

## EDITORIAL

### Dustmen must win

THE London dustmen's strike is one of the most significant struggles of lower-paid workers since the end of the Second World War.

It enjoys the undoubted support of millions of such workers in all parts of the country.

Continuous increases in the cost of living, rents and fares have greatly reduced the purchasing power of the wage packet since the November 1967 devaluation.

The working class is moving rapidly to the left and this will have powerful repercussions on the political scene before very long.

What is needed is a strategy which will unite all sections of the working class with wage problems in a common struggle against the employers and the wage-freezing policy of the Wilson government.

The All Trades Unions Alliance seeks to bring together workers with common problems irrespective of which union they are members.

It is now urging all sections of the trade union movement to come to the aid of the dustmen. Financial assistance is vital.

Every step must be taken to prevent councils from employing scab labour in the local areas.

The dustmen must win their fight for a £5-a-week increase.

A defeat would be a serious blow to all wage workers.

### Tory leader calls for legal strike-breaking

AS THE dustmen's strike enters its most critical phase the forces of reaction are building up in order to smash it.

In particular, the hypocritical middle-class wrath from

## Before Tory businessmen

# FEATHER LASHES MERSEY WORKERS

TUC GENERAL SECRETARY Victor Feather delivered himself of a vicious attack on Mersey workers when he spoke to the Manchester Institute of Directors on Monday night.

By John Spencer

'Merseyside', he said, 'is getting itself an unwelcome reputation for unnecessary stoppages of work.' His Tory audience no doubt heartily applauded these anti-working-class sentiments.

There is nothing these Tory gatherings like better than to be entertained by a tame trade union leader who bashes the workers while the port-wine is circulating.

### G.E.C.-E.E. WORKERS MUST FIGHT FOR JOBS

says Roger K. Armstrong a GEC Merseyside Shop Steward

GEC workers on Merseyside must continue the fight for the right to work.

The respective shop stewards' committees are convinced that this is a battle that can, and will be won.

Over the last few weeks workers' representatives have travelled to Portsmouth (TUC), Brighton (Labour Party conference) and London (government departments) and not least of all to Liverpool Town Hall to meet the company's leading lights, Weinstock and Scamp.

All that this has achieved is a deep determination and understanding in the minds of the stewards that discussions and lobbying are not the answer to any of our problems.

The only answer is to be militant.

● PAGE 4 COL. 4 →

But Mr. Feather's remarks will arouse the hatred of every class-conscious worker.

The Mersey workers are showing the way forward for all those who want to fight the incomes policy and the Tories.

Whatever the 'reputation' of the Merseyside in Tory circles, Feather's reputation in the working class—especially on Merseyside—will certainly rival it.

He should speak frankly a bit more often.

His words are extremely revealing.

### Real face

Every worker can now see just how much 'disagreement' there was between the government and the TUC over anti-strike laws.

His remarks exactly parallel Wilson's speech on the same area earlier this year. Wilson also slated the Mersey workers' militancy.

Feather made the same threats as Wilson, too.

Elaborating his first remark, he went on:

'Although I know that much [not all, note] of this criticism is not merited, at the same time this atmosphere is making an impact on the minds of manufacturers who otherwise would be glad to start and develop in the North-West.'

In other words, the big stick of unemployment will be used if Mersey workers don't knuckle under.

Trade unionists all over the country—not just on Merseyside—are going into big wages struggles with a leadership committed to the programme of Wilson and the Tories.

### Hostile

Feather's remarks show the real face of the trade union leaders.

They will carry out to the letter their 'obligations' to the government—obligations to discipline strikers and drive militants out of the unions.

One other point concerns Feather's 'left' friends.

Since the TUC-Cabinet discussions on the anti-union laws, Feather has been built up as the architect of 'victory'.

One example of this kind of treatment can be found in the 'Morning Star' for September 1, 1969.

The man's views on shop stewards occupy two full columns, in an interview with George Sinfield.

Sinfield's reverential questions evoked cloudy replies.

Perhaps the 'Star' will now say something about Feather's clearest remarks on the subject to date?

The class-collaborating leadership represented in the TUC can only prepare disaster for the working class.

### Parallel

It is hostile to workers in struggle and friendly to the exploiters.

This right wing body is an agency of the employing class inside the workers' movement.

A revolutionary leadership must be built in the struggle against such leadership.

That is the task of the Socialist Labour League.

## Maxi strike halts Cowley

By David Maude

ASSEMBLY lines at Morris Motors, Cowley, stopped again on Tuesday when key sections walked out in protest against the company's threat to put the new Maxi circuit on short-time.

Sub-assembly workers went home shortly after 11 a.m. following a 30-minute meeting with their stewards outside the plant.

They were closely followed by line two Maxi workers themselves.

After their two-hour meeting earlier in the morning, stewards stressed that their opposition to British-Leyland's plans would continue.

Sections taking action in support of Maxi workers would receive their full backing.

District officials in the unions concerned were being called in for a works' conference.

### False

Monday's successful token stoppage, stewards emphasised, had completely given the lie to press suggestions that Morris workers opposed action in defence of their factory-line brothers.

Reports that 'blacklegs' had been able to continue some production the previous day were totally false.

Few workers turned up for Monday's night shift and work remained at a halt.

Several who did go in went home again after discussing the situation with pickets.

### Congratulations

In the factory's 'E' block, some of the workers who had opposed strike action last Friday congratulated stewards from the 3/55 T&GWU branch

● PAGE 4 COL. 7 →

## Parasites gamble as police beat Negroes

LAS VEGAS, the 'millionaires' playground' was the scene of brutal police action against an estimated 1,000 Negro youths.

The demonstration began after a Negro policeman arrested three other Negroes following a traffic incident.

The National Guard was alerted in fighting which had, by Tuesday, injured at least 30 youths.

The struggle in the Negro ghetto area erupted barely a mile away from the casino town's 'Sunset Strip'.

Police bated down unemployed and underpaid youth while the pick of the world's parasites gambled away in an hour what these young workers would never earn in a lifetime.

## Demolition the remedy

THERE are 1.8 million homes in England and Wales where conditions are so bad that demolition is the only remedy, according to a report presented at the opening session of this week's annual conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors.

The report goes on to say that 'the present rate of action is clearly inadequate if the problem is to be solved within a reasonable period.'

'Schemes submitted during 1968 reflected a lessening of effort rather than an increase.'

## Car struggles mount

CAR workers, fighting the effects of the industry's deepening crisis, are locked in struggles across the industry.

In Cardiff, Rover workers meet today to decide whether to continue their strike, now in its fourth week.

On Monday, they rejected return-to-work proposals coming from Friday's meeting between management and national union officials.

This is the fourth time since the strike began that the Cardiff workers have thrown out officials' calls for a return.

The strike began after production workers were laid off because of a go-slow in the

## JORDAN Ultra-right attempts coup

THE Jordan government has just announced the failure of a coup directed, it appears, against King Hussein.

Organized by the ultra-right-wing Muslim faction, the Tahrir (Freedom) Party, the coup was aimed at restoring the ancient Caliphate which ruled throughout the Muslim world in the hey-day of Arab civilization.

The Tahrir Party bases its code, like the Muslim Brotherhood, on a strict application of the Koranic laws, which include barbaric punishments for the slightest offence.

The purely religious nature of the party's programme should not confuse anyone about the real aims of these movements.

### Prelude

In Indonesia, the Muslim fanatics whipped up sections of the peasantry into an anti-communist frenzy as a prelude to the massacre of hundreds of thousands of militant workers and poor peasants.

## ROADSWEEPERS JOIN DUSTMEN'S PICKETS



By Rex Henry

ROADSWEEPERS joined the dustmen on Tuesday's picket duty at the Portobello Road depot, Kensington.

As our picture shows, they gave an enthusiastic reception to the Workers Press.

More and more workers—drivers, lavatory attendants, park keepers and gravediggers in the London Boroughs are now on strike for higher pay.

The demand for a £20-a-week basic wage is also gaining support in the provinces.

Walkouts have already taken place at Wakefield, Grimsby, Stevenage, Benfleet, Aveley and Canvey Island. Other areas are expected to follow.

With news of this increasing support the Portobello Road pickets expressed their determination to stay out until their full demands are won.

One worker gave both the council and the trade union leaders a clear warning:

'We'll not get pulled into any productivity deal, we want £5 increase and that's all.'

## Sainsbury men want parity

FIVE hundred engineering and maintenance workers at the Waterloo headquarters of the giant Sainsbury food firm struck work on Monday, hampering sausage and pie production, and halting distribution to supermarkets throughout the country.

The strikers were supporting men at five other Sainsbury depots who want bonus parity with production workers.

In a recent pay award production workers won a 41 per cent bonus on a basic productivity 'norm', while the maintenance men got only 33 per cent.

The Basingstoke Sainsbury depot struck last Wednesday.

## Faced with major class struggle Stalinists and social democrats

# All set for horse-trade

By Robert Black

A CLEAR hint was given on Monday that the Soviet bureaucracy welcomed the new West German coalition under social democrat Willy Brandt.

The occasion for this gesture towards Bonn was the 20th Anniversary meeting of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), where leading Stalinists from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as well as East German were in attendance.

Soviet Party secretary Brezhnev stated in East Berlin that the Soviet Union 'would welcome a change towards realism' in West German policies, a change to which the Soviet government would 'react accordingly'.

One of the main points of agreement between the Free Democrats under Walter Scheel and Brandt has been the need to develop a more 'realistic' policy not only towards the Soviet Union, but even to East Germany.

### PROMINENT

West German industrialists have long been exporting to East Germany on a large scale.

West German firms are always prominent at the annual Leipzig trade fair and recently there has been considerable pressure in business circles for a relaxation of the cold war policies associated with the Christian Democrat leadership.

Trade and currency problems now add new weight to these arguments.

Walter Ulbricht, veteran Stalinist leader of the Socialist Unity Party, is fully aware of these trends and openly encouraged them at the meeting.

In his speech he extended an offer of 'good-neighbourly relations on the basis of equality of rights and peaceful co-existence'.

### SIGNIFICANCE

This remark has far more significance than the rest of his speech, which contained the usual routine denunciations of West German militarism.

Reports from Bonn indicate that an SPD-led government would certainly open up at least unofficial contacts with Ulbricht.

The East German workers were the first to challenge the might of the Stalinist bureaucracy in Eastern Europe, taking on Soviet tanks with little more than their bare hands in the general strike and uprising of June 17, 1953.

Ulbricht was only saved from disaster by the Kremlin's ruthless action.

Then and later, particularly at the time of the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961, Brandt was one of the most vocal opponents of any relations with Ulbricht's regime.

### ENEMY

Brandt's anti-communism and Ulbricht's wall count for little when both the social-democratic and Stalinist bureaucracies are faced by a common enemy—the German working class.

● PAGE 4 COL. 4 →

## Italy: 92 million strike days

FIGURES just issued indicate the power of the strike wave that has flooded across Italy in recent months.

In July alone, almost 11 million hours were lost to the employers in strike time, while the figure for the same month in 1968 was barely half that amount.

For the first seven months of this year, total strike hours were nearly 92 million, compared with 33 million for the same period in 1968.

### ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

## SWINDON

Speaker: Frank Willis

Young Socialists candidate in the parliamentary by-election

Thursday, October 9 8 p.m.

Penhill Common Room

Tuesday, October 14 8 p.m.

Reuben George Hall Walcot Estate

Friday, October 17 8 p.m.

Swindon Town Hall

Thursday, October 23 8 p.m.

Pinehurst Common Room

Wednesday, October 29 8 p.m.

Swindon Town Hall

HULL

'Workers' Press and productivity deals'

Sunday, October 12, 3 p.m.

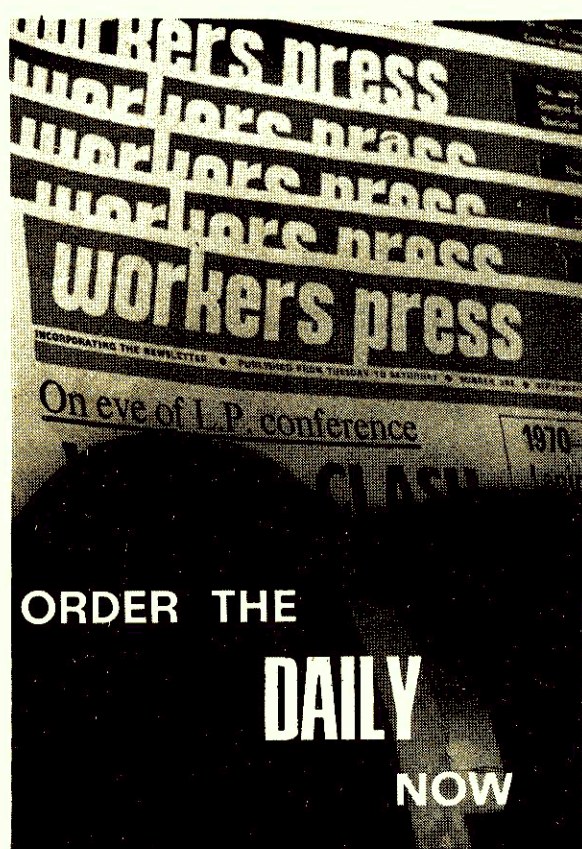
Carron House Beverley Road

LUTON

'Support Ellesmere Port—Throw out scabs' charter'

Friday, October 10, 8 p.m.

The Cock Park Square



Full subscription (Posted daily) £10 a year OR £2 10s. for three months

Two editions (For any two days you select) £4 a year OR £1 for three months

I would like to subscribe to Workers' Press for

Name .....

Address .....

Post to: Circulation Organizer, Workers' Press, 186A Clapham High Street, London, SW4. (Tel: 01-720-2000)

## EDITORIAL

### Dustmen must win

THE London dustmen's strike is one of the most significant struggles of lower-paid workers since the end of the Second World War.

It enjoys the undoubted support of millions of such workers in all parts of the country.

Continuous increases in the cost of living, rents and fares have greatly reduced the purchasing power of the wage packet since the November 1967 devaluation.

The working class is moving rapidly to the left and this will have powerful repercussions on the political scene before very long.

What is needed is a strategy which will unite all sections of the working class with wage problems in a common struggle against the employers and the wage-freezing policy of the Wilson government.

The All Trades Unions Alliance seeks to bring together workers with common problems irrespective of which union they are members.

It is now urging all sections of the trade union movement to come to the aid of the dustmen. Financial assistance is vital.

Every step must be taken to prevent councils from employing scab labour in the local areas.

The dustmen must win their fight for a £5-a-week increase. A defeat would be a serious blow to all wage workers.

### Tory leader calls for legal strike-breaking

AS THE dustmen's strike enters its most critical phase the forces of reaction are building up in order to smash it.

In particular, the hypocritical middle-class wrath from

## Before Tory businessmen

# FEATHER LASHES MERSEY WORKERS

TUC GENERAL SECRETARY Victor Feather delivered himself of a vicious attack on Mersey workers when he spoke to the Manchester Institute of Directors on Monday night.

By John Spencer

'Merseyside', he said, 'is getting itself an unwelcome reputation for unnecessary stoppages of work.' His Tory audience no doubt heartily applauded these anti-working-class sentiments.

There is nothing these Tory gatherings like better than to be entertained by a tame trade union leader who bashes the workers while the port-wine is circulating.

But Mr. Feather's remarks will arouse the hatred of every class-conscious worker.

The Mersey workers are showing the way forward for all those who want to fight the incomes policy and the Tories.

Whatever the 'reputation' of the Merseyside in Tory circles, Feather's reputation in the working class—especially on Merseyside—will certainly rival it.

He should speak frankly a bit more often. His words are extremely revealing.

Real face

Every worker can now see just how much 'disagreement' there was between the government and the TUC over anti-strike laws.

His remarks exactly parallel Wilson's speech on the same area earlier this year. Wilson also slated the Mersey workers' militancy.

Feather made the same threats as Wilson, too. Elaborating his first remark, he went on:

'Although I know that much of all this criticism is not merited, at the same time this atmosphere is making an impact on the minds of manufacturers who otherwise would be glad to start and develop in the North-West.'

In other words, the big stick of unemployment will be used if Mersey workers don't knuckle under.

Trade unionists all over the country—not just on Merseyside—are going into big wages struggles with a leadership committed to the programme of Wilson and the Tories.

Hostile

Feather's remarks show the real face of the trade union leaders.

They will carry out to the letter their 'obligations' to the government—obligations to discipline strikers and drive militants out of the unions.

One other point concerns Feather's 'left' friends.

Since the TUC-Cabinet discussions on the anti-union laws, Feather has been built up as the architect of 'victory'.

One example of this kind of treatment can be found in the 'Morning Star' for September 1, 1969.

The man's views on shop stewards occupy two full columns, in an interview with George Sinfield.

Sinfield's reverential questions evoked cloudy replies.

Perhaps the 'Star' will now say something about Feather's clearest remarks on the subject to date?

The class-collaborating leadership represented in the TUC can only prepare disaster for the working class.

Parallel

It is hostile to workers in struggle and friendly to the exploiters.

This right wing body is an agency of the employing class inside the workers' movement.

revolutionary leadership must be built in the struggle against such leadership.

That is the task of the Socialist Labour League.

### G.E.C.-E.E. WORKERS MUST FIGHT FOR JOBS

says Roger K. Armstrong a GEC Merseyside Shop Steward

GEC workers on Merseyside must continue the fight for the right to work.

The respective shop stewards' committees are convinced that this is a battle that can, and will be won.

Over the last few weeks workers' representatives have travelled to Portsmouth (TUC), Brighton (Labour Party conference) and London (government departments) and not least of all to Liverpool Town Hall to meet the company's leading lights, Westminster and Scamp.

All that this has achieved is a deep determination and understanding in the minds of the stewards that discussions and lobbying are not the answer to any of our problems.

The only answer is to be

● PAGE 4 COL. 4 →

## Maxi strike halts Cowley

ASSEMBLY lines at Morris Motors, Cowley, stopped again on Tuesday when key sections walked out in protest against the company's threat to put the new Maxi circuit on short-time.

By David Maude

Sub-assembly workers went home shortly after 11 a.m. following a 30-minute meeting with their stewards outside the plant.

They were closely followed by line two Maxi workers themselves.

After their two-hour meeting earlier in the morning, stewards stressed that their opposition to British-Leyland's plans would continue.

Sections taking action in support of Maxi workers would receive their full backing.

District officials in the unions concerned were being called in for a works' conference.

False

Monday's successful token stoppage, stewards emphasised, had completely given the lie to press suggestions that Morris workers opposed action in defence of their factory-line brothers.

Reports that 'blacklegs' had been able to continue some production the previous day were totally false.

Few workers turned up for Monday's night shift and work remained at a halt.

Several who did go in went home again after discussing the situation with pickets.

Congratulations

In the factory's 'E' block, some of the workers who had opposed strike action last Friday congratulated stewards from the 5/55 T&GWU branch

● PAGE 4 COL. 7 →

## Parasites gamble as police beat Negroes

LAS VEGAS, the 'millionaires' playground' was the scene of brutal police action against an estimated 1,000 Negro youths.

The demonstration began after a Negro policeman arrested three other Negroes following a traffic incident.

The National Guard was alerted in fighting which had, by Tuesday, injured at least 30 youths.

The struggle in the Negro ghetto area erupted barely a mile away from the casino town's 'Sunset Strip'.

Police batoned down unemployed and underpaid youth while the pick of the world's parasites gambled away in an hour what these young workers would never earn in a lifetime.

Demolition the remedy

THERE are 1.8 million homes in England and Wales where conditions are so bad that demolition is the only remedy, according to a report presented at the opening session of this week's annual conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors.

The report goes on to say that 'the present rate of action is clearly inadequate if the problem is to be solved within a reasonable period.'

'Schemes submitted during 1968 reflected a lessening of effort rather than an increase.'

machining department.

The machine-shop workers are demanding a pay rise.

In addition to the 600 workers out in Cardiff, another 1,300 have been laid off at Rover's Solihull plant. All production of Rover 2000 and 3500 cars at Solihull ceased ten days ago.

Liverpool's Standard-Triumph strikers meet today to decide whether to continue their six-week strike.

The Liverpool strikers are demanding a £4 10s. pay rise and guaranteed lay-off pay.

Arbitrary lay-offs have recently hit the Standard-Triumph workers hard.

## ROADSWEEPERS JOIN DUSTMEN'S PICKETS



By Rex Henry

ROADSWEEPERS joined the dustmen on Tuesday's picket duty at the Portobello Road depot, Kensington.

As our picture shows, they gave an enthusiastic reception to the Workers' Press.

More and more workers—drivers, lavatory attendants, park keepers and gravediggers in the London Boroughs are now on strike for higher pay.

The demand for a £20-a-week basic wage is also gaining support in the provinces.

Walkouts have already taken place at Wakefield, Grimsby, Stevenage, Benfleet, Aveley and Canvey Island. Other areas are expected to follow.

With news of this increasing support the Portobello Road pickets expressed their determination to stay out until their full demands are won.

One worker gave both the council and the trade union leaders a clear warning:

'We'll not get pulled into any productivity deal, we want £5 increase and that's all.'

## Sainsbury men want parity

FIVE hundred engineering and maintenance workers at the Waterloo headquarters of the giant Sainsbury food firm struck work on Monday, hampering sausage and pie production, and halting distribution to supermarkets throughout the country.

The strikers were supporting men at five other Sainsbury depots who want bonus parity with production workers.

In a recent pay award production workers won a 41 per cent bonus on a basic productivity 'norm', while the maintenance men got only 33 per cent.

The Basingstoke Sainsbury depot struck last Wednesday.

## JORDAN Ultra-right attempts coup

THE Jordan government has just announced the failure of a coup directed, it appears, against King Hussein.

Organized by the ultra-right-wing Muslim faction, the Tahir (Freedom) Party, the coup was aimed at restoring the ancient Caliphate which ruled throughout the Muslim world in the hey-day of Arab civilization.

The Tahir Party bases its code, like the Muslim Brotherhood, on a strict application of the Koranic laws, which include barbaric punishments for the slightest offence.

The purely religious nature of the party's programme should not confuse anyone about the real aims of these movements.

Meanwhile Al Fatah claimed successes against Israeli occupying forces in the Northern Jordan Valley, where military installations were hit by heavy rocket fire.

Prelude

In Indonesia, the Muslim fanatics whipped up sections of the peasantry into an anti-communist frenzy as a prelude to the massacre of hundreds of thousands of militant workers and poor peasants.

The vacillating, Bonapartist policies of regimes such as those in Egypt, Iraq, Syria and now the new government in Libya not only stir up hostility on the extreme right by their turn towards the Soviet bureaucracy.

At other times they are forced to lean on the religious fanatics as a counterweight to the popular forces released by the struggle against Israel.

This attempted coup is a danger signal that must not be ignored by Arab workers and peasants.

It makes more urgent than ever the construction of a Marxist leadership to carry through the struggle against imperialism and its Zionist agents and so open the road for a socialist Middle East.

## Car struggles mount

CAR workers, fighting the effects of the industry's deepening crisis, are locked in struggles across the industry.

In Cardiff, Rover workers meet today to decide whether to continue their strike, now in its fourth week.

On Monday, they rejected return-to-work proposals from officials' calls for a return.

The strike began after production workers were laid off because of a go-slow in the

## Faced with major class struggle Stalinists and social democrats

# All set for horse-trade

By Robert Black

A CLEAR hint was given on Monday that the Soviet bureaucracy welcomed the new West German coalition under social democrat Willy Brandt.

The occasion for this gesture towards Bonn was the 20th Anniversary meeting of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), where leading Stalinists from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as well as East Germany were in attendance.

Soviet Party secretary Brezhnev stated in East Berlin that the Soviet Union 'would welcome a change towards realism' in West German policies, a change to which the Soviet government would 'react accordingly'.

One of the main points of agreement between the Free Democrats under Walter Scheel and Brandt has been the need to develop a more 'realistic' policy not only towards the Soviet Union, but even to East Germany.

PROMINENT

West German industrialists have long been exporting to East Germany on a large scale.

West German firms are always prominent at the annual Leipzig trade fair and recently there has been considerable pressure in business circles for a relaxation of the cold war policies associated with the Christian Democrat leadership.

Trade and currency problems now add new weight to these arguments.

Walter Ulbricht, veteran Stalinist leader of the Socialist Unity party, is fully aware of these trends and openly encouraged them at the meeting.

In his speech he extended an offer of 'good-neighbourly relations on the basis of equality of rights and peaceful co-existence'.

SIGNIFICANCE

This remark has far more significance than the rest of his speech, which contained the usual routine denunciations of West German militarism.

Reports from Bonn indicate that an SPD-led government would certainly open up at least unofficial contacts with Ulbricht.

The East German workers were the first to challenge the might of the Stalinist bureaucracy in Eastern Europe, taking on Soviet tanks with little more than their bare hands in the general strike and uprising of June 17, 1953.

Ulbricht was only saved from disaster by the Kremlin's ruthless action.

Then and later, particularly at the time of the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961, Brandt was one of the most vocal opponents of any relations with Ulbricht's regime.

ENEMY

Brandt's anti-communism and Ulbricht's wall count for little when both the social-democratic and Stalinist bureaucracies are faced by a common enemy—the German working class.

● PAGE 4 COL. 4 →

## Italy: 92 million strike days

FIGURES just issued indicate the power of the strike wave that has flooded across Italy in recent months.

In July alone, almost 11 million hours were lost to the employers in strike time, while the figure for the same month in 1968 was barely half that amount.

For the first seven months of this year, total strike hours were nearly 92 million, compared with 33 million for the same period in 1968.

WORKERS PRESS  
 WORKERS PRESS  
 WORKERS PRESS  
 WORKERS PRESS  
 WORKERS PRESS  
 WORKERS PRESS  
 ORDER THE  
 DAILY  
 NOW

Full subscription (Posted daily) £10 a year £2 10s. for three months OR Two editions (For any two days you select) £4 a year £1 for three months

I would like to subscribe to Workers' Press for

Name .....

Address .....

Post to: Circulation Organizer, Workers' Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4. (Tel: 01-720-2000)

# Get, put, apply pressure, re-grasp, eye action, crank, step, foot motion, bend, weight factors.

BY B. FRANKS

THESE ARE THE ten basic elements of methods, time, measurement (MTM), the time-and-motion system which Otis Elevator company may bring to its Liverpool works.

The above are termed basic motions and employers and work consultants claim that all manual work can be broken down into a combination of these movements.

For each move there exists a series of fixed times called pre-determined time standards. This method is based on the principle that the movements of people at work can be analysed and rationalized in the same way as those of a machine so as to cut out all wasted motion, motion not in and for the work process, so as to attain a maximum of speed without any slowing due to exhaustion.

Its introduction at Otis' directly follows a declaration by the management that

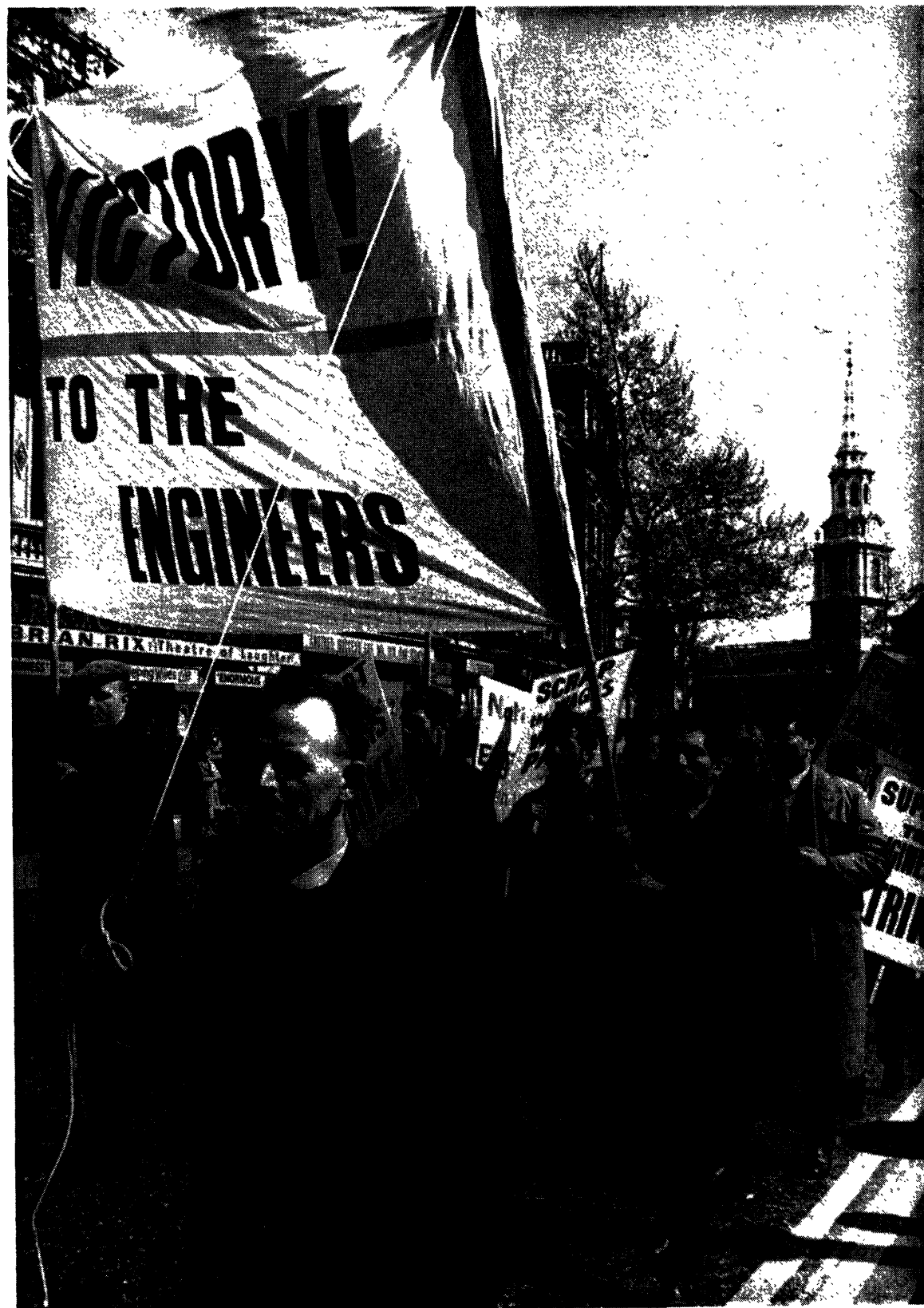
... the immediate target of the company is to reduce time standards through negotiation and mutual agreement by an approximate amount of six million minutes.

## Agreement

This is just one aim of a proposed long-term agreement for all the hourly-rated employees at the Liverpool works. Based on the agreement reached between the employers and the engineering union leaders last December, many of its other proposals reflect this 'workers are machines' outlook—that a procedure for measuring relaxation be fixed:

for the purpose of re-establishing and in the majority of cases reducing current relaxation allowances.

That there will be 'The re-introduction of the system of clocking in and out at lunch time for both



Engineers on the march for the pay claim prior to the sell-out.

the day and night-shift employees.'

'The extension of shift-working arrangements, including three-shift systems.'

'Acceptance of automatic data-collection by computer of time and bonus recording.'

And also that 'The formal morning and afternoon 10-minute sit-down tea-break to be discontinued. Employees may continue to take refreshment at times of their choosing while continuing with their normal work.'

## Allowances

The cutting of relaxation allowances is one of the main methods used by work-study to speed-up workers.

The high level of physical aptitude and dexterity of movement among workers of most of the industrialized countries means that little can be gained by trying to speed-up their movements.

No-one hammers slowly or takes a long time to turn a screwdriver, and with work associated with machinery it is usually impossible to make slow movements anyway.

But one thing that has resulted from this high rate of working is that workers have evolved for themselves adequate rest breaks during the work process to ensure mental and physical relaxation.

It is these breaks that the employers aim to eliminate.

Instead, they want to work out one long continuous list of the PUT, GET, CRANK, EYE ACTION, FOOT-MOTION routine to run from clock-on to clock-off.

## Suitable

Of course, the work-study men will say that they have allowed 'suitable' (sometimes they say 'adequate') times to cover rest.

They will claim that 'standard time' is the actual time for a movement, plus an extra allowance for contingencies and rest. But who has decided what is 'suitable'?

The fact is, that the original rest-times were arrived at by the workers in keeping with their own well-being, whereas the new times are solely dictated by the drive for more profit from fewer workers.

MTM itself is no more than an attempt to blind with 'science' the workers who are facing what is blatantly a speed-up method.

Work-study men will aim to use it to 'prove' to the workers

concerned that it is easy to work non-stop, and also to 'prove' that all the new times are reasonable.

The introduction of the three-shift system means that this non-stop working is to be on a 24-hour day, seven-day week basis for every job.

No details are given in the agreement about the automatic data-collecting system mentioned, but in some firms this has turned out to be the use of methods to spy on operators at work.

Machines are linked up by electrical lines to a computer which records every move and provides a dossier on every operator's work. This is certainly more than 'bonus recording'.

## Tea-break

On the elimination of tea-breaks, experience elsewhere has shown that at first, this may mean some advantage to the workers while they are having their normal rest breaks; later on the employers specify fixed times during the day in which workers may have a break.

For example, they may be allowed to drink tea only some time between 10 and 11 a.m. and between 2 and 3 p.m.

Finally, when systems like MTM are implemented, there is simply no time for any break whatsoever.

Also associated with this move is often the removal of canteens and the introduction of vending machines.

The clauses in the proposals show that four other work-study methods are to be introduced as well as MTM.

These are:

● **Job evaluation**, which will be the chief medium to be used by the company for all future job classifications. The usual aim in factories of changing job classification is to break down all job titles and trades and instead, set up a series of simplified grades into which all work is fitted.

● **Direct time-study**. In addition to pre-determined times—those taken from work study's own Manual of Synthetic Times—the management also want to use times taken directly on the job.

# THE OTIS AGREEMENT

● **Random sampling**. This system allows management or work study men to pounce on a worker at any time and to take a sample study of his work to see if it is up to standard.

● **Method study**. This is undertaken at first as an examination of exactly how an operator is working or how a job is being done. Later, a plan of how the management thinks the job ought to be done is presented to the worker, together with the MTM times.

stantly trying to increase output and to make further 'savings'.

On this the proposals say:

'Revisions to established time standards may be made for any of the following reasons:

- (1) Change in method — equipment — fixtures — tooling — speeds — quantities.
- (2) Change in design.
- (3) Change in material.
- (4) Demonstrable clerical error.'

## Grading

The introduction of grading based on job-evaluation in schemes similar to this one has usually meant the introduction of full flexibility and interchangeability of working, with workers being changed from job to job, and up- or down-graded to 'loosen up the system'.

This often leads to turning every worker into a graded general labourer, available for any work the management gives him. In these proposals the management gives a hint along these lines when it says:

... that any lines of demarcation or similar restrictive practices should not be permitted to hinder the company in working towards increased efficiency.'

Some examples given in the proposals are: the employment of women on certain work at present done by men:

'Controller wiring, solid state assembly, armature winding, press work, machine operating.'

and

'Acceptance of the principle that where suitable and in specific areas, skilled tradesmen may be supplemented by the employment of unskilled workers. Appropriate training will be given to these persons.'

and again

'The use by production operatives of pendant-controlled overhead cranes in the normal production duties and in the event of the regular service operator being unavailable.'

## Savings

One important point that applies to these proposals and all others that conform to the government's incomes policy, is that the introduction of new working methods is a continuous process and not a once-and-for all affair.

Work-study does not fix one set of times and leave it at that, it revises all work, con-

The point is again emphasized, where it is noted that the interim period agreement which was retained in the revised wage structure agreement of 1967 shall be modified and that:

'this agreement in the future will provide management with the right to re-time any operation in the Liverpool works, whether or not mutually agreed time standards have been established on the operation concerned.'

Other points made in the proposals about methods of working are that there be:

'Withdrawal of the unofficial factory-wide mandates against selective overtime.'

That there be: 'Acceptance that the principle of overtime will be worked by sections, groups or individuals as the workload demands.'

And further: 'It is intended that excessive overtime on a regular basis will not be worked as it is not in the best long-term interest of workers or supervisors.'

## Convenience

This last clause may indicate that the firm has a long-term policy of eliminating overtime altogether, but at the moment they find it to their convenience to keep it going.

In return for the full co-operation of employees in implementing the provisions of this proposed agreement, the company offered 1s.-an-hour increase to be paid in three stages of 4d. an hour over three years; all female employees to get 9d. an hour in three 3d.-an-hour stages, a further 3d. an hour to be paid to seven grades on the implementation of the agreement.

A further clause includes: 'The principle of "equal pay for equal work" will be adopted throughout the term of this agreement.'

It goes on to propose that the rates of pay for females be brought up to the full male rate in three stages. Exactly on what basis equal pay is proposed is made clear as follows:

'The full application of "equal pay for equal work" for female employees is dependent upon the accept-

ance by females of the same overtime and night-shift arrangements applying to male employees. It is recognized by the company that in order for this to be implemented special dispensation from the factory inspectorate will need to be obtained.'

## Equal pay

Many of the proposals now coming forward for 'equal pay' drive right through the provisions of the Factories Acts which regulate the working of women and young people.

While it is possible for employers to get special dispensation to make exceptions to these rules, it may well be that the government is actually proposing a change in the law in the name of 'equal work'.

The labour movement has always fought to protect certain sections of the working class, in particular, women and young people from strenuous work, from long hours of working and from night-work.

The argument being put now by the employers is that working conditions are different from the time when these Factory Acts were introduced.

While it is true that hours may be somewhat shorter, in fact, the intensity of working is probably far higher than it has ever been and far more protection and far more stringent laws protecting workers at work are needed.

The proposals also put forward an annual holiday bonus.

In order to recognize the high standard of attendance and time-keeping expected from employees it is proposed that a bonus of 15s. a week be paid to all adult employees who meet the required standard.'

## Bonus

This bonus, to be paid in a lump sum yearly, just before the annual plant close-down, is tied to the attendance and time-keeping strings in the following way:

'Any employee losing any time whatever during the week through sickness, whether qualified by medical certification or not, through unauthorized absenteeism or lateness or through authorized leave of absence, would forfeit the bonus for that week.'

Also 'Any stoppage or partial stoppage of work "go-slow" or "work-to-rule" or any other form of industrial action by an individual group or section or a department would forfeit the bonus for all employees, day and night-shift for that particular week.'

This proposal might better have come under the heading

'disciplinary procedure' rather than under its 'annual holiday bonus'.

The other disciplinary procedures that the company requires consist of a series of formal warnings for any 'form of misconduct'. These can lead to dismissal after four warnings.

Also required by the management is a procedure for processing disputes and it is written in that no stoppage of work or go-slow shall take place while procedure is being carried through.

## Guide-line

This agreement follows the guide-lines laid down by the government through the Prices and Incomes Board. Whatever slight advantages in wages may be paid at first, the long-term aim of this type of deal is always to get more work from fewer workers, whatever managements may say, or whatever 'guarantees' are given for no redundancies or no sackings.

It is a fact that the basic aim is always a reduction in the size of the labour force.

Sometimes managements claim that their aims go no further than getting more work from the same number of workers, but in every case a combination of modern methods and introduction of modern machinery leads to cuts in manning.

That such modernization is planned is noted earlier on in the proposals. Clause 3 section one, states that also required is:

'The unimpeded operation of new or modified plants, equipment and tooling and operation methods designed to increase efficiency or productivity in the manufacture of the company's products, or in any ancillary activity.'

It is important to understand that these proposals are not just a question of demands by the employers.

Managements would never have got as far as recommending this type of exploitation were it not for the sell-out by engineering union leaders last December, when rather than utilize the strength of three million engineering workers who were prepared to strike for a basic wage increase without strings, Scanlon and the AEF leadership agreed to the productivity strings demanded by the engineering employers.

Managements would never have got as far as recommending this type of exploitation were it not for the sell-out by engineering union leaders last December, when rather than utilize the strength of three million engineering workers who were prepared to strike for a basic wage increase without strings, Scanlon and the AEF leadership agreed to the productivity strings demanded by the engineering employers.

Managements would never have got as far as recommending this type of exploitation were it not for the sell-out by engineering union leaders last December, when rather than utilize the strength of three million engineering workers who were prepared to strike for a basic wage increase without strings, Scanlon and the AEF leadership agreed to the productivity strings demanded by the engineering employers.

## Sell-out

This action, described in 'The Newsletter' at the time as the greatest sell-out since 1926, gave the government and the employers a new lease of life in their struggle to save themselves from the ever-developing crisis.

Employers were then able to bring out new productivity proposals based on the measures the union leaders had declared acceptable. Much of the wording in these Otis proposals reads similar to the December agreement (1968).

Otis point out on their first page:

'The National Agreement negotiated between the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, dated December 1968, clearly quotes the unions' and the federations' unreserved agreement "that there is an urgent and continuing necessity in the interests of those employed by the engineering industry and of the community as a whole, for the productive resources and manpower of the industry to be deployed and used more efficiently".

'These new proposals conform to the provisions of that agreement...'

The Otis workers, along with all other engineering workers, must resist the attempts by the government and the employers to solve the crisis of capitalism through the introduction of intensive exploitation on the shop floor.

They must fight a battle, too, in their unions to clear out all leaders who refuse to fight the employers.

A major step in this struggle can be carried out by building up the circulation of the Workers' Press and through this, developing the All Trades Unions Alliance to provide a real socialist alternative in the trade unions.

# new park books

## NEWSLETTER PAMPHLETS

<b>Trade Unions:</b>		
No Laws Against the Trade Unions! (G. Healy)	3d.	
The Alternative to Wilson (G. Healy) ...	6d.	
Lessons of the 1966 Seamen's Strike ...	2s. 6d.	
(M. Nolan)		
Stop Devlin Now! No Sackings on the Docks (Jack Gale)	3d.	
The ENV Story ...	3d.	
Your Wages in Danger (A. Thornett) ...	3d.	
<b>Labour Party:</b>		
From MacDonalld to Gaitskell ...	3d.	
How the Labour Party Began (B. Pearce) ...	2d.	
<b>Ceylon:</b>		
The Great Betrayal (G. Healy) ...	1s. 0d.	
The Logic of Coalition Politics (M. Banda) ...	6d.	
<b>United States:</b>		
The New Nationalism and the Negro Struggle (Tim Wohlforth)	2s. 0d.	
<b>Belgium:</b>		
Class Struggle in Belgium (1960-1 General Strike) (T. Kemp) ...	1s. 0d.	
A New Party? Some lessons for Belgian Labour (P. Arnold)	1s. 6d.	

## PERIODICALS

Keep Left (monthly)	1 year	7s. 6d.
Fourth International (quarterly)	1 year	18s. 0d.

All these books are available from New Park Publications, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

## The Newsletter

TWICE-WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Vol. 12, No. 608  
November 30, 1968  
Price 6d.

PAGES TWO AND THREE  
AND THE  
Political Revolution  
in Czechoslovakia  
The price of  
centrism

WEEK  
END

### The engineers' pay claim

# THE BIGGEST SELL-OUT SINCE 1926

by Mark Jenkins

A NEW BLACK FRIDAY is written into the history of the British labour movement - Friday, November 22. The decision of the AEF National Committee on that date to accept the engineering employers' current wages offer and the deadly productivity strings is an open insult against the organized working class by the renegade trade union leaders.

It was the kind of blow only reformists can deliver: the official and herald of a confident new movement, trade unionism, is now a tool of the enemy.

The November 22 decision is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union. It is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union. It is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union.

**Labour 'lefts' support cost-of-living rise**

By David Meade  
LABOUR'S support for the cost-of-living rise is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union. It is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union. It is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union.

**A miner warns engineers**

By John Leary  
THE MINERS are about to be asked to support the cost-of-living rise. It is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union. It is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union. It is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union.

**Money crisis continues**

By Peter Jeffries  
THE GOVERNMENT is determined to destroy the firm. In the struggle to bring the economy back to the government's control, the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union. It is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union. It is a betrayal of the workers' struggle for the All Trades Union.

The sell-out by the engineering union leaders—the 'biggest since 1926' as 'The Newsletter' (forerunner of the Workers' Press) described it last December—has prepared the way for the implementation of the Otis agreement.

# LESSONS FROM G.E.C. - ENGLISH ELECTRIC

**MONDAY'S** announcement by GEC-English Electric that there is to be a three-month postponement of its threat to put 3,000 Merseyside workers out of work again places the ball squarely at the feet of the shop stewards.

By David Maude  
our Industrial Correspondent

But in order to carry through last week's decision to continue to fight against the company's plans, by strike action if necessary, all the lessons of the bitter struggle against Weinstock's rationalization—which has already cost 17,000 workers their jobs—must be fully assimilated.

Despite declarations of opposition from trade union leaders, 5,000 were put outside the gate at AEI Woolwich last year.

Then, on September 17 and 18 this year, workers at three Merseyside plants rejected plans to occupy their places of work.

This is not a matter of deciding empirically where things went wrong, drawing up a recipe for the next time . . . and ending up, as does the revisionist weekly 'Socialist Worker', blaming the working class.

Marxists begin with the developing and insoluble crisis of capitalism and with the crisis of working-class leadership.

The so-called 'International Socialism' group, which publishes 'Socialist Worker', broke from Marxism a long time ago with the conception that Stalinism had decisively defeated the Soviet working class—that the 1917 October Revolution had been 'lost' to capitalism.

In a September 25 article headlined 'Behind the Mersey Defeat', 'Socialist Worker's' 'Northern Industrial Reporter' places heavy emphasis on the Redundancy Payments Act—under which 'many workers . . . stand to receive a few hundred pounds when they are sacked'—as a major factor in the votes against occupation.

GEC-English Electric stewards, the article claims, 'were ultimately defeated by the management-mindedness of their own members'.

Like the 'theory' of 'state capitalism', this is a lie. And it is a lie designed to cover up for the role played by the revisionist groups themselves in this set-back to the struggle against unemployment.

By presenting the occupation as a publicity stunt, or as the 'Socialist Worker's' September 25 editorial puts it, as a means of showing 'if only for a few days, a glimpse of workers' control in action and the possibility of a planned, rational society free from the demands of a tiny clique bent only on producing profits at the expense of the majority', 'International Socialism' and the self-styled 'Institute for Workers' Control' helped create a diversion away from the real political fight against the threat of unemployment, and for support amongst those in other factories, docks and building sites in the area.

The editorial also talks of need to draw 'positive lessons' from what happened at the East Lancashire Road.

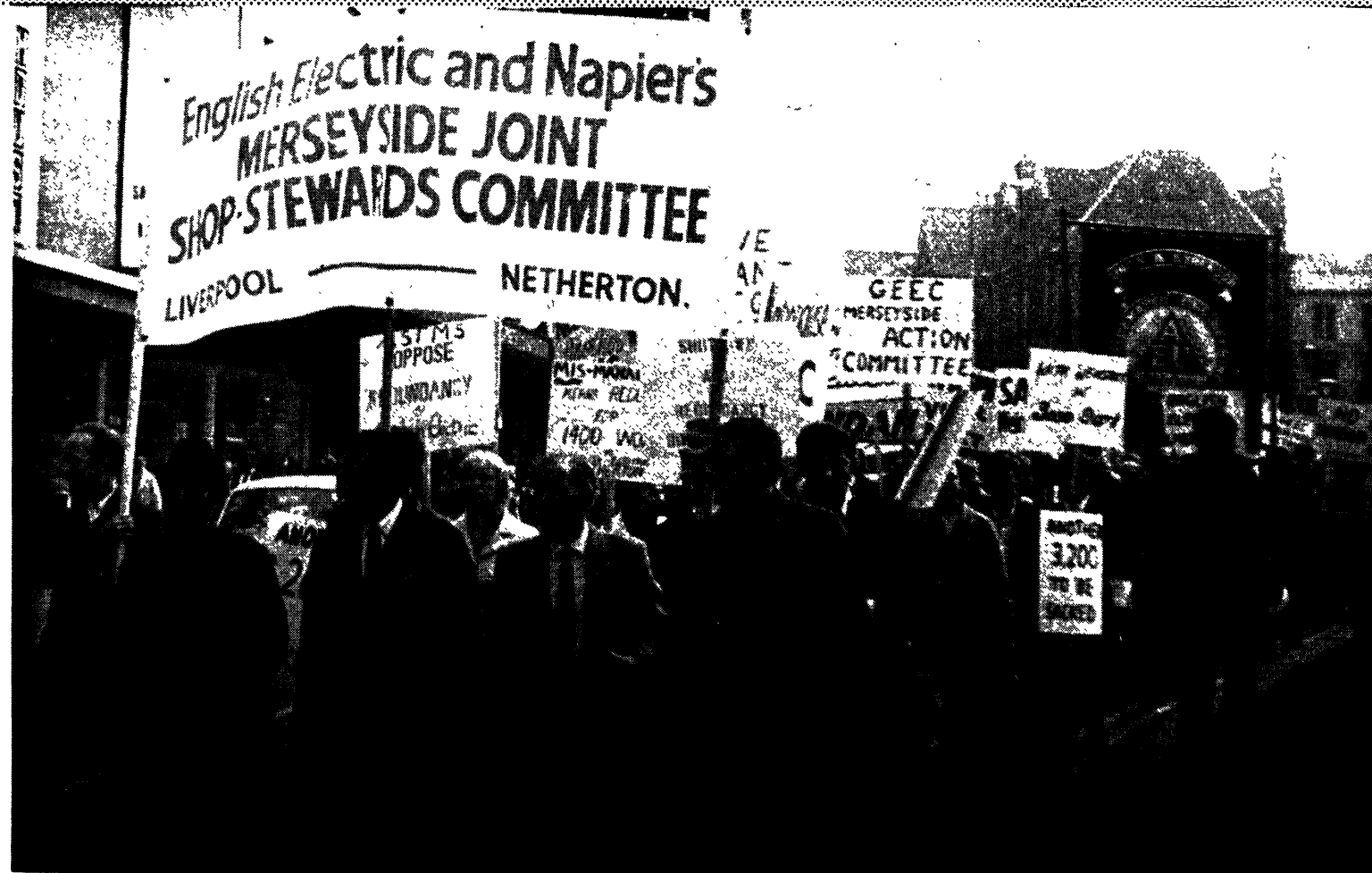
But without placing the fight for leadership at the centre, no lessons can be learned.

By maintaining a 'snakes-and-ladders' conception of the development of the working class, 'Socialist Worker' is unable to see further than the hesitation of September 17-18.

The fact that 'B' shop workers, some of whom had marched with right-wing AEF stewards two days before, on September 19 reimposed their overtime ban is left entirely out of account.

For 'International Social-

GEC-English Electric workers demonstrate last August against the closure of the Liverpool factory.



# No 'recipes' for the fight against unemployment



Weinstock's rationalization has already cost 17,000 workers their jobs—5,000 were pushed out at AEI Woolwich last year despite the declarations from the trade union leaders.

ism', Marxism goes out of the window at the first whiff of real struggle. It was, as far as they were concerned, a decisive defeat.

'Socialist Worker's' reporter—with his talk of the 'gallant 300', that 'anyone with an ounce of political education would know that Powell is one of the champions of ruthless sackings in pursuit of the god of profit'

(Bewley is an admitted supporter of Powell's ideas)—has contempt for those workers who were confused and disoriented by precisely the conceptions he himself advocates.

What the stewards were advocating 'Socialist Worker's' editorial claims, was 'going one step further than their French brothers who occupied factories last year. The English Electric militants say

they would run plants'.

'Such an advanced type of action', the paper says, 'demands a high level of political understanding, as well as a solid trade union type of experience'.

Just what is 'Socialist Workers' position here? The only conclusion from its comment is . . . that the stewards should not have gone ahead with their plans. This is a double pronged attack on GEC-English Electric workers—on the one hand their 'management-mindedness' led to defeat and on the other, they are not 'advanced' enough for this kind of action anyway.

Its message to the stewards, who, it says, 'did well in the field of linking up with shop stewards in other industries on 'Merseyside' but 'also (also) neglected the political education of their members', is thus no more than a rationalization of 'defeat'.

The fight to build a leadership which can carry through the struggle against unemployment on Merseyside must go on in implacable hostility to such politics.

# SCIENTIFIC AGE SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT (S.S.T.)

PRESIDENT Nixon's decision to give the 'go-ahead' for the construction of a United States supersonic transport aircraft (SST) now faces the US aircraft industry with considerable technical problems to overcome and the Nixon administration with sizeable political problems.

In the SST field the United States is virtually at square one. The new aircraft, the Boeing 2707, has had a very chequered career to date. The original swing-wing design for an aircraft to carry 350 passengers was found to be uneconomical compared to subsonic aeroplanes.

At this point, having spent considerable funds, the Boeing designers reverted to the slim delta wing proposed by their Lockheed competitors.

So far the preliminary design work has been in progress for a year and has cost the government 600 million dollars on research and development for the airframe and engines.

Authority has now been given to proceed to the construction and test flying of two prototypes in 1973, at the time when Concorde will be going into service on the air routes.

If the test flights are successful the 2707 should be in service by 1978 at an estimated cost for development and production of 4,500 million dollars.

### COMPARISONS

It is useful to compare the estimated performances of the three SSTs on which work has now been undertaken.

These are the Boeing 2707, the Anglo-French Concorde and the Russian TU 144 compared in the table below. Of the three, the Russian aircraft is the only one to have been flown at supersonic speeds to date.

	Number of passengers	Cruising speed (m.p.h.)	Operational height in feet
Boeing 2707	250-300	1,800	70,000
TU 144	135	1,550	60,000
Concorde	125	1,320	60,000

Obviously, having wavered for a considerable period over the prospect of spending 4,500 million dollars on the SST project in a period of growing economic crisis, the prospect of letting the profits go to their competitors in western Europe and the USSR has proved too much.

By building an aircraft whose performance far exceeds those of its rivals, Boeing and the major US airlines plan to make up for lost time and to grab as big a share of the market as they can.

The technical problems associated with the development of the 2707 are not just quantitatively greater than the Concorde.

The latter is almost entirely built from aluminium with consequently a great saving in weight, but this metal reaches a critical state at 130 degrees centigrade.

### HOT NOSE

When flying at its cruising speed the temperature over the surface of the Concorde remains below this critical value except at the nose. In this area the temperature will rise to over 150 degrees and for this reason it is constructed of resin-bonded glass fibre.

For the Boeing this use of aluminium is by and large ruled out and is the price which has to be paid for the extra 350 m.p.h.

A number of special metals will have to be used including titanium and stainless steel.

Undoubtedly, although the SSTs are superb technological achievements, the deciding factor has been the profit motive.

Above all, said Nixon, 'I want the United States to

lead the world in air transport'. Very good.

However, it is reported that the final push that clinched his decision probably came from the recent visit to the Soviet Union of Mr Najeeb Halaby, head of Pan American, who warned that if an American SST was not forthcoming he might buy the TU 144!

At £20 million each compared with £8 million for a Concorde, the SST will of course be expensive to buy and the strain on airlines who attempt to maintain a competitive position is considerable.

### 'DRY UP'

Although 26 airlines have placed more than 80 million dollars in reservations on 112 Boeing SSTs, one spokesman said:

'Most airlines hope the SST will dry up and go away. They are up to their Adam's apples with the financing of the airbuses'.

There is therefore considerable opposition to Nixon's proposals and it is expected that there will be a bitter battle in the Democrat-controlled Congress.

Many Congressmen want that to embark on massive expenditure on the SST would exacerbate the economic crisis.

They feel that 'domestic problems' should have first claim on the money; in other words, cash spent on preparations to deal with the American working class.

Already the opposition has gained a limited victory.

The SST will be prohibited from flying over land until the problem of the sonic boom has been solved and the noise brought 'within reasonable limits'.

However, it is doubtful whether the aircraft will ever be profitable with these restrictions.

### SALES DROP

It is thought that if the problem of the sonic boom remains unresolved and SSTs are restricted to subsonic speeds over land, then the estimated sale of 1200 SSTs by

	Number of passengers	Cruising speed (m.p.h.)	Operational height in feet
Boeing 2707	250-300	1,800	70,000
TU 144	135	1,550	60,000
Concorde	125	1,320	60,000

1990 will be slashed to 500. This would be a major blow to the plans of the US government which, on behalf of the big bourgeoisie, will be standing 90 per cent of the costs of the first stage of the project.

The technical advances embodied in the SST, giving the possibility of transporting 250 human beings in substantial comfort at nearly three times the speed of sound, are not of primary concern to the capitalist class.

In any case, a flight in a luxury airliner remains the prerogative of a privileged few even without the 15 per



President Nixon.

cent extra which it will cost to fly by SST.

With the intensification of the trade war between the United States and western Europe, the battle over the SSTs threatens to become yet another thorn in the flesh of the bourgeoisie.

How many SSTs by 1990, gentlemen? 1,200? 500?

No matter! Long before then the proletariat will relieve you of the task of making that decision.

# TODAYS TV

## B.B.C. 1

9.30 a.m.-12.0 p.m., For Schools and Colleges. 12.0, International Golf. 12.30, Farm Management. 1.0, Cadw Cwmni. 1.30, Watch with Mother. 1.45-1.53, News and Weatherman. 2.5-2.25, For Schools and Colleges. 2.50, Racing and Golf. 4.20, Play School. 4.40, Jackanory. 4.55, Blue Peter. 5.20, Journey to the Centre of the Earth. 5.44, Babar. 5.50, National News and Weather.

6.00, London-Nationwide: news, features, opinions.

6.45, The Newcomers.

7.05, Top of the Pops.

7.30, Dad's Army.

8.00, Softly, Softly.

8.50, The Main News and Weather.

9.10, Sportsnight with Coleman.

10.30, 24 Hours Including 11.05, The Conservative Party Conference.

11.30, Weatherman.

11.32, Car-Wise.

Regional Programmes as BBC 1 except at the following times:

Midlands and East Anglia: 6.0-6.45 p.m., Midlands Today, Look East, Weather, Nationwide. 12.2 a.m., News Summary, Weather.

North of England: 6.0-6.45 p.m., Look North, Weather, Nationwide. 12.2 a.m., Northern News Headlines, Weather.

Wales: 2.30-2.50 p.m., For Schools and Colleges. 6.0-6.45, Wales Today, Weather, Nationwide. 6.45-7.5, Heddiw.

Scotland: 2.30-2.50 p.m., Around Scotland. 6.0-6.45, Reporting Scotland. 12.2 a.m., Epilogue, Scottish News Headlines.

South and West: 6.0-6.45 p.m., Points West, South Today, Spotlight South-West, Weather, Nationwide. 12.2 a.m., South and West Headlines, Weather.

## Border TV

1.40-2.55 p.m., For Schools. 2.55, Conservative Party Assembly. 4.0, Border News Headlines. 4.02, Junkin. 4.15, Katie Stewart Cooks. 4.40, Once Upon A Time. 4.55, The Adventures of Robin Hood. 5.20, Magpie. 5.50, National News. 6.0, Border News and Lookaround. 6.35, Crossroads. 7.0, The Wild, Wild West. 8.0, Peyton Place. 8.30, Doctor In The House. 9.0, Nearest and Dearest. 9.30, This Week. 10.0, News At Ten and Border Weather. 10.30, Cinema. 11.0, The Avengers. 11.55, Border News Summary and Weather.

Coverage of key debates of Conservative and Unionist Party to be announced.

11.00-11.20 a.m., Play School.

7.00 p.m., Teaching Adults.

7.30, Newsroom and Weather.

8.00, Call My Bluff.

8.30, The Money Programme.

9.10, James Forsyth: plays of today.

10.30, News Summary, Weather.

10.35, Line-Up.

**The Intelligentsia and Socialism**

By LEON TROTSKY

A review written for the St. Petersburg review 'Sovremenny Mir' in 1910, of Der Sozialismus und die Intellektuellen, by Max Adler published in Vienna in the same year.

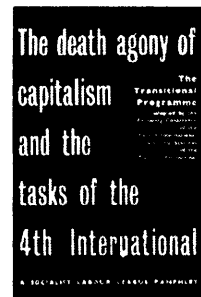
Price: one shilling

NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS LTD. 186a CLAPHAM HIGH STREET LONDON, S.W.4

## TOMORROW'S WORKERS' PRESS

will contain book reviews of 'The Interregnum 1923-1924' by E. H. Carr, Penguin 10s. 'Captain Swing' by E. J. Hobsbawm and George hart 70s. 'Selected Poems: Anna Akhmatova' Translated by Richard McKane, Penguin 4s.

# The Transitional Programme



This is the basic programmatic document of the world movement founded by Leon Trotsky and his comrades. By 1938 the revolutionary Marxists had found it necessary to lay the foundations of the Fourth International in order to restore working-class leadership after the defeats prepared by the Stalinist bureaucracy in control of the Third (Communist) International. The defeat of the German Revolution in 1923, of the British General Strike in 1926, and of the Chinese Revolution in 1927, followed by Hitler's victory over the German working class in 1933, finally ruled out the perspective of transforming the Communist International by internal opposition.

60 pages. 1/-

**FOR DISCUSSION**

# A policy for miners

**WAGES**—closures—hours—rents. All these issues are now reaching boiling point in the Yorkshire coalfield—to the background of a mounting economic crisis and growing unemployment.

In every industry employers and managements are seeking to weaken workers' organization, introduce sackings and short-time and then impose speed-up conditions on those left with a job.

Wage increases are being resisted now—they will be driven down in the future if the pool of unemployed is allowed to grow.

This is for the sake of profit for big business and financiers. The first half-year's trading figures for 1969 show an increase in profits of over 20 per cent.

**'DEFICIT'**

In the 1968-1969 year the National Coal Board made an operating profit of £28.6 million.

**A statement by the Yorkshire miners' section of the All Trades Unions Alliance**

Then interest charges of £37.5 million turned this into a deficit of £8.9 million. These charges are interest payments on loans raised by the government to pay compensation to the former coal owners.

This is why they cannot afford decent wages, this is why they are closing pits, this is why men work in wet, dangerous conditions.

Every miner knows that the problem of jobs and rates of pay for market men is made worse by the NCB's strategy of pit closures and the concentration of faces.

**BROKE PROMISE**

Yet the unanimous decision of the Cadeby (South Yorkshire) men to continue their four week old strike—over market men being sent to low paid jobs when face work is available—shows that a fighting spirit is there in the working class.

But there are dangers. The Barnsley NUM panel

at first indicated that the whole panel would be brought out there was not an early settlement.

When the time came to carry out that promise, the panel instead tried to persuade the Cadeby men into going back.

They said that if the men went back and got no satisfaction in seven days, they would bring the panel out.

But why should the men go back with nothing?

The NCB must be forced to give way while the strike is in progress.

The panel must be brought out now.

At the North Yorkshire area panel on Friday, October 3, a resolution from Wheldale calling for a strike in support of Cadeby was rejected by leading panel members.

Some of these men had pledged the Wheldale men during their strike two years ago, that if they went back to work and got no satisfaction within 14 days, they would bring the panel out.

What happened? Wheldale went back, nothing was gained, the panel was not brought out and the strike was broken.

**CLOSURE**

Neither has the North Yorkshire panel yet carried out its reported pledge to strike against the closure of Primrose Hill colliery—a pit which is to be closed despite having met its productivity target.

In the Doncaster area, the panel has repeatedly been urged to take action against the NCB's plans to raise rents drastically in its houses.

Yet nothing has been done—apart from attacks on the men at Bentley and Scawthorpe who called for strike action.

Meanwhile increased rents are already in force at Edlington, Rossington and Armthorpe.

Now it is reported that the Barnsley, Doncaster and North Yorkshire panels have all threatened to strike on

Monday, October 13, if there is no satisfactory settlement on October 9 of the surface men's claim for a 40-hour week (they are now working 8 1/2 hours a day and in some cases taking home £11 a week or less).

But there is no evidence that the panels will lead such a strike to victory.

On the contrary, all the evidence points to these men negotiating a shabby compromise.

**SETTLED**

Even where there was solid support behind them—as at Cortonwood earlier this year—the leaders settled for 71s when an all-out fight would have gained the NPLA rate (National Power-Loading Agreement).

We say a strike should not be limited to surface men's hours.

Even if concessions were made by the NCB on this issue, there should still be a fight on the other pit issues.

Some leaders are making militant noises on the surface but their question is in order to avoid a fight on these other questions.

The struggle is under way at Cadeby.

These 1,600 men should not be left isolated with only a few pits which—to their credit—have joined them.

Nor should the Doncaster area rents battle be seen as a side issue.

We say: Spread the Cadeby strike!

The Yorkshire miners' section of the All Trades Unions Alliance puts forward this programme to unite all Yorkshire miners:

- NPLA rate (85s. 2d.) as a minimum for all skilled face workers, no matter where they are allocated.
- Surface workers to work the same hours as underground men.
- A minimum £16 day wage on the surface, £17 underground.
- NPLA rate for all craftsmen.
- No down-grading or wage cuts when the third day-wage structure comes into operation.
- No pit closures.
- No disguised wage cuts.
- Rents to be frozen at all NCB houses. NCB tenants must then support all other tenants in their rent struggles.

**A CONFLICT** over the new West German farm import tax has broken out within the ruling bodies of the Common Market.

One of the last measures taken by the outgoing Kiesinger coalition was the decision to 'float' the mark, a move that resulted in immediate upvaluing by about 5 per cent.

Aware that this step exposed West-German farmers to a flood of cheaper imported products, Bonn imposed an import duty on all farm produce coming into West Germany, including all produce coming from other Common Market countries.

When the Common Market Commission ruled this action illegal, Bonn appealed to the Common Market Court, confident that the earlier decision would be over-ruled.

Instead, it was upheld.

But fears a strong reaction from West Germany, the EEC Council of Ministers temporarily patched over the differences by agreeing to operation of the levy for a limited period of time.

**Fixed**

The tax would have to be lifted, it was stated by the EEC Commission president Jean Rey, when the mark had returned to a fixed exchange rate.

What predominates now in the Common Market is not co-operation, but competition. The tenseness of the money markets and the recent strikes in most member countries force the native capitalist classes to put their own interests before those of the market as a whole.

The attempt to protect West German agriculture, while following a policy in line with the banks, has a political significance too.

The rural population, as in France, has always provided

# German farm import crisis

By a foreign correspondent

the main basis for the right-wing parties in West Germany.

Driven towards reevaluation, the West German capitalist class still has to try to protect their mass political basis at home.

In turn, that brings them into conflict with similar farming interests in the other Common Market countries.

A crisis now in West German agriculture could very rapidly break up this traditional bond between the ruling class and the rural population and open the way to unity with the industrial working class.

This is only one of the many problems that await Brandt and his social democratic coalition government.

# N.P.D. chief arrested

**KLAUS KOLLEY**, Federal commissioner for the stewards of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party, has been arrested on a charge of shooting two anti-NPD demonstrators in Kassel last month.

By a foreign correspondent

Kolley was employed as a legal adviser to the party's stewards, who became notorious during the election campaign for their thuggery in clashes with young workers, trade unionists and students demonstrating against the party's leader, Adolph von Thadden.

Police evidence suggests that Kolley's duties extended beyond that of legal adviser.

He is accused of shooting two demonstrators in the arm from in front of a house occupied at the time by von Thadden.

Kolley denies the charge.

claiming that he only fired a single warning shot.

The whole incident is indeed a warning that within the NPD there are elements prepared to use firearms against their working-class enemies.

We should place no trust in the police or the law courts.

In all the big anti-fascist demonstrations the police were well to the fore, protecting von Thadden with water cannon, barbed wire and highly trained riot squads.

From the beginning of its campaign the NPD made a bid for police support, calling for more state powers in dealing with students, youth and left-wing movements.

The campaign found an echo in the Christian Democrats, Strauss stating publicly that normal laws did not apply to revolutionaries.

**Police support**

Inside the police there is growing support for the NPD.

Estimates put support for its policies as high as 50 per cent of the entire force.

In the armed forces there is also sympathy for the NPD, the party of 'law and order'.

In 1923 Hitler was jailed for a part in the Nazi 'Munich putsch'.

Ten years later, he was in power, backed to the hilt by the same judges and police chiefs who opposed his earlier bid as premature.

Neither in Britain nor in West Germany do we put any confidence in the capitalist state in the fight against fascism and racism.

Only the working class can fight these dangers.

# Exiled Greek journalists condemn suppression of press

**THE London branch of the Union of Greek Journalists in Exile (UGJE) has just issued a statement condemning the continued suppression of press freedom by the Greek military dictatorship.**

4 The UGJE denounces to the international journalists' organizations, the national unions, as well as to all journalists all over the world and international public opinion, the attempt of the military junta in Athens to silence the Greek press completely and by a new Hitler-style law, to turn Greek journalists into civil servants of a fascist regime.

This "law"—according to the denunciations which have been made within the country—deprives the press of any possibility of public control and free criticism.

It also deprives the journalists of the right to express even the slightest thought which could possibly displease those in power.

**Terms**

The statement lists the terms of the new press law, which provides for the right of court martial to try journalists even in peace time.

The exiled journalists conclude their appeal with a call to: 'Journalists all over the world and their organizations to stand by the side of our colleagues who are fighting hard in Greece' and a demand for 'the annulment of the junta's Hitler-style "press law".'

We give our full support to their struggle against the Greek military junta, a regime which can only be brought down through decisive action led by the working class.

# All Trades Unions Alliance conference

Motor workers' conference

All car, car components and delivery workers are invited to a motor workers' conference

Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth Birmingham Saturday November 8 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Write for credentials to: R. Parsons, 21 Strawberry Path, Blackbird Leys, Oxford.

Conference fee: 5s. a person

# Maxi

FROM PAGE ONE

on their leaflet explaining the dispute.

This stressed that Leyland's proposals to put 1,500 Maxi workers on four days or three nights a week meant 'that every penny of the cut-back must be carried by our members in the plant. This represents a really hard line by the company.'

Linking the company's attitude to their attempts to introduce Measured-Day Work at Cowley, it called for complete opposition to its plans and full support for the policy of the stewards.

It demanded that the reduction of 300 cars a week in the Maxi programme be dealt with by creating a small pool of labour on a guaranteed wage of 10s 11d an hour.

# Sackings begin at Pressed-Steel Fisher

From Harry Finch

**BRITISH-LEYLAND'S** decision to sack 530 workers at the Pressed-Steel Fisher Coventry factory, by transferring the MGB work to Cowley, is a parallel to the recent £70 million investment programme at the Cowley works.

A similar threat hanging over body workers at Nuffield Metal Products, Birmingham, emphasises the real meaning of the massive mergers in the motor and other industries.

The announcement on Pressed Steel, following the attempt by British-Leyland at Cowley to force workers onto a four-day week, is a serious warning to all car workers.

This, in fact, is the beginning of recession.

It makes the stewards' response at Pressed-Steel all the more dangerous to their own workers and all other British-Leyland workers.

**VIGOROUS**

Whilst at Oxford the stewards are fighting the threat of short-time working with a demand that workers' pay be made up, at Coventry the stewards felt that 'virtual closure' was inevitable once Pressed-Steel was absorbed into British-Leyland two years ago and are virtually accepting the sackings.

In a statement to Workers' Press, National Union of Vehicle Builders senior steward Eric Bone, said:

'This question has been hanging over us for a number of years. We have continually tried to get information on the position.

'They now state that the MGB is being transferred for "economic" reasons and poor plant facilities and partly because all body work for Rootes has now been transferred from Oxford back to the Rootes factory in Coventry.

'This factory will be run on

# Legal strike-breaking

FROM PAGE ONE

suburbia is being whipped up into a frenzy of hate for the working class—all of which is designed to prepare a suitable publicity background in which to isolate the strikers.

Heath, the Tory leader, has written a letter to Wilson calling on the government 'to take emergency measures if local authorities could not cope'.

In other words, he is demanding that the strike be broken by the mobilization of scabs under a legal cover.

Government minister Crossman immediately responded to Heath's request by declaring the strike 'a confounded nuisance and a horrible thing to happen'.

Here is the real face of Fabianism—one that is hostile through and through so far as the working class is concerned.

'The Guardian' of October 8, commenting on Heath's request, writes:

'But it was made known that the Cabinet had already discussed the dispute. The presence at the meeting of both the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General—neither of whom is a Cabinet member—appears to have a connection with legal steps necessary if emergency measures are taken' (Our emphasis).

The Tory cracks the whip and the Labour leaders jump through the hoop.

A legal cover for strike-breaking is being prepared.

All sections of the trade union movement must come to the aid of the dustmen if attempts at strike-breaking are to be repelled.

# A.B.S. SUPPORT FOR ONE-DAY STRIKE ACTION

Workers' Press reporter

**THE Association of Broadcasting Staff (ABS) representing a third of BBC workers, called on Monday for a one-day strike on a day to be announced.**

The strike is in support of a pay claim.

ABS general secretary Tom Rhys said the union had decided on a stoppage rather than increase of wages because 'membership of the union is of such a nature that many of the members do not have clear rules to work to'.

The 24-hour strike would only be the first step in the ABS action, Mr. Rhys said.

Productivity

Last week ABS members rejected a 4 per cent pay rise because 'it did not truly reflect increases in the cost of living and members' co-operation in increasing BBC productivity.'

The BBC has driven for productivity in recent years and now, according to Mr. Rhys, has 'blackmailed' his association 'by saying they can't do anything on two heads—money and government policy'.

BBC workers thus face the same problem as those in other industries and will have to join them in political struggle against the Labour government and its crisis-plans for the BBC.

Following President Saragat's trip to Yugoslavia last week.

Saragat, like Brandt, is a right-wing social democrat, with a similar record of anti-communism in the Italian labour movement.

**SPLIT**

He led the US-inspired split away from the Nenni socialists, who at that time favoured collaboration with the Communist Party.

Saragat has since played a key part in stabilizing Italy's succession of fragile 'centre-left' coalitions.

Now the social democrats, through the leftward shift in the working class, are pushed into positions where they daily act as go-betweens for the imperialists in their dealings with the Soviet and other Stalinist bureaucracies.

It is important to note here that of all the Stalinist parties of the capitalist world, the Italian, with its two million members and eight million votes, is the closest to Tito in its policies and attitudes towards the Soviet Union.

Saragat is well aware that the Italian Communist Party is playing a central role in holding back the current strike wave now rocking his government.

Close contacts with Tito are an added guarantee that the leaders of the Italian Communist Party continue to follow their counter-revolutionary path.

By stepping up the fight against Wilson and the right wing here in Britain, we also strike a blow against international social democracy and its horse-trading with the Stalinist bureaucracies at the expense of the working class.

# GERMANY

FROM PAGE ONE

The West German workers have just engaged in their first serious strike action for many years, while in the East there has been a continual ferment connected with the Czechoslovak events.

At the time of the Soviet invasion in August 1968, workers, students and intellectuals demonstrated openly on the streets of several East German cities against the support given to the Kremlin's action by the Ulbricht regime.

We have only seen the beginnings of these manoeuvres between the bureaucracies.

On the same day that Ulbricht made his offer to Brandt, it was announced from Belgrade that Tito is to pay a return visit to Italy

following President Saragat's trip to Yugoslavia last week.

Saragat, like Brandt, is a right-wing social democrat, with a similar record of anti-communism in the Italian labour movement.

**SPLIT**

He led the US-inspired split away from the Nenni socialists, who at that time favoured collaboration with the Communist Party.

Saragat has since played a key part in stabilizing Italy's succession of fragile 'centre-left' coalitions.

Now the social democrats, through the leftward shift in the working class, are pushed into positions where they daily act as go-betweens for the imperialists in their dealings with the Soviet and other Stalinist bureaucracies.

It is important to note here that of all the Stalinist parties of the capitalist world, the Italian, with its two million members and eight million votes, is the closest to Tito in its policies and attitudes towards the Soviet Union.

Saragat is well aware that the Italian Communist Party is playing a central role in holding back the current strike wave now rocking his government.

Close contacts with Tito are an added guarantee that the leaders of the Italian Communist Party continue to follow their counter-revolutionary path.

By stepping up the fight against Wilson and the right wing here in Britain, we also strike a blow against international social democracy and its horse-trading with the Stalinist bureaucracies at the expense of the working class.

**G.E.C. - E.E.**

FROM PAGE ONE

This is itself may not be sufficient to secure eventual victory. The answer must be in the broad appeal and justice of our cause to the greater trade union movement.

This is where Workers' Press is an invaluable asset in the further understanding and continuation of our struggle.

It is for this reason, because it serves the working class, that we wish it every success in the months to come and urge all workers to see that circulation targets are achieved and surpassed.

**Builders threaten work stoppage**

Workers' Press reporter

taken off the job.

The strike began on Monday afternoon. It follows a number of disputes about labour-only sub-contracting.

Meetings of workers employed by sub-contractors were being held on Tuesday to decide whether to join the strike.

If all the men agree to strike, the action will involve nearly 2,000 workers.

**Scandinavians arrested by the G.P.U.**

TWO young Scandinavians were detained by Soviet police on Monday after scattering leaflets in the huge GUM department store.

The leaflets called for the release of Major Grigorenko, recently arrested for his defence of the persecuted national minority group, the Crimean Tartars.

Grigorenko has long been an outstanding leader of opposition to the bureaucracy in the Soviet Union.

**Nickel strike goes on**

THE three-month strike by the 17,200 workers of International Nickel, Ontario, continues.

Talks between the United Steel Workers' Union and the employers broke down on Sunday, and no new date has been fixed for a resumption.

**Wheat failure in the U.S.S.R.**

By Robert Black

THE FAILURE of the Soviet harvest has created new problems for the Soviet bureaucracy. Indifferent weather was undoubtedly a factor in cutting the grain harvest by 35 million tons from the record 170 million of last year.

However the main causes are not natural ones. The regions where the crop has been poorest are those pioneered under Khrushchev—the so-called 'Virgin Lands' of Kazakhstan.

Other problems are the direct responsibility of the present Kosygin-Brezhnev leadership.

Shortage of machinery and labour has left huge amounts of wheat standing in fields all over the Soviet Union, while in the East, grain is being left dry on open ground through lack of any storage space and rail transport.

All the contradictions of the Soviet economy remain unresolved while capitalism continues to dominate the most advanced sectors of world economy.

**Repercussions**

This new set-back in Soviet agriculture will produce political repercussions both in the Soviet Union and in its dealings with the West.

The income of the collective and state farm peasantry will fall, starving the land of urgently needed machinery to improve farming methods.

Shortage of bread in the big towns will lead to greater unrest in the working class, as they compare Soviet space achievements with their own living standards.

These shortcomings, it must be stressed, are not the result of the revolution, but the direct consequence of its confinement to a single, backward country.

**Closer links**

To stave off this unrest at home, the Kremlin will lean on closer trade relations with the West.

Within the days of the news of the bad harvest, the Soviet government began grain talks with the Canadian Minister of Trade.

The Soviet partner was no less a figure than Soviet Foreign Minister, Gromyko.

After their meeting in Ottawa, the Canadian government issued a statement saying that Gromyko had agreed to grain talks being resumed within two months.

The problems of Soviet agriculture helped to bring down Khrushchev in 1964.

Now they dog Kosygin and Brezhnev, who continue the Stalinist policy of attempting to build 'socialism in one country.'

**Weigh heavily**

Trotsky's analysis of the problems of the Soviet economy are underlined by this new crisis.

Shortages and bottlenecks still weigh heavily on the Soviet people 25 years after the official completion of the 'building of socialism'.

The double task of the overthrow of the bureaucracy and the extension of the revolution to the advanced capitalist economies of the West links our struggle with that of the Soviet working class.

# A time for united action on Merseyside

From Bill Hunter

**ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED** Liverpool dockers employed by Ocean Port Service returned to work on Monday after a strike demanding that deck hands be paid 50 per cent of the awards given to holdsmen.

A section of the men were not satisfied and they came out again, but they have still not achieved the 50 per cent.

On Tuesday morning dockers employed by Smith Coggins Limited at Gladstone dock decided to strike and meet again on Friday October 10.

The decision was taken after shop stewards reported that the firm had broken a 'gentlemen's agreement' on the basis of which deckhands they employed are paid the 50 per cent.

This takes place against the background of a press campaign against Merseyside strikers, the attacks of the Employers' Association and Mr. Vic Feather's Manchester speech.

It appears that the employers have decided to try it on.

**Stowage**

Dockers employed by Smith Coggins at Brunswick dock have already been on strike for several days over cargo stowage.

Meanwhile negotiations are still in progress for a £16 basic.

After offering £21 flat wage in which all awards on tonnage payments were to be consolidated, the employers now want to tie strings to the £16 basic wage.

With the number of separate strikes growing, the big question for Merseyside dockers is to bring all their dispersed disputes together in one central struggle around wages and against Devlin Phase Two with its plans for Measured-Day Work, speed-up and redundancies.

**Machines 'blacked'**

As a result of the leaflet, transport workers at the factory agreed to 'black' machines, such as fork-lift trucks, which could no longer operate due to electrical failure.

In contrast to the Hillington factory, the electricians had a good response from the shop stewards at the East Kilbride factory where the job-evaluation scheme has been thrown out.

**Sheffield lay-offs expected**

SHOP stewards at Daniel Doncaster's Engineering Co., Sheffield, voted on Saturday to strike in the event of lay-offs at the factory.

This decision was taken after the management had issued a letter to every worker in the firm.

The letter told workers to expect lay-offs to occur as a result of the dispute at Vauxhall Motors.

Much of the production at Doncaster's is for the motor industry.

The shop stewards' decision was based on the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers policy—one man is layed off, no one works.

The letter from Doncaster's management is a warning for Vauxhall workers.

If they are preparing for layoffs in Sheffield then it is clear that the employers' federation expects the Vauxhall dispute to last.

**Warning**

The letter from Doncaster's management is a warning for Vauxhall workers.

If they are preparing for layoffs in Sheffield then it is clear that the employers' federation expects the Vauxhall dispute to last.

**Scandinavians arrested by the G.P.U.**

TWO young Scandinavians were detained by Soviet police on Monday after scattering leaflets in the huge GUM department store.

The leaflets called for the release of Major Grigorenko, recently arrested for his defence of the persecuted national minority group, the Crimean Tartars.

Grigorenko has long been an outstanding leader of opposition to the bureaucracy in the Soviet Union.

**Nickel strike goes on**

THE three-month strike by the 17,200 workers of International Nickel, Ontario, continues.

Talks between the United Steel Workers' Union and the employers broke down on Sunday, and no new date has been fixed for a resumption.

**Wheat failure in the U.S.S.R.**

By Robert Black

THE FAILURE of the Soviet harvest has created new problems for the Soviet bureaucracy. Indifferent weather was undoubtedly a factor in cutting the grain harvest by 35 million tons from the record 170 million of last year.

However the main causes are not natural ones. The regions where the crop has been poorest are those pioneered under Khrushchev—the so-called 'Virgin Lands' of Kazakhstan.

Other problems are the direct responsibility of the present Kosygin-Brezhnev leadership.

Shortage of machinery and labour has left huge amounts of wheat standing in fields all over the Soviet Union, while in the East, grain is being left dry on open ground through lack of any storage space and rail transport.

All the contradictions of the Soviet economy remain unresolved while capitalism continues to dominate the most advanced sectors of world economy.

**Repercussions**

This new set-back in Soviet agriculture will produce political repercussions both in the Soviet Union and in its dealings with the West.

The income of the collective and state farm peasantry will fall, starving the land of urgently needed machinery to improve farming methods.

Shortage of bread in the big towns will lead to greater unrest in the working class, as they compare Soviet space achievements with their own living standards.

These shortcomings, it must be stressed, are not the result of the revolution, but the direct consequence of its confinement to a single, backward country.

**Closer links**

To stave off this unrest at home, the Kremlin will lean on closer trade relations with the West.

Within the days of the news of the bad harvest, the Soviet government began grain talks with the Canadian Minister of Trade.

The Soviet partner was no less a figure than Soviet Foreign Minister, Gromyko.

After their meeting in Ottawa, the Canadian government issued a statement saying that Gromyko had agreed to grain talks being resumed within two months.

The problems of Soviet agriculture helped to bring down Khrushchev in 1964.

Now they dog Kosygin and Brezhnev, who continue the Stalinist policy of attempting to build 'socialism in one country.'

**Weigh heavily**

Trotsky's analysis of the problems of the Soviet economy are underlined by this new crisis.

Shortages and bottlenecks still weigh heavily on the Soviet people 25 years after the official completion of the 'building of socialism'.

The double task of the overthrow of the bureaucracy and the extension of the revolution to the advanced capitalist economies of the West links our struggle with that of the Soviet working class.