

THIS SUNDAY

YOUNG SOCIALISTS CALL TO ALL TRADE UNIONISTS AND YOUNG WORKERS

All out against the threat of
UNEMPLOYMENT

DEMONSTRATE AT THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Brighton, Sunday, October 2nd

Assemble: 1.30 p.m., Palace Pier

Meeting: Ocean Restaurant, West Pier, 3 p.m.

Every factory and stewards committee should support this fight

All out on October 2nd!

Labour must nationalize the engineering and motor car industry at once

The Newsletter

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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DELEGATES MUST

SPEAK UP AGAINST WILSON!

BY G. HEALY

'THE CABINET' will 'it is understood, today consider a proposal aimed at protecting employers against court claims arising from the wage freeze . . . ' This extract is from the opening sentence of the lead article in the 'Financial Times', September 29.

It sums up in a nutshell the role of Wilson's Labour government as seen by big business. It is a capitalist government carrying out policies in the interests of the employers.

When they are threatened by the actions of the trade unions Wilson steps in, not to defend the unions, who supply the main support for the Labour Party, but to protect the Tory employers who are working night and day to destroy the Labour Party.

Delegates to the Labour Party Conference this coming week who close their eyes to these harsh facts cannot avoid accepting a share of the responsibility for betraying the labour movement. The government of Wilson is a government dominated by traitors to socialism. It must be ruthlessly fought with every ounce of energy that delegates can muster and it must be mercilessly exposed. A break has to be made publicly from all that Wilson stands for.

FAKE 'LEFTS' EXCUSE

The excuse of the Communist Party, the fake 'lefts' and others of a similar breed that we must not bring down such a government because this would open the door for the Tories is both dispicable and cowardly.

It is an acceptance of capitalism and capitalist solutions, under the guise that it is better to have Labour men running capitalism instead of capitalists. This is really nothing more than an acceptance of the complete bankruptcy of reforms.

Consider one more example. Tens of thousands of trade unionists and Labour men are being thrown onto the scrap heap of unemployment, with no prospects of finding jobs.

One of the firms which was amongst the first to publish its redundancy lists was I.C.I.

A few days later it went to the City and called for a 50 million pounds loan. It received offers of more than thirty times this sum, and why? Because the city speculators wanted to get in quick so that they could re-sell the shares later and make a handsome profit.

In other words, when the most skilled sections of the working class are being driven to the employment exchanges by a Labour government, the city sharks go ahead profit making as usual.

This is the two Britains, with Wilson and his government providing full support for Labour's most bitterest enemies—the profit makers.

The longer such a government goes on without a challenge, the more serious will be the consequences for Labour. The time to make such a challenge is now, this week, at the Labour Party conference. Wilson supports Tory policies—to keep quiet is to lend aid to this support. Wilson is opening the door for what could be long years of Tory rule just as MacDonald did in 1931.

All those who remain quiet and allow him to do this will share the guilt.

ANSWER

Reformism and reformist policies are useless and totally inadequate. It is not just British capitalism but world capitalism which is in a mortal crisis. Only socialist policies can answer the crisis.

● Nationalization of the basic industries without compensation under workers' control.

● Freedom and self-determination for all colonial and semi-colonial peoples. Withdraw all British troops from overseas.

● Break from American imperialism and give the fullest support and aid for the National Liberation Front in Vietnam.

Of course these policies cannot be successfully implemented unless a new Marxist leadership is built within the labour and trade union movement. This is the role of the Socialist Labour League, supported by the Young Socialists.

We appeal to all sincere Labour Party members and trade unionists to consider working with and joining our organisation.



FREE HUGO BLANCO NOW!

HUGO BLANCO, the Peruvian peasant leader, was sentenced to 25 years' jail early in September by a military court held in the small town of Tacna, near Lima.

A 22-year sentence was passed on Pedro Candela, and six others were jailed for between two and five years. Over 30 people were named as defendants, and 29 were in court.

Blanco's vicious sentence sent him — shouting 'Tierra o muerte!' (land or death)—to the infamous El Fronton prison, situated in Lima harbour.

His cry was taken up by the other defendants, and the large crowd in the public gallery. This also happened during the trial, and the court was cleared several times by the judges.

At one time it was feared that the judges would call for the death sentence for Blanco.

But the tremendous feeling and sympathy for the revolutionary peasant-guerrillas in Peru and throughout the world probably led to a change of mind by the repressive authorities.

Advertisements were placed by students in the Lima daily 'Expresso' after the trial calling for the annulment of the sentences and an end to the Military Code, used to try political prisoners.

The main case against many of the defendants was that they had attacked and killed three policemen after joining Blanco's peasants' union.

The union had been organised 'because of the misdeeds committed by the large landowners.'

A police post had been attacked in 1962 to kill a guard who had shot and killed a 15-year-old boy and wounded two peasants. After the attack, the peasants ambushed police pursuers and shot and killed two others.

In a statement to the court several defendants claimed they had been tortured by the police after capture—one had a broken shoulder and leg—and that they were not defended legally.

Blanco told the court that he was only guilty of pressing for agrarian reform.

Both he and Candela are to appeal against sentence.

In the meantime, the British labour movement must aid these heroic revolutionary fighters by demanding their immediate release. Telegrams and letters of protest must be sent now to the Peruvian Embassy, 52 Sloane Street, London, S.W.1.

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Deliverymen first in jobs battle

BY SYLVIA PICK

THE SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINE Birmingham car delivery drivers, whose official strike against the sacking of over half their number has shut down the Austin factory at Longbridge, are the first workers to take industrial action against the jobs crisis forced on the working-class by the government's policies.

Their union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, has declared itself against redundancy and for work-sharing. Of the sacking of the 333 delivery drivers, union leaders have used such words as 'vicious and inhuman', 'provocative', 'ruthless' and 'callous'.

Yet they seem to propose fighting it purely as an industrial dispute, without political significance as a fight against the Labour government's attacks on the working-class.

The strike has been joined by about 100 car delivery drivers employed by two Merseyside firms, and the T&GWU announced it would also fight against the sacking of 40 British Road Services haulage drivers.

Yet to date no move has been made to enlist support from car production workers also threatened with ruthless and callous sackings.

The strike has been contained within the limits of a union dispute affecting only transport workers.

One union leader is quoted as saying:

'I sincerely regret any losses that may be sustained by BMC.'

'Unreasonable'

Another was reported as denying that the struggle represented a fight against the government, since Harold Wilson himself would disapprove of sackings carried out in such an unreasonable manner!

Yet among the pickets at the gates are drivers who understand the political nature of this strike, and compare it with the seamen's strike. They predict that the struggle will be a grim one, and may be long.

The strike, which has been 100 per cent effective, is in protest against the redundancy plans of the Longbridge Group of Delivery Agents, the firm which transports over 90 per cent of the vehicles leaving Longbridge for distribution and export.

Vehicles have been piling up at the factory until all storage space has been filled. Pickets on duty at Longbridge and other depots in Birmingham announced on Monday and Tuesday that not a car had left.

At the end of last week the T&GWU proposed that work should be shared on the basis of drivers working one week on, one week off. This was rejected as 'impracticable and uneconomic' by the delivery agents.

HASS RELEASED

Newsletter Reporter

IT IS REPORTED that Ludwig Hass, one of several Polish Trotskyists jailed earlier this year for issuing a document criticising Polish Workers' Party leaders, has been released.

Hass, along with Romuald Smiech, Kasimierz Badowski, Karol Mozelewski, Jacek Kuron and others were each jailed for three years following secret trials.

In May, the Young Socialists and Socialist Labour League marched to the Polish Embassy to demand their release.

A resolution handed to the Embassy's second secretary, Mr. Jan Rabs, said that the Polish workers' movement had suffered at the hands of Stalinist bureaucracy—in 1938 the entire leadership of the Communist Party of Poland had been wiped out in Moscow and between 1949-1956, Waldislaw Gomulka (Poland's present Prime Minister) had been jailed under the Stalinists.

The resolution continued: 'Like these acts, the jailing of

Hass and his comrades is an attack on the international working class and, as such, undermines the existence of the Polish workers' state itself in the face of imperialism.'

The May demonstration dissociated itself from a previous march to the embassy which had been joined by the anti-Communist, pro-capitalist Polish Socialist Party.

The Newsletter hopes to confirm the news of Hass's release—and that of the other prisoners—in the near future.

NEXT WEEK

The Newsletter

will carry full reports and photographs from the Labour Party conference by our team of reporters already in Brighton

BE SURE OF YOUR COPY

PROBLEMS OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

The sixth in G. Healy's important series of articles will be resumed shortly.

Lay-offs at BMC Oxford

By Newsletter Reporter

BMC ANNOUNCED on Wednesday that 1,300 men would be laid off from their Cowley, (Oxford) factory, including those with two years' service and less, and those over the age of 65.

This means that one in seven will lose their jobs.

So far no lay-offs have been announced in BMC spares section—one of the most militant departments. This could mean that the management is trying to head off action in Oxford.

A further 600 are to lose their jobs at Pressed Steel-Fisher.

CND TO CLOSE?

MRS. OLIVE GIBBS, writing in the latest issue of 'Sanity', the campaign's monthly journal, has intimated that £5,000 is urgently needed or the campaign will have to close down.

'We have been crippled by lack of money' she writes, 'and starved of support especially because many of those in the

BOOK NOW FOR

liege OCTOBER 15

AGAINST NATO AND THE WAR IN VIETNAM

There is still time for our readers to sign up to go to Liege with the Young Socialists of Britain to meet socialist youth from Belgium and countries all over Europe.

They will be protesting against the war in Vietnam and against the capitalist alliance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which has its headquarters near to Liege.

The cost of the round trip to Dover-Ostend and Liege is £8 10s which includes a free meal at Liege and dancing on board ship there and back. All money must be paid in by September 30. Do not delay write now to Dany Sylviere, Liege Organiser, Young Socialists, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4, for further details or send a deposit of £2 with your name and address.

Empty ring from the 'left'

By John Crawford

THE MORE BLATANT the Labour government's attack on the working class, the more ludicrous becomes the position of the Labour Party 'lefts'.

For years they have participated in the time-honoured ritual of criticising the policies of the right wing, while loyally avoiding any challenge to its right to lead.

At conference after conference of the Labour Party they have performed their chosen role of safety valves for rank-and-file discontent.

But when this year's conference assemblies in the Top Rank Entertainment Centre in Brighton, this routine will look somewhat played out.

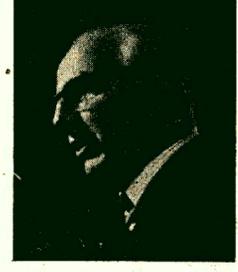
The 'left' resolutions have an empty ring. Like the sickly grin of a mangy Cheshire cat, they are all that remains of the old oppositionism.

Take, for instance, the 44 resolutions on Vietnam. These, together with a number of amendments, indicate the widespread disquiet in the Labour Party membership at Wilson's craven support for the US war against the Vietnamese workers and peasants.

But, with a few exceptions, the wording of the resolutions dodges the real issue.

Holborn and St. Pancras South Constituency Labour Party urges HM government to dissociate itself publicly from either side in the conflict as the best chance of securing Russian co-operation in recalling the Geneva Conference.

Penistone thinks that 'the time has come for the Prime Minister to speak to both Vietnam and



Cousins: No preparation

China and try to bring all three governments together for a solution and make it clear to the world powers where Britain stands.'

Naturally, most interest centres on the Prices and Incomes Act and economic affairs.

Several Constituency Labour Parties and unions have submitted resolutions on these issues. Later amendments refer to the pay freeze.

Even where they directly criticise the government, they evade the question of fighting against it.

Many begin with declarations of loyalty to some abstract concept of an 'incomes policy'.

For example, the Construction Engineering Union 'asserts that the restrictions outlined by the Prime Minister in the statement of July 20, 1966, and the wage freeze are no more than stop-gap measures, and that to restore confidence and to secure full co-operation, it is necessary for the government to immediately take other positive steps to resolve the problems, including as priorities substantial cuts and curtailment in all forms of military expenditure and further intensive efforts to secure international currency reform.'

The Chemical Workers sound much more 'left', demanding 'a more equitable distribution of the national product', and firmly opposing 'repressive legislation against trade union rights'.

But what has this to do with the actual role played by the Wilson government,

How does it prepare for the struggle against unemployment and the wage cuts into which workers are now thrown?

Many resolutions this year oppose anti-union legislation. But the job has already been done; the Act is law and about to be operated.

How many of those putting

Continued page 4, column 6

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE and its grouped around the International of the Fourth International, the 30th of the fascist uprising in Spain was an r the re-affirmation of the basic ce Marxism—that the working class ce capable of revolutionary change in that the decisive role is played by lership in harnessing and guiding this

tainists, and particularly their Spanish coned merely as yet another opportunity to prove ialism their loyalty to the status quo, and the of 'peaceful co-existence' with capitalism.

at published by the Spanish Stalinist Party and the British Communist Party's weekly, es to the furthest possible limits its long estab- of the 'popular front', elaborated by Dimitrov at ss of the Communist International in 1935. t that in the struggle against war and fascism, and indeed have to be made with 'progressive' ruling class.

es' front' thus included the Radicals in France, and 'liberal' Republicans in the USA, the anti-German Tories such as Churchill and Eden right-wing Republicans in Spain.

such allies for the Soviet bureaucracy against the 14th Nazi Germany, all revolutionary demands had m the programmes of the Communist Parties con-world-wide witch-hunt organised against the only refused to acquiesce in this betrayal of Marxism—national.

therefore, with the seduction of liberals and anti- went the destruction of the old cadre of the in the Soviet Union, and the assassination and revolutionaries where ever the Stalinists were able union, as in the case of Spain during the civil war. re feelings of e swept by the e 'Popular Front', is in its essence ary and aimed gence of working had swept across from 1935 on-

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ow Trials

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LEADERS is victims, those unced as 'fascist nter-revolutionary the like?

some planted surs like Olberg y, they were the

25 people were Party Central ween 1919 and four had died 17 had been shot Tomsky com- Trotsky was murdered.

and Kalinin lived

These faced not only their own torture, but often that of their families.

Did Dutt or Rothstein know nothing of this? Rothstein's father lived in Moscow throughout this period. Pollitt and the others paid innumerable visits to Russia.

Were no facts available to them on which they could have

At the same time, political con- acts are established between the Vatican and the bureaucracy via the Italian Stalinists and the visit of Gromyko to the Pope.

Thus Stalinism proceeds to liquate the philosophical founda- tions of Marxism by making its peace with the most hated a- eners of reaction and opponents of intellectual and scientific progress.

Spanish Stalinism, well aware of the tremendous political power of the Catholic church, long ago gave up the struggle against this most faithful outpost of the Vatican and the Franco regime.

Now it turns its attention to the Monarchist groupings, and most outrageously of all, to the Carlists, the leading shocktroops of the fascists in the civil war, the notorious *Requetés*.

The statement of the Spanish Stalinists alleges that at a Car- istry in Monaguama, 'con- tainist cries of "Liberty, Liberty, Liberty" mingled with the tra- tionalist slogans (not discussed here), giving a new character to the demonstration.'

Neither is the army (the officers of course) neglected.

Here, too, the Stalinists find new allies.

'Among the officers the idea is growing that the role of the military is to defend the frontiers against foreign enemies and not to act as the policemen of their own people, the role they have been compelled to play by Franco.' (Emphasis added.)

Thus the statement presents the ludicrous picture of a fascist ac- torship without support from

SPANISH CP PROVELS In 'popular front' policy statement

any section of society—neither the Army, the Church, the capitalists nor the Monarchists (i.e., the landowners) throw their weight behind Franco.

Thus the manner of his removal must, it is asserted, be peaceful, as there are no forces which will resist.

In this way, the Kremlin bureaucracy's theory of 'peaceful co-existence' is neatly inserted into a country where miners are tortured to death for striking, and where veteran communists, such as Grimau, of the civil war are executed by firing squad for 'crimes' alleged to have been committed nearly 30 years ago.

Having characterised the Franco regime as the rule of one man and not of any class, the next logical step would be to propose an alliance of all classes against the regime. And this is precisely what the Stalinists do propose.

The Stalinists now become advocates of a national 'strike' of a new type.

'It is possible to make a general strike of the working class coincide with strikes of peasants, students, professors, employees and civil servants, tradesmen and industrialists.' (Emphasis added.)

Obviously some instruction in the gentle art of picketing will have to be given to civil servants, and especially industrialists, and

From page 2 based a true estimate of the trials?

On the contrary, they were all familiar with Trotsky's detailed and meticulous answer from exile to each point of the trials.

They knew of the independent commission headed by John Dewey which went into every aspect of the question from Trotsky's attitude to individual terror to his movements in Norway.

They knew quite well that he had declared his intention of returning to Moscow if the Dewey Commission found him guilty of any of the charges.

But the Stalinist leaders are men who long ago gave up every scrap of principle. Their flexible spines adapt to every twist of Stalin's line, their mouths uttered each required calumny.

Far from defending the October revolution, the Pritts and Dutts weakened it by destroying its main line of defence—the international communist movement.

It was Trotsky and his co-thinkers who alone maintained the traditions of that movement and fought to defend the heritage of October from the corruption of Stalinism and the predations of the imperialists.

INTERNATIONAL POWER For the working class to take the power internationally and remove the imperialist threat to October, it must be led by a world party which sees the world as it really is.

Those whose political careers were based on the defence, not of the USSR, but of the bureaucratic disease of which Stalin's blood purges was a symptom, can never lead the revolutionary overthrow of imperialism.

Today, the British labour movement faces the possibility of breaking the grip of the right-wing agents of the bosses.

The treacherous role of the Stalinists today will come as no surprise to those who study their history of lies.

In finishing with the Wilsons, Browns and Carrons, the workers' movement will have to finish also with the friends of the right wing, Gollan, Dutt, Rothstein and company.

it will have to be explained to workers why their employers are refusing to put in their normal hard day's work.

Again, such an unprecedented broad alliance demands certain concessions on the part of some of the partners:

'On the thirtieth anniversary the Communist Party puts aside the temptation to extol the heroism with which the people fought the 1936 revolt. . . . What must be extolled today is the desire for reconciliation. . . .'

Naturally, when you are on the picket line with the class that exterminated a whole generation of your comrades, and helped, by its destruction of the political independence of the Spanish working class, to pave the way for the most brutal of all imperialist wars, a certain restraint and decorum is called for.

Small questions like that must not be allowed to become a pretext for scabbing by industrialists on the 'National Strike'.

Sink Differences The statement ends with an appeal for all those forces which fought on opposite sides in the civil war to sink past differences, and to arrange a meeting 'which could take place at a town in Europe' (why not Moscow, home of 'peaceful co-existence?') where yesterday's mistaken enemies could chat over their problems 'without taking into account their attitude during the war or towards the war, or whether they were in Spain or in exile'.

Naturally enough, the Stalinists modestly step forward as the organisers of such a get-together.

'Through this declaration the Communist Party announces its intention of getting in touch with parties, groups, associations and personalities to examine the practical possibility of organising a meeting of such a kind.'

Just as in 1936, Stalinism, through the intervention of its various agencies, throws all its weight behind a campaign to break up the consciousness of the working class, to enmesh it in suicidal alliances with hostile classes, to adapt its power and heroism to the cynical manoeuvres of the counter-revolutionary Soviet bureaucracy in its dealings with the imperialist powers.

As in 1936, the last thing the Kremlin desires is a revolution in Spain, upsetting as it must the entire balance of power on the continent of Europe.

To this end, all mention of socialism is barred from the propaganda of the Spanish Stalinists.

They present themselves as the true party of the Nation, the defenders of private property, the faith, and law and order.

Spanish workers and peasants paid with their lives for the reformist policies of the Soviet bureaucracy and its corrupt hirelings in Spain.

We are confident that a new generation of Spanish workers, far from being intimidated by the past defeats, will examine the history of the civil war that Stalinists understandably wish us to forget.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT that the British Motor Corporation is to sack as many as 10,000 of its labour force and has already placed nearly 40,000 on short-time working reveals a growing crisis in this industry which has come under the hammer of Labour's economic policy.

The cut-back announced by BMC, involving a reduction of 100,000 in its vehicle production for the home market, is the most severe since 1945.

Even in the bad recession of 1956, only 6,000 lost their jobs.

The BMC cut-back is part of a general crisis in the industry: already in Coventry, 5,000 workers are on short-time at Standard Triumph, 3,000 at the Jaguar plant, with Rootes threatening to sack as many as 500 at its Scottish plants, where 3,000 are already on short time.

Vauxhalls have now announced short-time and say they can make no firm promises about further job prospects this winter, and Ford, the other large car maker, is certain to be affected by the crisis in the near future.

The background to these sackings is, of course, the enormous slump in car sales resulting from interest rate policy of the Labour government.

As a result of successive bouts of deflation, the deposit on a car has been raised to 40 per cent and the period of repayment cut to 24 months.

SALES DOWN Sales of new cars on hire purchase show nearly a 30 per cent fall in August this year, compared with the same month last year, with purchases of second-hand cars down by about 25 per cent.

The severe restriction of bank credit has also meant that the dealers are unable to carry large stocks of cars and are reducing their orders from the manufacturers as rapidly as possible.

Figures issued last week by the British Bankers' Association show a £92 million fall in bank credit over the last three months compared to the previous quarter, which brings to an end what has been an almost continuous expansion of bank loans over the last two years.

The impact of the crisis cannot be confined to motors alone.

This industry stands at the centre of a whole complex of other trades which depend directly upon it for their prosperity and survival.

Steel, rubber, glass, paint, electrical suppliers and others will be hit in the immediate future—Dunlop has already announced cut-backs.

Joseph Lucas, Hardy Spicer, Wilmot Breedon Automotive Products, Guest Keen Forgings and Castings, Triplex Safety Glass and others have also given

UP UNTIL 1964, British car exports led the world. But by 1965, West Germany was beating Britain in all major export markets.

The figures for last year show that the Germans produced approximately 2,800,000 cars and exported about half this figure.

British firms, on the other hand, produced some 1,722,000 cars and managed to export roughly one third.

During the first seven months of this year, the Germans produced approximately 1,654,000, exporting a half, whereas Britain only exported a third of the 1,035,361 cars produced.

Even before the seamen's strike, the February and March British figures showed a drop on the 1965 figures. The industry's experts say

that if they could maintain the record of the West Germans, the industry would have no problems.

But the fact that after the expansion programme during the 1961-1964 production spree, at Ford (Halewood), Vauxhall (Ellesmere Port), BMC (Bathgate), Rootes (Linwood), and Standards (Speke, Liverpool), they were unable to maintain exports show the evils of an unplanned economy.

The expansion, in fact, has made the industry weaker than its Continental rivals—the exact opposite to the experts' predictions.

This weakness was covered up by sales in the home market.

The early months of 1965 produced 789,000 new car registrations, but during the last six months, sales slumped to 335,000—a 42 per cent drop on the first six months. But the industry confidently stockpiled, expecting a good year.

The first six months of this year came up to expectations and an all-time record of 809,000 new car registrations was reached. By July the industry was expecting the usual downturn in sales.

A 45 per cent downturn was expected—representing 315,000 cars for the second half of the year.

But the credit restrictions of April and July soon produced the present slump.

ing badly over the last years. Vehicle production slipped last year and, as a result of the present crisis, it is widely anticipated that production will fall by 5-7 per cent during this year.

In contrast to this, the European industry continues to boom and is expanding at a much faster rate.

Western Germany expects to pass its peak of 2.75 million vehicles this year; the French industry has now almost caught up with the British in terms of cars produced, and Japan, expanding rapidly, soon hopes to pass the million mark.

This, together with a growing crisis in the United States, which is hitting the giants such as General Motors, indicates a rapid sharpening of competition in the market for car sales in which many firms will be driven out of business.

Volkswagen, Europe's biggest producer, has a capital of over £400 million (about twice the size of Ford in Britain) and even Fiat has a larger capital employed than any of the British firms. Both these firms are, of course, small at the side of their US rivals.

The present policies of deflation will make the British car industry even less able to compete.

By cutting back production, costs will rise and export orders will be even more difficult to win.

COSTS UP Sir Patrick Hennessey, President of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, summed this up when he said, speaking of the BMC cut-back:

'If we are not working to capacity our costs go up rapidly and we are less competitive in the export market.'

In other words, far from dealing with the accumulated problems of British capitalism, the policies of the Labour government intensify that crisis.

To save the pound, on which a section of the capitalist class relies for its income, and which Johnson and the US authorities insist is kept at its present value, Wilson is forced to carry through policies which bring stagnation to key sectors of British capitalism and further weaken its ability to compete in the world.

These policies flow, not from the 'mismanagement' or 'stupidity' of Wilson and the Cabinet, but from the deep contradictions of British and world capitalism.

One thing is certain: the growing crisis in the motor and other industries will lead to increased attacks on the working class as the employers drive for faster and more ruthless methods of production.

Only a political fight inside the trade union movement for nationalization of these giant firms, and the construction of a leadership to carry through this fight to the end, can now meet the needs of car workers and of the working class as a whole.

THE BMC CUTBACK Harsh result of worst money crisis

by PETER JEFFRIES

This is why Ray Gunter, Minister of Labour, attacked work-sharing and short-time working as a remedy for the crisis.

Labour leaders and the City bankers are insisting on permanent sackings to raise the level of unemployment and force wages down. BMC obviously hopes to regain its lost production with a much smaller labour force.

The motor industry is, in fact, dominated by a handful of rich and powerful monopolists. The four largest firms have a total capital of over £500 million, which last year made over £80 million in profits.

These four companies alone employ over a quarter of a million workers.

Owners of these motor giants made over £300 million from each of these workers during the last financial year.

Together they have an export turnover of £500 million.

Despite its apparent wealth and power the British motor industry is finding it more and more difficult to compete in the fiercely competitive markets of the world. Ford and Vauxhall are in any case wholly US owned and Rootes, the fifth largest concern, is increasingly dominated by US capital in the form of the Chrysler Corporation.

Car production has been slipping

warnings about redundancies or short-time working.

The steel industry will be very hard hit.

Figures announced two weeks ago by the Iron and Steel Board show that a rapid run-down in stocks of steel is taking place over a large range of industry.

Richard Thomas and Baldwin, John Summers (employing 13,000 at Connaught Quay in North Wales and producing a third of the sheet metal for cars) and the Steel Company of Wales will suffer a severe reduction in orders as a result of the motor crisis.

Stocks of steel fell by 27,000 tons in the second quarter of the year, with a 7½ per cent decline in the production of ingots and castings in August compared with the same month in 1965.

It is now estimated that the industry is working at only a little over 75 per cent capacity. Demand for steel has fallen considerably on the part of motor car manufacturers and from the building trade. This was before the BMC announcements were made.

RECESSIONS The fact that it is now one of the first and hardest hit by Wilson's severe deflation gives an indication of the depth of the crisis.

The trade, of course, suffered major recessions in 1956 and again in 1961. . . . But this is no ordinary recession.

In 1961, for example, the employers were willing to retain much of their labour, despite falling markets, in anticipation of a quick up-turn in the industry.

Now this policy is at an end. BMC is sacking a large proportion of its labour force because it knows that the present crisis is here to stay.

moreland was therefore forced to try a new attack in April.

He announced a 'continuing drive to cripple the expected monsoon offensive by the communists' by blanket bombing—by B.52s from Guam, an American colony—of large jungle areas.

This merely confirmed the old military dictum that it is impossible to bomb or shell trees successfully, and in May the National Liberation Front forces inflicted further casualties on the 1st Airmobile Division at An Khê, and attacked near Hue and Da Nang.

DEFEATS SUFFERED In June, they launched a major offensive north of Kontum, in the northern highlands.

Since then, the US imperialists have suffered further defeats: the NLF has won many victories in the South, in the small areas still controlled by the Saigon puppet regime the workers have been fighting to preserve their living standards in the face of tremendous inflation, and to hamper the US intervention.

Earlier this year, a series of militant shock strikes in Hue, Da Nang and other places gravely impeded the supply of bombs to the US and puppet air forces.

COSTS RISE At the giant American combine RMK-BR, which has invested over one billion dollars in South Vietnam and is the country's second largest employer, bitter struggles have been fought over wages and conditions.

Despite a 64 per cent increase in the cost of living in the past 18 months, workers at this firm still earn only from 7d to 1s 5d per hour, the 1957 rates, and suffer extremely harsh discipline.

From April to June, thousands of workers struck against these conditions: in May, 1,600 walked out in Saigon, delaying vital work at the port.

It seems, therefore, that

Despite its enemies and dubious allies, and despite partial or temporary defeats

The Vietnamese Revolution will triumph!

BY ERIC WEBSTER



IT IS NOW CLEAR that, following the November Congressional elections in the United States, President Johnson and his government intend to step up further their war of aggression against the workers and peasants of Vietnam.

Since August 13, when The Newsletter warned that the US is now preparing an all-out war in Vietnam, there have been a whole number of new developments pointing in the same direction.

For example, the 'New York Times' on August 29, and the 'Washington Post' on September 15, carried stories—obviously inspired 'trial balloons'—from Saigon that the US is planning to double its forces in South Vietnam during 1967, bringing the total in that country to about 600,000, and the total American and puppet forces in Indo-China and Siam to over one and a half million.

On September 25, General Thieu—head of state in South Vietnam—called for an invasion of North Vietnam.

'The war,' he said, 'would end quickly if North Vietnam was invaded.'

AIR RAIDS And, following the fraudulent 'elections' conducted by the puppet regime in South Vietnam, US air raids on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) have reached new levels of intensity; more Korean puppet troops have landed, and US marines have established bases within 20 miles of the Republic, almost inside the 'demilitarized zone' along the 17th parallel.

This is not, however, a sign of strength of the US imperialism—on the contrary, it is a sign of terrible weakness both in Vietnam and at home.

Domestically, US imperialism is challenged, at a time of international economic crisis, on three fronts.

The heroic struggles of oppressed Negro workers continue throughout the United States; most recently, in Chicago and Grenada, Mississippi, big fights have been waged, and important gains made.

At the same time, as the war in Vietnam throws increasing burdens on the American workers—current spending on the war is now put at 964 million pounds a month—and becomes ever more barbaric, the movement against that war continues to grow.

UPSURGE OF WORKERS At present, of course, many members of the anti-war movement are still confused by the renegade Socialist Workers' Party and the Stalinists, but even so the American bourgeoisie cannot tolerate for too long mass opposition to its policy of aggressive war.

Furthermore, recent months have seen a powerful upsurge of the organised workers of the USA.

The most recent example of this was the magnificent airline machinists' strike, which demonstrated for all to see that when the American working class moves, it has the power to shake the world.

An especially important feature of this strike was the workers' defeat of Johnson's ill-fated

attempt to intervene through the capitalist state machine.

Faced with mounting economic difficulties, the US capitalists had introduced a 3.2 per cent, a year 'guideline' for wages and prices increases.

WON 8 P.C. RISE Despite this, the militancy of the strikers forced Johnson to recommend an increase of over 4 per cent, as a 'settlement' of the dispute. This 'settlement', however, was rejected overwhelmingly by a ballot of the machinists, and eventually they won an 8 per cent increase.

At the same time as US imperialism is faced with a grave challenge at home, the ignominious collapse of its military plans in Vietnam during the last dry season—the most favourable time of the year militarily for the US—has forced it to prepare an even bigger intervention.

During the months from October 1965 to May 1966, the US' aim in South Vietnam was threefold.

The troops in 'Zone One' (Da Nang, Phu Bai, Chu Lai) were to connect their three small coastal enclaves, and then drive inland.

Those in 'Zone Two' had to clear the Qui Nhon-Ankhe-Pleikon road, and those in 'Zone Three' to defend Saigon.

The National Liberation Front, however, attacked Da Nang, Chu Lai, and An Khê, destroying many US planes.

The first phase of their plan having collapsed by the end of 1965, the US launched a new offensive in January. A series of operations designed to encircle the Vietcong were launched.

US Commander General West-

struggled even harder to keep the industries going, and not only prevented the reorganisation from disrupting production, but actually increased their output!

Workers and peasants throughout the country kept weapons handy and prepared to man the anti-aircraft guns with such success that, according to the latest figures, 1,428 US planes have been shot down, and countless attacks have been disrupted.

While in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam workers and peasants have increased their resistance to the US bombers and the NLF has won many victories in the South, in the small areas still controlled by the Saigon puppet regime the workers have been fighting to preserve their living standards in the face of tremendous inflation, and to hamper the US intervention.

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Midlands BMC workers meet

NO LEAD FOR CAR MEN

BY SYLVIA PICK



BELFAST BY-ELECTION

'Lefts' abandon working class

Newsletter Correspondent

Union decline linked with govt. action

By Newsletter Reporter

BRANCH OFFICERS and stewards of the metal, engineering and chemical group of the north west London Transport and General Workers' Union branches met last Sunday to discuss the serious drop in membership over the last year.

The London district secretary of the group stressed the seriousness of the decline in view of the growing economic recession, and reported a number of experiences where whole branches had collapsed and recruiting campaigns failed.

The convenor of a large engineering factory commented on the number of workers in other unions who wanted to join the T&GWU because of its apparent opposition to the Prices and Incomes Act.

But when the role of the Wilson government was raised in discussion—how it had taken measures to break the organised strength of the working class—the district secretary replied that Wilson had no such intentions. In any case, he added, the economic crisis was exaggerated. He agreed with another delegate that workers 'are having it too easy'.

Despite a number of protests, the chairman joined in and said that such a discussion was irrelevant to the question of declining membership!

'Natural drift'

The speaker said that the closure of factories in the area was part of a natural drift to other districts about which nobody could do anything.

When challenged on the closure of the ENV engineering factory, the chairman insisted the discussion revolve around organisational details on recruiting and various disputes with the Amalgamated Engineering Union over 'poaching' members.

The so-called T&GWU 'Opposition to the Prices and Incomes Bill and government measures was clearly exposed by the attitude of this union's officials to action, especially when one referred to the October 2 demonstration outside the Labour Party conference as 'goose-stepping politics'.

But only by following the lead of the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League in their opposition to the betrayals of the Wilson government will the T&GWU and other unions stop their active membership declining.

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THE SHEER SIZE of the crisis facing workers in the car industry was revealed last Friday in Birmingham. Union officials told a mass meeting of thousands of men from the giant Austin plant at Longbridge that about 20,000 workers employed by the British Motor Corporation alone would be thrown out of their jobs. At Longbridge one in five of the 21,000 workers in the factory could be out of work.

All through the week reports were piling up of short-time and threatened sackings at factories in the Midlands. Many of these were plants manufacturing components and fittings for cars, such as Fort Dunlop, Triplex Safety Glass, Joseph Lucas, and BXL Plastic

Materials, all in Birmingham. It was disclosed at the Longbridge meeting that the number of jobs available as alternative employment for redundant car workers was in fact small.

In spite of government talk about redeploying workers into key export industries, the only field where apparently there were plenty of vacancies were service industries, such as public transport.

For sacked car workers to take bus drivers' and conductors' jobs would mean a drastic cut in their earnings.

In an atmosphere of what appeared to be almost feverish activity, car workers in fact received no clear-cut lead from union officials and leading shop stewards.

Dick Etheridge, BMC combine committee chairman and works convenor at Longbridge, called at the mass meeting for 'utmost resistance to redundancy'.

But his proposals for 'utmost resistance' went no further than pressing for work-sharing instead of redundancy, and a decision to take 600 workers to Brighton on a special train, to 'bring pressure' on the Labour Party Conference. Etheridge stressed that he was not proposing the lobby 'in the sense of attacking the Labour Party', since if Labour was 'got out' workers would suffer worse under the alternative.

Image

Etheridge, a prominent member of the Communist Party, devoted much energy to lambasting the press for 'blackening the image' of car-workers by suggesting that they were 'greedy layabouts'.

This tactic did not, however, distract the attention of all workers present. They were more interested in action to save their jobs than their image in the Tory newspapers.

In reply to a question put by a rank-and-file worker: 'What is meant by fighting redundancy to the full?', Etheridge replied: 'We will lead you as far as you are prepared to go.'

George Evans, area organiser of the National Union of Vehicle Builders, appealed to BMC chairman Sir George Harriman to suspend the time-table of short-time and sackings while union leaders and the Minister of Labour got together to discuss the crisis. He declared:

'If we want industrial peace and want to have it done constitutionally, BMC has a part to play.'

The comment of one worker present was: 'Listen to them! They are just lying down and letting it happen too us.'

working class is by building a strong labour movement based on socialist policies to defeat the right wing and extreme right.

By their action, the 'lefts' allowed the party executive to step in and nominate a right winger to fight the seat.

The executive will be fighting the seat not on class issues of a struggle against reaction and neo-fascism, but as just a chance to gain a seat on a split Tory vote.

Reactionary

Mrs. Paisley will be canvassing on an anti-O'Neill basis. This does not mean, of course, a more liberal Tory policy, but a more reactionary one appealing to disoriented sections of the middle class and backward tendencies in the working class.

This will be done also on the basis of opposition to the 'Common Market' and the Anglo-Irish Trade Pact, both of which will allow British and international big business into Ireland, pushing Irish small business to the wall and eliminating large sections of the middle class.

Of course, there will be the usual 'no surrender' of the constitutional position of Northern Ireland and the 'Remember 1690' policy by both Unionist and Protestant Unionist parties.

There must now be an all-out fight by the labour movement in Northern Ireland against these reactionaries through struggling with the Young Socialists and Socialist Labour League for the establishment of a strong labour movement to take the power.

'Hooliganism' and 'discipline' in the USSR

From page 2

fight against crime and other breaches of law and order could not only retard their liquidation, but at times even lead to a temporary growth of their numbers.'

And again: 'Mistaken is he who considers that under conditions of socialist democracy, the need for regulating the conduct of people by firm rules and norms falls away.'

So now, far from having conscious and voluntary discipline, according to Lenin, this discipline has to be forced upon the people by a strong State.

'The higher the State rises above the people and the more fiercely it opposes itself as guardian of property to the people as its squanderers,' Trotsky wrote, 'the more obvious does it testify against the socialist character of the State property.'

Finally, one item from 'Pravda' (September 18), which apparently may have no connection with the theme of this article, but must be mentioned, because, of course, it has to do with it very much.

This was a cable from the Tass correspondent in Pyongyang, capital of North Korea, containing what appears to be a summary of an article on Trotskyism, which had appeared in the North Korean newspaper 'Nordon Sinmun'.

Monitor, 'The Times' correspondent in Moscow (September 19), described the article as a 'thinly veiled Korean attack on China'. This Kremlinologist's explanation seems to be too clever by half when one reads the body of the article (or its summary):

The 'Pravda' article begins: 'The newspaper "Nordon

Sinmun' has published an article about Trotskyism. In it, it is stated that the main initial point and basic position and line of Trotsky's "left" opportunism is the theory of "permanent revolution". Trotskyism is also an anti-revolutionary theory denying the possibility of the victory of the socialist revolution and the building of socialism in one country alone.'

'Strata of poor'

No Chinese Stalinist could possibly be accused of that, either in North Korea, where Chinese publications circulate freely, or even in the Soviet Union, where they don't any more.

'The Trotskyists have asserted that, under socialism, the improvement of the material and cultural conditions of the people will, supposedly, call forth the decay and degeneration of society and thus the danger of a capitalist restoration will be created. Influenced by such ideas, there had appeared at one time in the Soviet Union the incorrect tendency, which in essence led to the idea that without a strata of the poor, neither the Bolshevik cause, nor socialism, were possible and that it was necessary to strive for the preservation of the strata of the poor, since, allegedly, socialism and the improvement of the standard of life are two phenomena which contradict one another.'

'Slandering the Soviet socialist society... Trotsky asserted that under socialism, just as under capitalism, there takes place class divisions, a relationship between rulers and subjects must rise again...'

'The author writes that the Trotskyists came out categorically against the combination of methods of violence with non-violent methods in the revolutionary struggle, forms of legal with illegal struggle, insisting only upon "attack" and reckless revolt.'

'The national - liberation struggle in the colonies is composed of parts of the world proletarian revolution and of important sections of the anti-imperialist revolutionary forces. However, Trotsky did not want to see the important role and place of the national-liberation struggle in the colonies and regarded it with contempt.'

Enough has been quoted here to give the reader an idea of the sort of distortions of our views the Stalinist now use.

It is a far cry from 'the fascist mad dogs' of the past. Altered times require a different technique in this reviving struggle against Trotskyism.

For apologetic people there is the jail dished out by the Ministry of Public Order.

For thinking workers, like the one who wrote to 'Pravda', there is the distortion, just in case they might begin to think and ask questions about Trotsky—or have they already begun to ask, with 'Pravda' only keeping this concealed?

New interest

The logic of Soviet development is such that a revived interest in Trotsky cannot be suppressed for ever.

For once the workers begin to distinguish between the 'Marxism' of the Stalinists and real Marxism, they MUST arrive at Trotskyism.

Nor any sign of action from CP

By Newsletter Reporter

ON SUNDAY the Birmingham Communist Party called a meeting of workers to discuss the crisis. Here left-sounding phrases and militant speeches were the order of the day, but still no call to action from Etheridge, Arthur Harper (convenor at Tractor and Transmissions plant) or Peter Nicholas (of the Rover factory, Tyseley), who sat on the platform.

Etheridge declared that there would be 'unemployment in this district the like of which we have never seen'.

He was asked by a worker from Fisher and Ludlow's factory:

'When is a statement going to be given to the press that some action is going to be taken? It is all very well to talk about these things: when is something positive going to be done?'

In reply Etheridge said: 'The leaders will act as pressure is put on them from the workers.'

Etheridge challenged

He was challenged by a Young Socialist about his plea to car workers that 'any action taken should be devised not to embarrass the Labour government.'

The Young Socialist demanded: 'What preparation do you think this is for workers about to be involved in a political struggle against the government?'

Etheridge replied that the policy of the leaders of the Labour Party had got to be changed 'because they'll destroy you if you don't'.

Predictably he made no suggestion that workers, in order to avoid destruction, would need to change the leadership of the Labour Party, together with some other 'leaderships' in the labour movement.

This sort of leadership from behind is disastrous in the present situation. The 'Morning Star' carried a triumphant headline: 'Austin Battle Cry'. But what sort of battle cry is it to urge your forces not to 'embarrass' the enemy when the fight is about to begin?

NCB picking on us

SAY EX-CAMBRIAN COLLIERY MINERS

FROM OUR CARDIFF CORRESPONDENT

MINERS AT THE CAMBRIAN colliery (Rhondda Valley), which closed on September 24, claimed this week that the National Coal Board was 'making an example of us', to intimidate other miners who might take militant action against future pit closures.

YS gain union support for October 2

ACTON AMALGAMATED ENGINEERING UNION No. 4 branch passed the following resolution this week:

'The branch expresses deep concern of the threat of unemployment (i.e. ENV's) encouraged by the Wilson government's incomes policy to smash the trade unions.'

'We will not let this matter rest at the mercy of the employers and the government. Therefore, support the call by the Young Socialists to demonstrate against these ineasures on October 2, on the eve of the Labour Party conference, and send a delegate with fare paid.'

The motion was passed after much hesitation. The chairman, a Communist Party member who works at the ENV engineering factory in Willesden, north London, proposed that the words 'the call by the Young Socialists' and 'to smash the trade unions' be omitted.

The reasons he gave were that the Young Socialists could not possibly be organising the demonstration because workers were going from BMC, and that the second phrase was too harsh on Wilson. It was just a question of opposing unemployment, not Wilson, because the main people responsible for the government's measures were the Wall Street bankers.

He said that the branch should not worry too much about sending a delegate to the Brighton demonstration because workers in other factories would take care of that.

The Cambrian men returned to work last week after a special conference of the South Wales area of the National Union of Mineworkers had failed to endorse their strike action (see last two issues of The Newsletter).

They demanded, however, that their transfers to other pits must be arranged through their union lodge, and that men must be transferred to equivalent jobs.

The National Coal Board has refused to discuss the men's terms.

Instead it has attacked them on three points.

Firstly, those miners who, having lost confidence in the future of the South Wales coalfield, and want to transfer to English pits under the NCB's 'pick your pit' scheme, have been told that there is a 'freeze' on recruitment out of the South Wales area.

Secondly, many miners indicated a wish to transfer to the Western colliery in the neighbouring Ogmore Valley. They were told there is a 'freeze' on recruitment into Western Colliery—places there are being kept for men from pits which may close in the Afan Valley, says the NCB.

SHORTAGE

But the distance of the Afan Valley from Western colliery is several times more than the distance from the Tonypandy area, where most of the Cambrian miners live.

Furthermore, the secretary of Western colliery lodge, Emlyn Hughes, has said that over-age, day-wage men, who should be working in other parts of the pit, are being kept on the coal face at Western because of the shortage of men there.

Thirdly, the NCB has refused to co-operate with the Cambrian lodge over the question of men who have been working on mechanised faces at Cambrian.

Though many of these men have not worked on conventional faces for years, the NCB is insisting that it should be free to put them back on conventional coal faces.

Miners are being told that the Board will send them where it likes, and they are to have no say in the matter. This is a clear attempt at intimidation, many claim.

The NCB, in line with government policy and the wishes of the employers, wants to smash militant trade unionism.

NUM leaders must be held responsible for this victimisation of the Cambrian men.

At the recent coalfield conference, the area officials (both Communist Party and right-wing Labour members) prevented support for the Cambrian lodge and thus laid them open to the present attacks.

A new leadership, committed to the fight against unemployment, wage freezing and pit closures, must be built. This is wholly possible, and necessary.

ELECTION RESULTS

Last week, the result of the elections for President of the South Wales NUM were published.

Though the right-wing former vice president Glyn Williams won the election, he polled only 21,000 out of the 52,000 votes cast. The rest of the votes were divided between three candidates, all of whom opposed the official policies of the NUM.

This is the first time for 30 years that a non-member of the Communist Party has held the South Wales presidency. But the CP has not opposed Glyn Williams.

Ianto John, a CP member who stood, apparently without Party backing, received only 5,000 votes. This indicates the low opinion which miners have of the Communist Party, after years of collaboration with the NCB by its leaders.

Glyn Williams only won the Presidency because the opposition was not united and had no clear political programme to unite on. When an alternative appears, the present leadership will be doomed.

'Left' motions' empty ring

From page 1

concern may be experienced in respect of some facets of policy or turn of events, it is nevertheless incumbent upon every Labour MP to support and give absolute loyalty to the Prime Minister and his government... which is displaying courage leadership and tolerance in the most difficult circumstances experienced by this country since 1945.'

While in the Entertainments Centre, Her Majesty's Ministers will be fighting to whip the delegates into line behind their betrayals, the workers who elected them face a different kind of struggle—against sackings, cuts in earnings, and attacks on trade unionism.

In these battles, the 'lefts', whose principles are transcended by loyalty to those leaders they pretend to criticise, will be rejected with contempt.

forward such resolutions did anything to fight against the government while it was preparing to bring in the Act?

It was last year's conference in Blackpool that gave Wilson the go-ahead on wage legislation.

The 'lefts', from Foot to Cousins, refused to prepare any resistance to the Labour leaders' betrayal.

They played a major part in selling Wilson to the rank and file as some kind of radical socialist.

The right wing will tie up the Conference with appeals for unity. They only echo the words of the Mikardos and Dribergs of not so long ago.

As Hull City Labour Party sternly reminds these MPs: 'Whilst it is recognised genuine