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BY DAVID MAUDE  
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And although more than 2,000 Dagenham assembly and export-kit workers will join the stoppages tomorrow night, until they end on Tuesday, the stay-at-work move clearly represents a serious setback to the pay fight.

Responsibility for this setback must be placed squarely on the union leaders and their hangers-on in the Labour 'left', the Communist Party and the revisionist groups.

Its immediate background at Britain's biggest Ford complex, at Dagenham, lay in a series of meetings at which leading shop stewards appeared to be fostering deliberate confusion amongst their members.

## Lessons

But some sharp political lessons must now be drawn from the whole course of this year's Ford claim so far.

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For, despite a near-

unanimous vote at Coventry for an indefinite, national strike by Ford workers from March 1, Sid Harraway, convenors' secretary and a leading Communist Party member, was telling the 'Barking and Dagenham Advertiser':

'The position will be reviewed.'

Ford workers were less militant than in 1971 because then 'there was no government intervention', he claimed. 'We were just fighting the company and the men were in a fighting mood.'

Harraway went on to tell the paper that 'whatever happens, we will be in favour of some form of industrial action—it might be sporadic strikes, like the teachers'.

The day after these misleading statements Harraway's national convenors' committee met and decided on 'a new policy' of sporadic, three-day strikes, a policy which was first mooted at Swansea last Sunday.

## Strategy?

Now, next Monday, the convenors are to meet again. Harraway is talking about formulating 'an overall strategy designed to bring Ford's back to the negotiating table'. Three-hour strikes, perhaps?

Harraway is wrong when he hints that the working class are afraid of fighting the Tories.

Of course there is confusion when workers are



deliberately kept away from politics, and misled about the situation facing the trade union movement.

This confusion is compounded when they see their so-called leaders openly declaring to the capitalist Press that they have no intention of leading an all-out fight.

Without a policy for answering the Tory attack on living standards and democratic rights, there can be no basis for unity and each section will go down to individual defeat.

The Tories have their plans. The working class needs a policy for action which can embrace all those

forced into the struggle—housewives, tenants and trade unionists.

## Demand

This is why the demand of next Monday's mass lobby of the TUC must be: General Strike to force the Tories to resign, and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. (See Policy for the Crisis, page 4.)

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THIS IS precisely what happened at Ford's in the countdown to betrayal:

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**DECEMBER 10:** Dagenham stewards vote to press the £10 Ford claim regardless of the Tory pay laws, operative from March 1. Similar resolutions are carried in other plants.

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TUC to co-ordinate the struggle against Phase Two of the pay laws.

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Next day, right-wing miners' leader Gormley whips the 'lefts' and Stalinists into line with his 'General Strike or nothing' speech.

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Nothing in the report pledges backing for workers struggling against the pay laws. Harraway and the chairman of the Ford meeting, Bernard Passingham, refuse to put a General Strike demand to the vote.

This brief history demonstrates that the setback at Ford's goes hand in hand with the threat of betrayal of all workers fighting the Tory attacks.

## Would Heath work in these conditions?

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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## WHAT WE THINK

# Stench of dictatorship

MR NICHOLAS RIDLEY, Tory MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury, and the man who prepared the 'butcher' plan for the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, said in parliament on Wednesday that there was 'a stench of decay about the British economy'.

The 'real world of business, economics and economic crisis' would take over, said Ridley, despite what was happening in parliament. The Counter-Inflation Act would soon be discredited and parliament and its legislation was of no avail unless they faced up to the realization which had caused 'the slide' in Britain's economic position.

Ridley belongs to the right wing of the Tory Party which is growing impatient with Heath and wants to deal immediately with the working class along the lines he planned for UCS—massive sackings, reorganization and speed-up and an end to the power of organized labour.

The Tories are united on wanting to smash the organizations of the working class—the 'rebels' disagree only on the best way to proceed.

There is indeed a 'stench of decay' in Britain. It is the decay of capitalism, of a parasitic ruling class resorting to desperate measures to preserve itself while it sucks profit out of the working class.

It is this decay of capitalism which breeds the political oppression which is now under way. With the co-operation of the Labour and trade union leaders, the Tory government has been able to undermine every basic democratic right of the working class.

Under the Industrial Relations Act trade unions have been hauled before the courts and massively fined and shop stewards have been jailed.

The right to say who can and who cannot be a member of a trade union has been taken away. The Industrial Relations Act and the Counter-Inflation (state control of wages) Act remove the right to strike. Under the rent Act workers' representatives can receive enormous fines for carrying out the policies on which they were elected.

Prices and rents are deliberately forced up by the government while wages are controlled by the state. Free bargaining over wages is at an end.

The President of the Engineering Employers' Federation, Mr T. Carlisle, told Coventry and district engineering bosses yesterday: 'For many years to come, collective bargaining as we have known it will not return. This may not be a bad thing.'

As the Tories proceed with their corporatist measures, under which the state would control every aspect of life, it is no accident that they look to West Germany as a model.

Mr S. C. Evans, President of the Coventry and District Engineering Employers' Association, told his members yesterday:

'Dare we hope that the trade unions will take a leaf out of the German trade unions' book . . . in addition to protecting and improving the well-being of their members at work, the German trade unions are concerned that their interests as consumers should be looked after. The power and income of German trade unions is used to achieve socially desirable ends and is not channelled into destructive ends such as the organization of political strikes.'

As we point out in today's Workers Press (see page 8) the West German trade unions are hedged in on all sides by state laws, covered by the sham of worker-representatives on works' councils.

The German road to corporatism was constructed on the ruins of Hitler's fascist dictatorship, under which all genuine workers' organizations had been smashed and their leaders and many of their members liquidated in the concentration camps.

This is the choice facing the working class today throughout Europe, as the capitalist crisis intensifies and its monetary system breaks up: Either carry through the socialist revolution or suffer the dictatorship of capitalism in its most extreme form—fascism.

All those who collaborate with the Tory laws against the working class, like the Labour and trade union leaders; all those who restrict working-class actions to limited, isolated, piecemeal struggles, like the TUC and the Stalinists; all those who refuse to raise the central political question of bringing down the Tory government and the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies, like the revisionists, are today preparing for such a defeat.

The construction of a revolutionary leadership around the campaign for unity to defend democratic rights and the fight to make the union leaders call a General Strike to create the conditions for forcing the Tories to resign, is the way to ensure victory for the working class.

# As confidence in paper cash dwindles Euro-float against \$?

SUMMIT talks in Bonn between Tory premier Edward Heath and chancellor Willy Brandt centre on the question of a joint Common Market currency float against the dollar.

The talks, which began yesterday, are the first Heath has held with an individual EEC leader since Britain's accession at the beginning of the year. Brandt made it clear on Wednesday that he intended money questions should dominate the agenda at the talks.

He told reporters that if Europe could not agree on monetary matters, it would not agree in other fields either. He left no doubt he believes the need for agreement is urgent.

Meeting in Paris at the height of the dollar crisis last month, the British, French and German finance Ministers decided to organize a joint EEC float against the dollar the next time there was a monetary crisis.

Faced with another very late influx of dollars, Brandt now wants to hold his 'partners' to their pledge. Yesterday morning the central bank in Frankfurt had to buy about \$2,500m to prop up the dollar at its internationally agreed 'floor' rate.

The heavy dollar selling is as intense as at the height of last month's crisis. Last month, before accepting the dollar devaluation, the Bundesbank bought in some \$6,000m, most of which it still holds.

In Holland the central bank had also to support the dollar against the guilder, at a cost of some \$400m. There was heavy selling of dollars in Belgium, and in London the pound

floated up more than 70 points against the US currency.

A common float of all the EEC countries against the dollar would be a public acknowledgement that there is no longer any stability in paper currency. Not only would it have extremely serious consequences for world trade, it would also further undermine confidence in all forms of paper money.

This process is already well under way: on the London bullion market yesterday gold was being sold in the morning at over \$88 an ounce—\$2 above the previous day's closing price and rising rapidly towards last week's all-time record level.

With dollars flooding into West Germany and threatening to force another mark revaluation—the third in less than 15 months—Brandt will be pulling out all the stops to get the British to co-operate in a joint float against the dollar.

# Ancillary workers to lobby TUC

BY DAVID MAUDE

AT QUEEN MARY'S, Roehampton, NUPE branch secretary Tom Thomas stressed that the hospital strikers were looking to the TUC to bring together all workers in struggle against the pay laws.

'The union leaders must take more positive action', he said. 'We shall be lobbying the special TUC next Monday to make sure that they do.'

'Personally, I feel that our own leaders should have organized this strike much better, much more firmly.'

'It's been left to us to make the running. My impression is that the union leadership would really like to fade into the background.'

Apart from a small number of higher-paid women workers in the sterilization department, Queen Mary's is solidly supporting the strike.

Mrs Maisie Phillips explained just what is meant by 'higher paid' in the hospital service, and why she and a determined group from the sterilization department were striking and picketing yesterday morning.

'On our bonus system we can take home just over £20 after stoppages', she said. 'You really have to work for that, though. But we're out on a matter of principle supporting the majority of workers who are much lower paid.'

'This kind of action won't work on its own. The union leaders have got to call something on a much bigger scale.'

Widow Mrs Gladys Bright can't afford to strike. As a cleaner, she takes home just £14 a week. But she was out on the picket line yesterday morning nevertheless. 'I'm all for it', she said of the fight against the pay laws.

Also picketing was Bill Cockburn, a linen department worker, who said he 'wouldn't have entertained a union' in his previous job as a motor mechanic.

'This has really turned me against authority', he said of the Tory clampdown on hospital pay.

'£1.80 is a bloody insult. It's like they're saying to us: you're nothing, go away.'

'I think if the strength of all the hospitals was used the Tories would have to do something. Of course we're just part of the general picture—with the gasmen, civil servants, Ford's and the rest. If the Tories don't do something for us, they'll have a General Strike on their hands again.'



Above left: NUPE secretary at St Mary's, Tom Thomas. Above: Mrs. Maisie Phillips on strike from the sterilization department.



The picket line at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, London.

## CIR to probe deals

THE Commission on Industrial Relations (CIR) is to investigate all types of procedure agreements in British industry at both industry-wide and domestic level.

The inquiry will cover agreements in both the public and private sector of industry.

The investigation was ordered by Mr Maurice Macmillan, the Employment Secretary.

The Tory government's move is seen as part of a longer-term plan to codify agreements on a national, regulated basis.

The CIR, a functionary of the Industrial Relations Act, is headed by Mr Leonard Neal, formerly of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

## 100 p.c. north-west response

HOSPITALS in the greater Manchester area stopped admitting new patients early yesterday as the first effects of the ancillary workers' strike began to bite.

Union organizers reported a 100-per-cent response to their call to bring out laundry staff as part of the first wave of selective industrial action.

Despite more militant demands for action by all grades, the services at 39 hospitals in Manchester and the surrounding towns were normal.

At Liverpool and elsewhere in the north west similar action and a similar 100-per-cent response was reported.

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

Colin Barnett, north-west regional organizer of the National Union of Public Employees—one of the two unions involved in the protest against a government decision to ban their £4 wage claim—said he was more than satisfied with the response.

'I am just getting reports in from the areas. The fact that the Hospital Board has stopped new admissions shows the strike is having an immediate effect,' he said.

'At this stage there is no point in having an all-out strike.'

'We know what we are doing. By bringing out a

laundry section we are causing a serious problem for the Hospital Board.'

Mr Barnett emphasized that emergency services were being fully maintained.

More widespread action may come later.

Militant workers at Stockport and at Manchester Royal Infirmary have already said they want all-out strike action.

But yesterday, apart from the laundry workers, work at Manchester Royal was normal.

An appeal for financial support for members involved in strike action has been launched through the national Giro number 610504002 or the NUPE Office, Ashton-under-Lyme.

# PAGEANT DIARY

*The Road to Workers Power*



South Wales

The South Wales team working on the Pageant, 'The Road to Workers' Power', has been campaigning among many sections of the working class to bring contingents to the Empire Pool, Wembley, rally on March 11. The jobs of thousands of men and women in the steelworks of north and south Wales are threatened by the British Steel Corporation's rationalization plans, imposed by the Tory government's Common Market policies. Workers Press reporter STEPHEN JOHNS accompanied the team to Ebbw Vale to interview steelworkers and their families.

THE STRUGGLE to save Ebbw Vale steelworks has reached a critical stage. On the platform local MP Michael Foot keeps preaching the doctrine of persuasion in the best British tradition. But in the ranks the truth is dawning—the Tories are determined to drive 4,600 on the dole. The talking is over.

The shock of realization came in an undramatic manner at last week's mass meeting which heard that the efforts to convince Tory Industry Minister Peter Walker his sums were wrong had failed.

The government had casually thrown aside a careful study of Ebbw Vale's prospects, Michael Foot told the crowd. But the biggest cheer was for Colin Hudson when he reminded the audience of 9,000 steelworkers that prolonged industrial action may eventually have to be launched.

For the present action remains confined to genteel and ultimately futile protest. After the workers' survey we have the workers' lobby of parliament on March 14, but as each day passes the closure of half the steelworks and the virtual economic murder of Ebbw Vale and surrounding towns like Tredegar, Brynmawr and Rhymney become more certain.

The protests, in fact, are a diversion. The longer the process is dragged out, the more men will become demoralized and the greater the possibility of collapse.

Colin Hudson, workers' spokesman and an Ebbw Vale steelman for 31 years, is adamant that no one will leave the works without a job to go to.

'No one goes on the dole in this town,' he told me, 'this is absolutely certain. We do not accept the closure, its timing or its logic and we will fight this one out to the end.'

He candidly admits, however, that the chances of persuading the government to re-think are slight.

'We have argued economi-

Tories two years to plan their campaign of closure.

Men from Ebbw Vale might remember a very similar campaign waged by the steel town of Irlam, near Manchester.

Petitions, protests, demonstrations, lobbies, action committees, town councils, delegations and local MPs protesting—it all came to nothing.

The fight has been thrashed out of Irlam. Half the works are shut down and the rest will go without a whimper.

But beneath this thick crust of protest, baked largely by Foot whose verbal acrobatics tend to dominate mass meetings, there is an element which wants to act before it is too late.

Many of the younger steelworkers are contemptuous or cynical of protests. They have

good furniture and a future for his 18-month-old baby girl Beverley.

His own attitudes swing from angry determination to pessimism.

'There are quite a few who want to stop all the protesting and take action. But the older men don't want to know. Some are just waiting for the redundancy money to go onto the dole,' he told me.

'I think the action so far is hopeless. We need a national strike—not just one over the steel works but to get the Tories out. There is no possibility of saving jobs and the communities in these parts so long as this government is in power.'

'This is what I went along to hear Foot say. I wanted him to say how we could get rid of the Tories. But not a word.'

tees to help. But how can the Tories bring over 4,000 paying jobs to this area. They have been trying for years to get more industry with no real success.

'Some of my mates are even worse off. I like to pay for everything cash. I don't like debts, but some of them have very heavy hire purchase commitments.'

Barbara says many people in the town just have not woken up to the crisis they face.

'They have kept their heads down for so long and got good money they think it will happen for ever. When it happens it will hit them, then they will realize they are on the way to the 1930s again.'

'I only hope that these railwaymen, the gasworkers and the miners come out on strike against the government.'

'This will be the chance to get rid of the Tories. They are fighting just the same as the steel workers are, for their rights.'

Noel agreed. He is in favour of a General Strike to get the Tories out.

'At Shotton they are proposing a work-in, but that's no good.'

'They could only last a few weeks. Working-in is no solution. The UCS showed that they lost thousands of jobs. Either we get rid of this government lot or we go under.'

'I try, I go along to the union branch meeting and put it forward, but they are too conservative.'

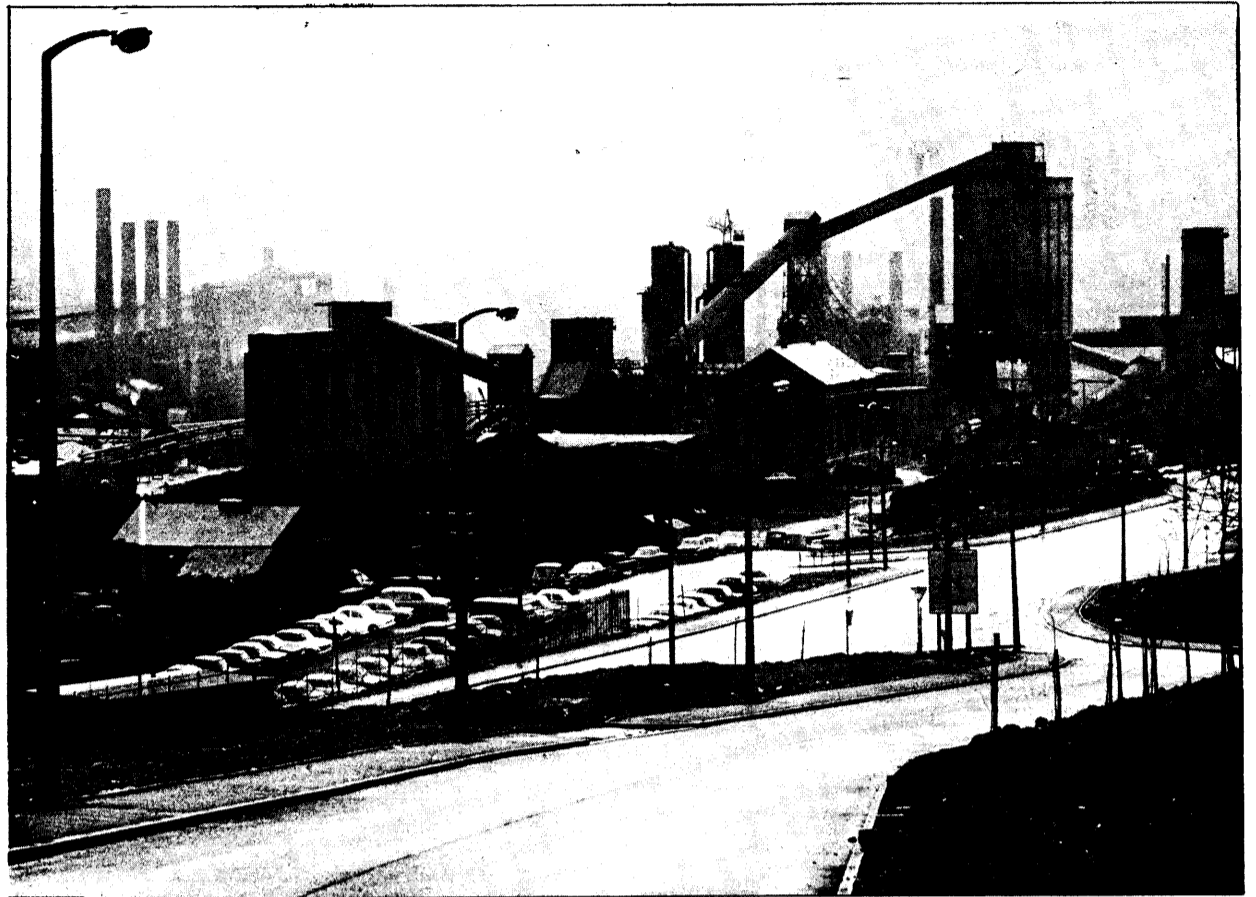
'My mates and I were the only ones to make banners for the mass meeting. What we need is someone to really give it a push, to give us a lead.'

'The leadership at the top of the unions is hopeless. It will be up to us. Even if I go onto the dole I will still keep on fighting for the working class.'

Noel is the voice of young Ebbw Vale.

The steelworks' fires have been blown out twice before—in 1911 and 1929. The Tories hope to douse the flame for good in 1975, but Noel and the thousand or so other young workers at Ebbw Vale have other ideas.

## Youth ready to defend steel jobs



The giant Ebbw Vale steelworks in South Wales, whose gigantic furnaces have been damped down twice before. Now 1975 is set as the third deadline—the third time thousands of jobs will have been wiped out for workers from many parts of the valleys. But this time there are determined sections of young workers who are not prepared to watch their standards of living be further corroded by Tory policies.



COLIN HUDSON . . . A fight to the end.



NOEL DAVIES with his wife Barbara and baby Beverley . . . closure could spell disaster for young families.

cally, geographically and socially. But to no avail. Walker is tied by Tory policy and Tory policy is to close the hot-steel-making end of the works down.'

Mr Hudson wants to see a national stoppage of the steel industry if redundancies start.

He will make the appeal at a national meeting of steel shop stewards from all over the country in mid-March.

But even this policy is inadequate. It gives the

most to lose and far fewer inhibitions than the older men stifled with the reformism and sentiment that paralyses political life in the South Wales valleys.

Noel Davies (24) is one of them. At the end of his street the valley dips down to the works. A continual plume of smoke and waste belches over the town, and, depending on the wind, along Noel's street.

But for Noel and Ebbw Vale, the dirt means £40 a week, the chance of a house,

For Noel and his wife Barbara (21), closure would be a disaster. He moved to Ebbw Vale from Carmarthen in the west eight years ago.

Everything around him he owes to his job at the works. 'I put a mortgage on this house 18 months ago. I will still have to pay this if I get kicked out.'

'We could sell it, but we would not get half the price for it after the closure. There are no jobs round here.'

'The government says it will set up special commit-

## Varsity staff in pay strike

ACADEMIC staff in the white-collar union, ASTMS, at Durham University are on strike in a pay dispute. The strike which began on Monday, has official union backing. Technicians at the university have pledged full support to the strikers.

The dispute revolves around the administration's practice of employing post-graduate research students as part-time tutors on undergraduate courses at pay substantially lower than that of other part-time staff.

These other part-time tutors are not required to possess qualifications superior to those of post-graduate research students.

A leaflet being circulated by the Academic

Group Strike Committee condemns the university's use of 'cheap labour'.

The authority's pay offer was unacceptable.

Dave Davies, speaking on behalf of the committee, told Workers Press that ASTMS members in the sociology department have agreed to place a 5-per-cent levy on their salary towards strike pay and other finances.

The Durham Trades Council has also given support, he said.



# A POLICY TO MEET THE CRISIS

THE TORY government is relentlessly pursuing its plan for a confrontation with the working class. Each day new sections of workers are forced to become criminals — under Tory law — to defend their standard of living against government-inspired soaring cost of living.

Large sections of these workers openly acknowledge that the only answer to their fight to maintain a decent standard of living is a General Strike. That is, the creation of the industrial and political conditions which will force the government to resign.

In its place must be elected a Labour government which is pledged by the mass action of the working class to implement socialist policies.

We say 'pledged to socialist policies' knowing that the present leaders of the Labour movement have no intention of introducing such policies. Indeed, in the last analysis some of them will be prepared to join a coalition government with the Tories to head off the working class.

But if the working class is strong enough to force the Tories out, it is strong enough to deal with the traitors in its own midst. This can only be achieved by exposing them in the fight for an alternative socialist policy.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League calls upon the working class to support the following policies to unite the working class against the Tories and the present Wilson-Feather leadership of the labour movement:

Here is the policy which the next Labour government must be forced to carry out.

1) A Labour government must immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act, Housing Finance Act, Immigration Acts, Fair Trading Act and all wage control. After the repeal of all Tory anti-working class measures, there must be legislation to implement the Charter of Basic Rights, along the following lines.

2) The right to work! Capitalism demands mass unemployment. The right to a job must

be guaranteed. This can only be done by breaking the grip of capitalist ownership on the economy. Employed and unemployed must unite to insist on a Labour government nationalizing the main industries and banks, under workers' control and without compensation.

The struggle must begin now. No closures, no sackings, must be the policy of the trade unions. Occupation of factories threatened with closure, as part of the fight to bring down the Tories.

3) The democratic right to strike and to organize in trade unions. Only the organized working class can lead mankind out of the historical crisis. Every right and every gain won by the working class, every democratic right in Britain, has been won because of the organized strength of the unions and the strike weapon.

A Labour government must immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act. This fight must begin now by forcing the TUC to break off all relations with the government and mobilize the working class to destroy state control of wages.

4) The right to defend rights won in the past and change the system. All the changes in legal procedures made by the Tory government must be repealed. All secret police and MI5 organizations must be dis-

banded and fully exposed. The secrets of the Tory administration in this sphere must be published. All rights to assembly, free speech and the Press must be guaranteed.

5) The right to a higher standard of living. It is not the living standards of trade unionists, but the profit system, which causes the crisis. The first step must be to appropriate all the great fortunes of the rich, close down the Stock Exchange, place a state control over all movements of capital in and out of the country.

Nationalization of the basic industries and of all large companies, banks, building and insurance societies will provide the resources for a unified plan to improve the living standards of the whole people. Workers' control of these, as well as the present nationalized industries, will run them in the interests of the workers and consumers.

Again, the fight must begin now. State control of wages must be answered by the most widespread fight for wage increases to meet price rises and improve standards. This means a fight to remove the Tory government and change the union leadership.

6) The right to health and welfare benefits. Every Tory government cut in welfare benefits, in the health service and in all public spending must

be revoked. On the basis of nationalization, a crash programme of expansion of services to the unemployed, the low-paid, the sick and the aged must be undertaken as an absolute priority. The working class and the Labour government must take immediate and absolute responsibility for these victims of the capitalist system.

7) The right to decent housing. Decent housing is not a luxury; it is a necessity. People have the basic right to decent accommodation at rents they can afford. Nationalization of the handful of building monopolies and building societies will provide the basis for a massive programme of new house building. The disgraceful problem of the homeless in the cities must be immediately solved by census and taking-over of all unoccupied property.

8) The international responsibilities of the working class. The working class is international. We fight for the unrestricted right of any worker of any nationality to move freely through the world.

Withdraw the troops from Ireland. Unite the Irish and British working class to throw out the Lynch and Heath governments.

Unite in the struggle for the Socialist United States of Europe, the only alternative to

the Common Market plans for dictatorship.

Withdraw all British troops from abroad and disband the present standing army.

Sign treaties with all ex-colonial countries for programmes of equal trade and mutual assistance.

Break from NATO and all imperialist alliances.

For the carrying out of such policies the SLL fights for the setting up of Councils of Action to lead the struggle against the Tory government in every area. These Councils unite trade unionists, tenants, unemployed, all political parties and tendencies of the working class (Labour Party, Communist Party, SLL, IS, IMG, etc.) to fight against the main enemy, the Tory government.

The SLL calls upon every socialist and class-conscious worker to consider this programme and manifesto very carefully, and to decide now to take up their inescapable responsibilities. The building of the revolutionary party is the burning question now, not in some remote future. The SLL is determined to carry through its transformation into a revolutionary party.

We appeal to all readers of the Workers Press and our supporters to join the SLL and help transform it into a revolutionary party.



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# THE CAPTURE OF FATAH LEADER ABU DAUD

Abu Daud, one of the earliest members of the Palestinian movement Al Fatah, has been captured by the Jordanian authorities while on a mission against Israel.

Together with about 20 other members of Fatah arrested earlier this month, he is now being tried by a Jordanian military court on a charge of entering the country with the purpose of carrying out acts against public order.

The charge is a fabrication intended to blacken the resistance movement and further the anti-Palestinian witch-hunt being conducted by the Hashemite Jordanian monarchy on orders from the Americans.

Hussein, the King of Jordan, is a bitter enemy of the Palestinian cause. It was he who sent tanks and aircraft against the powerful Palestinian commando movement in Jordan in September 1970.

General Moshe Dayan, the Zionist chief-of-staff, praised this bloody massacre when he thanked Hussein for killing 'more Palestinians in ten days than we could kill in 20 years'.

He recently visited the United States and held talks with Nixon. He has made it clear that Jordan is ready to conclude a separate peace with the Israelis if the US and the Soviet bureaucracy are unable to impose an all-round Middle-East deal.

What Hussein wants is an agreement with the Israelis to give a phoney autonomy to the territories on the west bank of the River Jordan which have been occupied since the June, 1967 war.

The Israelis are already building strategic roads in the area and moving in capital investment and settlers. Clearly any such state would be completely subordinate to the Zionists and to Hussein himself.

The arrest and imprisonment of Abu Daud is part of the pursuit of this reactionary policy, which can be achieved only over the bodies of the Palestinian resistance fighters.



General Moshe Dayan

Two-and-a-half years after the massacre of guerrilla fighters in Black September, Hussein feels strong enough to arrest and frame men whose only 'crime' is to undertake clandestine operations within the occupied territories.

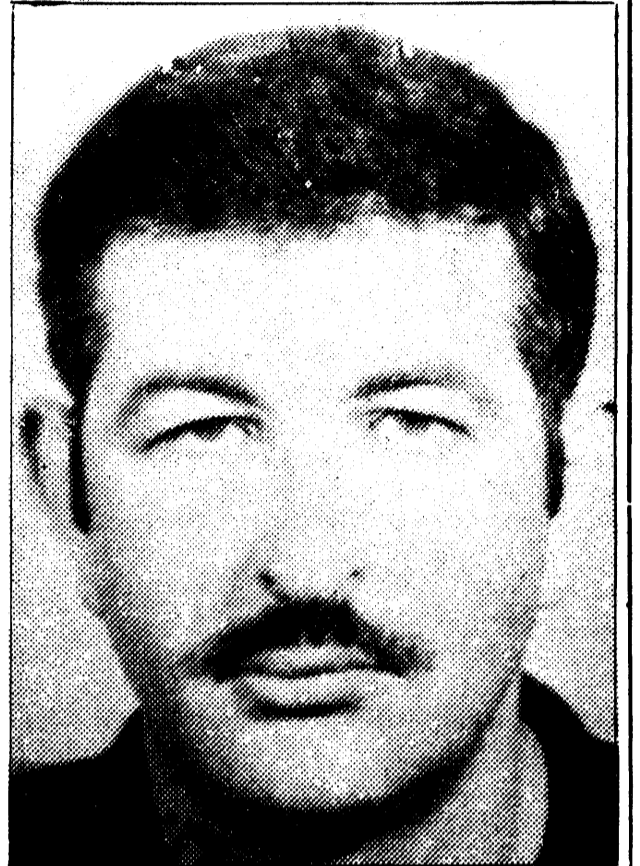
Abu Daud was not planning operations against the Jordanian regime, despite the lies spread around by the Amman government. He was on his way to the west bank to make contact with clandestine anti-Zionist groups.

Despite the hostility of the Jordanian authorities, the Palestinian fighters prefer to enter the west bank via Jordanian territory because the border here is far easier to cross.

It was Abu Daud's fourth clandestine visit to the occupied territories since September 1970. He is high on the Israeli intelligence service 'wanted' list.

A member of the revolutionary council of the Palestinian movement, Abu Daud spent three months in occupied Jerusalem after the 1967 war organizing resistance to the Zionist authorities.

Later he took a military course in China, where he met Chou En-lai and other Maoist leaders. He returned to Amman



King Hussein of Jordan, a bitter enemy of the Palestinian cause. Right: Abu Daud, on trial before a Jordanian military court.

in 1969 to take command of the Palestinian militia in Jordan.

He survived the massacres of the following year, but was sentenced to death *in absentia* by Hussein's regime. This sentence means that his life is now in grave danger.

In an attempt to discredit the Fatah movement, Jordanian radio and television broadcast on February 19 what purported to be an interview with Abu Daud.

This was immediately denounced by the Fatah command and the Palestinian information services as a crude forgery. In it the interviewed man claimed to have been planning to hold members of the Jordanian government hostage.

The hostages were to have been held, according to the interview, to 'put pressure' on the Jordanian government—a plainly ludicrous objective in view of Hussein's known and unbending servility to imperialism.

The arrest of Daud and his comrades has created a furore throughout the Arab world. Not only have there been many protests from organizations and individuals sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, but there have been moves from Syria, Egypt and Libya to save their lives.

According to the Egyptian newspaper 'Al Ahram', President Anwar Sadat is personally following the issue and his representative Hassan Sabry Al Kholly told a commando delegation that Egypt favoured strengthening the guerrillas and was aware of the need to protect them.

The paper reported Dr Al Kholly as saying: 'Cairo believes that any interception of the commando action serves only the plans of the Israelis.'

Dr Al Kholly failed to explain how this declaration squares with the tour of imperialist capitals currently being undertaken by Hafez Ismail, described by one Palestinian as 'Sadat's Kissinger'.

Ismail took the same road to Washington as Hussein had trodden only days before. He went amid clear indications from Sadat himself that the Egyptian government wants to come to terms with Zionism if it can.

At a banquet on February 20, President Sadat asked 'all world powers to shoulder their responsibility at this dangerous stage and to join hands in the implementation of the United Nations resolutions with firmness and dedication for the achievement of a just peace'.

Sadat attempted to give the impression that Ismail's visit to the US would be Egypt's last diplomatic campaign to end the Middle-East crisis peacefully. In fact the contradictory declarations from Cairo only emphasize the extent to which Sadat and his regime are caught by the movement of events.

The requirements of imperialism itself allow of no compromise in the Middle East. The United States government has switched its attention to the area following the withdrawal of its troops from South Vietnam.

Both US imperialism and the Soviet bureaucracy have in-

dictated on many occasions that they want the Arab struggle with Israel brought to a close. The Soviet Union, for example, together with the communist parties, supports the November 1967 UN resolution 242 which calls for a settlement on the basis of Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders.

Support for resolution 242 is incompatible with the legitimate national demands of the Palestinian people, who have been robbed of their country so that the Zionists can erect an exclusive Jewish state of Israel on their land.

Israel is a spearhead for the intrigues and military actions of imperialism against the Arab masses and their revolution. So long as the Israeli state exists, there can be no peace in the Middle East.

Determined at all costs to secure their oil supplies and prepare for the coming 'energy crisis' in the US, Nixon and the imperialists are determined

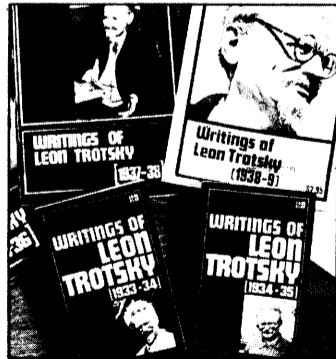
to cut the Gordian knot in the area in the most brutal way.

They know there is only one way to impose the kind of peace they want: that is to exterminate all the Palestinian resistance fighters. That this policy has been eagerly adopted by their Zionist pupils is evident from the renewed attacks against refugee camps in the Lebanon and the brutal murder of 106 passengers on the Libyan airliner downed in the Sinai desert just a few miles from the Suez Canal.

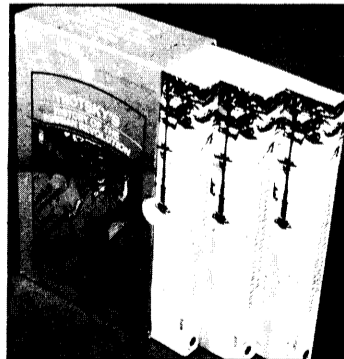
These attacks go hand in hand with Hussein's frame-up against Abu Daud and his comrades.

This move by the Jordanian government has all the hallmarks of a carefully-prepared CIA-sponsored provocation. The world labour movement must demand the release of Abu Daud and his companions and an end to the persecution of the Palestinian fighters by the Hashemite regime.

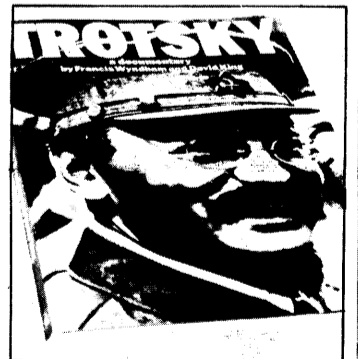
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Joe Gormley, miners' union president, has declared that the trade union movement must either unite in a General Strike to force the government to resign, or else toe the line and accept the Tories' Phase Two state pay law. Gormley's argument is that no union on its own is strong enough to defeat the government. Although this right-winger is making the argument just an excuse for trying to avoid another miners' strike, he has, nevertheless, stated the position accurately. Either the government is defeated or state pay controls are accepted. Workers Press has asked a number of leading figures in the Labour and trade union movement to comment on Gormley's remarks.

**STAN ORME, MP:**  
Joe Gormley's remarks have only highlighted the confrontation which the government is at present seeking with organized workers.

The government's Counter-Inflation Bill, if it becomes law at the end of March, will only sharpen this conflict.

I have said on the committee stage of this Bill that the justifiable claims of the gasworkers, health staffs, Ford's, and other groups of workers must be supported.

I will give them my full support in any industrial action they may take.

**BOB WRIGHT, engineering union executive:**

The trade union movement has got to commit itself to united action behind any union that resists government policy on wages. Any group of workers with a justifiable claim and the backing of its membership should be supported both morally and physically.

The special (TUC) Congress on March 5 is likely to go for a one-day General Strike or else united action behind one group of workers on strike.

The TUC has got to commit itself to total non-co-operation and resistance to any interference with free collective bargaining.

But I do not agree with the way Joe Gormley has posed the alternatives. I think the general opinion in the engineering union will be in favour of some form of united action to defeat the government policy.

This might entail defeating the government if the government insisted on making it such an issue. If they choose to go to the country on this question, then so be it.

**ALAN FISHER, general secretary of NUPE, public employees:**

It is quite true that if the differences between the government and the trade unions cannot be reconciled, then the solution is to get rid of the government. In this country, the way to get rid of a government is by General Election.

**JACK JONES, T&GWU:**

No comment.

**ALAN SAPPER, general secretary ACTT, television workers:**

Joe Gormley seems to be saying that if you can't do better than you are doing, you should do nothing. This idea of a General Strike or nothing must be looked at in context.

It would be marvellous—a great step—to get the government out, but would the TUC do it?

I think Gormley is right, in the long run. But this should not be used as an excuse to call off the strikes that have already started and should not stop more unions calling on their members to strike.

The conclusions in the General Council's Congress document are weak. What is needed from Congress is an absolute instruction for industrial action.

**ERIC HEFFER, MP:**

The trade unions should not accept Phase Two. But Joe Gormley's formula may be used as an excuse to do nothing.

Rather than just saying a General Strike or nothing, it would be better for Congress to meet and work out a strategy first, which may lead to an all-out General Strike.

But it is nonsense that unions can do nothing unless there is

a General Strike. It is important for the movement to act unitedly and have a strategy for defeating the government's policy, but a General Strike must be thought about seriously. It would have to be worked out.

The politicians in the House of Commons will definitely not be leading the struggle, but my guess is that Congress will not call for an all-out General Strike, but will instead vote to back up any section of workers which gets involved in the struggle against the government's policy.

This support could take many different forms. It is hard to tell if there is a sufficient groundswell to transform piecemeal strikes into a General Strike movement.

But there are signs, and have been for a long time, that some union leaders will try to head off any such development.

Just as some union leaders were weak in the 1926 struggle against the government, so it will be this time, and there will be many who will try to avoid a new General Strike.

**MICK MCGAHEY, Scottish miners' leader:**

I don't agree with Joe Gormley's idea that it must be 100 per cent out or nothing.

The trade union movement should back those workers who are already taking industrial action against the pay laws. By giving aid and support, there could be a build up to a General Strike, which should take place led by the TUC.

In any event, there should be no acceptance of Phase Two.

I hope the Congress on March 5 decides to back those workers in struggle and confront the government with the consequences of its own policies.

Meaning, if necessary, a national General Strike.

**CLIVE JENKINS, ASTMS:**

No comment.

**BILL KENDALL, Civil and Public Services Association general secretary:**

We are certainly in a confrontation situation, but I am not sure who wants a General Strike. It is the government's fault. Their incomes policy makes every strike a political protest.

We must get this fact across to all trade unionists and particularly to my own members who are wary of a political confrontation. If the unions do not wish to be raped, they must do something about it. They must stand up.

But a General Strike? I would much prefer more selective action. One must face the fact that one cannot get an effective long, drawn-out stoppage in the civil service. We should use selective action to hit the government where it hurts most.

The same policy makes sense for the trade union movement as a whole. The TUC should co-ordinate action. By pooling resources, we could produce a very good strike fund.

Strategically, co-ordinated selective strikes would have more bite than a General Strike, where everyone troops out in a huge demonstration which produces nothing.

I am in favour of defeating the government on its incomes policy, and had the TUC done more huffing and puffing during the standstill phase and before it, the movement could

# UNION LEADERS ABANDON THE FIGHT



During the last miners' strike, pitmen picketing the Salfrey Coke Depot, (above), were joined by engineers from nearby factories in an action that succeeded in closing the Depot. Miners' leader Joe Gormley now points out that no union on its own is strong enough to defeat the government. It must either be a General Strike to force the government to resign, or accept the Tories' Phase Two. Left to right: Orme; Wright; Fisher; Jones; Sapper; Heffer; McGahey; Jenkins; Kendall; Buckton.



Left: Chemical workers in Hamburg, on strike in 1971, demonstrate against wage controls. Their union leaders' policy of 'Co-determination' puts German workers in a dangerous position.

dominant reformist ideology has managed to channel workers' militancy into a demand for changes in the Works Council Law to give shop stewards a bigger and more official role.

Although the German working class is far from being defeated at this stage of the sharpening class struggle, the collaborationist framework the trade unions operate under is full of dangers of outright corporatism.

Some basic rights are protected by the Labour Laws. But curbs on the working class are just as carefully enshrined.

The Works Council Law, for example, gives works councillors special legal protection against dismissal. But a Federal Ministry pamphlet describing this protection warns that the councillors must not go too far.

'Dismissal without notice is justified in cases where members of the works council have caused labour trouble through continual agitation for a political party, or have distributed in the establishment handbills containing severe attacks on the employer.'

It goes on: 'In another case, a member of the works council was dismissed without notice because he attempted to induce non-union employees to join the trade union through coercive methods.'

It is illegal in Germany to strike to enforce a closed-shop, just as, in theory, it is now in Britain. But to establish corporatism as a daily working regime is something else, and in both cases requires taking on and defeating the working class first.

The German co-determination law spells out the ruling class's ambitions in introducing it.

## Peace

The works council is the only official body representing workers in a factory—and yet the council's first duty is 'loyal unprejudiced co-operation' with the employer, and its first rule that it 'must refrain from any action which might jeopardize industrial peace in the establishment'.

'The council must use all its influence to maintain industrial peace as far as possible.'

So the body which must represent any workers with a grievance is also the body which must stop them putting any industrial pressure on the employer to have it remedied.

And when the union in an industry has called these workers who are members out on strike over a pay claim, the works councils must keep neutral and not spread the strike.

'The works council must refrain from calling on the employer to curtail production and must not slow down work or go on-strike or sit-down strike in order to attain its objectives.'

The theoretical doctrine of the Works Council Law, stated in section 49, and itself bearing the force of law, is revealing.

It says the ideas spring from Christian social doctrine, which regards an employer and his workers as a working community which should cooperate on the basis of moral principles.

'This conception is incompatible with the class struggle,' it adds.

The German ruling class leave nothing to the imagination!

But despite the fact that these laws on co-partnership so clearly spell out their corporatist purpose, still the TUC leaders flirt with the ideas. For them, one form of selling out the class struggle is as good as another.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

# THE NEW GERMAN CORPORATISM

PART TWO — BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT ROYSTON BULL

The German trade unions operate under severe restraints. They cannot move in a single direction without running into the law of the land.

So powerful and all-pervasive is the legal framework that many of the laws are written directly into the constitution of the Federal Republic.

In many areas of industrial relations, compulsory arbitration is the rule. And the labour court judge always has the casting vote if the employer and the union still cannot agree.

In other areas where the unions are still relatively free to fight on for their rights, they are hedged in by other laws, such as the one requiring a 75-per-cent majority for any strike vote to be legally carried.

German trade union leaders think they are well off. They point to the undoubtedly excellent social security benefits they enjoy, such as a basic retirement pension of 60 per cent of the current average pay of the trade in which a pensioner formerly worked.

They tend to identify the great improvement in living standards since the war with the industrial relations system, known as Mitbestimmung, or co-determination.

In fact, the German trade unions have made certain

financial gains out of their collective-bargaining, mainly due to the economic success Germany temporarily enjoyed all the time the inflationary boom lasted. The permanent huge demand for labour put the unions in a strong position.

## Weakness

Co-determination, on the other hand, puts them in a dangerously weak position. The illusory advantages of 'joint consultation' will vanish into thin air as soon as the German employers need to start setting about the working class in the way that Germany's harder-pressed and desperate imperialist rivals are already having to do.

The real strength—or weakness—of the German trade unions will emerge during the coming struggles with its ruling class. And initially, the many ways in which the workers are tied in with company interests and confused as to where their real destiny lies can only hold them back in the fight.

Co-determination operates on two levels. On the shop floor, in every enterprise in private industry with more than five workers, there has, by law, to be a works council to represent them, numbering from one to 35 workers and elected every three years by the workforce.

The works council has to be

consulted on virtually all matters by the management: piece-rates, job-evaluation, working times, training, welfare, hiring, firing, work-allocation, safety, redundancies, closures, works-moves, and general production and economic questions.

On all these matters, any dispute between employer and works council must go to arbitration, either at a conciliation committee, where the key role is played by the 'independent' chairman, who is appointed by the local labour court, or at the court itself, where the judge is decisive.

The company pays all of the works council's expenses, and in the larger enterprises the chairman and other members are often relieved from production work altogether for full-time 'counselling'.

The employer can go to all meetings and has the right to speak.

Worse than that, the trade union is specifically excluded from playing an official role within individual factories. Everything is left to the works council.

## Unofficial

In practice, most of the workers on the councils are also trade unionists, but the union cannot officially nominate candidates. Any trade union 'list' must circulate unofficially.



# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## ANTHEM

A week-long 40th international Roman Catholic Eucharist Congress ended in Melbourne, Australia, with the crowd of 120,000 singing 'Waltzing Matilda'.

The 'anthem' is about a cattle rustler which is appropriate enough for a Catholic rally since that church—and others—was responsible for land-grabbing on a vast scale when the country was first colonized.

## HERITAGE

The dialectics of reformism. Top Scottish judge, Lord Wheatley, imposing a fine of £5,000 on Clydebank Town Council, made a statement on the need to preserve law and order. It was the sort of stuff worthy of Sir John Donaldson himself.

The Clydebank councillors of course, are fighting to defend the right to decent housing at reasonable rents which was established by the first Labour government in 1924.

The Housing Act of that year was one of the few real reforms Ramsay MacDonald's



Lord Wheatley

government enacted. It came from a long struggle by the working class for the right to decent housing in which the Clydeside rent strikes of 1915 and the early 1920s played a big part.

It was no mere coincidence, therefore, that the Clydeside radical MPs were able to force

one of their number on a reluctant MacDonald as Minister of Housing. This man was responsible for the 1924 Act. His name was John Wheatley.

He died in 1930 survived by, among others, a nephew. He became a Labour MP in Edinburgh and, later, a top Scottish judge . . .

## MISTAKE

Frederick McVeigh of Burdith Avenue, Moss Side, Manchester, was found leaning against a traffic control box at 5 p.m. on January 24 last.

The policemen who discovered him said he was drunk, and that there was a strong smell of alcohol on his breath.

After being locked in the cells McVeigh seemed not to sober up. He became ill. At 3 a.m. the following day he was taken to hospital, where he died four days later.

At his inquest three civilian witnesses said they were certain McVeigh was not drunk and said they could not smell any alcohol on his breath.

In finding that McVeigh died from natural causes, the Salford city coroner, Mr J. D. B. Haynes, said: 'I feel compelled to make it known that I am not completely satisfied with the evidence made by the two police officers concerning the strong smell of alcohol on the deceased's breath.'

'This man's condition when he was taken to Bootle Street police station was undoubtedly due to illness, but may have or have not been partly due to alcohol taken earlier.'

'But two police officers decided he was drunk. They are entitled to make a mistake, but I do complain when they go into the witness box in my court and speak of a strong smell of alcohol when three civilian witnesses did not smell any signs of alcohol.'

'One of the police officers said he was able to smell alcohol because he was more experienced than others in dealing with drunken cases. That was an explanation which didn't give me any reassurance whatsoever.'



## JAPANESE THEATRE STYLES WEDDED AT THE ROUNDHOUSE

THEATRE BY A GUEST REVIEWER

'The Man from the East'. The Red Buddha Theatre. Written, produced and directed by Stomu Yamash'ta. The Roundhouse, London.

The performance of the 'Man from the East' by this young Japanese company is enthralling and stunning, especially to those of us used to the crisis-ridden western theatre.

Yamash'ta has drawn freely on the techniques and formulae of the two main traditional theatre forms of Japan 'Noh' and 'Kabuki' and wedded these with a special score which, despite its superficially 'eastern' sound, is overwhelmingly 'western' in influence.

('Noh' theatre is the courtly aristocratic theatre which originated in the 12th century, whilst 'Kabuki' is the more popular form which developed in opposition to 'Noh' in the 16th century.)

The play consists of a series of acts in the 'Kabuki' style which can be viewed as complete performances in themselves, representing different facets—historical and modern—of Japanese life.

They are loosely connected by the tale of a hopeless friendship between a lame girl—Bancale—and an old hunchback—Bossu.

They come across a joyous peace celebration, but Bossu restrains Bancale from joining in because of their infirmities. She is frozen still by inaction and the spirits from Hell carry her off. Old Bossu sadly wanders through the happy celebrations looking for her.

Contrary to the western tradition of development through conflict, the contradiction between his misery and the celebrating villagers who surround him, is stated as an unalterable part of life.

Bossu then passes through the two subsequent scenes, the first being a superb parody of modern Japanese

middle-class values and the second an equally sharp satire of traditional values, until they finally meet in the subsequent scene among the death and destruction of Hiroshima (presumably when Hell became openly manifested on earth by courtesy of the 'western allies' fighting for peace and democracy).

Bancale plays gayly in these macabre surroundings whilst Bossu stumbles, blindfolded, after her. She pretends to be dead, and Bossu tears off his mask, and, overcome with grief, kills himself. She stops pretending and breaks into peals of laughter upon which the production finishes.

Such a complex undertaking is obviously difficult to evaluate, especially as it is clearly in such a transitional form. This young group of actors and musicians have enormous talent, and, despite the 'hard rock' musical influences, tremendous artistic discipline.

The overall verve of the performance carries the audience with it, even if they are somewhat unfamiliar with what is actually taking place.

The two main contrasting scenes stand out in particular. The first one (drawing heavily on Noh) shows modern Japan—bustling commuters riding to work, the meaningless 'hurly-burly' of office routine, the charade of 'window-shopping', and even the transitory nature of the huge student riots of the 1960s, and finally the facile entertainments of the same type of people in the evening.

The mime and dance work are unbelievably good.

The second scene portrays the opposite sides of the traditional values. Slaves are driven to the point of collapse against images of Buddha. A samurai knight commits hara-kiri whilst two lesbians make love. A young peasant couple are forced by economic desperation to leave their dying mother on a hillside for the icy spirits to take away.

Stomu Yamash'ta, director of the Red Buddha theatre. He successfully combines traditional Japanese art forms with a contemporary interpretation of their values.

The music, whilst performing the traditional role of being a commentary and a determining factor in that its tempo and complexity indicates the true nature of the drama, reaches a peak in the Hiroshima sequence.

Yamash'ta has used a basic 'soul' progression which is gradually amplified as different figures wander on the stage and become transfixed by the impending holocaust.

Together with the 'Sun-trader' group, his brilliant use of percussion and careful blending of traditional Japanese instruments with modern ones is, in some respects, in contradiction to his rather cursory, and in ways, inconclusive adaption of traditional material. But with such determined talent, the group will surely make a significant development in what they call 'total theatre'.

The reason why Yamash'ta and his troupe work in Paris—where this production was developed—is itself an expression of the worldwide crisis of theatre.

Traditional Japanese theatre is itself still being divided on what amounts to sectarian lines by the enormous unresolved tensions endemic in a social structure which was catapulted into the world market after centuries of feudalism by the rapid development of capitalism internationally.

All sorts of discussions have raged between the traditionalists and innovators of various schools. Yamash'ta has applied himself in an exemplary fashion to mastering the traditional art forms, and in the 'freer' cultural climate of Paris ('Freer' of course, only because the real social and cultural crisis takes on a much more open and chaotic form) has attempted to re-interpret their values in contemporary terms.

## POLITICAL PROFILES

By LEON TROTSKY

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Sharp pen-portraits of leading figures of the Second International in Russia and Europe, for the first time published in an English edition. The translations were first commissioned by the Young Socialists' paper 'Keep Left' Their enormous success has led to the completion of the translation of the whole book, which is the first part of Volume 8 of Leon Trotsky's 'Works' published in the Soviet Union in 1926. It provides the most vivid picture available of the historic figures of the Second International, their strengths and weaknesses, written by an observer who was also a participant in the daily struggle of the European and Russian working class.

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**TODAY'S TV**

**BBC 1**

9.38-11.45 Schools. 12.25 Daniel. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Teddy Edward. 1.35 Ring a ding. 1.45 Television doctor. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Racing from Haydock Park. 3.40 Tomorrow's world. 4.05 Noggin and the flying machine. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Deputy dawg. 5.00 Crackerjack 73. 5.40 Wombles. 5.45 News. Weather.  
**6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 TOM AND JERRY.**  
**7.00 THE VIRGINIAN: MEN FROM SHILOH.** The Town Killer.  
**8.15 MORECAMBE AND WISE SHOW.** Guests Hannah Gordon, Mary Travers, Christopher Neil.  
**9.00 NEWS.** Weather. **9.25 THE REGIMENT.** Depot.  
**10.15 1973 WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS.** Ice dance championship.  
**10.45 THE DIMBLEBY TALK-IN. 11.30 NEWS.**  
**11.35 FILM: 'SHADOW OVER ELVERON.'** James Franciscus, Leslie Nielsen, Shirley Knight, Franchot Tone, James Dunn, Don Ameche. A brutal sheriff terrorizes a small town. 1.10 Weather.

**ITV**

9.30 Schools. 12.05 Mr. Trimble. 12.25 Happy house. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Time was. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Junkin. 3.25 Marcus Welby MD 4.20 Elephant boy. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 Nanny and the professor. 5.50 News.  
**6.00 TODAY. 6.35 CROSSROADS.**  
**7.00 THE PROTECTORS.** The First Circle.  
**7.30 HAWAII FIVE-O.** The Diamond that Nobody Stole.  
**8.30 ON THE BUSES.** The Football Match.  
**9.00 JUSTICE.** The Whole Truth. **10.00 NEWS.**  
**10.30 WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS. 11.00 POLICE FIVE.**  
**11.10 FILM: 'JOE MACBETH.'** Paul Douglas, Ruth Roman, Sidney James. A gangster is goaded by his wife into killing his way to the top.  
**12.35 IT'S WORTH READING.** Mary Craig talks to David Sexton about his reading habits.

**BBC 2**

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.  
**7.05 HAMMER IT HOME.** Completing the unit: finishes and fixings.  
**7.30 NEWS.** Weather. **7.35 GARDENERS' WORLD.**  
**8.00 MONEY AT WORK.** Is Your Budget Really Necessary?  
**9.00 FILM: 'THE LAST WILL OF DR. MABUSE.'** Directed by Fritz Lang. With Rudolf Klein-Rogge, Gustav Diessl, Otto Wernicke.  
**10.55 FILM NIGHT. 11.15 NEWS.** Weather.

**REGIONAL TV**

**CHANNEL:** 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 Film: 'The Last Child'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Report. 6.35 London. 7.30 FBI. 8.30 Who do you do. 9.00 London. 11.03 Film: 'The Killer is Loose'. 12.03 News. weather.  
**WESTWARD:** As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 11.00 News. 12.20 Faith for life.  
**SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 Galloping gourmet. 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Weekend. 4.25 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 4.50 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day.  
**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 3.25 Marcus Welby. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Doctor in charge. 7.00 Film: 'The Miniver Story'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Press call. 11.30 Upper crusts. 12.00 Weather.  
**HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 4.25-4.50 Stesion cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd. 10.30 Sports arena. 11.00 Dragon and the lion. 11.45 Skating. 12.15 Weather.  
**HTV West as above except:** 6.15-6.30 Report West.  
**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 3.30 Dick Van Dyke. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 O'Hara. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 Skating. 11.30 Film: 'Shock'. 12.45 Epilogue.  
**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 12.00 Programme guide. 12.05 London. 3.30 Jason King. 4.20 Forest rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Comedians. 8.00 Protectors. 8.30 Adventurer. 9.00 London. 11.00 Film: 'The Singer Not the Song'.  
**ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women. 3.55 Yoga. 4.23 News. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Pathfinders. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Border poll. 11.30 Spectrum.  
**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Me and the chimp. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 London. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 11.00 Film: 'Phantom of the Rue Morgue'. 12.35 Weather.  
**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 3.25 Shirley's world. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.30 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.15 Please don't eat the daisies. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.30 Upper crusts. 7.00 Film: 'Two Rode Together'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Kick off. 11.00 Skating. 11.30 Film: 'The Big Heat'.  
**TYNE TEES:** 9.25 Thoughts from the little read book. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Yoga. 3.00 London. 3.30 Dangerman. 4.25 Woobinda. 4.50 London. 5.20 Me and the chimp. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 London. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 11.00 Film: 'Children of the Damned'. 12.35 News. 12.40 Lectern.  
**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Deline. 3.00 London. 3.30 It takes a thief. 4.20 Nanny and the professor. 4.50 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Doctor in charge. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Film: 'The Bandit of Zhobe'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Friday night. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Skating. 11.35 Love American style.  
**GRAMPIAN:** 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Good afternoon. 3.55 Shirley's world. 4.20 Dave Cash. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Gramplan week. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Cast a Long Shadow'. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 11.00 Job look. 11.05 Film: 'Five Desperate Women'. 12.55 Meditation.

# Rail drivers' case spelled out in detail

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

FOR a basic wage of just £30.75 a week, a train driver is expected to handle a diesel locomotive developing 3,250 hp at speeds of up to 100 mph, and be responsible for the safety of every passenger.

He has to familiarize himself with several different types of traction and the techniques required to drive them. A driver also needs to know how to trace faults which he must rectify as part of his duty.

New forms of traction have enabled speeds to be increased and freight trains to be run with far heavier loads. However, many of these trains with heavy loads are still loose coupled, making the braking systems more critical.

## DIFFERENT TIMES

As to working conditions, footplatemen quite often have to report for work at different times on each day of the week. Unavoidable late running and other matters mean he's never quite sure when he'll get home.

A train driver has to keep abreast of the many and frequent changes in working instructions and needs to set aside private time to study the 280-rule book, and the manuals relating to electrified line instructions, loading instructions and diesel and electric traction instructions.

Because of the strains on a driver it is not possible, in the interests of safety, for him to push up his earnings by working overtime. The £30.75 is a flat wage, therefore, before deductions.

Says Ray Buckton, general secretary of the locomen's union ASLEF:

'Men must have these qualities and accept a complete disruption of their normal social life for a consolidated wage of £30.75 a week. Little wonder that today we have a group of workers completely disillusioned with the life they have to lead.'



BUCKTON . . . Explains case.

With pay levels rapidly deteriorating relative to other grades, it only needed British Rail to hold up negotiations over a new drivers' pay structure to bring on the current wave of industrial action by ASLEF.

Train drivers have a 'deep sense of grievance' over pay levels and the way they have been treated by British Rail, says Buckton.

Their 'frustration and discontent' flows from the fact that since 1968 drivers' pay has deteriorated both relative to other



Station scene during Wednesday's strike.

grades in the industry and to earnings in general.

Ray Buckton blames 'the procrastination of British Rail for Thursday's industrial action.'

He says an agreement reached in June 1972, and in fact relating to a situation which had existed for years before, has, because of BR's delay, now been caught up in the 1973 negotiations and the government's pay laws.

BR's behaviour had 'further aggravated the feelings of resentment' already existing among train drivers. That is why the ASLEF executive called for a policy of industrial action, adds Buckton.

The union has drawn up 'The Train Driver's Case', giving the background to the current dispute. This was done because Press reports had not grasped the real issues involved.

A nine-page document in the form of a statement by Buckton, it explains in some detail the recent history of train drivers' efforts to maintain their pay and conditions.

All bonus and mileage payments—which began in 1965—have in fact been frozen at 1968 levels. For over four years the drivers' relative position has steadily deteriorated.

At the same time, of course, the numbers working for BR have been savagely slashed—with union agreement—to accommodate modernization. In 1965 there were some 47,000 drivers, firemen and other rail workers. Today the figure is around 27,000.

ASLEF has been telling BR for three years that its position was being undermined, that the most skilled men in the industry were sliding down the wages scale.

Finally, during last year's pay negotiations, BR agreed to set up a joint working party—to review the wages structure for drivers, including mileage and bonus payments, and to make recommendations to the National Council.

BR, however, delayed getting the 'working party' off the

ground. And when the high-speed train was moved at Derby, ASLEF called a one-day strike for November 23. Although a number of meetings subsequently took place, BR has refused to discuss wage levels with the union.

Then management recently said any new pay structure could only be discussed within the context of the government's Phase Two pay laws and would, in any case, be subject to anything agreed in the 1973 wages revision, negotiations for which have not yet begun.

In other words, in the eight months since the last pay negotiations, an agreed working party has come up with no proposals because of BR attitude, says ASLEF.

Buckton issues a warning that the behaviour of BR and the government endangers the travelling public's lives. Passengers will now have to sit behind a driver subjected to 'pressures and discontent' before he took the train out.

## UNWILLING

No one can doubt the train drivers' case for a £10 increase in basic rates. At the same time ASLEF's nine-page statement reveals both an inability and an unwillingness to face up to the real situation facing its members and the working class as a whole.

How can the ASLEF claim be won in conditions where the Tories have put an end to free collective bargaining? No mention is made of this question in the statement.

To win the drivers' and every other pay claim today, it is necessary to launch a campaign to create the political and industrial conditions to force the Tories to resign.

Without a General Strike to bring down the government and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies there can be no victory for the train drivers or any other section of workers.

## All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

Fight rising rents and prices  
 Defend basic democratic rights  
 Force the Tories to resign

**WATFORD:** Monday March 5, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall, Woodford Hall, near Watford junction station.

**BRIXTON:** Tuesday March 6, 8 p.m. Brixton Training Centre, Control Room, Effra Road, SW2. 'Forward to the Pageant'.

**DAGENHAM:** Tuesday March 6, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Common Market Conspiracy'.

**EAST LONDON:** Tuesday March 6, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Crisp Street, E14. 'Support the gasmen and hospital workers'.

**TOTTENHAM:** Wednesday March 7, 8 p.m. 'Prince Arthur', bottom of Broad Lane, N17. 'Forward to the Pageant'.

**SOUTHALL:** Wednesday, March 7, 8 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. 'The Road to Workers' Power'.

**WOOLWICH:** Wednesday March 7, 8 p.m. 'The Castle', Powis Street, SE18. 'Support the gasmen and hospital workers'.

**WEMBLEY:** Thursday March 7, 8 p.m. Copland Secondary School, High Road.

**HACKNEY:** Thursday March 8, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, opposite Town Hall, Mare Street. 'Support hospital workers'.

**SLOUGH:** Thursday March 8, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'Support the gasmen and hospital workers'.

**STEVENAGE:** Thursday March 8, 8 p.m. 'Red Lion', Stevenage Old Town. 'Forward to the Pageant'.

**LEWISHAM:** Thursday March 8, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opp New Cross Station. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

**WILLESDEN:** Thursday March 8, 8 p.m. Labour and Trades Hall, High Road, NW10. 'Support gasmen and civil servants'.

**WANDSWORTH:** Monday March 12, 8 p.m. 'King's Arms', High Street, S.W.18. 'Forward to the revolutionary party'.

**TOOTING:** Tuesday March 13, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Road, Tooting Broadway. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party'.



# Hanoi claims violations in the south Ceasefire sabotage claim

**NORTH VIETNAM** and the Provisional Revolutionary Government yesterday agreed to resume the handing over of American prisoners of war after a dispute which threatened to wreck the Paris 'peace' conference.

The Hanoi official newspaper 'Nhan Dan' bitterly attacked the US for violating the Paris peace pact and accused the Saigon government of spreading death and suffering in the south.

'The provisions on troop withdrawal from South Vietnam and on the removal of mines in North Vietnam have not been seriously carried out,' the paper said.

It went on to complain: 'The ceasefire has been

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

ignored and fighting is going on.'

It charged that Saigon's police and hired thugs were carrying out a campaign of terrorism and that US planes were still bombing areas of South Vietnam.

The charge that the US and Saigon were instructing their officers to sabotage the ceasefire was also made by General Giap in a statement reported by Hanoi radio. He was visiting delegates to the Joint Military Commission who had been injured in attacks by South Vietnamese.

The US had previously refused to continue the Paris conference unless the North Vietnamese supplied a list of the next group of prisoners to be handed over in line with the pace of US troop withdrawals.

After a meeting between US Secretary of State Wil-

liam Rogers and the North's Foreign Minister, Nguyen Duy Trinh, it appeared that agreement had been reached on the prisoner exchange.

It is not clear what guarantees Hanoi has received from the US and Saigon concerning its complaints of violations of the ceasefire agreement.

The North Vietnamese and the Provisional Revolutionary Government had earlier complained that some of its delegates on the joint military teams in South Vietnam had been killed in an ambush.

The international conference on Vietnam meeting in Paris is being attended by the Foreign Ministers of twelve countries. If a joint declaration is agreed, this will associate the Soviet Union and China as well as Britain and France with the

peace agreement signed on January 27.

The future of Vietnam will not be settled in Paris, whatever the diplomats decide.

The US imperialists are determined to hang on to their positions in the south by backing the puppet regime of Nguyen Van Thieu. His army is led by US 'advisers' and has been supplied with US war supplies in huge quantities.

The Soviet and Chinese bureaucracies want Hanoi to accept a compromise in the south which will halt the Vietnamese revolution and enable them to carry through their deals with US imperialism.

They want a settlement on the lines of the infamous Geneva Agreement of 1954 which brought to an end the war of national liberation against the French and opened the way for the US to step in.

## Vorster clamp on campuses: Eight face new charges

**THE NATIONAL** Union of South African Students, eight of whose leaders were banned on Tuesday in a move which climaxed years of government hostility, face further action, including possible criminal charges.

The warning came from Mr A. L. Schlebusch, chairman of the panel which recommended banning the eight NUSAS leaders on the grounds that their activities were 'extremely undesirable'. The eight students have been restricted to certain districts and barred from visiting any educational institution for five years.

Schlebusch said NUSAS members should not exclude the possibility of certain documents being put before the attorney-general. This was taken as a hint of possible criminal proceedings.

There were protest meetings at a number of South African universities following the ban, but no repetition of clashes with police which brought NUSAS differences with the government to a head last year.

There were heavy police squads on campuses, and student leaders feared the government planned a provocation to enable it to take further action against the students.

In the wake of the big strikes of African workers in Durban and other towns, the Balthazar Vorster's racist administration is also facing an increase of armed struggle with guerrilla fighters entering South Africa from the north.

Dr Rui Patricio, Portugal's Foreign Minister, is due in Pretoria next week for discussion on the anti-guerrilla campaign with the South Africans. One key item on the agenda is the protection of the dam at Caborra Bassa in Mozambique. Despite grandiose plans for defoliation of the area round the powerlines, the area will be very vulnerable to guerrilla attack.

The dam will supply power to South Africa's central industrial belt.

## Chinese overtures to Chiang's Taiwan

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

**CHINA** is making repeated appeals to the Nationalists on Taiwan to rejoin the motherland.

One was made by veteran Communist, Liao Cheng-chih and another by a former aide of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, General Fu Tso-ri who defected to Mao's side in 1949.

General Fu said: 'It is now high time to unify the motherland. Let us come together and talk. If you are not prepared to enter into formal talks right away, then send some people to the mainland, openly or secretly, to have a look and visit relations and friends.'

'You can rest assured that the government will keep the matter secret, keep its word and guarantee your safety and freedom to come and go.'

Similar points were made by Liao Cheng-chih who stressed the improved relations between China and the United States. 'The

state of hanging on to imperialist forces to prolong one's own feeble existence will never last long', he said.

He appealed to military and administrative officials in Chiang Kai-shek's regime on Taiwan 'not to miss the opportunity to make contributions to the unification of the motherland'.

He assured them that they would be forgiven for their past wrong-doings, however serious, 'provided they now support the socialist motherland and work for unification'.

Taiwan has been heavily subsidized by the US ever since the flight of Chiang Kai-shek from the mainland in 1949 and American troops are still garrisoned on the island.

The deal between China and the US negotiated by Dr Henry Kissinger, Nixon's special adviser, on his recent trip to Peking presumably includes the return of Taiwan to China provided that some agreement can be worked out.

**TURKISH** martial law court on Wednesday sentenced two university professors to one year's imprisonment for their part in a student demonstration at the Middle East Technical University in

Ankara in 1971. Two students were also sentenced to two year's imprisonment on similar charges. Another court is trying 51 people on charges of attempting to overthrow the constitution by force.

### BRIEFLY ● BRIEFLY ● BRIEFLY

**AGREEMENT** has been reached between Iraq and the big oil companies on terms over the nationalization of the Iraqi Petroleum Company last June. IPC is jointly owned by British Petroleum, Shell, the Compagnie Francaise des Petroles and a US group including Standard Oil and Socony-Mobil. It will pay the government £171m, while the nationalized concern will supply 15 million tons of crude oil against the company's claims.

**SOGAT's** National Executive Council has passed a resolution condemning the savage jail sentences passed on Spanish workers. The print union's resolution states:

'This executive council of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades expresses its utmost protest at the jailing of the ten leading members of the Spanish Workers' Commissions [including a worker-priest], under threat of prison sentences ranging from 12 to 20 years each, for normal trade union activities which would be lawful in any democratic country.'

**MALAGASY** authorities have imposed a curfew on the Majunga province after demonstrators set fire to a prison and freed prisoners. They were demanding the French military bases be closed.

## North-West gasmen in determined mood

**GASWORKERS** in the south Manchester area are determined to win their fight for the 'right to live', as one striker put it.

Pickets are well-organized and cheerful at the Altrincham Gas Board headquarters.

All 70 men there are out, including one non-union member. One picket, Jack Lewis, told Workers Press: 'We must get all gasworkers out. We had to act unofficially before we could get the union to move.'

'These Tories are vicious. Look how the rents go up and the profits go to the banks. At least the Labour Party stopped the sale of council houses.'

Another picket, Jeff Davis, vented his anger over the Heath government.

'Heath said he'd keep food prices stable. But entry into the Common Market is meaning a higher cost of living. There's nothing in it for us. We should get the TUC to give us support.'

The men are determined that a coach load will go to the lobby of the TUC Special Congress on Monday.

'Now we know about our leadership and we'll do something about it. What we need is new leaders. We have to fight now. These Tories must go', said other pickets.

Militant gasworkers in Wigan, on strike over six weeks, yesterday welcomed the increasing effect of their action.

Jack Leigh, shop steward at the Wigan distribution and service centre, said: 'This should have happened long ago. I think now, when the cuts start, there will be some real action.'

Over 500 schools and factories in the Manchester area have already been cut off and thousands of workers and school-children have had to be sent home.

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### SPECIAL ATUA MEETINGS

**GLASGOW HOSPITAL WORKERS**  
Sunday March 4  
3 p.m.

Partick Burgh Hall  
(near Merkland St.  
Underground)

**POSTAL WORKERS**  
The crisis of capitalism and the future of the trade unions.  
Sunday March 4  
10.30 a.m.

Conway Small Hall  
Red Lion Square  
Holborn.

**BUILDING WORKERS**  
The crisis of capitalism and the future of the trade unions.  
Tuesday March 6  
7.30 p.m.

Norfolk Room  
Caxton Hall  
Caxton Street, SW1

### SLL PUBLIC MEETINGS

Unite to defend basic rights

**LUTON**  
FRIDAY MARCH 2, 8 p.m.  
Assembly Hall  
Town Hall  
Speaker: M. BANDA  
(SLL Central Committee)

**TOTTENHAM**  
TUESDAY MARCH 6, 8 p.m.  
Lord Morrison Hall  
Chesnut Grove  
Speaker: G. HEALY  
(SLL National Secretary)

**SHEFFIELD**  
TUESDAY MARCH 6, 7.30 p.m.  
Friends Meeting House  
Hartshead  
Speaker: CLIFF SLAUGHTER  
(SLL Central Committee)

**BASINGSTOKE**  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 7,  
8 p.m.  
Public Library  
Speaker: M. BANDA  
(SLL Central Committee)



**Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND**

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**A magnificent final total**

IT is a total we are proud of. We just had to announce our final figure which came to £2,156.92—£406.92 well over the top. We would like to thank you all very, very much.

Last month was a short month and at one stage, it looked like we might not even reach our target. But there can be no doubt that you, dear readers, will fight in every way you can and ensure that Workers Press goes out every day.

We know that this is because only Workers Press struggles to build a revolutionary leadership. The TUC congress on Monday will do its best to leave hospital workers, gasmen, civil servants leaderless in the face of this offensive by the Tory government.

Our paper, alone, demands they call a general strike to force this government to resign.

We will continue to speak out loud and clear. And we know that this will win even more of your support. Let's therefore go into action right away. Help us with an early start for our March Fund. Let's see if this month we can reach a record amount. Post all donations immediately to:

Workers Press  
 March Appeal Fund  
 186a Clapham High Street  
 London, SW4 7UG

# Heath woos the union chiefs towards corporatism

**HEARTENED** by the retreat at Ford's and the decision of the Trades Union Congress to let the gasworkers, teachers and railwaymen fight alone, Edward Heath sees the possibility of finally getting the right-wing union leaders to join the Pay Board and take a big step to the corporate state.

Speaking at the anniversary lunch of the Institute for Public Relations yesterday, he appealed to these leaders to exercise 'constructive leadership... within the framework of our policy for advancing the interests of their members as well as the interests of their fellow-citizens'.

Inflation, he claimed, was not inevitable. 'Of course if people make their plans on the basis

that inflation is inevitable, then they help to create the inflation which they fear,' he said.

Heath deliberately chose to ignore the fact that inflation is a world, not simply a British, phenomenon, bound up inextricably with the collapse of the international monetary system and dollar devaluation.

This did not prevent the Tory leader falling back on the excuse that 'world food prices have been rising fast', in an attempt to

evade responsibility for the sky-rocketing cost of living.

This world food price rise was 'one reason why we have provided for substantial pay increases in Stage Two,' Heath said.

In point of fact the direct responsibility for the rising cost of living lies with the Tory government, which deliberately adopted the strategy of floating sterling last June, thus making continuous price rises inevitable.

Boasting of his 'substantial'

**SIR Frank Figures**, formerly of the National Economic Development Office, is to head the Tories' new Pay Board at a salary of £16,000 a year. The Prices Commission is to be chaired by Sir Arthur Cockfield,

a former Boots director who is at present a special adviser to the Treasury. Commenting on the appointments, TUC general Secretary Victory Feather said they were 'very distinguished people'.

pay offers, Heath deliberately omitted to mention that the introduction of Value-Added Tax and other government measures will raise prices by 15-20 per cent between now and the autumn.

Behind a screen of platitudes about 'working together', Heath is planning wage-cuts. He concentrates his attack against the working class and obscures the profiteers and city sharks who are the only beneficiaries of his policy.

As the March 5 TUC conference draws near Heath is confident he has the union leaders in the bag. But this does not mean he has mastery over the working class, as the Tory leaders will shortly discover to their cost.

## Forty join 250 already out Hospital strikes 'snowballing'

BY OUR OWN REPORTERS

**ABOUT 40** more hospitals than expected yesterday joined the ancillary workers' first wave of strikes against the Tories' state pay laws. Some 250 hospitals were affected, according to the National Union of Public Employees.

Laundries were particularly hard hit by what one union spokesman described as a 'snowball effect'—more and more workers joining in once big support for the strike action was clear.

On picket lines up and down the country the mood was militant, with growing demands for an all-out strike call from the union leaderships.

At Tooting Bec General Hospital, south London, striking laundry workers claimed their one-day stoppage was 100 per cent solid.

COHSE shop steward, Mr Dennis Kempson: 'These women have to handle clothes covered in flesh, muck and blood. I'd like to see Heath come down and do it.'

'The pay we get is disgusting and in the past two or three years they've given us laundry from five hospitals. We take home about £14 a week for 40 hours.'

Shop steward Mrs Blanche Baker added:

'We can't keep up with the cost of living. Everything is going up—rents, prices, fares. It's got to the point where you've just got to cut down.'

She said: 'An all-out strike would be more effective, but we have got to consider the patients.'

'We are dedicated people, we don't want to see anybody suffer, but we are doing a worthwhile job and we want worthwhile pay for it.'

Tomorrow the 50 laundry staff return to work and another section, still not named by the unions, will be pulled out.

**WORKERS** at Singleton Hospital, Swansea, began a picket at 6.45 a.m. yesterday morning—the start of their three-day strike—the first action by ancillary workers in the area.

Laundrymen and transport workers have come out indefinitely.

All other ancillary sections in the hospital were on strike.

The only ones at work yesterday were those covering emergency services, but they too will be called out

if any volunteers are brought in by management.

Mr T. Hastings, South Wales organizer of NUPE, reported 100 per cent support in hospitals in Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Neath, Morriston, as well as the 1,500 workers in the three main Swansea hospitals.

Mr Dai Hughes, NUPE secretary at Singleton hospital, said:

'Heath's £1 plus 4 per cent is an insult. We want £4 and no less. If this strike is not effective we will intensify action.'

Another worker added: 'Newspapers say we are behind the national average by £5. This is not true—it's at least £8.'

Mrs Kelly, a NUPE shop steward for the domestic workers at Singleton, said:

'Under the wage freeze, how can a porter now taking home just £15 be brought up to a decent standard of living?'

'The quicker the government come up the better. There can be no government worse than this one for the workers.'



**ABOUT 200** Lambeth teachers marched through Clapham and Brixton yesterday in support of their claim for an increase in the special London allowance.

### BRIEFLY • BRIEFLY

**SIXTY** delegates from the South Wales, Bristol, and Bath regions of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, yesterday called on the union's executive to withdraw labour from all the area gas boards.

**NATIONAL** Coal Board employees from all over Britain were at Congress House, TUC headquarters, yesterday to question coal board finance officer David Clement about hiving-off operations on the board's ancillary industry. Miners, coke and chemical workers were astonished to learn this week that NCB assets valued at £79m are to be hived off to two holding companies.

**DOORHANGERS** at Ford's Dagenham body plant walked out yesterday against the company's £2.40 pay offer. Their action brought large sections of the body plant to a halt, but management failed to follow their usual policy of laying other workers off. The 30 doorhangers involved decided to stick by their original decision, to strike from March 1, because of confusion at the plant meeting on Wednesday which rejected a three-day strike. But they will go back to work on Tuesday night when other localized strikes in the Dagenham complex come to an end.

## Grants sit-in may spread



**1,200 STUDENTS** at Thames Polytechnic, Woolwich, will decide today whether to continue their week-old sit-in.

The occupation was called in a bid to 'ginger' the NUS leadership into waging a more militant campaign for higher grants.

They hope other universities, polytechnics and colleges of education will follow their lead and students at London's Imperial College were said to be meeting yesterday to consider a similar move.

The Woolwich students have received messages of support from a score of student unions, the NUT executive, Greenwich Labour Party and a delegate conference of tenants and trade unionists held at the Town Hall on Wednesday night.

They hold general meetings of the student body twice a day to review developments as well as

carrying on all normal college services such as the canteen, the library, security and cleaning.

The College's director has advised staff to stay at home while the sit-in continues and no attempts have been made to dislodge the students from their total control of the Polytechnic buildings.

Publicity committee member Mr Stuart Winstanley told me yesterday:

'We feel the NUS grants campaign is not really getting anywhere. We want to ginger up the leadership and push them to take a more militant line.'

'Now people here feel they want to take the sit-in beyond a week and really press our demand for higher grants forward.'

The students say their fight for grants is 'linked to the struggle of the working class against a Tory government bent on destroying all the basic rights the trade union movement has won through years of struggle and bent on destroying the political powers students possess and use in support of the trade union movement'.

**TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tory government resign**  
**LOBBY THE TUC MONDAY MARCH 5**

**9 a.m. Central Halls, Westminster (opposite Houses of Parliament)**

**Report back meeting: 2 p.m. Friars Halls, Sheetmetal Workers Union, Blackfriars Bridge (nearest tube Blackfriars).**