TION PRICE 6d.

Dustmen

By Peter Read

dustmen's strike continued

to spread out from London as the Manchester

men stopped work on

FORTNIGHT-old

spread

their

strike

# From Brighton comes

# ATORY CHARTER FOR SCABS

# **Vauxhall** stewards welcome the daily

VAUXHALL joint shop stewards' committee. Ellesmere Port, passed the following resolution at its meeting on Tuesday night:

'This committee welcomes the introduction of the Workers Press and thanks it for the factual reports of struggle in our

# Czecii **Stalinists** attack

By Robert Black

PRAGUE Radio announced on Wednesday that many leading Czech union members have been removed from their posts.

All those purged were prominent in organizing working-class resistance to the Kremlin intervention and oc-

Since Husak's takeover last March, they have resisted his hard-line, pro-Kremlin policy. The radio stated that the Bohemia-Moravia Council of Trade Unions has sacked four of its leaders and a further four have also resigned.

Among those sacked is Vlastimil Toman, head of the ers, with a membership of close on a million workers.

# Strike action

This same union threatened strike action in January against the attempt to remove Josef Smrkovsky as Czecho-slovak National Assembly

(Smrkovsky was in fact purged from the Central Committee at its recent plenary

MR ROBERT CARR, Mrs Barbara Castle's Tory 'shadow', has followed up Heath's demand for the legal breaking up of the dustmen's strike with an eight-point charter for blacklegs in every industry. His proposals, presented to the Conservative Party BIGGEST SITE SHUTS DOWN

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The strike-call came after

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Instruction

The 6,500 ABS members

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BBC director-general Mr

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The Tories, Carr said,

## Protect

● A worker's right not to join a union Strikers acting constitu-tionally as opposed to those who go on unofficial strike

## Require

workers on engagement written statement of their rights and obligations

Compliance with a statutory period of notice-possibly 60 days—for terminating or changing agreements on either side Workers at all levels in

companies above a certain size to elect representatives to works councils Directors of all companies

above a certain size to make available to workers given to shareholders

• That shop stewards are given all information relating to employment before public statements are made

vance.

 New machinery for resolving inter-union disputes

It would be difficult for the Tories to be more explicit. On the one hand, a thin veil of phrases-reminiscent of de Gaulle's 'participation -about works' councils, treating workers like shareholders, informing them of employment changes in ad-

On the other, iron determination to tie the unions in legal Gordian knots and smash the resistance of the working class.

In legislative terms, the Tory scab's charter would presumably hand the big employers all the weapons they have been screaming for: Statutory powers against

the closed shop; changes in the Trade Disputes Actmaking strikers liable to civil for damages—and alterations in the law of con-● PAGE 4 COL. 7 →

## television workers, members of the Association of Cine-matograph and Allied Technicians (ACCT), whose union

has instructed them to join the planned strike. The other three unions at he BBC—the Electrical Trades Union, the National Union of Journalists and the Theatrical and Kine Employ-

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# 'Nationalization out of the question'

# —Libyan oil minister

LIBYA'S new Republican government announced in Tripoli on Wednesday that it does not intend at present to nationalize the country's oil industry.
Oil Minister Anis Ahmed

Shteiwi said: 'Nationalization at present time is out of the question because we have neither the manpower nor the market outlet for our oil.'

# Main question

Nationalization of oil would certainly present great problems for Libya, a country kept for generations in a state of economic and cultural backwardness by imperialism and its internal feudal agents.

But the main question is the political base of the regime. While it received popular support for its overthrow of the reactionary monarchy, the government represents the newer, privileged groups that have developed around the state bureaucracy, the armed

forces and business interests. This essentially bourgeois group would certainly like to develop Libyan capitalism out of revenue from the lucrative oil industry.

However it seeks to do this more by a 'fairer' division of the spoils than by a direct challenge to the property rights of the big oil mono-

To mount a struggle against the oil giants and their gov-

By a foreign correspondent ernmental backers would re-

quire first of all mass support from the Libyan workers and peasants.

# Bonapartist

This typically Bonapartist, Nasser-style regime fears the much as it does the imperialist encroachments.

Like so many Arab regimes, the new Libyan government struggles to balance itself between imperialism and the Arab masses. It combines nationalist de-

mogogy and talk of 'socialism

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### No meals

The Board has said it is prepared to cut shift times, at present eight-and-a-quarter hours, to eight hours exclusive of the meal times.

But the miners want their 20-minute meal break included in the shift time.

## **ATUA** meeting LUTON

'Support Ellesmere Port-Throw out scabs' charter' Friday, October 10, 8 p.m. The Cock Park Square

# Callaghan visits Ulster

# The army tightens up its grip Workers' Press correspondent

'LABOUR' Home Secretary Mr James Callaghan breakfasted with Northern Ireland GOC Sir Ian Freeland yesterday, then went on for talks with Unionist Cabinet Ministers, against a background of continued preparations by British troops for further repressions against Ulster's working class.

As during Callaghan's over the six counties. previous visit, these discussions come at a crucial stage in the army's task of re-asserting imperialist rule

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Thamesmead site is one of

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**Clearer Vietnam split** 

in U.S.

By a foreign correspondent

THE split in the US ruling

class over Vietnam becomes

General Earle Wheeler, chairman of the US joint

chiefs of staff said at a press

conference in Saigon that 'for

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government will have to con-

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Hitting out at those who

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'We must see the effects of this further withdrawal . . .

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**ALL TRADES** 

UNIONS

ALLIANCE

MEETINGS

Speaker: Frank Willis

Young Socialists candidate

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Tuesday, October 14

Reuben George Hall Walcto Estate

Friday, October 17

8 p.m.

Swindon Town Hall

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Belfast's Catholic 'Citizens Defence Committee' took this action, it said, because the army had successfully handled the troubles of last weekend -presumably a reference to its brutal attack on Protestant demonstrators near the City's Albert Bridge.

Meanwhile, the barbed-wire military 'peace' line still strikes through the heart of Belfast's central working-class

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'One of the most urgent tasks we have to do is to rebuild confidence in the RUC among all the population and to rebuild the confidence of the RUC in itself . . . to throw our full weight behind the forces of law and

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His demagogic warning that 'any attempt to interfere with Protestant people going to their place of worship will be very serious' is a last-ditch attempt to maintain the alle-giance of his supporters.

But neither Paisley, nor the Catholic 'leaders', can prevent workers on both sides coming increasingly to understand the real role of the troops.

They are moving in more and more to break Catholic and Protestant heads indiscriminately in order to preserve imperialist rule.

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Following a press attempt to whip up a health scare over accumulating rubbish, ominous signs of preparations for strike-breaking appeared during the week.

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The Labour government is in tune with the Tories as this follows the call from Tory leader Heath for the government to take such measures 'if the local authorities are unable to cope'. Any attempts at strike

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# Big support for Maxi workers

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# SATURDAY'S **PRESS**

More documents of the struggle against Stalinism inside the USSR

Alexis Kosterin's letter to the Central Committee of the CPSU and Piotr Yakir's oration at the funeral of Alexis Kosterin.

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By a foreign correspondent

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General Earle Wheeler, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff said at a press conference in Saigon that 'for some time to come', the US government will have to continue its active military backing for the Thieu regime.

Hitting out at those who advocate a speedy withdrawal whatever the consequences for the US puppet regime in Saigon, Wheeler said:

# **Tactical**

'We must see the effects of this further withdrawal . . . before we can project ourselves into the future . . . I would say we shall have to continue to support our South Vietnamese allies for some time to come'.

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# **SATURDAY'S** At the present rate, say the two senators, US forces will still be in Vietnam in 1980. **WORKERS PRESS**

For the first time in English More documents of the struggle against Stalinism



sky.

A RE-ISSUE of the book first published in 1954 as part two of Carr's 'A History of Soviet Russia', this book covers the period of Lenin's last illness after December 1922, and centres on the coming together of Stalin-Zinoviev-'Trium-Kamenev virate' against Trot-

This book must be read by anyone trying to understand in greater detail the origins of Stalin's later dominance in the Bolshevik Party.

The great political events and controversies of the year between the 12th Party congress in March 1923 and Lenin's death in January 1924 are all covered in great detail.

The all-pervading economic problems of backwardness, war devastation and the sheer suffering and exhauspresented by Carr, with ample documentary material selected from wide sources.

## MANKIND'S FATE

But Carr is not only a skilled craftsmen.

He obviously feels that in the Russian Revolution the whole fate of mankind is being fought out and decided.

THIS IS the first im-

portant work since the

study 'The Village

Labourer' to be de-

voted to the great ris-

ing of English agricul-

tural labourers in 1830

-a movement em-

bracing 20 counties,

concentrated in the

In their work the

Hammonds exposed the

servitude and starvation

endured by the rural poor

in the period of the in-

dustrial revolution during

the late 18th and early

19th centuries and the

brutal repression which

followed their vain attempt

to change these conditions

Rudé and Hobsbawm add

to this earlier work in that

they provide a mass of de-

tails, from each of the coun-

ties involved, of the extent,

progress and effects of this

They are able to show that not only did the Hammonds underestimate the geographi-

cal extent of the movement,

but they also tended to place

undue emphasis on land en-

closure as a causal explanation for the discontent of the rural

THREATS IN

**LETTERS** 

'Captain Swing' was the sig-

nature most commonly added

to the many threatening letters addressed to landowners,

parsons and well-to-do

farmers during the rising demanding higher wages, the breaking up of agricultural machinery and the ending of

Although the protests of the

half-starved labourers (many were found dead in hedges

with only dandelion leaves in

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posters, robbery, wage meet-

ings, assaults on overseers, parsons and landlords and

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which had been taking place in English agriculture since

The roots of the 1830 rising

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IQII

Hammond's

THE BEGINNINGS OF BUREAUCRACY

Carrs 'detailed account of the beginings of Stalinist degeneration and Trotsky's fight against it.

> THE INTERREGNUM 1923-1924 By E. H. Carr

> > First published by Macmillan 1954

Penguin 1969 pp. 400 10s. Review by Robert Black

After writing for many years on international relations and the problems of war and peace, he clearly decided to devote the rest of his academic life to this one vast subject—the first suc-cessful workers' revolution and all the problems that arose from its confinement to a single backward country.

The first volumes of the series place the Revolution in its international and historical setting, both in the origins of the theory which guided it and in the context of the world-wide imperialist crisis that led to the 1917

This book sets out an objective account of Trotsky's struggle for firmer planning increased tempo of industrialization.

## **PUT IN** CONTEXT

The events and political undercurrents that led to the first clashes between the opposition and the 'triumvirate' are also placed in their eco-nomic and international con-

The defeat of the German Revolution is given its due weight in the later political struggles-but with the allimportant reservation unlike Trotsky (and indeed several non-Marxist historians) Carr does not believe that a revolutionary situation existed in Germany in the summer of 1923.

The open struggle against bureaucracy that began with

the 'Platform of the 46' is again well documented.

The 'Platform' itself, together with its signatories, is reproduced at the end of

As a Marxist analysis of the problems of the economy and the Party, it is very much an continuation of Lenin's last articles.

Trotsky's articles, later published under the title 'The New Course', developed the ideas of the 'Platform' still

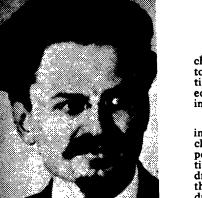
These two blows against bureaucracy triggered the first open attacks on Trotsky, and Carr shows how these reached their first climax at the 1924 Party

# **NOT AN**

# **INDIVIDUALIST**

Trotsky's speech to the Party gives the lie to all those Stalanist and bourgeois represent him as an individualist struggling against the Party for his own special

'I have already said that nothing is easier than to say before the Party "All this criticism, all these declarations, warnings and protests, were simply a sheer mistake". But, comrades, I cannot say this, because I do not think so. I know that one cannot be right against the Party. One can only be right with the Party and through the Party, since history has



Trotsky

created no other paths to the realization of what is right. The English have a historical proverb: "My country, right or wrong". With far greater historical right can we say, "Right or not right in individual particular concrete questions, but it is my party".

Taken together with its other nine volumes (the first three of which are already available in Pelican) we have indeed an immense and scholarly work.

It is not only a study of the Russian Revolution and a history of the Soviet Union.

It is also a history of Marxism and Bolshevism, and of the Communist International.

Carr is certainly aware of the need to stress the inter-national setting and historical continuity of the Revolu-

## **SMOOTHS** CONFLICTS

But in doing so, he smooths out its conflicts.

Party history is presented in an evolutionary way, a method which suggests that the great changes that took place during the 'interregnum' were nothing more than a series of small adaptions to the new situation faced by the Party after 1923.

Trotsky insisted in later years that the last congress of the Bolshevik Party took place in March 1923.

Bolshevism was destroyed, not changed by Stalin, though the bureaucracy took great care to preserve many of its forms.

The period covered by this volume is decisive for the Soviet Union and the Communist International.

It was a year of qualitative change, not just the adding together of a series of political adjustments and maneouvres by the 'triumvirate' in their fight against Trotsky.

In his presentation of the inner-party struggle, this clouding over of the main political lines of demarcation prevents the reader from drawing the full benefit from the factual material reproduced, much of it for the first time in the west.

## **ASSIMILATED CONCEPTS**

Carr has devoted so much time to the study of the theory and practice of the Marxist movement that he has, unconsciously perhaps, assimilated its vocabulary

That is precisely why we have to be very clear on the difference between Carr's method, which is evolutionary and empirical, and that of Marxism, which is dialectial and materialist.

The class essence of Trotsky's fight after 1923 completely escapes him:

'The material appeal of the opposition was to the interests of industry, but to the managers and technicians rather than to the industrial proletariat. . . . Nothing either in its economic or in its political platform was likely to catch the imagina-tion of the worker or to touch his immediate material

But that is just the essence of Marxism.

The opposition was fighting for a programme, for the regeneration of the Party as weapon for liberation of the working

## **FALSE PROMISES**

It was Stalin who rallied workers around the 'triumvirate' with false promises of wage increases and shorter hours which were annulled as soon as the opposition was isolated and defeated.

Carr's empirical method, refined, grasp the real essence of the fight for programme as dis-

It has to be lived and fought for inside the workers' movement. The Marxist movement has always studied history in order to make it. That is the great dividing line between the most gifted non-Marxist historian and

tinct from 'material interests'.

content of Trotsky's fight

Stalinism cannot be under-

stood in Carr's empirical

way.

The theoretical and class

bureaucracy

the method of the revolutionary party. That being said, this book is still recommended as the best study of the period out-

Books on this period by Trotsky include:

side of Trotsky's own writ-

'Stalin'

'My Life' 'The New Course'.

in the Chartist movement. Depressed to the level of poorly-paid wage slaves, stripped of even the minimal protection which the old relations in the countryside had given them, they had none of the opportunities that their counterparts in the towns had for organization.

### ONLY **'SUCCESS'**

Their only 'success' (if the limitation of the use of threshing machines can be so-called) owed as much to the oppo-sition of the farmers to machinery—at least while cheap and plentiful labour was available—as it did to the strength of the revolt.

After 1830 reaction set in and the movement was broken by repression and terror.

Protest became increasingly isolated and individual, more desperate and with little aim or direction.

The real worth of the study will have to be extracted by the reader.

In the first place it under-lines once more the violent nature of the rise of British capitalism.

Its triumph involved the degradation and pauperization of large layers of the population, both at home and abroad.

## UNEVEN **PROCESS**

Second, the emergence of the working class, which went hand-in-hand with the dominance of capital, was no even

Although the labourers were to rise against their conditions in the early 1830s their movement was doomed to failure. It was only at a later date, with the growth of trade unionism largely amongst the skilled urban workers that a basis was laid for the growth of stable organizations amongst agricultural workers in the 1870s. But there is little attempt to place the movement in this

wider setting. What were its lessons?
Were they passed on to later generations and other

sections of the movement?
Or was continuity definitively broken with the repressions after 1830? sions after 1830?

None of these questions are satisfactorily tackled in the final chapter 'Aftermath'.

So the work, despite the undoubted talents of the authors, is ultimately vitiated by this radicalism which in-

by this radicalism which increasingly penetrates the work of all those whose 'Marxism has derived from Stalinism.

past struggles of the working class which starts from their essential continuity can derive the real lessons from the past which are so vital to the arm-

# **GIGANTIC EVENTS** THROUGH THE EYE OF A POET'S NEEDLE

**'SELECTED POEMS: ANNA AKHMATOVA'** 

Translated by Richard McKane Penguin Books pp. 111 4s. Review by David Spooner

ANNA Andreevna Gorenko, born in 1889, took her pseudonym, Akhmatova, from her grandmother, probably from a desire to retain even in her

century Russia. She endured the October Revolution, managed to survive the Stalinist trials and died in 1966. Her writing, then, spans a historical period in which gigantic changes took place, in which Russia passed from Tsardom through the February 1917 bourgeois revolution, the October Revolution and then the Stalinist degener-

name links with 19th

Yet despite this, we see these events in her poetry as though through the eye of a needle.

ation.

In the early poems, as Sinyavsky says in the intro-duction reprinted from 'Novy Mir', Akhmatova lives in the past, locked in her private world.

The poems vibrate with a sense of isolation, nervous-ness and deep fear. the 'In palace the

windows burn cut off by silence.

Not a track, not a path, only the ice-holes are dark. The pre-revolutionary intelligentsia to which Akhmatova belonged was orientated towards the aristocracy since

the Russian bourgeoisie remained economically feeble and culturally Philistine. As Trotsky said, the events from the collapse of the 1905 revolution to the

October Revolution 'struck the intelligentsia heavily and continuously, as with a battering ram', and Akhmatova herself seems to have been stunned into senselessness. She repeats over and over again a vague sense of loss, of parting, whether with a lover or God.

In fact she is speaking, without being conscious of it,

of the destruction of her class and of Tsardom.

Though she tried to remain oblivious of the October Revolution, she could not cheat

history. The revolution appears in these poems, but it appears in the form of individuals not in the movement of masses; a stranger threaten-ing her or the harsh 'cry of

a stork landing on the roof' occasionally breaking the silence. The images are static, reflecting her desire to freeze society in the feudal mould.

The October Revolution, then, left her artistically mute, as it did many sections of the intelligentsia. From the standpoint of the petty bourgeois, the clash of great class forces is beyond comprehension, absorbed as they are in a private reckon-

ing with their till or their conscience.

Her post revolutionary poems of the 1920s and 1930s are full of confusion and turgid mysticism. 'The backyards rest in a lilac haze', and the fact is that the real world is obliterated by her feeble and naive Christianity. She is ob-

theme' like deathwhich she writes of obses-sively giff at is the death of her class that she mourns it is very much on a reduced

'When a man dies his portraits change. His eyes look different way,

I noticed this on returning from the funeral of a poet. Since then I have often checked it,

This remains the extent of her poems; the verification of slender and delicate obser-

Yet we must say that-the son perished, startled her to some extent out of her Certainly she felt that she

had to record the suffering of the victims of those trials, though her lyrical poetry and individualist stance cannot encompass the historical significance of those massive blows against the working class.

She can only grasp the events in relation to the disturbance of her own private

someone else suffers. I couldn't stand this: let

she is brought face to face with history and is forced to connect herself with the pro-The final poem in the book, 'Epilogue', expresses her desire to break with her

contours of reality.

Here though, in 'Epilogue', she gathers herself to speak out boldly in a way that she accomplishes nowhere else in

does in the introduction to the poems).

nature - haunts where she sought to escape the world.

'but here, where I stood
three hundred hours,

Marias, forget how the hateful

# This is to inform you what you have to undergo Sentelmen if providing you Dont pull down your ness whenes and vise the poor mens wages the maned men give tow and esix pence a day a day the singel town shilings or we will brinn down your larns and you in them this is the last notion

One of the 'Swing' letters sent to farm owners by the peasants during The European 'peasant', or small independent producer, their 1830 uprising.

creasingly dictated by market needs.

by short-term hiring (by day

The village labourer, iso-lated from his fellow worker in the town by the operation of the system of poor reliefthe parish would only provide relief to those actually born there or who could prove permanent residence—and usually

Farms became bigger, the marginal cultivator was driven out and production was in

England was brutally destroyed. The system by which employing him was replaced

illiterate, was placed at the

'English peasant', they were in fact referring to the agricultural wage workers of the countryside who had begun to emerge in the period before

rapidly growing population and with it a parallel demand for food, capitalist methods of farming gradually became

# AT EMPLOYERS'

# had no English counterpart. He had long since dis-Although many spoke of the

the industrial revolution. But under the impact of a

more extensive after 1850.

The old paternalism of rural a worker was hired for a year and 'lived in' with the farmer

# or week) for wages.

**MERCY** 

# 1830: FIRST STIRRINGS OF THE WAGE WORKER

# Repercussions of Industrial

Revolution in Britain

**'CAPTAIN SWING'** By E. J. Hobsbawm and George Rude Lawrence and Wishart pp. 382 70s.

Review by Peter Jeffries

complete mercy of his em-And after 1815 his situation worsened. The end of the Napoleonic Wars brought 25,000 demobilizations from the armed forces to add to the plentiful labour supply. Agricultural prices, which

during the war years had risen sharply, now declined equally sharply. With rural unemployment rising, regulations governing the administration of poor relief were tightened-a harsh blow against the many labourers who were heavily dependent upon this source

for a basic part of their in-

After this general background, the core of the book consists of an account of the growth of the riots which broke out initially in Kent in 1830—a particularly bad year -and spread rapidly from county to county throughout the south and east.

# **LEADERSHIP**

ASSUMED Rudé and Hobsbawm reveal in a number of detailed chapters the speed at which the movement grew and the role played in it by the few artisans in the villages who often

The main preoccupation of the labourers was not arson—as many at the time felt and feared—but machine break-

main cause of winter unemployment—was the main object of attack. Yet, curiously enough, this basic cause of the protest seems to have been in the long run almost irrelevant.

The threshing machine—the

As far as one can gather no one wanted the wretched things.

All but the wealthiest farmers were unenthusiastic about a machine, the main effect of which was to drive large numbers onto the parish, and many magistrates were not unsympathetic to their

revolt (for threshing machines were not widely introduced for another decade) was largely illusory.
After 1830 in all other respects the position of the rural labourer deteriorated even more sharply. Professor Rudé is largely responsible for the sections dealing with the treatment of

destruction.

Thus the 'victory' of the

# DEATH SENTENCES

those convicted.

More than 250 labourers

(with 233 commuta; 19 were actually death tions); 19 were actually executed; nearly 500 deported to Australia and a further 650 sentenced to varying terms of

Many enthusiastic reviewers have praised the meticulousness of the authors' scholar-A large quantity of detailed evidence has been sifted, analysed and brought together in a compressed and highly read-

Almost every line and statement is supported by detailed

Such dedicated work is, of course, a vital part of the historian's craft, most of all the Marxist's. But we must also say that the work-from two professed Marxists—suffers from all the defects of 'labour history',

such a respectable academic

## discipline. LESSONS **NOT DRAWN**

Thus the basic disappointment of the book is the failure to draw any lessons from the subject which has been so exhaustively studied.

It remains essentially an

academic work, written for

the specialist.

Although they are partisan —and this is no fault—they are so in the traditional Engassumed positions of leader-ship and direction. lish manner. They clearly have great sympathy with the rural poor of the period who faced brutal conditions forced on them through the emergence of capitalism. They see the rising

> reflected in the movement's essentially Luddite, backwardlooking form. But Marx and Engels, analysing working-class condi-tions during the industrial revolution, did not see only a mass of oppression and suffering with which they sympa-

of 1830 as a response to help-

less and hopeless conditions:

They saw in the emergence of this force a new and revo-lutionary class which held the future in its hands. And so they studied all aspects and phases of the emergence of the modern

proletariat.

## DISTORTED PICTURE By treating the movement of village labourers in isola-

tion from the growth of a new conscious force in history, Hobsbawm and Rudé are bound to give a distorted picture.

The village labourer was in-

evitably isolated from the Only an approach to all towns in this period. In any case the urban working class was not to show its real political power until near the end of the 1830s (after the labourers had been crushed)

sessed with the minutiae of existence.

Even when she writes of a

his lips smile a different smile.

and my theory has been confirmed.' (1940) the intellectual content of

vations. Stalinist trials of the 1930s, in which her husband and isolated world.

'No, this is not me-

black drapes cover what happened, and let them take away the street light. . . . Night.' It is night for her because

own past, but still in many of the post-1930 poems Christianity intrudes to blur the

the book.

She tries desperately to cast off her orientation to the pre-October society and speaks for a moment in a voice that other, younger, in-tellectuals in conflict with the Soviet bureaucracy can recognize and claim some continuity with (as Sinyavsky

She writes of a monument being built to her which must not be placed in her old

and they never unbolted
the door for me.
Since even in blessed
death I am terrified
that I will forget the
thundering of the Black
Marias

door slammed, how an old woman howled like a wounded

the mid-18th century.

By a foreign correspondent

JIRI PELIKAN, former director of Czechoslovak Television, has decided to remain in exile rather than 'serve a leadership which is returning gradually to the methods and language of the dogmatic Stalinist period'.

It would be wrong to dismiss Pelikan's statement (reproduced in 'The Times' of October 1) as the work of iust another Dubcek 'liberal'.

While still confined largely to the political perspectives of the April 1968 'Action Programme', this 30-year veteran of the Czech Communist Party makes a distinct turn towards the working class as the force to defeat Stalinism.

In addition to demanding the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the abolition of censorship and the restoration of 'freedom of expression' Pelikan



Novotny

calls for the legalization of workers' councils.

It was the rise of workers' councils in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 that precipitated the brutal Kremlin intervention after Khrushchev's initial hesitations as to the course the movement would

The Dubcek leadership always opposed the development of independent workers' councils, and, on the day of the Soviet invasion, did everything in its power to prevent a strike movement against the action of the Kremlin.

That is why Pelikan's posi-

London W.

7.00 p.m., Parkin's Patch.
7.30, Strange Report: 'What Price Change?' starring Anthony Quayle, Kaz Garas, Anneke Wills.

8.30, Ours Is A Nice House: 'All That Glitters' starring

11.15, Hadleigh: 'Some You Win Some You Lose'.

**Border TV** 

2.0-2.40 p.m., For Schools. 3.0,

Conservative Party Assembly. 4.0, Border News Headlines.

4.40, Once Upon A Time. 4.55, Cowboy In Africa. 5.50, National

News. 6.0, Border News and

Lookaround. 6.35, Crossroads. 7.0, Parkin's Patch. 7.30, Mr and

Mrs. 8.0, Peyton Place. 8.30,

Please Sir. 9.0, Mission: Impossible. 10.0, News At Ten and

Border Weather. 10.30, Frost on

Friday. 11.15, Bonanza. 12.10 a.m., Border News Summary and

Junkin. 4.15, Short Story.

12.10 p.m., The Musicians.

Thora Hird.

9.00, Hawaii Five-O.

10.30, Frost On Friday.

10.00, News At Ten.



Pelikan claims to have the sympathy and solidarity of progressive and democratic forces on his side. These include the intelligentsia and youth of the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary and even East Germany. The last three have seen powerful working-class movements against bureaucracy, as in the 1953 East Berlin uprising, seen above.

**B.B.C.** 1

9.38, For Schools and Colleges. 11.55, International Golf. 12.55 p.m., Disc At Dawn. 1.30, Watch with Mother. 1.45-1.53, News and Weather. 2.5, For Schools and Colleges. 2.25, Racing and Golf. 4.20, Play School. 4.40, Jacka-nory. 4.55, Crackerjack. 5.40, Junior Points of View. 5.50,

National News and Weather.
6.00, Entertaining with Kerr:
The Galloping Gourmet. 6.25, Television Brain of Britain. 6.45, The Virginian.

7.55, Not in Front of the Children. 8.25, Golden Silents.

8.50, The Main News and Weather. 9.10, The Survivors.

10.00, The Horse of the Year 10.45, 24 Hours including 11.20, The Conservative Party

Conference. 12.20 a.m., Weatherman. Regional programmes as BBC 1 except at the following times:

Midlands and East Anglia: 6.0-6.25 p.m., Midlands Today, Look East, Weather. 12.22 a.m. News Summary, Weather, Weekend Prospects for Anglers, Road Works Report for the

Midlands and East Anglia. North of England: 6.0-6.25 p.m. Look North, Weather. 12.22 a.m., Northern News Headlines, Weather.

Scotland: 10.25-10.45 a.m., Around Scotland. 11.35-11.55, Modern Studies. 6.0-6.25 p.m., Reporting Scotland. 9.10-9.35, Current Account. 9.35-10.0, Corrie Folk: music. 12.22 a.m., Epilogue, Scottish News Healines, Weather.

Northern Ireland: 6.0-6.25 p.m., Scene Around Six, Weather 12.22 a.m., Northern Ireland News Headlines, Weather. Wales: 1.30-1.45 p.m., Ar Lin Mam 6.0-6.25, Wales Today, Weather. 6.45-7.5, Heddiw. 7.5-7.30, Bob Yn Dri. 7.30-7.55, Week In

Week Out.
South and West: 6.0-6.25 p.m., Points West, South Today; Spotlight South-West, Weather 12.22 a.m., South and West News Headlines, Weather, Road Works Report.

**B.B.C.** 2

Coverage of key debates of Conservative and Unionist Party Conference to be announced. 11.00-11.20 a.m., Play School. 7.00 p.m., What Are The Facts?:

measuring fitness. 7.30, Newsroom and Weather. 8.00, Wheelbase: Fifty Years of

the Bentley. 8.25, The First Churchilis. 9.10, The French Cinema. The War is Over (La Guerre

Est Finie). 11.10, News Summary, Weather. 11.15, Line-Up.

tion is contradictory. He makes no criticism of the role of Dubcek, who, in the early months of the occupation, invaluable to the Kremlin.

Neither does he point out that as a member of the Party Presidium (a post he has since lost) Dubcek endorsed the same repressive laws that Pelikan correctly denounces as 'the introduction of a censorship much more severe than existed under the Novotny regime'.

Pelikan takes quite a firm stand on international issues: 'We refuse support from

fascist or rightist forces. We express special solidarity and admiration for the heroic people of Vietnam. who set us an example by their courageous fight for independence against American intervention.'

Pelikan's anti - imperialist stance is confirmed by his refusal to capitulate to anti-Soviet moods and forces in Czechoslovakia or abroad:

'If . . . I condemn the occupation of my country, it does not mean that I share the opinions of anti-communist and rightist circles at home and abroad, which profess hatred of the Soviet Union. In spite of the painful experiences of last year, I still maintain my respect for the sacrifices and enormous contribution of the Soviet people in the fight against fascism and the liberation of my country from Nazi occupation.'

Neither does he rely on the support' of capitalist governments or the United Nations:

'We also have on our side the sympathy and solidarity of progressive and democratic forces throughout the world, including important groups of the intelligentsia, youth and working class in the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, and even East Germany.

The last three have all seen powerful working-class movements against bureaucracy, East Germany in June 1953, Hungary and Poland in the Summer and Autumn of 1956. Telling blows are struck against the Kremlin's cynical

claim that the intervention and occupation checked pro-capitalist forces in Czechoslovakia: It is precisely the prolongation of the occupation,

with all its negative consequences, which activates hose anti-socialist and anti-Soviet forces which have never had deep roots in our country. . Here Pelikan is absolutely

right. The Soviet occupation was never intended to deal with a mythical 'imperialist concocted within the walls of the Kremlin.

It was directed above all against the Czech working

The Warsaw Pact troops did borders with West Germany and Austria. These were, in fact, adequately protected by the Czech army.

They made straight for the main industrial centres— Prague, Brno, Bratislava.

To this day they have not succeeded in rounding up a single ex- or would-be Czech capitalist.

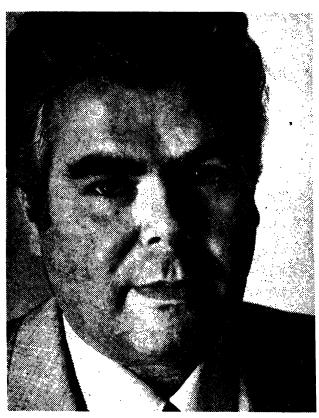
All the might of Soviet armour and 600,000 troops was directed against the working class, which in the few



MOSCOW

Dubcek

# CZECH COMMUNIST **OPPOSES STALINISM IMPERIALISM**



JIRI PELIKAN: Born 1923. Intended to become a painter, but after Munich deal joined the Communist Party, engaging in illegal work. Was imprisoned by Nazis in 1940, escaped to become a resistance leader. In 1948, became a member of Czech Parliament and in 1955 President of International Union of Students. 1963, took over post of Director-General of Czech Television. After Kremlin invasion, helped to organize the secret 14th Party Congress held in a factory. Sacked from his job under Soviet pressure in September 1968, he was sent to Rome as Counsellor for Press and Cultural Affairs.

weeks before August 1968 was beginning to go beyond the reformist programme of the Dubcek 'liberals'.

In the last days before the invasion, periodicals flourished which discussed openly the question of Trotskyism and the role of the French Communist Party in the May-June General Strike.

The coming together of political ferment made possible by the abolition of censorship with the movement of the working class towards workers councils drove the Kremlin to intervention.

tervention in Czechoslovakia,

which springs from the bureaucracy's fear of the Czech working class, and the ultra-rightwing line of parties such as the British and the Italian, who oppose the intervention in such a way as to bring themselves even more into favour with middle-class and 'democratic' opinion in their own countries.

its inner contradictions.

solidarity with the Czech working class, Pelikan can take it no further. His support for the Dubcek-

The responsibility for any growth of anti-Soviet feelings or forces either inside or outside Czechoslovakia must be placed entirely on the Soviet bureaucracy. We must now return to

Here we can agree with

Pelikan.

other political faults in Pelikan's position. He remains a reformist in

that he is still trapped by the Stalinist theory of 'socialism in one country', which, after 1945, was served up in Eastern Europe as 'national roads to socialism':

'More and more socialist countries want to follow their own path. More communist parties refuse to subordinate themselves to single centres of power. They are searching for new solutions, free of old dogmas and monolithic ideas'.

The parties that Pelikan respects are among the most opportunist in the world Stalinist movement.

As we have insisted from the beginning of the Czech crisis, their support for Dubcek was in no sense based on genuine internationalist principles, but rather represented a long-felt desire to draw closer to their own ruling classes.

The British Communist Party leaders, for example, have gone on record for the withdrawal of Soviet troops, yet they endorse the dispatch of British imperialist troops to Northern Ireland.

Pelikan's firm stand against imperialism at once clashes with the opportunist line of the British CP on Ulster.

All the naked opportunism that we see today in the activities of the British and other Western Stalinist parties was prepared long ago, in the days when Stalin ruled Czechoslo-vakia through Novotny and his henchmen.

The peaceful, parliamentary road to socialism was written into the programme of the British Communist Party by none other than Stalin.

There is, therefore, a close link between the Kremlin in-

That is the logic now of Stalinism, as it daily reveals all

While rightly stressing the importance of international

Tito-Togliatti theory of 'polycentrism' (the belief that each party and workers' state can and should pursue policies independent of each other) is far away from what is required

What is called for today in Czechoslovakia, as in Vietnam, encouragement to all the forces

Soviet tanks moving into Prague during the Warsaw Pact invasion in

Britain, Italy or anywhere else in the world, is an international programme of struggle for socialism

Those who struggle to understand and break from Stalinism (and Pelikan is one such person) must retrace not only their own political development, but that of the entire movement in which they received their political education.

The anti-Stalinist movement in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union must fight to restore the continuity of the world Marxist movement so savagely mutilated by Stalin-

It is this theoretical task that must be tackled by workers and intellectuals now in the forefront of the struggle against the bureaucracies of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The building of the Fourth International in western Europe will give tremendous now struggling for such a political development.

Finally we must insist that Pelikan is no defector to the camp of imperialism, which was, of course, the charge hurled against him within a few day of his announcement. 'I have made this decision

to remain abroad as a diplomat, a member of parliament and a citizen of Czechoslovakia, fully aware of my responsibilities to my country and to the ideals of socialism for which I have been fighting for 30 years as a member of the Communist Party . . . shall continue to struggle for these aims as a member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and a citizen of my

'As soon as it is possible to express and defend these opinons publicly at home, I shall return to submit an account of my activities.

# CAMPBELL AND HIS FRIENDS

WE INSISTED in Workers' Press (September 27, 1969) that J. R. Campbell always represented the extreme right wing of Stalinism, or, more precisely, that section of the British Communist Party which never broke from social democracy. Rapid confirmation—if any

were needed—now comes from two strongholds of British opportunism: 'Tribune' and Monty Johnstone, spokesman for the 'liberal' wing of the British Communist Party.



'Tribune's' obituary is pen-

ned by George Aitken, who

throws some interesting light

on not only Campbell's poli-

tical development, but his "Tribune" readers will know that when the Second World War began the Communist Party strongly supported it but that a few weeks later it accepted the Comintern line that; "The war was an imperialist war to which all the tactics applicable to

imperialist war. . . . "

'Johnny Campbell and Harry Pollitt strenuously opposed the Communist Party's switch of policy from support of the Second World War and suspended from

'My wife and I spent an evening with him and at that time we agreed with him. But a little later he and Pollitt were persuaded to accept the new line. . . . Our paths diverged from then onwards. . .'

# **PATHS**

Their paths may have diverged in an organizational sense, but both have continued the fight against revolutionary Marxism. An even closer political

solidarity is revealed by John-



Pollitt

stone's letter to the 'Morning Star' of September 26.

This renegade from the Trotskyist movement knows full well Campbell's scandalous record as a slanderer of Trotsky and the Fourth International

Even Johnstone has admitted elsewhere the completely fraudulent nature of the purges and the three Moscow Trials.

It is to be hoped that the Soviet Union will soon officially revise these trials. . . Without waiting for this, however, I believe we have sufficient evidence to warrent our following the lead of the Italian Communist Party which, since 1961, has publicly rejected the accusations of a criminal nature against Trotsky made at the trials. . . The absence of a public political revision of former support for the trials by British Communists provides an opportunity for the Socialist Labour League in particular to harrass us persistantly on

this question. . . . This was Johnstone writing a year ago in 'Cogito', the discussion journal of the Young Communist League.

One of the worst offenders

By Robert Black

in this respect was, of course, J. R. Campbell himself.

In his book 'Soviet Policy and its Critics', he has this to say of the Moscow Trials:

'Trotsky proposed to cooperate with the fascists to secure their victory, so that, in the breakdown that followed, the Trotskyists could come to power on the basis of concessions to fascism . . .

'If the Russian purge was directed against people who were working to develop the socialist society, then it would indeed be tragic. . . . But as it is directed against people who are impeding the

development of socialist society, how can it be described as tragic? It is unfortunate that these people were in important positions. It is not unfortunate that those who were traitors have been executed. . . . The heroes are those who remained unflinchingly at their posts and, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, brought the ship into the harbour of victory. . . .' (pp 235-236.)

# **ARCH-STALINIST**

This is the arch-Stalinist whom Aitken chooses to describe as 'a very fine type of Scot'.

But what does Johnstone have to say about a man who to the very end clung to the revolting lies we have just quoted?

Which will win out: Johnstone's 'opposition' to the crimes of Stalinism, or his organic opportunism which politically places him with Campbell at the extreme right of British Stalinism?:

'Johnny Campbell will always remain in the memory of all who knew him as one of the most colourful, human [!] and understanding personalities that our movement has

'When the full history of the Communist Party comes to be written, special credit will, I feel sure, be given to the correctness of the positions that he took up in more than one crucial Party controversy, pitting his sound common-sense and first-hand knowledge of the psychology of the British working class and its labour movement against the revolutionary pipe-dreams sometimes entertained in some other quarters. . . .'

Not a word about this 'colourful and human' Stalinist's support for the murder of almost the entire leadership of the Leninist-Bolshevik party.

The great 'anti-Stalinist' Johnstone, who in Monty 'Cogito' takes his leadership to task for not revising its estimation of the Moscow Trials, here eulogises the man who not only refused to revise his judgement of the trials, but played the central part in spreading anti-Trotskvist slanders inside the British workers' movement.

# HOSTILITY

Johnstone overlooks all this. What pulls him towards Campbell, despite the latter's atrocious record on the purges and the trials, is his hostility to any political line that leads to a clash with social democracy.

That he chooses to dress up Campbell's opportunism as 'first-hand knowledge of the psychology of the British working class' is typical of the social democrats' contempt for the revolutionary potential of the working class. This so-called 'working-class psychology' is undergoing very rapid changes which leave Campbell's successors in 'Tribune' and the Communist Party far behind.

Far from being a 'pipedream', revolutionary politics are here to stay. That is the meaning of the launching of the Workers' Press.

Available from NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4 Price 12s. 6d.

# G.E.C.-English Electric

# Sackings fight is stepped up

MORE than 2,000 GEC-English Electric workers from three Merseyside factories struck on Tuesday as part of their continuing fight against management plans for 4,300 more redundancies.

# A.T.U.A. support for

THE following resolution was passed unanimously at a meeting of South-West London All Trades Unions

Alliance on Tuesday: 'This branch of the All Trades Unions Alliance fully supports the struggle of dustmen and local council workers for a £20 minimum wage with no

'This strike is a direct challenge to the Labour government's Prices and Incomes Act. We pledge to fight alongside our official paper Workers' Press for the repeal of this Act and the complete rejection of productivity deals.'

# Ship repair 'Geddes' planned

SHIP-REPAIR employers are planning a major productivity drive by the end of the year which could lead to speed-up and redundancies throughout the

The rationalization drive follows the government-sponsored Geddes Report on the shipbuilding industry and its plans are expected to do for ship-repair what Geddes has already done for ship-building: bring in complete flexi-bility of labour, closure of 'uneconomic' yards and the possibility of new payments

systems.

The ship-repair industry shows in miniature the same crisis as that which affects the shipbuilding industry.

There are more than 100 yards, dominated by a few companies, most of which are shipbuilders as well as re-

# Decline

Output in the industry for the past ten years has stood at about £50 to £60 million. Allowing for the decline in purchasing power of sterling, the real value of output has probably dropped by about a third over the decade.

The number of ship-repair workers has fallen from about 36,000 to 24,000 over this period, but the employers—the National Associa-tion of Shipbuilders and Repairers-are said to consider that the increase in wages 'implies a decline in produc-

All the danger signs are The ship-repair employers are planning to solve their

crisis by squeezing more work out of their workers. Workers in the yards must start now to prepare for

They must campaign for the nationalization of the industry under workers' control and without compensation. This is the only way to

An official overtime ban has been imposed during officials, to use more devious the current redundancy means to push through the negotiations.

The strike started after shop stewards alleged that management staff did maintenance work over the weekend at the domestic appliances factory to ensure continued production.

At the Netherton plant, where three quarters of the jobs are threatened, 900 of the 1,400 workers are out and those staying in cannot work because stacker truck drivers refuse to supply them.

Napier factory, threatened with complete closure, is also out, along with adjoining domestic appliance factory, which employs 8,000. Continuation of the strike could lead to a complete halt in all three plants where strikers are maintaining a mass

**Postponed** 

The management had earlier in the week announced the postponement of redundancies at the Netherton factory for three months. At the same time the union side of the joint consultative council rejected the company's plan for a four-day

week at Netherton and refused

to allow certain employees to

volunteer for redundancy.

There will be further discussions on this question at the factory on October 27. GEC has said that two companies were interested in taking over the Netherton works and an American offer had been rejected because it would not provide jobs, only a take-over of the plant. During the next months, it was said, GEC government officials

occupier.

The purpose of all this is to divert the willingness of GEC workers to fight down a blind alley.

Their determination and the widespread support for this from other workers in the area is forcing the management, aided by union

# Bosses get benefit of electricity profits

THE Electricity Council is to give most of its record profit of £100 million in 1968-1969 to the employers.
After announcing the figures, Electricity Council chairman

Sir Norman Elliott said: 'In those areas where price eductions are feasible, industrial or commercial rather than domestic consumers will these areas domestic consumers will not benefit at all'. out the reductions to be

The South-eastern chairman said, for example, that industrial customers in the area benefit more than others from price cuts total ling more than £1.5 million. The Electricity Council's report, out this week, shows their profit for England and Wales to be up by £46.5 milBy Peter Read

How to fight against un-employment is now the paranount question.
The official union line is no redundancy before suitable

lternative jobs are found.

And this on Merseyside with its unemployment rate well over the national average!

## Second issue

The growing economic crisis is bringing about a **reduction** in the number of jobs in Britain so that there can only be political solutions to the unemployment problem.

After the aborted September 19 occupation of the three

factories the GEC-EE work ers are now forced into struggle on a secondary issue under conditions where they can remain isolated. This is why the 'alternative

employment' policy, peddled by reformists and Stalinists, leads the way to defeat. We insist: the only way to fight the GEC-EE closures is to mobilize all workers with common problems of unemployment and demand nation-

alization of all firms that can

not guarantee jobs. The fight against a closure has to be a political struggle for this policy against those Labour government which is organizing the rationalization-and consequent unemployment—in industry.

N.U.T. Coventry deal

Unemployment and the lessons of GEC-English Electric'

> LIVERPOOL Sunday, October 19 7.30 p.m. Museum Lecture Hall William Brown Street Speaker: C. Slaughter

FARM WAGES

**CLAIM** 

REJECTED

Workers' Press reporter

BRITAIN'S 350,000 farmworkers have just over a month

to prepare their reply to this week's arrogant refusal

by the employers to settle their claim for an increase in

pay and a reduction in hours.

At Tuesday's meeting of

the Agricultural Wages

Board, a claim for a £3 12s.

pay increase and a four-

hour cut in the working

week was turned down flat

The claim was submitted

jointly last month by the Transport and General Work-

by the farmers.

marched through Milan on Tuesday in support of a national campaign for higher wages. Nine columns of workers converged on the city

These huge demonstrations

100,000 engineers

in Milan march

and again, exhausting the workers and finally leaving them demoralized and de Essentially we also face the fenceless in the face of the fascist gangs. The tactics of the union

# PARTIAL

As they call off one 'protest' strike, so they begin another

with the Fiat workers to the workers, followed by those in catering.

week.
Mr Henry Sharpley, chairman of the National Farm-Tuesday's half-day stoppage brought the whole of the region's engineering to a halt. ers Union's labour committee, said after Tuesday's meeting: On Wednesday it was the turn of the chemical workers,

ment it would work out at about £100 million. 'Obviously if there was an award like that a good many farmers would discover they workers' power and prevents them from fighting as a single, not have the money to united force.

No offer had been made by the farmers in reply to their claim, commented NU president Mr Bert Hazell.

ers' Union and the National

Employers and unions will

February's pay rise brought the adult male rate up to a mere £12 8s. for 44 hours.

The present claim is for a £16

minimum wage and a 40-hour

Union of Agricultural Work-

argue their case at the next

due on November 5.

meeting of the Board, which

# Hard fight

'protest' strike underlines the leaders' defensive thinking in contrast to the unprecedented A hard fight clearly lies militancy that is be generated in the factories. The Stalinists in particular

to settle their demands, there is growing anxiety about the effects of British capitalism's moves towards the Common Market on jobs and wages in the industry.

ahead if farmworkers are to win their claim. Besides the farmers' refusal

know they are riding a tiger. They hope that these drawnout and sectional struggles will eventually reduce the cluding sections of the middle

By a foreign correspondent

such strike movements time

**POLITICAL** 

Pirelli workers on the march for wages severely deepens Italian capitalism's crisis.

centre from various points on the outskirts and held a class-to managable propor meeting addressed by union These tactics create big dangers for the Italian working class. In the 1918-1922 period, the centrist and reformist

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND engineering workers

of the power of the Italian working class must serve as a source of great strength for workers fighting the same battle here in Britain. And we are not only united by the same struggle.

leaders are very clear.

# STRIKES

Now it is Milan, where

of the question. world trade war.

and so on. The trade union bureau-(Stalinists, centrist catholic and social-democratic) have all agreed on these half-Italian ruling class is passing through a period of deep in-ternal political dissension and hearted tactics which disperse

# Here, of course, the Stalinists' counter - revolutionary role is all-important to the

The whole conception of the Party not only polls eight million votes and claims around two million members, it also controls the biggest union, the CGIL.

With the class struggle sharpening every day in Italy, the alternatives are starkly posed: either the struggle for revolutionary working class leadership and socialism-or the open dictatorship of big

# **CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

# Novotny policemen emerge

WITH the Czech purge now in full swing, news has come from Prague of promotion for several secret police officials disgraced in the period after the fall of Novotny.

Many of those 'rehabilitated' have close contacts with their opposite number in the Soviet Union, the

Promoted Novotny men include the new deputy Minister of the Interior, Miloslav Kosnar, who was sacked by Dubcek in 1968, much to the horror of his KGB friends.

So much so that General Kotov, head Soviet 'adviser' to the Czech government, into the Czech government, intervened (vainly) to rescue

### **Ominous**

An even more ominous name has been mentioned in the Czech party organ, 'Zivot Strany'.

that of Miroslav Mamula, former head of the 'Seventh Department' and removed under Dubcek for 'incorrect methods applied during the Novotny era'.

His name has been linked with the attempted ultra-Stalinist army coup of January 1968, a move designed to restore Novotny to power following his isolation inside the Party Central Committee at the end of 1967.

Mamula has just received a clean bill of health from the Czech bureaucracy—it needs nim now more than ever. Faced with an increasingly

defiant working class, the Stalinists realize they can trust only those who served the arch-purger Novotny. What have the leaders of the British Communist Party to say on these latest pro-

motions of men judged, under

Dubcek, to be guilty of crimes against the Party and the

### a demonstrator were reported as shot dead after crowds had surged through Montreal on Tuesday night. Faced with a partial col-

began on Monday.

Back to

police

work' order

to Montreal

THE Quebec government

ordered striking policemen

and firemen back to work

in Montreal on Wednesday

in the face of what it termed

While bank robbers appear

to be having a field-day, the main problem for the govern-

ment has been a series of demonstrations, mainly by taxi drivers, which have erupted since the police strike

A provincial policeman and

'the threat of anarchy'.

lapse of its state machine, the government has now called in the army and mobilized 800 provisional policemen.
At midday on Tuesday, only

about 40 of the city's 3,700 force were on duty, while about as many of the 2,400 firemen reported for work.

This strike for wage increases is the first in the

police force for 30 years. It certainly reflects the instability of the new Trudeau administration, which after a long build-up for its leader's radical image, now finds itself using the armed forces to

# **ULBRICHT'S POLICE BATON YOUTH AT** BERLIN WALL

EAST German police arrested 50 youths following clashes during the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of the (East) German Democratic Republic.

According to one participant in the events, about 2,000 youth broke away from the official Stalinist parade and made for the Berlin Wall.

They believed the Rolling Stones could be heard per-forming from the roof of the Springer building on the west side of the wall.

The Rolling Stone's spokesman stated that the group is at present on tour in the Far East and had never been scheduled to appear at the

The Stones are not the main point here. The East German youth, herded into the various Stalinist 'youth' organizations, are

denied any political or cul-tural expression outside of the limits set by the bureaucracy.

Little wonder that they Ulbricht and company. The stale dogma churned

out by the press and the Marxism.

Sickened by a regime and a party that blocks all the aspirations of youth, they took their guitars and transistor sets to the wall, the symbol of Stalinist oppression in East Germany, and made

# Independence

seize on anything that seems to them to express independ-

'youth leaders' only turns them away from genuine

components and delivery workers are invited

motor workers' conference

Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth

Saturday November 8

2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Write for credentials to:

Conference fee: 5s. a person

LOCAL union officials meet the Pressed Steel Fisher, Coventry, management today to ask for assurances the MGB sports car body is to be moved to the Oxford about future employment in

British - Leyland has aning the jobs of over half the present 1,000 labour force. If this is allowed to happen,

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stewards point out, the men have little prospect of obtaining other work in the area. Trim and assembly work on

Transfer This transfer of work is

Coventry plant altogether.

Mr Fred Palmer, National Union of Vehicle Builders'

area organizer, says his union

oppose the transfer of

pany hopes, will allow it to double its present output there within five years. It plans no increase in the

massive rationalization of not only Pressed Steel's operations but also of Levland's car assembly plants, threatening the jobs of thousands of workers in the combine.

strike.

struggles.

lines of Coventry. the executive going ahead with a claim which they asked

There must be no sackings. All Coventry teachers must be reinstated. No cuts in any branch of education: let the teachers have access to local authorities' accounts to see where cuts are being made

There can be no confidence in the present NUT executive. Teachers must prepare a national, indefinite strike for the claim in full without

## 'If we gave the whole claim to every worker in the indus-try and there was no adjust-

# Blueprint for a betraval

BY ACCEPTING the sacking of 133 Coventry part-time teachers and agreeing to further cuts in the City's education service. National Union of Teachers' leaders are preparing their blueprint to sell out the national pay

The teachers were demanding £135-a-year increase when the claim was formally lodged with the Burnham negotiating com-

mittee last Wednesday. At Coventry the NUT aided the Education Committee in carrying through government

education cuts.

This the NUT's journal,
'The Teacher', has the cheek
to describe as a victory. After the Coventry betrayal all those Stalinists, 'lefts', and revisionists in the union who continue to call for unity behind the executive are leading the teachers into an ambush. Not surprisingly, information about the deal is scant and shrouded in secrecy. But enough is known to raise the

# Sacked

There were 193 teachers sacked. According to 'The Times' Educational Supplement (Oct-

ober 3): . . about 60 part-timers are needed, an NUT spokesman estimated this week, to relieve staffing shortages in the 40 schools worst hit . . (Our emphasis.) In other words 133 teachers

agreement. And the anonymous spokesman does not even guarantee the other 60 'needed' will

remain sacked with NUT

**Facilities** Primary and secondary 'facilities' had not been touched. But with savings

made from 'the most stringent

economies in other fields', the

By Mark Jenkins

In a joint NUT-Coventry

Education Committee press statement the union leaders

'expressed their understand-

ing of the problems confront-

ing the Education Committee'

and said that together they

survey of each and every item

of expenditure' affecting edu-

cation had been made the

A 'thorough and exhaustive

would seek a solution.

statement added.

union would co-operate to improve 'pupil-teacher ratios'. Where were the cuts made? The nursery service? Further and higher education? The supply teaching service? By reduction of special responsibility allowances? We do not know. It appears

to be a secret. So instead of 193 sacked teachers, we now have 133 sacked teachers, new 'pupil-teacher ratios' and 'the most stringent economies'. All this is achieved by the NUT leaders working jointly with the very local authorities the teachers will be fighting against in the coming pay

# Resolved

solved to strike, but they were honour all national agree-

But we warn - the NUT executive is preparing a productivity settlement along the

conference to reject?

members in other

But the workers' spirit today is confident, offensive.

They have forced their leaders to adopt a militant stance

ISSUES The basic issues are political. Big wage increases for key workers in export industries such as Pirelli, Fiat, the docks and the complex of state enterprises financed by

Instituto Riconstituzione In-dustriale (IRI) are simply out Like all capitalist states, Italy is fighting to hold its in the ever-sharpening

Faced with combatting the falling profit rate simulta-neously with beating back the working-class offensive, the

# DEFENSIVE THINKING

ruling class.
The Italian Communist

# Hull: No sell-out at Priestmans

VICTORY in the eightweek-old strike of 400 engineers at Priestman Brothers, Hull, is being jeopardized by the union

leadership. Within days of its September 24 call for a Hull-wide strike on Ocober 14 in support of the Priestman's men, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers' district committee put the plan into cold storage until after the union-managemeeting last Wednesday. The strike is over a 36s. claim, due last January under

the latest national engineering

### Under the terms of the twoyear-old productivity deal Coventry teachers were rewhich operates in the factory the management agreed to

Offer But they have only offered a 25s. productivity increase—which the men claim they are entitled to in addition to the national claim.

Local employers regard this as a test case and are firmly backing Priestman's management. The unions have alleged that Priestman's are receiving some £7,000 a week to sit out

firms belonging to the local Engineering Employers' Association. Members of other unions are expected to re-

firms are being called upon Not only is the AEF district committee backpedalling on

ment being arranged. crease which would not be backdated. This could mean a £60 loss

### Concession But the main point is that concedes the principle that there are only productivity

National agreement rises for January 1 1970 and January 1 1971 would be lost. It would also be a blow for the fight of other workers against productivity deals. Priestman's workers must throw out such a settlement Support for the one-day

tivity deal regard the Priestman's strike as their strike. But the lack of real campaign has meant widescale confusion. In Armstrong Patents,

Union firms dealing with Priestman's have blacked its Barbara Castle, after appearing to be on the point of intervening, has so far kept

All engineering workers: in Hull must ensure the one-day strike and demonstration goes

A TORY FROM PAGE ONE

tract to provide for legally-

binding pay and procedure

ahead and that this is only

Legal regulation of the relaions between unions would, no doubt, also require registration of union rules on the lines proposed by the Confederation of British Indus-

Speaking on Wednesday evening, Enoch Powell sup-plied the teeth for the jaws of Carr's trap.
Widespread 'injustice and oppression', he claimed, were

The Tories were 'supremely right' in proposing to restrict the legal immunity enjoyed by unions in abetting strikes other pressures to enforce

Wilson, Castle and Jenkins, the real trail-blazers for Cari and Powell, will now use this bolster their claim to be the defenders of the unions against Tory reaction.

revolutionary party in Britain
—to throw out the Wilson traitors and repeal every scrap of their anti-union legislation —is the only real defence of

# By a foreign correspondent

Ulbricht can make speeches on the theme of contact with the capitalist politicians and businessmen of the 'decadent West'.

pendence from the bureaucracy, the police wade in with truncheons flailing.

The youth of East Germany will return to Marx and In East and West (as we saw with the struggle against the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party) the youth of Germany come on the scene

against capitalism and bureau-Though still full of idealism and illusions, they will rally to and build the revolutionary

# Trades Unions Alliance

Motor workers' conference All car, car to a

Birmingham

R. Parsons, 21 Strawberry Path, Blackbird Leys,

Oxford.

# Union officials meet P.S.F. (Coventry) bosses

the factory. nounced a cutback threatenseen as the first stage in a possible plan to close the

of alternative work.

But this is a question for the whole combine.

Leyland's £70 million development at Oxford, the com-

If the company insists, the union will demand provision

present labour force.
This would clearly allow a

betraved. The teachers nationally are now ready and eager for a

How else can we explain

The one-day strike will involve 3,500 AEF members in behind their backs.

the strike.

the one-day strike—which it was pushed into by a unanimous vote of the AEF shop stewards' quarterly—but there are also rumours of a settle-I was told of a plan to accept a 36s. productivity in-

for workers.

increases.

strike is widespread. Many others facing produc

Beverley, one leading Transport and General Workers' Union steward said that they were having to push the local AEF leadership all the time. On the picket line feeling

One AEF steward told the

out until Christmas'.

Another said: 'Even if the union leaders turn against us, they won't get us back until we've got what we want'.

out of the dispute. The strike can be won if extended and properly fought

the start of a massive fight. **CHARTER** 

peing practised under cover of the present trade union the closed shop. We have been warned!

No one will be fooled by this stance.

The redoubling of our efforts to build the mass

the trade unions against the

Tory onslaught.

# But when youth, in a com-

pletely individualist and un-

conscious way, take their first

idealist steps towards inde-