

# The Newsletter

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1962

## Healy: 'Lobbies of Parliament are inadequate'

 H. L.  
MAR 27 1963


# MAKE UNIONS ACT

## Tories rush troops to smash oil revolt

by James Baker

**B**ATTLESHIPS, commandos, Ghurkhas from Singapore and the Queens Own Highlanders have rushed to maintain Britain's hold over the tiny oil protectorate of Brunei. British imperialism reacts strongly and swiftly when its financial interests are threatened, but in spite of the savage onslaught of troops, the rising of the North Borneo National Army under the leadership of Sheikh A. M. Azahari, President of the Brunei Peoples' Party, is still far from crushed.

The rising began last Saturday when units of the North Borneo National Army seized control of oil installations and took over the administration of a number of towns in the puppet Sultanate of Brunei.

The authorities were taken by surprise and the revolutionaries, supported by the majority of the local population, won some immediate successes.

After days of fighting, the red and white flag of the National Army still flies over towns, villages and oil stations.

The Sultanate of Brunei has been under British protection since 1888. The Sultan receives annual royalties from the oil wells, which belong to Shell, of more than £10 million.

### PRIVATE PURSE

All of this money goes into the Sultan's private purse, but he has used some of it to finance a 'Shellfare' state.

There is free medical service, pensions at 60 and free primary education for Brunei's 85,000 population. There are also luxury palaces, Cadillacs and fat fees for the Sultan and his family.

But one thing is completely absent from Brunei, that is any form of democracy. Autocratic

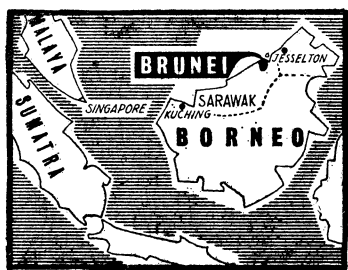


Azahari: AWOL?

control remains in the hands of the local representatives of imperialism.

Although the People's Party won all the elective seats in the last election and have more than 26,000 members, the nominees of the Sultan still wield power.

The British have been trying to carry out another of their phased withdrawals from the local scene, while leaving the power firmly in



In order to do so they will have to create a working class party.

The British labour movement must demand the evacuation of all foreign troops from Brunei and the holding of elections for a representative national assembly.

the hands of those who are willing to co-operate with imperialism. It seems they have made serious miscalculations in Borneo.

Sheikh Azahari, who left for the Philippines before the revolt began, has placed himself at the head of the Revolutionary government and has called for the support of all the Afro-Asian powers.

He is said to be on his way to New York to seek UN recognition for the United States of North Borneo, which would include Sarawak and Brunei.

### AGAINST FEDERATION

His movement is not a socialist one, but is restricted to opposition to the plans for a reactionary Malaysian Federation, combined with aspirations to control the oil-wells. The US government has been strangely silent over the affair.

The British imperialists with the puppet Sultan may succeed temporarily in holding back the forces of revolution in North Borneo. But the situation in Brunei will never again return to "normality".

The workers have tasted power. They will want to enjoy its fruits.

## BIG MARCH FOR REMINGTON MEN

Newsletter Reporter

2,000 workers from Remington Rand staged a half-day stoppage and a march through Glasgow last week to protest against the sacking of 300 men from their factory. The sackings, which included some shop stewards, are part of the plans of the engineering employers to streamline their production to meet heavy competition.

At the meeting held at the end of their march most speakers stressed the need to campaign for a mass lobby from the Clyde to Parliament.

A fraternal delegate from the Pressed Steel factory said that whilst his factory would take part in any such action they did not consider that it would be effective in defeating the employers.

The shop stewards at Pressed Steel were preparing to campaign for the putting into effect throughout the Clyde of a ban on overtime and for the 40-hour week.

## Sedition trial in Aden

**T**HE general secretary of Aden's TUC is standing trial this week on a charge of publishing a seditious pamphlet. He is Abdulla Alasnag who was, until recently, the president of the Aden People's Socialist Party.

Standing trial with him are Idris Hanbala, who is a leading member of the PSP and of the TUC, and Abdulla Obeid, a news-vendor.

The pamphlet describes the

events which took place on September 24 this year in Aden. A general strike called by the TUC led to a state of emergency being declared by the British authorities, the death of three workers and many injuries.

Many are still in prison serving sentences in connection with this movement.

The British labour movement must call for the immediate release of all the imprisoned workers in Aden and for the dismissal of the sedition charges.

## Only workers can aid jobless

Newsletter Reporter

**S**PEAKING in Glasgow and Falkirk on Sunday, December 9, Gerry Healy, secretary of the Socialist Labour League, stressed the great danger which the trade union movement was being placed in by growing unemployment. This was the result, he said, of speed-up and rationalisation which threatened young people in particular.

If the adult labour movement ignored the evil effects of unemployment amongst youth it would do so at great peril to itself.

There were, unfortunately, examples where shop stewards refused to take up the struggle of young workers. Such an attitude could only engender bitterness.

### Fascist

At the worst it could make unemployed youth susceptible to fascist propaganda.

Healy attacked the conception that a mass lobby of Parliament could solve the unemployment question. There had been many such lobbies in the past and nothing substantial had ever been achieved.

The right-wing trade union leaders on Merseyside boasted that Fords decided to come to that area after the lobby in 1958.

At that time there were 25,000 unemployed in the area; now that Fords had arrived the number was 36,000.

The fight against unemployment could not be left to the unemployed. It is above all, Gerry Healy said, the responsibility of the worker who is enjoying full employment.

There is an urgent need to establish unity in action between employed and unemployed. This meant that the employed worker must cut out overtime and make room for those who are out of work as a first step towards establishing this unity.

Trades and Labour Councils in every locality should ask

● back page, col. 1

### LONDON CONFERENCE

## Big drive for members

**T**HE fight to build the Socialist Labour League and prepare it to take the lead in the struggles of the working class was the predominant theme of an area conference held in London last week-end.

In opening the conference, Gerry Healy, the National Secretary of the class struggle at the present time. He warned against the tendency to underestimate the offensive of the Tories.

### Exposed

'The actions of Hennessy and the Ford Motor Company exposed the real face of Toryism,' he said. 'They expect working people to live and work like dogs, to accept back-breaking toil, filthy conditions, speed-ups and three-shift systems and to go home to sleep in appalling housing conditions.'

Gerry Healy went on to show the real crisis of capitalism in Britain was most clearly reflected in the figures for youth unemployment.

'The Tories hate and fear working-class youth. The unemployed school-leavers and young workers stomping the streets looking for work with a few miserable shillings in their pockets have no illusions about capitalism.

'They will provide the main source of strength in the struggle against capitalism.'

### Encouraged

Reports from branches of progress made in developing unity of militant left-wingers in the trade unions and of increasing Newsletter sales over the past month encouraged the conference to unanimously adopt targets for increasing membership by 50 per cent in the coming four months and to double the sales of The Newsletter in the London area.

A new Area Committee was elected and charged with the responsibility of building the League and planning a campaign of meetings on unemployment.

### NINE ELMS FIGHT ON

The strike against the sacking of constructional engineering workers at the Nine Elms Gas Works in Battersea is in its third week.

Support has begun to come in from other sites and the strikers have been greatly encouraged by the refusal to handle the work by building workers at Nine Elms.

The strikers are planning to lobby the meeting of the Constructional Engineering Union's executive this Friday, where they expect to get official backing.

● All donations to the strike fund should be addressed to Mr. K. Ives, 3 Longley Court, Lansdowne Way, Stockwell, S.W.8.

# That Acheson 'boob'

By TOM KEMP

**EXCITEMENT and indignation have been caused by Dean Acheson's statement that Britain's world role is 'played out'. The American elder statesman no doubt blurted out what is the prevailing opinion in the Kennedy administration.**

Being out of office, he perhaps forgot that while it is the practice of diplomacy to deceive your 'allies' as well as your enemies, the whole game is spoiled if you say so in public.

American capitalism is the dominant segment of the capitalist world today. After 1945 it had to shore up the weakened states of Europe, Britain included, with heavy slabs of economic and military aid.

It still lays down strategy through NATO and supplies the modern military equipment which its forces require.

## RIVALS

But the other capitalist states, as well as being trading partners, investment fields and military allies, are also rivals.

In particular, Britain has had to surrender important positions to US capitalism in return for American support.

So far, Britain has been the most favoured ally, but the growing power of de Gaulle's France and Adenauer's Germany and the expansion of the Common Market has led to a shift in American policy towards the continental powers.

Given the over-riding threat from the Soviet Union, the American government tries to work out a policy which enables it to keep the initiative in dealing with its allies. Seeing the deep opposition to Britain's 'special relationship' from France and Germany, it uses it to bargain.

## STRENGTHEN

The aim of the Kennedy administration is to strengthen conventional forces and medium-range ballistic missile bases in Europe.

Whatever the military value of this shift in strategic planning, it provides more bargaining counters in deals with the Soviet bureaucracy of the kind which took place over Cuba.

It also reduces the value of Britain in American calculations.

All this takes place in a world context in which the dollar takes over from the pound sterling and American capital strives to establish its superiority.

The Tories, at least the responsible ones, are too clever to bleat about 'independence'. They learned at the time of Suez just what sort of support they can expect from Washington.

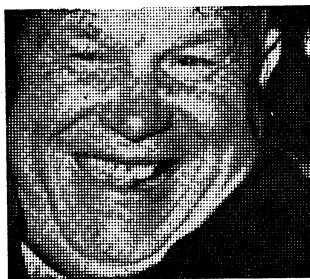
## UNDERWROTE

In the recent Cuba crisis they calmly underwrote every American move. This is not exactly subservience but a realistic assessment of Britain's possibilities.

Macmillan has made a nominal protest about the Acheson indiscretion—but probably he is glad to see that it confirms his own thinking.

It makes him see the futility of breaking with the US and more determined to show that his country can be more relied upon than France or Germany.

Patriotism, national interests, the Commonwealth, 'independence'—they are just useful catchwords to deceive the innocent.



**S**TALIN's methods always served a political policy and were not, as the Khrushchevites argue, the outcome of the 'cult of the individual'. A cult was built around Stalin—but not only him. Others in the leadership, like Khrushchev himself, were included.

This cult was not a personal matter but one which helped the political preservation of the bureaucracy.

Having abandoned Marxism and destroyed the Bolshevik Party, Stalin resorted to the crudest idealism as a means of justifying the bureaucracy. In the language of the Stalinists and their apologists, he was constantly depicted as the 'wise one'.

The new Soviet constitution launched in 1936, which proclaimed that socialism had been achieved in the Soviet Union, was hailed as a great victory for the glorious Stalin.

Yet it was during this period that the bloodiest crimes were committed. To divert attention from these brutalities, the legend of Stalin was expanded into godlike proportions.

He was the god and the Trotskyists were the devil. The faithful disciples all over the world worshipped, as ardently as Catholics, at the altar of Stalin and condemned Trotsky just as loudly as the Catholics did their devil.

Such a policy recruited petty-bourgeois opponents of Marxism in tens of thousands. These ladies and gentlemen, such as Beatrice and Sidney Webb, hated the philosophy of dialectical

## Khrushchev decries Stalin but—

# The system lives on

materialism which is the essence of Marxism.

They longed for the 'strong man' who could do no wrong. They hated and feared those who patiently explained that the strong man had feet of clay.

**Since many of them had grown up in the shadow of the petty-bourgeois Labour and trade union bureaucracies in Britain and other countries and had, in fact, done their dirty work, they were automatically attracted to Stalinism which was the ideology of**

times to the left and sometimes to the right, depending upon the pressures upon it at a given period.

Impressionists, who lack an understanding of Marxism, were, of course, easily confused by the left face of Stalinism.

When the pressure of world imperialism was at its height against the Soviet Union in the middle and late 1930s, Stalin moved sharply to the right in the policies of the Popular Front.

This was the period of the consolidation of fascism in

**leadership of Khrushchev, but in a vastly different world situation from the period which existed during Stalin's lifetime.**

**Stalin is dead, but Stalinism as a system of ideas lives on.**

This is the reason why Khrushchev rants on about the 'cult of the individual'. It is his way of dismissing the political role of Stalin while he continues with Stalin's policies.

The 'anti-Stalinism' of the Khrushchev bureaucracy today has been devised into a method of defending the bureaucracy in a world situation where it finds itself greatly weakened by the revolutionary pressure of the international working class and the growing strength of the Soviet working class within this.

The Khrushchev bureaucracy has been forced more and more into the middle of the road between the international class forces and shows signs of decomposition, just as do the Labour and trade union bureaucracies in this country.

The dilemma revealed in his recent speech at the economic plenum of the central committee in Moscow is an indication of this.

This crisis of the bureaucracy opens up not only opportunities for the Marxist movement to destroy the bureaucracy, but opportunities for the servants of the bureaucracy to sow great confusion.

**The most pernicious of these revisionist theories is that the Khrushchev bureaucracy, or a section of it, can transform itself into a revolutionary party and successfully lead the working class to power.**

## What's going on in the USSR

Third in a series of articles

By Gerry Healy

### the petty-bourgeois bureaucracy in the Soviet Union.

Bureaucracy, whether in the Soviet Union or in the British labour movement, is a deformation forced upon the movement by the pressure of imperialism.

It is a parasitic caste which wants to preserve its privileges and in doing so has tied itself to the policies of imperialism.

Khrushchev's 'peaceful co-existence' is a continuation of Stalin's theory of 'peaceful co-existence'. The fact that it opposes the class struggle and preaches the policy of peace with the capitalists helps the imperialists because it disarms the working class.

The politics of bureaucracy in the labour movement cannot openly justify the policies of imperialism because the bureaucracy occupies a role in between the capitalist class and the working class. It therefore adopts a centrist policy some-

Western Europe and the isolation of the Soviet Union.

The politics of Stalin—just as the policy of Khrushchev today—veered at times sharply to the right and at other times sharply to the left.

The mistake which is most frequently made today is to imagine that Stalinism as a system of ideas died with Stalin. Most of the Stalinist ideology was borrowed by Stalin from the arsenal of Social Democracy.

It had roots not only in the Soviet Union, but in the Social Democratic parties and centrist movements throughout the world. It evoked response from even Liberal circles, which saw in the 'strong man' the personification of what they wanted.

The Trotskyist movement never fought Stalin as an individual, it always fought the politics of the bureaucracy.

**It is these policies which continue now under the**

# Why there are no jobs for youth

By PETER JEFFRIES

**AGAINST the background of rising unemployment there has been a sharp rise, too, in the number of young people without jobs. There are probably some 100,000 jobless youth now.**

The official figures tend to underplay the seriousness of the situation. These figures are based upon those who actually use the services of the Employment Exchanges.

Many young people don't bother with these because they are not entitled to unemployment pay and, in any case, there is little point in registering if there are no jobs to be had.

## Decline

The last few years have witnessed a marked decline in the rate of profit upon invested capital. This is true not only of Britain but of the United States and the European economies, including Western Germany.

Since 1945, capital investment has taken place on a massive scale, particularly in the fields of steel, motors, oil and chemicals.

In modern technical conditions, plant for these industries may now cost many millions of pounds. Unless surplus value can be realised upon the necessary massive scale, the rate of profit on these huge investments will go

down.

That is what is happening at the moment.

In response to this the employers have embarked upon a concerted policy designed to arrest this fall.

Part of their strategy is obviously aimed at cutting wages—the pay pause, NEDC and the attacks upon shop organisation are a part of this.

## Every Ounce

The capitalists are also trying to wring every ounce of benefit out of their capital investments. In a period where such investments can very soon become obsolete and where costs are extremely high, plant and machinery has to be employed in the most efficient way possible.

The employers need a much more tame and flexible working class.

The past period has seen a marked expansion of the economy without a rise in employment—mainly because of a rise in productivity.

In other words, employers are now tending to increase output when required by using their existing labour force rather than by taking on fresh labour which they might have to get rid of very quickly.

This means that employers now

insist that overtime be worked when their orders expand, that the pace of work be increased when demand rises and that labour be switched from job to job as the needs of the employer vary.

The capitalists are now trying to employ their capital much more intensively than in the past. It has been noted that for a large part of the day many machines lie idle, being used only for about eight hours in every day.

The obvious answer is to employ a system of shift working. Thus in the cotton industry the last few years have seen the widespread introduction of 3-shift working.

These methods are being widely introduced in engineering and in motors. In this way the employers can make substantial savings.

## How does youth fit into this background?

In the first place, young people are obviously less easily disciplined and turned into the herd of passive sheep which management requires.

Thrown into the industrial world from schools where they have received little education, they are in no way reconciled to, nor do they understand, capitalism.

They have no experience of

defeats and betrayals to dampen their spirits nor are they weighed down by a mass of hire purchase debts which would make them keen to keep their low-paid jobs.

But equally important are the legal restrictions which apply to the employment of young people.

In the case of apprentices, particularly in a well-organised shop, they are not allowed to undertake many categories of work until they have served their time and, in addition, provision has often to be made for their release from work for at least one day per week for technical training.

Young workers are clearly of less value to the employer than adult workers.

## Rapid Increase

The changing needs and strategy of the employers in this crisis period explain the rapid increase in the number of young people who are now walking the streets.

With the new school leavers entering the labour market after Christmas this number will grow.

The labour movement must help these jobless youngsters, who, if left to drift aimlessly, could fall prey to the fascists.

In the programme of action outlined by The Newsletter must be included the demand for full unemployment benefit for young people until they find work—and their pledge to join the appropriate unions.

# Shifts and twists in W. Germany

## Adenauer struggles to maintain coalition

By JOHN CRAWFORD

**D**R. ADENAUER's announcement of his intention to retire next October is just one of a number of tricks played in the desperate effort to rebuild his coalition government. But behind this political pantomime lies the sinister reality of the German monopolies' preparation for the 'new Europe'.

The coalition between Adenauer's Christian Democrats and the Free Democrats was shattered by the outcry against the attempt to silence the magazine *Der Spiegel*.



Adenauer: desperate efforts

The offence of 'treasonable falsification' is defined in a paragraph of the Criminal Code, which was taken over intact from the Nazis.

The bid to gag *Der Spiegel* is only part of the attack on left-wing and radical critics in West Germany.

Membership of any Communist Party organisation has been a punishable offence since 1956.

Tied up somewhere in the *Spiegel* affair is the rivalry between two of West Germany's many spy organisations.

BND, the Federal Intelligence Service, is responsible to Adenauer through State Secretary, Hans Globbe.

It is better known as the Gehlen organisation, after its chief, former Nazi intelligence man, Reinhart Gehlen.

Bitterly opposed to this body is MAD, Military Counter-Intelligence. This comes under the defence ministry.

### PLANT

Colonel Wicht, the first of the officers arrested for giving information to *Der Spiegel*, is rumoured to have been a BND plant inside MAD.

The struggle in the Christian Democrat party for a successor to Adenauer reflects the divisions between sections of the German capitalist class.

Some groups look towards the US imperialists for support.

Others put their money on an independent role for German capital and look forward to a Common Market dominated by the Bonn-Paris axis, with Germany as the senior partner.

### SPEED-UP

Fear of rivalry from West Germany is one of the factors behind Washington's desire to speed-up Britain's entry into the Common Market.

The Americans want the Tories to act as a counter-weight to German capitalism.

They are also busily plugging the need for a 'European H-bomb', which they would control, in preference to Germany, the future military leader of the continent, having her own independent nuclear weapons.

Whatever the outcome of this tussle, the economic conflicts building up in Europe make shifts towards right-wing dictatorships and attacks on the working class movement increasingly likely.

### ARGENTINE COMMUNISTS ARRESTED

Buenos Aires—

Cordoba police announced the arrest of various 'communist elements'. They announce in particular that Norberto de Oro, leader of the metal-workers' union, has been arrested.

The police have proceeded to seize books dealing with the Cuban regime, as well as titles published by the Communist Party and copies of 'Nuestra Palabra', the organ of the Communist Party.

## Ben Bella bans CP

By TOM KEMP

**T**HE Algerian Communist Party, after a short period of legality under the new regime, has been banned.

Although the party gave fulsome support to Ben Bella and has declared that it will continue 'to support his progressive measures', he is obviously in no mind to tolerate a party which may become a mouthpiece for the growing popular discontent in the country.

Such a step will also help to re-assure foreign, and particularly American, capital, upon which the government depends. Without continued French financial support there would, in any case, be complete chaos.

### Division

With the economy dislocated, factories closed and crops un-gathered, the division between the government and the mass of the people is becoming wider.

It is as a result of its waning popularity that it has to strike at the CP and to extend its repression to the Socialist Party of the Revolution which calls for basic social change.

No wonder that former FLN leader Mohammed Boudiaf can declare that the revolution has not yet begun, that the FLN has died and that a new revolutionary movement has to be built.

### HEINZ BRANDT CONDEMNED

Heinz Brandt, trade unionist and communist militant who broke with the Ulbricht regime and was later kidnapped in West Berlin has been sentenced to 13 years forced labour. The trial was in secret and little information about it has been published.

According to a report in the Belgian paper 'La Gauche', the latest edition of a book, 'Wichstand in Auschwitz', which described Brandt's heroism as a concentration camp prisoner in the notorious Auschwitz death camp, has been revised to remove all mention of his name.

GEORGE WOODCOCK, Secretary of the TUC, led a deputation of its Economic Committee last week to find out what crumbs of comfort on unemployment could be obtained from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

After the meeting he was quoted as saying that one way out of the crisis was for industrialists to have 'expectations of profitable investment'.

This is the type of thinking that permeates the Labour leadership, both political and industrial.

They do not recognise that Keynesian economics have had their day. Those easy post-war years of so-called full employment have ended, and the Labour leaders are very worried men.

They fear that 'reasonable attitudes' are not going to solve the present unemployment crisis, and that they will not be able to contain militancy amongst the rank and file.

Maudling has released £40 million in post-war credits, has announced additional public investment projects totalling some £70 million and has drastically reduced purchased tax on motor cars at a cost to the Exchequer of £60 million in a full year.

## Brinham: boy for trial

**A** 16-YEAR-OLD boy has been sent for trial at the Old Bailey accused of the murder of Mr. George Brinham, the 46-year-old former chairman of the Labour Party.

Mr. Brinham was found dead in his £15 a week South Kensington flat. The boy pleaded not guilty and reserved his defence.

The boy said he was picked up by Brinham in The Strand on Saturday, November 17. They spent the afternoon together, visiting cafes, going to the cinema and then to a public house and finally finished up at the deceased's flat.

There Brinham made an improper suggestion to the youth. He put his arms round him and asked for a kiss.

The youth was not the kind Brinham took him for. He took the nearest weapon, a decanter, and hit him over the head.

A Home Office pathologist said that Brinham's skull was abnormally thin. During his examination he found features which indicated the practice of homosexuality or of a perversion. It appeared that the practices had been going on over a long period.

George Brinham was chairman of the party at the time of the famous Scarborough conference. He was chairman of the NEC's youth sub-committee for a number of years.

### SNUB FOR GREENWOOD

The Labour Party NEC's youth sub-committee met this week to elect a new chairman to replace Mr. George Brinham. Anthony Greenwood has been vice-chairman for a number of years and it was expected that he would be elected.

However, Mr. Gaitskell and Mr. Brown paid an unexpected visit to the committee in their ex-officio capacity and helped swell the vote in favour of Mrs. Bessie Braddock.

## AMERICAN CP ON TRIAL

Newsletter Reporter

**T**HE Kennedy brothers have managed to do what Truman, McCarthy and Eisenhower failed to do—put the United States Communist Party on trial.

Without the hysteria and spot-lights of the McCarthy era—but carefully nursing that fine legacy—the new 'liberal' administration has brought leading members of the party to trial for refusing to register under the McCarran Act as agents of a foreign power.

The trial begins during the week designated as 'Human Rights Week' by Kennedy. The House Un-American Activities Committee is also investigating the Women's Strike for Peace movement to see if it has been infiltrated by communists.

If found guilty, the CP members each stand to pay crippling fines. If they had registered under the McCarran Act, they could have been brought to trial under the even more infamous Smith Act for advocating the violent overthrow of the government.

This is part of Kennedy's plans to ruthlessly crush working-class opposition.

When the American ruling class is out to get you, they go about it very thoroughly. To those not well versed in the methods of Communist parties, it may seem incredible that the American CP refused to stand candidates at the last presidential election and called for support for Kennedy.

The British labour movement must stand four-square behind the American CP and demand the immediate ending of the McCarthyite witch-hunt.

### CHRISTMAS BREAK

There will be no issue of The Newsletter for week ending December 29.

## City Slants by colin chance

He has announced new investment allowances to encourage businessmen to buy additional plant and machinery and has released the last of the special deposits of the banks, so that since October an additional £160 million has been available to

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### Great expectations

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those capitalists who are prepared to expand their undertakings.

George Woodcock and company say that this is not enough, that there should be a general reduction in purchase tax to encourage people to buy so that businessmen can have 'expectations of profitable investment'.

But like the reduction in purchase tax on cars, this panacea will have little effect on the overall economic situation.

Whilst the Labour leaders are

content to rely upon the vagaries of a market economy, unemployment will continue to grow. The fact of the matter is that capital faces many uncertainties at the moment.

Most of the largest 100 companies have unutilised productive capacity. Why risk further capital on new investment when not even entry into the Common Market is certain?

In Europe itself, capital is beginning to face similar problems of excess capacity, so that joining will not automatically create buoyant trading conditions.

Add to this the general decline in shipbuilding and mining, and it seems clear that the present crisis has a different complexion from earlier post-war recessions.

The Tories say that they cannot force businessmen to provide work. But a Labour government prepared to nationalise the basic industries, both new and old, would not be dependent on the co-operation of big business, and only then could the scourge of unemployment be cured.

# Another blow for Scots workers

## Shipyard closure means sack for 1,400

By ALAN WEST, Our Labour Correspondent

**T**HE grimly mounting numbers of unemployed workers in Scotland were given a cynical boost by the employers this week with the announcement that 1,400 men on Clydeside would lose their jobs—as the result of a takeover bid.

### Vauxhall strike over rates

Newsletter Reporter

Pickets have been on duty to stop the latest attempt by Vauxhall's management to break their five-week old strike at the new £30,000,000 car factory at Hooton, Merseyside.

The dispute involves 30 pipe-fitters, riggers and mates employed by sub-contractors Stewart and Lloyds on construction work. They are fighting to maintain rates of pay established by trade union agreement in the Merseyside area.

The strike is receiving official support from the PTU and the HDEU.

Stewarts and Lloyds are paying on average 1/6 per hour less than other contractors doing similar work on the site.

### Undermine

Shop steward T. Radcliffe told me that it was the opinion of many workers that there was a deliberate attempt to undermine rates already won in this area.

The so-called 'soft' management of Vauxhalls have shown on several occasions just how 'soft' they are.

First they insisted with maintenance men directly employed by them that they do work blacked by contract workers. On Monday they gave strike-bound work to other contractors, but men on the site have seen through this manoeuvre and rejected the work.

Once again it is clear that the employers' tactics of sub-dividing contracts (at Fords there are over 100 sub-contractors) can only be defeated by united action and organisation at site level.

The shipyard firm of Alexander Stephen Minthouse has bought up the Simons-Lobnitz yard at Renfrew and will promptly close it down.

A statement issued on Monday by the chairman of the parent company of Simons-Lobnitz and the chairman of the Minthouse yard made it plain that the run-down of the yard will begin as soon as existing contracts are finished. Total close-down is expected by mid-summer.

The move is clearly designed to arrest the plummeting profits in the shipbuilding industry. The Renfrew yard was badly equipped by modern standards.

**'In the world shipbuilding industry, where production capacity far exceeds the demand for new construction, some form of rationalisation among the various home yards was desirable,' the employers' statement said.**

### MORE CLOSURES?

The Renfrew yard produced mainly specialised craft like dredgers. Workers in the industry now fear that 'desirable rationalisation' will mean the closure of many more of the smaller and specialised yards.

There are already some 9,000 jobless shipbuilding and marine engineering workers in Scotland; on Clydeside alone more than 500 welders are unemployed.

It will be a bleak winter for hundreds of thousands of jobless workers.

The new year must see the intensification of a campaign amongst the rank and file of the Scottish unions to win support for concrete industrial and political action against the Tories in place of the disastrous policies being pursued by the STUC.

## Make unions act: from page one

affiliated trade unions to supply information of the number of unemployed on the vacant register.

Steps should then be taken to see to it that no overtime was worked in those industries where there were unemployed.

The unions must press for the employment of their unemployed members.

The problem of non-trade unionists who are unemployed should, he stressed, be tackled energetically.

Whilst it was constitutionally not possible to enrol them directly into the unions, steps should be taken to compile a register of their trades and they should be asked to give undertakings that immediately they found work they would join a trade union.

They should then receive the same preference as those who were in unions when it came to the question of filling vacant posts.

It was wrong to create the impression that the employers could solve the problem since it was their system which was responsible for it, Gerry Healy went on.

The threat of unemployment would only be defeated by uniting the working class against the em-

ployers and their government.

If unity in action between the employed and the unemployed was achieved then the next stage would be to fight for the nationalization of the basic industries and the introduction of a system of workers' control.

If capitalism could not give a decent standard of living to those who worked in its industries, then the industries concerned should be taken over at once.

This was particularly true, he said, of the nationalised railway workshops which were due for closure in 1963.

These should be placed under workers' control for the purpose of producing badly needed consumer goods.

Gerry Healy said that the Socialist Labour League was the only organisation in the labour movement with a programme which offered an alternative to the scourge of unemployment.

All those who talked about lobbying Parliament were simply diverting the struggle from the real enemy.

**He called upon the trade unionists on the Clyde to launch a campaign to force the Glasgow Trades Council to take up the struggle against unemployment.**

### Railways

## No fight from Labour MPs

By REG PERRY

**T**HE Beeching plans for the railways, which will throw 50,000 workers on the dole, are part of the preparations of British capitalism for entry into the Common Market.

The Tories aim to make the railways provide the most efficient and cheap service for private industry at the expense of railway workers and to save the drain on the Exchequer of money which they intend to employ more profitably elsewhere in the economy.

The debate on the British Transport Commission report which took place in Parliament on November 29 showed clearly that the Labour leaders have no quarrel with the aims of the Tories.

Railway workers from Stratford workshops in East London, who listened to the debate, came away bitterly disappointed and disillusioned.

### INSIPID

For 6 hours they had listened to a series of insipid speeches by the six Labour MPs who spoke to a motion accepting the BTC report but expressing concern at the closures.

Not one of them challenged the claims of the Tories that the 'losses' of the nationalised railways are due to inefficient workshops, over-staffing and under-utilisation of existing lines.

Not one of them pointed out that of the £130 million losses claimed for last year, £113 million were interest repayments for money loaned at extortionate interest rates to buy the dilapidated railways from the ex-shareholders in 1947.

**George Strauss, the principal Labour spokesman, could only plead with the government to 'set a fair and generous example in dealing with the redundancy problem'.**

### 'HOPEFUL'

Mr. Ray Gunter, NEC member of the Labour Party, who started 'a little dazed by the kindly things said by Tory MPs about the railways', expressed himself as being more 'hopeful about the future'.

His only criticism of the report was that 'the commission is desperately in need of one or two men who have a deep and kindly knowledge of what is involved' and the government is 'driving decent, reasonable, intelligent trade union leaders to the wall'.

It must now be clearer to railway workers that the Tories intend to ruthlessly carry through their plans.

### CLEAR

It must also be quite clear that neither railway union chiefs like Sidney Greene nor the present leaders of the Labour Party have any intention of opposing these plans and forcing their withdrawal.

Yet railwaymen have already shown the way to defeat the Beeching plan.

Given the full support of the TUC and the whole labour movement, a national railway strike could force the downfall of the Tory government tomorrow.

**Only such a policy can offer any lasting solution to the problems of unemployment and the railways.**



Gunter: 'A little dazed'

## Dirty air battle won

Newsletter Reporter

**W**HILE millions choked in last week's smog, workers in the plastics section at Projectiles' factory in South London were winning a battle with their bosses against air-pollution of a different kind.

Two polishers were working under extremely dirty and unhealthy conditions. Dust extractors in use proved completely inadequate. Shop stewards on behalf of the men complained to the management, demanding 'dirty money' pending the installation of effective dust extractors.

### Refused

The management refused to concede the men's demands and on Thursday mid-day all 40 men in No. 31 shop, where the polishers worked, downed tools.

The stewards then informed the management that if their demands were not met by 3 p.m. the men would walk out.

At 2.30 the 25 men in another plastics shop stopped work in support and at 3 o'clock the men in both shops, all AEU members, walked out.

In the meantime the men in the fitting section had met and decided that if no agreement was reached by Friday morning they, too, would strike in sympathy.

### Results

The men's militant action soon produced results. At a meeting on Friday morning the men in 31 and 32 shops were told by the works' convenor that the management had agreed to meet the stewards and it was decided to return to work pending a successful settlement.

At 9.30 the men's negotiating committee met the management who agreed to meet their demands in full. The polishers are to get 3d. an hour dirty money until suitable dust extractors are installed.

By Friday evening installation work had already been started.

## Aid pours in for Sheffield strike

Newsletter Reporter

**T**HE strike at Davy United (Sheffield), involving over 600 members of the AEU, ETU and Boilermakers remains 100 per cent solid, in the face of the attempt made by local and national leaders of the AEU to defeat it.

The strike occurred two weeks ago because of the sacking of 44 workers, many of them leading shop stewards and militants.

The strike has now been declared official by the ETU who have 25 members on strike, but the Boilermakers have yet to hear from their leaders.

At a meeting held in the City Hall last week the District Secretary read out a letter from the Executive Council of the AEU instructing the men to return to work so that talks could proceed.

This was angrily rejected by the strikers who realised that the 44 men will have been put on the street by the time negotiations have been completed.

### Great support

Financial support has poured in from far and near. Many local militants in the area say that this particular strike has received greater support than any recent one which they can remember.

Workers at John Summers (Shotton), the giant steel concern, have agreed to a 5/- levy per head until the strike is successful, whether the AEU declare it official or not.

This guarantees the strike committee £500 per week and is an enormous show of class solidarity.

Many firms in Sheffield have held collections and levies of 3/- per head have been agreed to.

In addition money has come in from the Paint, Trim and Assembly shop at Dagenham, from the Port of London Authority and from George Manns (Leeds) and many other firms outside Sheffield.

Donations should be sent to Mr. Bill Walker, AEU Club, Stanley Street, Sheffield, 1.

### COVENTRY UNEMPLOYMENT CAMPAIGN

The annual meeting of the Coventry District AEU shop stewards on December 5 discussed the unemployment and short-time working position and noted that 2,500 were out of work in the area, with 11,000 on short-time, plus many unemployed young people.

A resolution was carried calling upon the district committee to press for a meeting of Confederation shop stewards to discuss waging a campaign on unemployment.

This campaign should be based on the fight for the 40-hour week, work or full maintenance at union rates for those unemployed, a ban on overtime and the removal of the Tory government and its replacement by a Labour government committed to socialist policies.