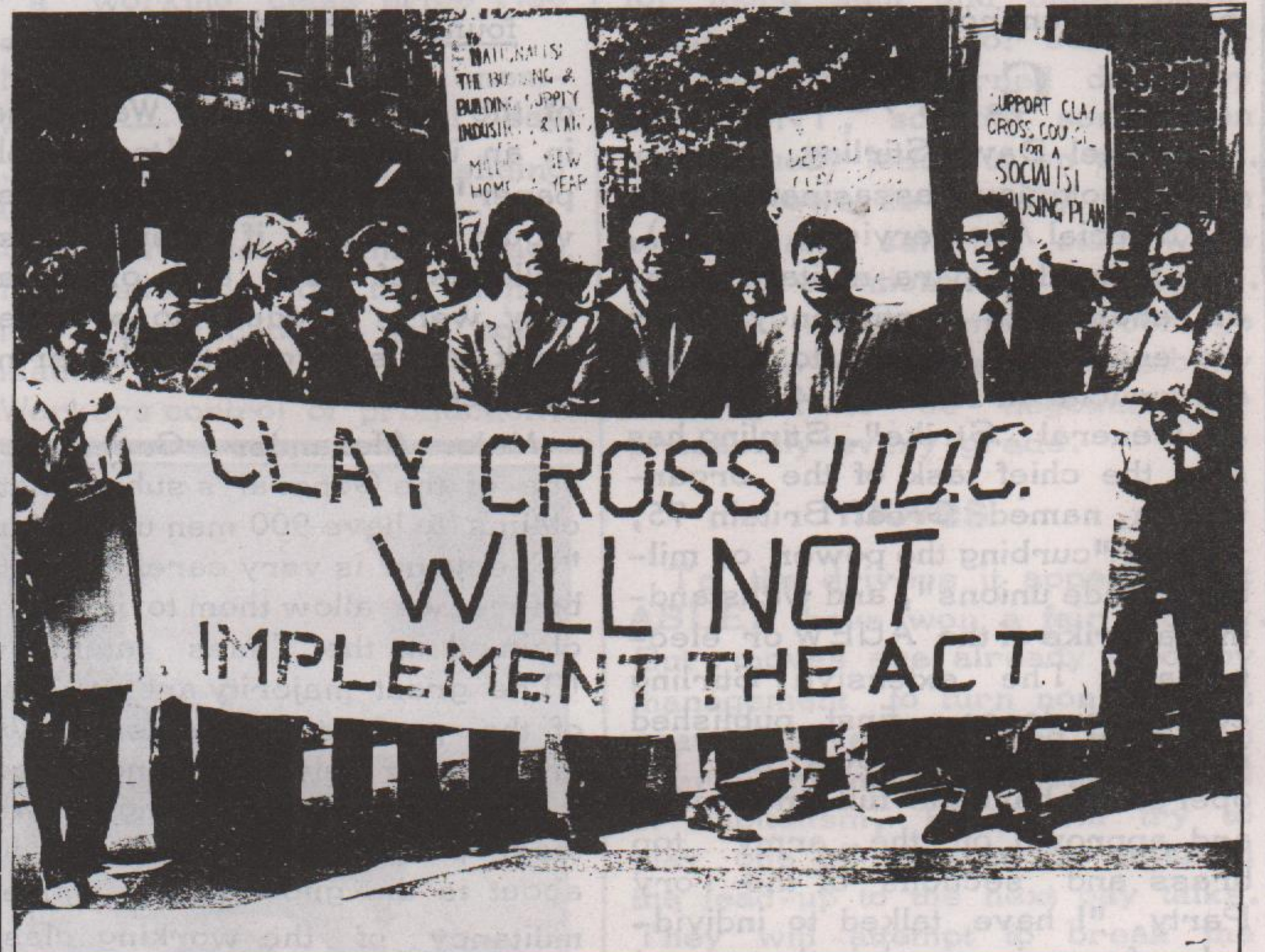
ON AUGUST 24 the National Front held a short march in Leicester. The demonstration was given blanket coverage in the local press and radio, yet only 500 N.F. supporters could be mustered to support their "Unions for the Whites" racist march.

This provocation met with a massive response from the Labour Movement in the form of a 5,000 strong counter-demonstration organised by the Inter Racial Solidarity Campaign (which was almost ignored by the capitalist press, despite outnumbering the fascists 10 to 1). Trade Unions, Labour Parties, Socialist groups and Asian Workers organisations participated.

The fascist rally was protected

by 1,300 police from Leicester-shire and nearby forces. The marches were peaceful, although a few anti-fascists were charged with assault and actual bodily harm on Martin Webster, organiser of the NF march. The only other damage was to Leicester rate-payers: the police cost over £20,000!

Leicester showed the way. The Front must be having second thoughts about their "smash the IRA" joint demonstration with the Ulster Loyalists in London on September 7th. The Labour government must be bombarded with demands to ban the NF. Ban or no ban, thousands must be mobilised to ensure this march is stopped.



Clay Cross councillors.

Waiting For The Bailiffs

by Paul Moore

ANY DAY now the forces of law and order will be visiting Clay Cross. Now that the last legal wrangles are over, the state will be trying to collect £7000 in fines from the Town's eleven former Councillors for their fight against the 1972 Housing Finance Act.

The Councillors have been left to their own devices to keep out the bailiffs. Over 2 years ago all their property was placed in the name of wives or relatives. This had to be done despite the pledges given by Ted Short, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, less than one year ago, "Everybody", said Short at last year's Party conference, "in the Labour movement and outside, is in full sympathy and admiration for the stand that David Skinner and his colleagues have taken".

We apologise to our readers for the reduced size of this issue of the paper. This is owing to the simultaneous production of an "Election Special" edition.

The sympathy was to be concrete. Short was accepting an amendment which pledged that a Labour Government would retrospectively remove "all penalties financial or otherwise... from Councillors who courageously refused to implement the Housing Finance Act 1972".

No wonder the election will be in October! Wilson, Short and the rest of the Labour Government must at all costs prevent the rank and file from calling them to account for their blatant betrayals, not only over Clay Cross, but over Chile, education cuts, and pay restraint.

Labour Party members should demand that the National Executive - particularly "Lefts" like Benn calls a full conference where the resolutions submitted will not be last, but first on the agenda.

But if a full conference is not forthcoming, the Clay Cross Labour Party should recall their own Labour movement conference held originally in June, to mobilise against the sell-out.

THE CHARTIST

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PRIVATE ARMIES — New Anti-Labour Conspiracy

LAST JANUARY, in the stormy days which surrounded the beginning of the miner's strike, the then Tory Home Secretary, Robert Carr, was asked in Parliament if he would pledge not to use the armed forces to break strikes. He refused. Although the miners broke the Tory government and brought Labour to office, the sinister preparations for civil war against the working class have continued and are now assuming feverish proportions.

In the officers' messes, the boardrooms and country residences, militarists, businessmen, Tories and "patriotic gentlemen" are conspiring to unseat the Labour government.

With the deepening of the inflationary crisis, widening layers of the ruling class are now frantically trying to assemble private armies, to prevent, what they see as "government by the trade unions" and the "descent into industrial anarchy".

G.B. 75

Colonel David Stirling, founder of the notorious assassination outfit, Special Air Services (SAS), has formed a para-military organization with contingency plans "to enable the country to weather the crucial first 3 or 4 days of a General Strike". Stirling has said the chief task of the organization, named Great Britain 75, will be "curbing the power of militant trade unions", and withstanding a strike of the AUEW or electricians. The extensive Stirling correspondence, first published in Peace News, shows that his operations have the full knowledge and approval of the army top brass and sections of the Tory Party. "I have talked to individuals of varying rank in the armed services and in the Territorial Army, local authorities, directors of some major companies and some senior members of the late Conservative government", says Stirling in a confidential memorandum.

Millionaire Geoffrey Edwards has also joined Col. Stirling in his work, reported the Evening Standard. "I'm ready to put up money" claimed Edwards, the owner of a £500,000 mansion, who made his fortune as an arms dealer.

Unison

Another retired army officer, General Sir Walter Walker, one-time Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Northern Europe, has got a similar outfit of strike-breakers underway. This is the "Unison Committee for Action". This body, he claims, was formed last year, has an inner committee consisting of bankers, businessmen, and barristers, who meet regularly, has finance, and is recruiting members in many parts



General Sir Walter Walker, founder of "Unison".

of the country. Sir Walter said in an interview with 'top-peoples paper', the Times, "its members would act only if there was a collapse of law and order and they were needed to provide a back-up service to the armed services".

Major Alexander Greenwood, one of the General's subordinates claims to have 900 men under him. "Everyone is very carefully vetted before we allow them to join", he claimed in the Times interview. "The great majority are members of the professional classes who are desperately concerned about the way things are going". What these people are so concerned about is the growing strength and militancy of the working class, fighting to defend jobs, living standards and democratic rights.

Resistance

They see the mounting resistance to inflation and the coming slump leading workers towards more revolutionary means of struggle. Above all they fear that the Wilson government will prove unable to hold down the demands of the masses. In this situation they would view the whole existence of the Labour government as an intolerable threat to their property and privilege.

Major Greenwood says "the crunch could well come when the strike season begins again next winter".

And this "crunch" is what the ruling class are preparing for. The fascist National Front has already approached General Sir Walter Walker, promising him "real leadership" in support of his plans. The so-called "National Association of Ratepayers' Action Groups" led by a managing director, David Petrie, is in regular

contact with Sir Walter. This "Action Group" claims six million property-owning members and has recently announced its search for a "new national leader". Numerous other reactionaries, following in the footsteps of Brigadier Kitson, Commander of the British army's Infantry Training School at Warminster, are busily laying their 'counter-insurgency' plans for depriving workers of their rights and living standards.

Retired Wing Commander Goding has spelt it out. He wants "a junta to save Britain", reported the Evening Standard. His call merely makes more explicit the implications behind all these sinister plans.

Coverage

Enormous coverage has been given to the mushrooming of these organizations in the capitalist press. In the columns of the Times and Daily Telegraph the ruling class have been brazenly debating the best tactics to use against the unions. These papers have tried to present these groups as being above 'party politics'. But class conscious workers are unlikely to be fooled. Even Tory leaders like Whitelaw and Peter Walker have sprung to an implied defence of these groups in attacking Labour Defence Secretary Roy Mason.

Labour Party Secretary, Ron Hayward has now moved away from his sneering dismissals of these officers' plans, as "silly-season talk" to saying "all fascist talk like this in the beginning".

Disband

Although these groups are not fascist their conspiratorial plans must be stopped now. The Labour governments criminal class collaboration has only fueled the operations of these cliques. Mere denunciations are not enough. Labour must immediately disband these private armies, ban the National Front and legislate trade union rights for servicemen. It is vital that the army ranks, who have no part in these para-military conspiracies, are won over to the side of the working class.

What is needed above all is a strong Labour government. A government prepared to bring all industrial, financial and state power into its hands. And a government prepared to ruthlessly defend itself by disarming these generals—the hirelings of the employing class. In short a real workers' government.

None of these generals have been prosecuted. It therefore appears that the Labour movement is entirely within its legal rights to organize and train its own trade union defence forces to protect our organizations and picket-lines. What are our leaders waiting for?

1974 TUC CONTRACT

THE 1974 TUC opening in Brighton on September 2, takes place at a most crucial time for trade unionists in Britain. This Congress must resolve the life-and-death questions which face the 11 million trade unionists and their families it represents.

Inflation is now running rampant throughout the world economy. Britain is now the worst hit of the metropolitan countries with prices rising at well over 20% a year. Official figures show that personal income fell by 2½% in the first three months of this year. With forecasts of a catastrophic slump round the corner, the capitalist crisis threatens millions of workers with virtual impoverishment in the period ahead.

Spokesmen for the present Labour government have referred to the 'strike of Capital' which has now been running for six months. This strike has led to a virtual halt in new investment in British industry, programmes for expansion have given way to rationalizations of industrial plant with the inevitable mass redundancies and lay-offs for thousands of workers.

Any discussion at the TUC which ignores the two basic threats of falling living standards and widespread redundancies, is a complete diversion from the realities of deepening capitalist crisis.

But TUC general secretary, Len Murray, has made it quite clear over the last few months that he sees no real crisis. His latest comments on the mounting

Cyprus Disaster Chronology:

A catastrophe has hit the working people of Cyprus. Below is the sequence of events:—

July 15: The Colonels' regime engineers military coup in Cyprus against democratically-elected president Makarios. Massacre of Greek Cypriot trade-union militants, "communists" etc.

July 20: Turkish armed forces invade Cyprus seizing Northern port of Kyrenia, on excuse of "defending" the island's 110,000 strong Turkish residents. Fierce fighting between Cypriot National Guard and invading Turks.

July 23: Collapse of military junta in Greece; 100,000 demonstrate in Athens; Nicos Sampson resigns Cyprus presidency—replaced by Glafkos Clerides as interim president. Cyprus armed forces however remain in hands of EOKA-B reactionaries.

July 24: Ultra-conservative politician Constantine Karamanlis sworn in as new Greek Premier at invitation of armed forces chiefs.

July 26: In Geneva, "peace" talks open, under James Callaghan, between representatives of Greek, Turkish and British Governments — all foreign powers — excluding any representatives, elected or otherwise, of the inhabitants of Cyprus.

July 30: "Agreement" announced at Geneva: the three powers "jointly guarantee" the independ-

Congress — END SOCIAL CONTRACT WITH CAPITAL

BY Mark Douglas

slump, unemployment and financial collapse have been to dismiss talk of such things as "irrelevant" and "irresponsible". Nevertheless, the TUC Supplementary Report on "Collective Bargaining and the Social Contract", stresses time and again that workers must accept reduced living standards. It says "there is little scope for increasing personal consumption overall in 1974" and that negotiators should arrange only "to keep up with the cost of living during the period of the new agreement."

Tighten Belts

So, while denying the dangerous implications of the crisis on the one hand, Len Murray and co urge trade unionists to tighten belts and co-operate with the social con-trick, which effectively means at best that wages trail behind prices. This can only mean he sees the problems of big business in maintaining profitability but is blind to the effects of the same crisis on workers jobs and living standards.

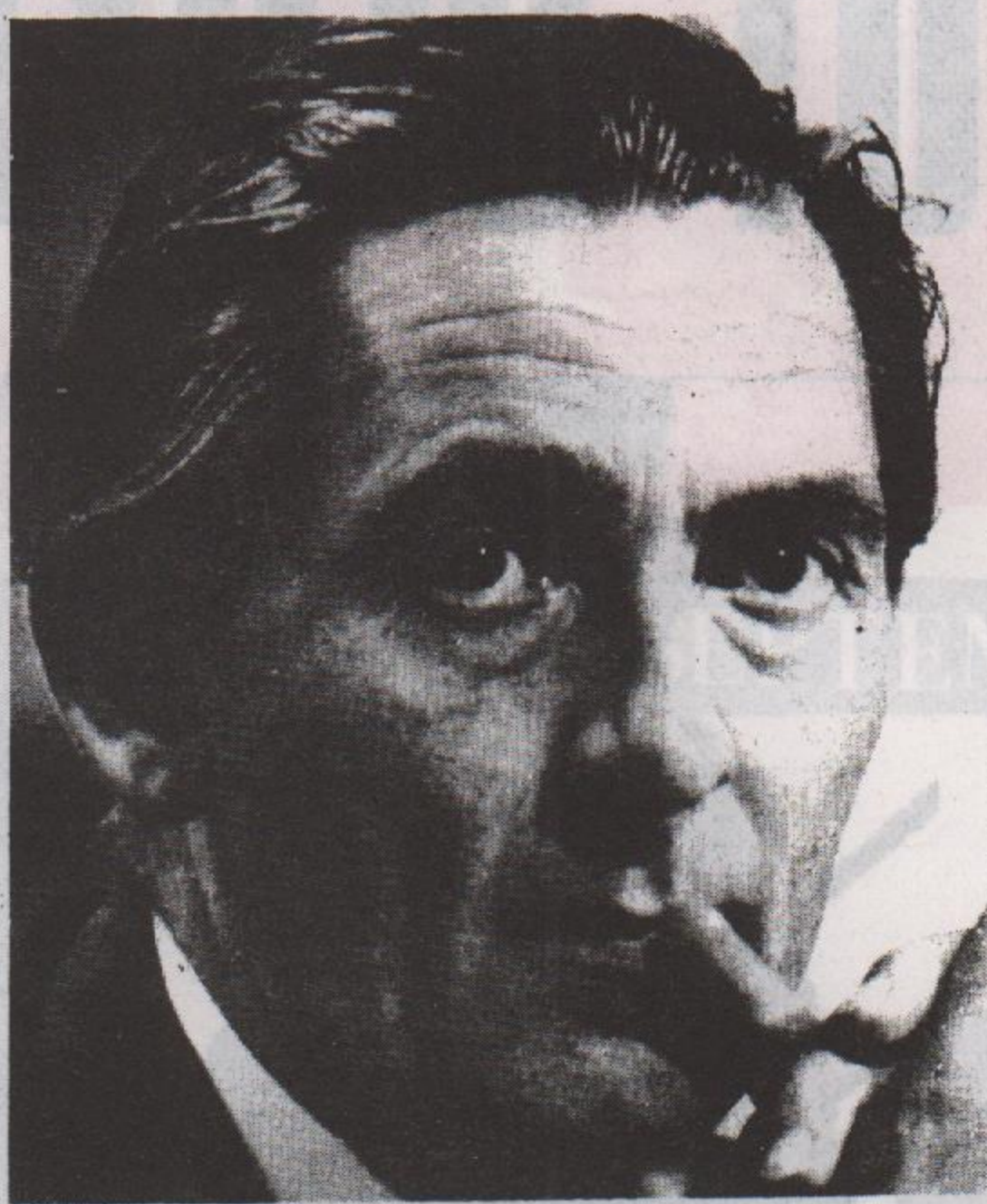
Even 'lefts', like L. Daly, NUM general secretary and TGWU leader, Jack Jones, have fully embraced this treacherous policy, arguing and voting against a fight for specified wage claims. Only the builders' union, UCATT, voted, in opposition to their executive, for a £19-a-week pay claim at their annual conference. And now, under pressure from the TUC General Council, UCATT leader George Smith

(vice-chairman TUC), attempts some squalid deal to drop this claim replacing it with some puny call for interim increases.

When Len Murray, Lord Allen (USDAW) Congress chairman, & Harold Wilson—who will speak at Congress—joined by other bureaucrats, attempt to sell the 'compact' they will be aiming to tie workers hands in the fight against the capitalist offensive.

Nothing that Labour has yet produced from the wholly inadequate 'thresholds' (a Tory idea remember!), which Wilson intends to scrap, food subsidies, an Act repealing the vicious Industrial Relations Act, which contains as many anti-union clauses as its Tory predecessor, thanks to the House of Lords mauling and Labour's acquiescence, to White and Green papers on 'industrial regeneration' and a meagre wealth tax, can claim the confidence of workers facing dwindling wage packets and insecurity of employment.

The Labour Party was built by the industrial trade unions as a weapon in the struggle against capital. **WE ALREADY HAVE** our 'social contract' with the Labour Party, in its constitution (Clause 4). At consecutive annual conferences it has been charged with the responsibility of ending capitalist rule and undertaking the urgent and inescapable tasks of socialist reconstruction. It is only along this road that workers everywhere can be assured of jobs, housing and decent



Mr. Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC.

health and welfare services.

The 1974 TUC must reject the present social contract as a contract with capitalist bankruptcy.

AUEW LEADER Hugh Scanlon has said that the social contract must not be allowed to tie workers' hands in the new wages struggle. Scanlon must be held to his opposition to the social contract. The TUC must develop an independent class strategy to defend workers' real wage levels which should involve the fight for;

- A rising scale of wages based on a working class price-rise index.
- No redundancies - no unemployment — Work or full pay.
- 35 hour week with a sliding scale of hours.
- £40 per week minimum wage.
- Nationalisation of the monopolies - Confiscation, not compensation!
- Workers control of production.

ASLEF pay victory means no more drivers for NUR....

BUT DANGERS AHEAD

by Kevin Moore

(Battersea No:1 NUR)

WITH THE award of the Railway Staff National Tribunal of £10 to drivers, ASLEF looks like building a rock solid base amongst British Railway drivers. Although it will mean surrendering bonus/mileage payments (below 200 miles) drivers not only gain 7.3% in exchange but also 10% on the basic (for extra responsibilities) despite British Railways Boards' offer of only 4½%. On top of this is the 10% immediate extra payment for irregular and unsociable hours, an improvement again on the BRB's offer of 6% phased over two years.

On the other hand, many of the proposals made by the NUR were rejected by the RSNT, or are still under consideration. "Established Status" (sick-pay basically) for more staff and better basic rates in exchange for surrendering bonus were turned down by the RSNT, so that some men will actually lose out on the deal. Moves towards equality between wages and salaried staff were not even mentioned in the report. At the same time percentage increases for extra responsibility have yet to be negotiated for practically every grade.

moves

To the drivers it appears that ASLEF have won a fair victory. But moves are already afoot by management to turn non-drivers against drivers. Faced with the ever worsening economic crisis of capitalism, BRB will try to play one off against the other in the lead-up to the next pay talks. They will attempt to break the small craft union ASLEF, just as it tried to do and might have succeeded in doing this June, had not the Labour government come to the rescue, when Wilson was forced to honour his pre-election no-strike deal with Buckton.

Unfortunately illusions have been sown in ASLEF. As militant NUR men know, it is a great pity that our brothers in ASLEF remain outside the main union, allowing its (the NUR's) leadership to fall to the right-wing, anti-militant Greene/Weighell clique. The NUR leadership hates the militancy of ASLEF and they will attempt, as they did all through this year's struggle, to destroy ASLEF by turning the non-drivers against ASLEF members. Unfortunately, the narrow, sectional attitude of the ASLEF leaders only aids them in this. If this attitude were abandoned and ASLEF members took a greater part in the struggle against the conservatism of the NUR leaders then the basis could be laid for a fighting unity of all railwaymen in the battles that lie ahead.

US presides over Cyprus bloodbath

Chris Knight

ence of Cyprus. Agreement leaves Turkish and Greek armed forces in control of respective areas conquered in fighting. Amounts to virtual partition.

August 1-5: Reports come in of terrible atrocities—wholesale rape arson and murder—committed by Turkish invaders against Greek villagers.

August 6: Ignoring cease-fire, Turkish Armed Forces launch massive new invasion to cut off bulk of northern half of island. UN forces on the island proved impotent.

August 14: France's leading news paper, Le Monde, exposes the fact that United States government (a) inspired original anti-Makarios coup in order to bring Cyprus into NATO, and (b) supported the Turkish invasion of the island when coup plan back-fired.

August 16: Turkish troops in full control of northern third of Cyprus, which comprises 70-80% of island's productive areas.

August 19: US Ambassador in Cyprus assassinated by EOKA B gunmen during massive Greek Cypriot anti-US demonstration. 200,000 Greeks and Turks—nearly one third of Cyprus population—are now reported home-

less. Mass grave of 57 Turkish Cypriots discovered at village of Aloa, near Famagusta—victims of EOKA B terrorists.

Once again the world has seen what happens when US-backed nationalist war-mongers and "law-and-order" regimes are allowed free rein. The Greek Colonel's regime was the puppet of the United States Government and was put up to depose Makarios so as to secure Cyprus as an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" for the US Navy and Air Force, concerned about the increasing "Soviet influence" over the East-Mediterranean. The escape of Makarios, the bunglings of Sampson and the ensuing collapse of the Colonel's regime in Greece endangered the whole plan.

There seemed a real danger that Greece would slide towards a workers' revolution and that in Cyprus itself, both Greek and Turkish workers would gravitate in a similar direction. How to prevent this? How to split the Cypriot working class? How to stem the tide of revolution in Greece too? These were the questions which faced US Sec-



Turkish Navy vessels landing reinforcements on Cyprus.

retary of State, Henry Kissinger. The answer was obvious. It was necessary now to turn the "Liberal"-coated military dictatorship in Turkey to do the job the Colonels had botched—namely to drive a blood-stained wedge between Greeks and Turks on the island. Two birds would be killed with one stone, for the Turkish external threat would help consolidate the military chiefs in Greece itself, checking a revolution there.

As we go to press the US objectives seem—for the moment—successfully achieved. It provides just one more example of the price working people must pay for the dominance of United States imperialism over the globe.

ALL OUT SEPTEMBER 15!

IT IS nearly a year after the right-wing coup in Chile that resulted in the murder and torture of tens of thousands of workers and socialists. Much of the open violence has now halted, if only because much of the left has been broken or forced underground. Repression has become more specialized, concentrating on those groups of militants who are carrying on the struggle. Half a million workers have been thrown out of work, including most trade union activists. Deliberately fuelled inflation has driven the masses near to starvation. Even the Christian Democrats, who at first condoned the coup, have been banned because they had come out against the generals' brutal oppression.

prisoners

Pinochet's government has now begun big show trials of some of the prisoners not slaughtered or rotting in torture camps. Dozens of Socialist Party members are accused of "trafficking with the enemy" - i.e. the old Allende Government. Sixty seven were convicted by an Air Force court martial for supposedly planning to assassinate army leaders. Four got death sentences, commuted after protests to thirty-eight year gaol terms. On one weekend, over ten thousand people were picked up in Santiago in a show of police terror. Even of prisoners released, many have been obscenely mutilated, crippled or mentally damaged for life.

Nonetheless resistance continues, hence the junta's need to maintain its organized thuggery



Torture in the Santiago National Stadium

at a high level. Workers at one plant occupied their factory to celebrate May Day, and then went on strike to stop victimizations. Though having suffered terrible defeats, the workers' movement has not been physically wiped out as in Nazi Germany. It can still rise again.

warships

So what is our Labour Government doing about all this? The disgraceful decisions to carry on sending warships to the junta and allow them generous loan repayment terms are well known. It has been left to the Scottish engineering workers and others to carry on the fight, risking their jobs by the blacking of military supplies. Less well known is the

fact that the British Embassy in Santiago has still let in only one refugee, and the number of exiles admitted to the UK is many fewer than that for many European countries with conservative regimes! The Government even sabotaged a proposal for the EEC countries to give political assylum to the Chileans condemned to death.

Wilson and Callaghan must not be allowed to get away with this. Labour Party activists should be urgently raising the demands for opening Britain to all Chilean refugees, cutting off links with the junta at once, and sending official aid to the Chilean resistance in the form of arms and cash. Furthermore it is vital to campaign

By Martin Cook

for the biggest possible turnout on the demonstration called for September 15 to commemorate the first anniversary of the coup. This has been endorsed by the Labour Party NEC. Speakers at the Trafalgar Square rally will include Senora Allende, Carlos Altamirano (Gen. Sec. of Chilean Socialist Party), Ron Hayward, Jack Jones, John Gollan, and Tariq Ali. Local Chile Solidarity Campaign branches are working for this with local marches and meetings. If enough of an effort is made nation-wide, we can make the Labour leaders' position in continuing their bare-faced scabbing on the Chilean workers intolerable.

Finally, let us not forget that our solidarity is no empty moral gesture. Britain's own Pinochets are already conspiring against our undefeated trade unions and "irresponsible" Labour government. This is the future role of the colonels' new strike-breaking groups like 'GB 75'.

SOUTH LONDON CHILE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN:

Sat. 7 Sept.—march from Brixton Oval 11am.

Wed. 11 Sept.—mass rally Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton, 7.30: Chilean speaker, Neil Kinnock MP, Michael Fenn (NASD), and Tom Pilfold (Southwark Trades Council).

National Front & Ulster Loyalists Forge New Links

CLOSE LINKS are being forged between Britain's National Front and Northern Irish Loyalist paramilitary groups. Talks have been held with the Ulster Defence Association, William Craig's Vanguard Party, and the Ulster Volunteer Force aimed at "formalising" their relationship with the N.F.'s newly established Belfast headquarters.

The N.F. has already pledged support for candidates of the Loyalists ultra-right, and has had a hand in shaping some of the policies of the UVF's abortive attempts at forming a political party, the Ulster Loyalist Front.

The N.F.'s manifesto for the February election called for support for the Loyalist population in the North and for the outlawing of all organisations and groups in both Britain and the North that supported the Republican Movement. A recent issue of the UVF's journal "Combat" acknowledged the NF's campaign on their behalf. It calls on Loyalists to support and assist those in the United Kingdom who are fighting for a new and patriotic society and a new breed of politicians.

Jenkins' Proposals for Women — an Election Gambit?

by Nicky Stephens

Women are the first to be hard hit by inflation, budgeting as they do for a whole family on a limited income. Some of the first serious layoffs to have taken place as a result of deepening capitalist recession, have been at the Garrard factory at Swindon, where nearly all those who have been made redundant are women. These women have little or no chance of finding themselves other jobs.

Despite Labour's promises to cut prices, housewives are still being confronted by skyrocketing inflation. So, to cover the tracks of betrayal on the prices front, the Labour government is now providing 'generous' proposals on female equality.

The last Wilson government introduced the Equal Pay Act, which stated that by 1975 women would enjoy equal pay. Since that promise women have been segregated from men so

there are no job comparisons and they have to continually undergo Job Evaluation schemes and other tricks the employing class tries to use to wriggle out of giving equal pay. So even if Jenkins' proposals become law, without a real struggle in the trade unions, with the full backing of the Labour government, they could well share the same fate as the now infamous Equal Pay Act.

But whatever Labour's proposals, without decisive measures to wrest control of production from the stranglehold of crisis-torn capitalism, little can be done towards securing real equality for women. For it is only in conditions of nationalized property relations can women achieve the change to real economic and social equality. Labour could make a start by implementing the demands contained in the Working Women's Charter which many Trades Councils and union branches have adopted throughout London.

THE LABOUR government has recently attempted to bring in a Bill which gives a veneer of legal equality for women in areas of employment, housing, and public services. Jenkins' proposals, however, exclude the most controversial areas of discrimination related to social security, taxation, and pension schemes.

The (Anti-Discrimination) Bill's proposals are to be welcomed. But coming at a time of severe economic crisis, as they do, Labour's intention of implementing them must be seriously questioned. The refusal of the Labour government to restore the £1,200m Tory public expenditure cuts gives grounds for this doubt. Some of the proposals, such as the equal standards of schooling for both sexes, would require a massive injection of money into the education system, if the plans are to be anything more than a token gesture. The Labour government knows only too well that it cannot afford to give any concessions to any section of the working class and this would therefore seem to limit the proposals to nothing more than a pre-election gambit, hastily compiled to woo the women voters.