

BOOK NOW FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S PAGEANT— page 4

IT'S THE HOUR OF DECISION FOR TRADE UNIONISM

BY THE EDITOR

THE TUC's decision to 'invite unions to join in a day of national protest and stoppage' is hopelessly inadequate to deal with the critical economic and political situation. The trade union movement is now exposed to the gravest dangers.

The government has already replied to this weakness with an arrogant Budget which will make sure that the cost of living will continue to rise steadily and cause the purchasing power of wages to go down.

A substantial £350 handout has been given to the rich with the abolition of surtax, but Value Added Tax (VAT) will put up the prices of the majority of consumer items.

But the real medicine for the working class is yet to come. Tuesday's Budget was only an interim one while the currency crisis staggers on. As soon as the full burdens of runaway inflation are worked out, the costs will be passed on to workers and their families in further savage cuts in living standards.

The government has declared class war on the trade union movement over the question of inflation and is determined to pass off the blame for what is in fact a crisis of its own international capitalist system. It will make no compromise with the TUC reformist leaders, no matter how often Victor Feather crawls to Downing Street.

In contrast to this capitulation by Feather, Jack Jones and company to the Heath Cabinet the working class is putting up tremendous resistance to the Tory onslaught on its wages and rents. Gasmen, hospital staff, teachers, railwaymen, and civil servants are engaged in unprecedented strike action.

But these fights are now in danger of defeat, just as the postmen were defeated in 1971, because of the refusal of the TUC, backed up by the 'lefts' and the Communist Party Stalinists, to do more than call a one-day stoppage in their support.

A 24-hour strike will settle nothing with this Tory government which is utterly determined to win the confrontation with the trade unions.

The TUC is disarming workers by refusing to face up to what is really required. The feeble protests merely confuse the middle class and sections of the working class and give the government time to build up the forces of the state and prepare for a General Strike on issues and at a time of the Tories own choosing.

Preparation

The only way the working class can win the coming confrontation is by determined preparation for it. Being politically prepared will be decisive. The Socialist Labour League has consistently called for the mobilization of the full strength of the working class to create the necessary political and industrial conditions by a General Strike to make the Tory government resign.

All trade unionists who use the paralysis of the TUC as an excuse for not taking independent action themselves toward achieving this aim are in fact helping the TUC to carry out its treacherous role.

The danger is so great and the time so short that such confusion amounts to betrayal. Those who succumb to this paralysis invariably end up blaming the

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3,000 join teachers' pay march

BY DAVID MAUDE

ALMOST 3,000 striking teachers marched through London yesterday against the Tory pay laws under which they have been offered an 'insulting' 28p a week extra on their metropolitan allowance.

Max Morris, NUT president-elect, claimed 'the widest spread yet' was supporting the union's three-phase campaign of selective strikes.

Twenty-one areas were represented on the march and members of the college lecturers' union, ATTI, were also taking part.

But in the ranks of the demonstration, which periodically broke into chants of 'Tories out!' criticisms of the union policy was widespread.

Teachers from most delegations said they were in favour of all-out action now the selective strikes had failed to shift the government.

Above left: Many of yesterday's demonstrators were young women teachers. Two are interviewed on page 12, along with hospital workers and gasmen.

Miners' executive still talking about pay

BY ROYSTON BULL

THE NUM is to call a special executive on Friday, March 16 to make a final decision about its pay dispute with the Coal Board.

The Board yesterday made it clear that there can be no third week's holiday added to the

£2.29 package deal. Joe Gormley, NUM president, said this would almost certainly be turned down.

There were moves to put the

package to a ballot immediately with a recommendation to reject, but the executive voted by a 2-1 majority to delay such a move until March 16.

Gormley said as there was no third week he could not recommend acceptance.

workers press

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WHAT WE THINK

Rents fight weakens

THE CLYDEBANK vote to implement the Tories' rent Act raises serious questions for the working class. Fighting speeches had been made by the non-implementers. Labour councillor Joseph Bauld had said: 'We are not going to be intimidated by the law courts or the Secretary of State! We have taken a stand and there can be no retreat from it.'

Mrs Brown had sworn: 'I will not give in, even to the threat of jail.'

And Cllr James Reid, National Executive member of the Communist Party and leader of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders work-in, had promised: 'If a hair on the head of any councillor is touched, then the whole working class of Scotland will be part of the battle.'

But these were merely 'left' words and the failure of the Labour and Communist Party councillors to live up to them reveals the bankruptcy of centrism and Stalinism.

These people drifted into opposition to a Tory government measure inadequately prepared for a serious political struggle. This is the essence of centrism. The trade union movement was called in only to pay the councillors' fines and to bolster up anti-rent Act demonstrators with supporters from other areas.

Such a 'fight' cannot possibly defeat the Tories. The central question remains that of leadership.

The Labour leaders abandoned the rent struggle at the 1972 Labour Party conference when the 'left' MP Frank Allaun told delegates that the Party could not support rebel councillors and that a future Labour government would not repay surcharges.

The trade union leaders refused to mobilize the industrial might of the working class behind those Labour councillors who originally set out to defy the government. Workers were kept only partially active and were involved in only piecemeal, isolated actions.

Above all, they are given no political answers by the Stalinists and centrists to the main question—how to defeat the Tory government and force it to resign.

In 'Socialist Worker' of January 27, Paul Foot wrote an article praising the 11 rebel councillors of



Clay Cross. 'No power on earth,' he said, 'can make these councillors party to rent increases under the Housing Finance Act.'

But these councillors have been abandoned by their Labour Party chiefs, given no assistance by the union leaders and left isolated as one Labour council after another capitulated.

In these circumstances it is empty 'left' talk to say, as Foot does, that, if the Tories put a Commissioner into Clay Cross: 'The battle will then move from the council chamber to the estates.'

The Tory government cannot be beaten by 11 isolated councillors in Derbyshire and a spontaneous movement in the Clay Cross housing estates.

The Clay Cross councillors must be supported for standing out against the Tory government and its state laws. But Marxists have a responsibility to show that—no matter how courageous individual workers may be—victory cannot be won without forcing the union leaders to mobilize the working class against the Tories.

The central task is to link all the struggles of the working class on rents, prices, wages and basic rights to force the union leaders to call a General Strike to make the Tory government resign and return a Labour government pledged to repeal all anti-working class legislation and introduce socialist policies.

It is precisely on this question that the centrists remain treacherously silent.

CPers vote for rent rise

THE RENTS fight at Clydebank has ended. The town council, which includes Jimmy Reid and two other Communist Party councillors, voted unanimously on Tuesday to implement the Tories' Housing Finance Act.

The councillors were fined £5,000 last month for refusing to implement the Act and they raised the money by appealing for donations from the labour movement.

DECISION

Announcing their decision to abandon the struggle, Bailie Mrs Betty Brown (Labour) said: 'The 13 rebels have held many meetings over the weekend and our decision is that from tonight [Tuesday] we start to implement the rent Act.'

Her statement came only



Bailie Mrs Betty Brown (Labour) and Cllr James Reid (CP) who both voted to implement rents.

hours before the town council was due to be brought back to the Court of Session by the Secretary of State for Scotland who had asked for a final decree

against Clydebank.

Said Mrs Brown: 'We decided that the Act must be implemented because we could not have any heavier burdens put on the trade

union movement which has already helped us tremendously by their moral and financial support.

'But we realize that the axe is likely to come down in the Court of Session bringing a heavier fine and we felt if we had taken the defiant stand further it would have shown us to be irresponsible.'

ABANDONED

Another Labour-controlled Scottish local authority—Cumbernauld—has also abandoned its defiance of the Tory Act.

At Clay Cross, Derbyshire, the 11 Labour councillors who face a £6,985 surcharge, have decided by a majority vote to call off the month-long rent and rates strike.

But they are to continue their resistance to the government and rents will be collected at the pre-rent Act level.

Nixon aides will crack dollar whip in Europe

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

THE UNITED STATES government has no intention of making the slightest concession to the Common Market or the Japanese at tomorrow's crucial meeting of Finance Ministers in Paris.

In the words of Treasury under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs, Paul Volcker, the administration does not intend to 'throw good money after bad' by supporting the dollar on the international money markets.

Volcker, Treasury Secretary George Schultz and Dr Arthur Burns of the Federal Reserve Board constitute a most powerful top-level delegation to Paris. They are not interested in proposals for international co-operation and currency realignment.

Those Common Market worthies who hope for an 'American contribution' to supporting the crippled monetary system are living in cloud-cuckoo land. They have no more chance of getting such a contribution than Tory Chancellor Barber has of an EEC com-

mitment to unlimited support for sterling.

The Americans are continuing the drive against Europe and Japan which they began in earnest on August 15, 1971. The Trade Bill now being hurried through Congress with the backing of the American trade union bureaucracy is the next stage of the trade war offensive.

This Bill gives Nixon powers to oppose sweeping tariffs on imports, enter into bilateral agreements with other countries and bludgeon America's competitors into accepting US agricultural produce and industrial goods.

Numeiry threat to Arab guerrillas

PRESIDENT Nixon's call for 'firm international action' against so-called terrorism was quickly taken up by General Jafaar Numeiry, the pro-imperialist dictator of the Sudan.

Nixon's aides have indicated they want the eight Black September guerrillas held in Khartoum put to death.

At a ceremony in Washington yesterday he called on 'the whole world community' to take a firm stand against 'international outlaws'.

Numeiry, who owes his continued rule to the Central Intelligence Agency, was quick to kow-tow to the imperialist leader.

He announced that the eight commandos who killed two American diplomats and a Belgian diplomat in

the Saudi Arabian embassy would be tried for murder.

He launched a direct attack on the Fatah guerrilla organization, the largest Palestinian liberation section, claiming that it had organized the armed takeover of the embassy.

Fatah has firmly denied any involvement in the kidnapping of the diplomats.

It has always maintained it has no connection with Black September.

In an outburst revealing his counter-revolutionary spleen against the Palestinians, Numeiry said of the eight prisoners:

'It will not only be a September that will be black. We are in a position to make all their days black throughout the year.'

This statement paralleled similar remarks by King Hussein of Jordan, an arch-enemy of the Palestinian cause.

Following the raid Hussein confirmed death sentences on Al Fatah leader Abu Daud and a number of his comrades.

They were arrested on their way to the Israeli-occupied west bank.

One of the Black September demands was for the release of these prisoners.

Hussein has now offered to reconsider the death sentences if the commando organization will guarantee never to take any action against Jordan and provided this position is guaranteed by other Arab states.

The Bill's provisions put an end to the post-war trade system based on the principle of non-discrimination and governed by the rule of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. This system could not continue once the Bretton Woods currency agreement which underpinned it had been destroyed.

Economists in top Washington circles are talking quite openly about the introduction of a 15-per cent surcharge on all imports once the Bill is passed.

On top of the revaluations imposed on European and Japanese currencies, such a levy would crush whole branches of industry 'at a stroke'.

The other side of this ruthless offensive from Washington is the courtship between Nixon and the Soviet leaders.

As soon as the Paris meeting is over, Schultz will be flying to Moscow to hold preliminary discussions on trade expansion.

This is expected to include the possibility of granting the Soviet Union most-favoured nation status in trade.

Schultz, the White House said, will not be negotiating in Moscow.

This indicates that the two sides have already agreed the main lines of the new relationship under the treaty signed last year.

The Soviet bureaucracy is being drawn into the global plans of American imperialism, both to combat its capitalist rivals and to co-operate with it against the world revolution.

Election manoeuvres by Gaullists

LAST-MINUTE bargaining has been going on as French political parties prepare for the final ballot in the General Election which takes place on Sunday.

The Gaullist UDR, which lost heavily in the first ballot, wants the candidates of Jean Lecanuet's Centre Party to stand down.

This would provide a solid front against what are called the 'Marxists' of the

left coalition of the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the left Radicals.

A contest is also going on for the support of those middle-of-the-road voters who will have to choose between the Gaullist and the left coalition.

So decisive are these votes that President Pompidou is likely to make a special, last-minute broadcast to swing them to the Gaullist

side with a 'red-scare'-style appeal.

CP secretary Georges Marchais, who has done everything possible to establish an image of the utmost respectability, has been looking in the same direction.

He hopes, by still further emphasising the moderation of the common programme on which the left coalition is fighting, to win some centre votes.

Little 'adventure' in Britain's most exploitative industry



IAN RIMMER, the 'brassie'—youngest member of a trawler crew—as he was seen in the Granada TV documentary 'A Life Apart'.

INTERVIEW BY ALEX MITCHELL

FLEETWOOD on the north-west coast is a fishing town. It has been since local people can remember.

Behind the east coast towns Hull and Grimsby it is Britain's third biggest fish-producing port. It wasn't surprising, therefore, that when young Ian Rimmer left school at 14 he went to sea.

It should be immediately emphasized that his reasons for going on the boats are not lyrical ones, none of this 'down to the sea in ships'.

In his own complicated way, Ian explains why. First of all, he says, his mates all went to sea. He wanted to be with them.

Secondly, the trawler owners take young boys 'pleasuring' while they are still at school. The idea is to give the local lads a couple of pleasant days at sea and thus encourage them to take up this romantic life!

And thirdly, and perhaps the most compelling reason, what else is there to do in Fleetwood?

It was really the only job open to Ian which offered some sort of prospects. Unemployment in the town is chronic.

So Ian left school and went to the Navigation College for 11 weeks. He got £4 a week.

For two weeks of his course he went to sea as an 'observer'. For this he received £2 a week.

He received no 'fish money'—a share of the catch—although the two weeks were 'the hardest I'd spent in my life'.

On his 'observer' trip Ian was aboard the 'Fair Isle' owned by Ward's. Dick Ward is chairman of the Fleetwood Fishing Vessel Owners' Association.

In the recent Granada Television programme 'A Life Apart' on the Fleetwood fishing industry, Ward said: 'Each voyage is a new

Harsh trawler life drawing men into union

adventure. They really go off with a fresh heart each time. Starting all over again.'

In the same film Joe Hobbs, a deckhand, married with two children, gave a more sobering view of the work:

'Well, me, I mean, when I started this job I thought it was great. Plenty of money. I was, what, 17. I thought it was plenty of money.'

'I was going in, I had three weeks wages in my pockets when I was going deckie. Three weeks! I was just blowing it, having a good time. But when you get married you realize it—it's too late then to back out.'

Ian is now 16. He's heading for the same disappointments that previous generations have felt in this most exploitative industry.

On a recent trip one of his mates earned £3 for three weeks at sea.



IAN RIMMER left school at 14 and had little choice but to join the trawler men of Fleetwood.

The relatives of fishermen washed overboard or killed at sea receive a death benefit of £1,000. There is no scheme for injuries.

In recent weeks Ian and many of his mates have decided to join the union, the Transport and General Workers' Union.

They are disappointed, however, with the union's attitude.

'I've never met the union man,' says Ian. 'I've heard that he's never been on a boat in his life. His offices are in Blackpool.'

Ian's union contributions are deducted from his wages which breaks down any contact which he might have with the union.

About 60 per cent of the men are in the union and the membership is growing.

The national political developments are provoking a keen interest in political and industrial matters which has been dormant for many years.

The Fleetwood men don't want to see another generation of young men exploited by the monopoly owners.

Ian says: 'People are starting to talk about all the problems. There's even talk of strike action.'

'That'll give you an idea of how serious it's getting.'

After money is taken out for his mother, Ian himself has picked up the following amounts:

- £61 for three weeks when the catch was worth £17,000.
- £48 for three weeks (£17,000).
- £20 for two weeks (£6,400).

On one of his trips Ian was involved in his first accident.

A jagged piece of wire from the net ran through his glove and through his index finger. It pulled him along the deck towards the rollers which take the nets over the side.

Luckily the splinter of metal was rusty and it snapped.

When the job was finished, Ian's gloves were cut off. Another fisherman took the splinter in his teeth and pulled it out.

'Mind-labs for strikers'

Labour Minister's Orwellian plan for industry's 'mental illness'

KENNETH ROBINSON, the former Labour Health Minister, has an answer to Britain's swelling strike movement.

He says that striking is 'a mental illness' and needs to be treated.

This extraordinary view of the class struggle is contained in a letter written by Robinson to a magazine called 'Management in Action':

'The underlying causes of strikes and general unrest among workers has been under a tremendous amount of research.

It has now been fully established beyond any doubt

that behind the tendency to strike lies a severe mental illness which has to be treated by psychiatric techniques.

Madness

'The best way to solve this problem would be to open psychiatric units in every major corporation where the workers could be screened for mental illness.'

Robinson's Orwellian 'solution' to strikes is all the more sinister because he was personnel director of the British Steel Corporation. He wields enormous influence over the lives of tens of thousands of workers.

By Robinson's account the

gasmen, hospital ancillary workers, civil servants and teachers are all suffering from 'a severe mental illness'.

He wants them all psychiatrically treated.

The madness and irrationality is not in the minds of workers. They simply want to earn a decent wage and defend their basic standard of living.

It is the crisis-ridden capitalist system which has gone mad. To resolve its contradictions, it is lashing out and attempting to deprive workers of their basic democratic rights.

The way to 'heal the madness' is to overthrow capitalism and socialize the means of production.



KENNETH ROBINSON... strikers need psychiatry.

Co-ordinate all hospital strikes says steward

MORE than 700 hospital workers at Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary return to work today, but many want to see all-out strike action in the future.

Their two-day strike was the first of a series of protests against the government's state pay laws.

More stoppages will take place next week and meanwhile supply drivers at Newcastle's hospitals will remain on indefinite strike.

Shop steward Bob Holland said: 'I think the strike action should be co-ordinated throughout the country for selective periods. This would have maximum effect.'

Joe Head, a porter, complained bitterly against the Tory government. 'I was in the merchant navy for more than 25 years. During the war I fought against a dictator. Now we have a dictator in this country.'

'Heath decides how we live, how much food we eat and what our wages will be. He has control over everything.'

● See Merthyr Tydfil picket line, page 11.

Coles Cranes occupation determined to defend union

THE 1,000 sit-in workers at Coles Cranes, Sunderland, are to continue their fight for trade union rights despite an attempt to split them.

They voted unanimously at a mass meeting yesterday to keep up their ten-week occupation. They are to maintain control of their crane-making plant owned by Acrow (Engineers) Ltd.

They also lashed back at what

they call 'scurrilous slander' in the local Press.

Shop steward Matty Wake laid down this challenge: 'We will not suffer the tyranny of this dictatorship now or in the future. We are determined to continue this fight until we win.'

Management made 300 men redundant without consultation and drew up new works rules which destroy trade union rights.

Last week, agreement between unions and management appeared

to have been reached. But then management insisted on new terms for a return which were even more stringent than those originally proposed.

They demanded that only men who agreed to a 68-point 'bosses' charter' would be allowed into the plant. To return on these terms would be to crawl back, AUEW organizer Harry Wilkinson said yesterday.

He said a joint meeting had been arranged for tomorrow, but this time two Department of

Employment officials would be present as observers.

Many men are demanding, however, that the unions should organize action throughout the Acrow group against the anti-union action of chairman, Swiss millionaire Alphonse de Vigier.

The dispute has now reached a new height of bitterness after the intervention of a local vicar, the Rev John Taylor.

Taylor, described as an 'Orange man from County Antrim' at yesterday's meeting, has visited

three Acrow factories at management's invitation. He has now described de Vigier as 'an angel'.

In a letter in the 'Sunderland Echo'—renamed the 'Sunderland Acrow' by Coles Cranes workers—Taylor said de Vigier was 'a strong, trustworthy, generous, helpful, approachable, genuine person'.

Many trade unionists in many parts of the country who have come into touch with him over sackings and rationalization would tend to disagree.

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 expropriate 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.

I would like information about

THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.

Name.....

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ANTI-TORY RALLY

**AND PAGEANT OF HISTORY
"ROAD TO WORKERS POWER"**

DEFEND ALL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Unite in action to make this Tory government resign
Defend trade unionism and basic living standards

The road to power is through the building of the revolutionary party

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COACHES AND TRAINS LEAVING FROM ALL AREAS

BY JACK GALE

It is difficult to obtain information about the condition of political prisoners in Turkey. During November and December, 1972, an Amnesty International Mission (headed by Mr Muir Hunter QC) visited Turkey to inquire into allegations of torture.

They were permitted to see only one prisoner—Ilkay Demir, an inmate of Sagmalcilar Women's prison. Although the Mission submitted a list of prisoners they wished to see—including 13 other inmates of Sagmalcilar Women's Prison—they were allowed to see no others.

The prisoners whom they did not see included:

In Ankara's Mamak No 1 Prison; Irfan Ucar, Nuri Colacoglu, Ertugrul Kurkcu.

In Ankara Women's Prison; Nergis Savran, Tulay Tad, Behice Boran.

In Istanbul's Sagmalcilar Men's Prison; Mustafa Laciner, Yalcin Ozturk, Murat Belge, Sadik Akincilar, Yilmaz Guney.

In Sagmalcilar Women's Prison; Ezel Incili, Ulker Akgol, Bilge Dicleli, Lale Arikdal, Selma Veyisoglu, Ferdane Yurtsever, Nazife Kaya, Ayse Baykara, Elif Gonul Tolon, Julide Zaim, Ayse Emel Mesci, Kadriye Deniz Ozen, Ruchan Manas.

The reason given by the Turkish authorities was that all these prisoners were under military, not civil, control.

But when the Mission saw Ilkay Demir on November 29, she claimed they were being kept out of sight because they had recently been tortured.

In Selimiye Prison; Sarp Kuray, Necmi Demir, Talat Turan, Mehmet Alkaya, Orhan Sakasci, Yilmaz Guney, Munir Aktologa, Yusef Kupeli.

In Daoudpasa Prison; Ilhan Selcuk, Ihami Soysal, Dogan Avcioglu, Fahri Ariel, Mete Sonmez, Munir Aktologa.

Although the interview was conducted in the presence of the prison authorities, Ilkay Demir spoke up with great courage.

She confirmed that, as a former medical student at Capa hospital, she had personally tended the wounded feet of her husband Necmi and of Irfan Ucar and a number of women prisoners resulting from the 'falanga' to which they had been subjected.

Covered in blood

She confirmed that the floor of the 'torture room' was covered in blood and that the wounded feet had been examined by a Dr Garabet Arman, whom she recognized as being on the staff of Capa hospital. When asked for medical certificates about the wounds, however, Dr Arman has refused to provide them.

She described different types of falanga frames in use—one in which the feet were secured by straps, and one in which they were inserted through holes.

She was also familiar with electro-shock torture applied to both men and women, mainly in the genital regions.

Another common form of torture is the insertion of a policeman's truncheon into the vagina or anus, leaving serious internal inflammation, bleeding or permanent infection.

Ilkay Demir provided a list of women prisoners and the ailments from which they were suffering as a result of such treatment.

One woman, Turkan Sahin, was pregnant when arrested and had a miscarriage in the

TURKEY: TORIES ADMIRE THE GENERALS' REGIME



Fully armed Turkish soldiers deal with civilian unrest in Ankara. Inset: Julian Amery, Tory Secretary of State, says, 'I believe we should admire the way in which our Turkish friends have been able to retain their parliamentary institutions.'

police station after being beaten.

More evidence of torture was revealed in a report published by the Sunday Times 'Insight' team last December.

This disclosed the treatment of Sadik Akincilar, a lawyer who had defended members of the Turkish People's Liberation Army. On April 3, 1971, Akincilar was arrested by plain clothes policemen and taken to the police station. He was later blindfolded and driven to another building and brought before an Army Major-General.

He underwent beatings, falanga and electric shock torture until he 'confessed' to the required crimes.

Another case was that of a 22-year-old girl Ulker Akgol. She was tortured by Falanga for two hours and had police truncheons inserted into her body.

Most of the torture allegations were directed against the Turkish Intelligence Agency (MIT) and a semi-official, military, counter-guerrilla organization called 'Commando B'.

A regular pattern seems to emerge. First there is arrest by civilian police, followed by torture at the hands of the military or counter-intelligence, then 'confessions' and finally a return to the civilian authorities for formal arrest and trial.

Despite its extreme brutality, the Turkish regime is much loved by the British

Tory government. When questions were asked in the British Parliament about the tortures going on in Turkey, Secretary of State Julian Amery, replying on behalf of Foreign Secretary Alec Douglas-Home, said:

'I prefer to pay tribute to the enormous efforts made by the Turkish political parties to ensure that parliamentary government is preserved. I believe we should admire the way in which our Turkish friends have been able to retain parliamentary institutions.'

When that statement was made there were 1,135 people in Turkish jails under the jurisdiction of the martial law authorities. And that was according to official figures from the Turkish government!

Alec Douglas-Home himself, the original ancient aristocrat, told an Istanbul newspaper that 'allegations' (!) of torture 'would encourage disruptive forces in Turkey'.

This true-blue Tory went on to say: 'I think the Turkish authorities deserve support and understanding in their determination to retain their democratic institutions in the face of ruthless terrorist movements'.

There is a considerable body of opinion on the right in this country who would dearly love to see the methods of the Turkish regime used against the working class and revolutionaries in this country.

This was clearly and openly expressed in the 'Sunday

Telegraph' of April 2, 1972. In an editorial called 'Sane Man of Europe', this Tory paper gloated at the shooting down of members of the TPLA and claimed that the Turkish rulers could teach the British 'the arts of government'.

This editorial is worth quoting in full to show the bloodlust of the British right wing:

'If there was a Michelin Guide for terrorists instead of for tourists, Turkey would be categorized as "worth a detour" to avoid. Nowhere else in the western world do the state authorities give an impression of such decisive determination to resist blackmail and to strike back without any agonized searching of the liberal conscience.'

'Inevitable and desirable'

'There is nothing surprising about that. The Turk has never been renowned for gentle humanitarianism. But what is significant is the extent to which decent, reasonable people here would wish to see more countries follow the Turkish example, terrible and tragic as may be the fate of the innocent victims, such as the British radar technicians.'

'This reaction is both inevitable and desirable. Western civilization today is far more seriously threatened by a supine indifference to the

forces of anarchy and subversion, by a willingness on the part of lawful authority to cave in to violence than it is by any danger of excessively brutal repression or tyranny.'

'In the 19th century most of the western world had little to learn from Turkey which was justly regarded as the "sick man of Europe." But today it demonstrates a will to survive and to preserve its institutions which in a body politic is the true mark of health and vitality.'

'Who would have thought, a hundred years ago, that Turkey would ever have much to teach Britain about the arts of government? Yet today it is fast becoming the model to which many eyes are turned with growing envy and admiration. In a world challenged by anarchy the mailed fist, alas, will always be more attractive than the bleeding heart.'

But it is not only the imperialists who love the Turkish torture regime. Soviet President Podgorny paid a state visit to Turkey last year and the Soviet Union is building factories in the country by arrangement with the regime.

Close trading relations exist between Turkey and the Stalinist - controlled Balkan states, particularly Bulgaria.

And when Nihat Erim was installed in power by the military chiefs, one of his first congratulatory messages came from the Kremlin.

CONCLUDED



THE TAFF VALE PAGEANT

Perhaps more than any other area of Britain, the valleys of South Wales were the birth place of the labour movement. The miners sent the first Labour MPs to parliament and the railworkers' struggle became the reason for forming the Labour Party.

The 'Pageant of Workers' Rights', also named the 'Road to Workers' Power', traces the history of the working class. It ends with Taff Vale and the formation of the Labour Representation Committee of 1906—the forerunner of the Labour Party.

Taff Vale is the name of the railway company which took its employees to court in 1901 for striking. The company successfully sued the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants for damages and the trade union movement suddenly found itself faced with destruction.

But during these years also a new consciousness grew within the working class and its organizations—not only did workers need unions, they needed an independent political voice to speak for them in parliament.

So out of an obscure strike in the South Wales valley the Labour Party was born. Over a decade later it formed the first government. Harold Wilson and all the Labour leaders today owe their very existence

to the men of Taff Vale who fought to defend their basic rights.

It is this struggle that the Pageant team in Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, at the northern end of the Taff Vale railway line, is attempting to bring to life.

The handful of people who heard the most important judgement of the National Industrial Relations Court last year will readily appreciate the importance of this episode. NIRC president Sir John Donaldson used mainly the judgement of Taff Vale to support this ruling that unions were responsible for the actions of their shop stewards and therefore could be fined. Since then the two largest unions in the country have been robbed of tens of thousands of pounds

—money that their members paid to sustain their own organizations—like the men of Taff Vale.

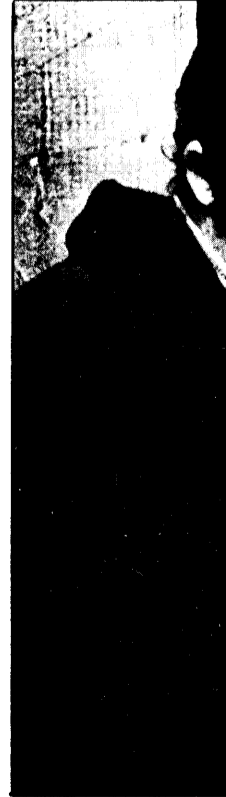
Taff Vale ends the Pageant and presents the question—if workers needed a voice in parliament in 1901, what do they need today when they face a far more serious challenge?

Clearly reformism is incapable of defending basic rights that the pioneers fought for. Reformism is the language of Victor Feather and Harold Wilson. The working class faces a new challenge. It has to construct a new political force—a revolutionary party that will secure the gains of the past for the benefit of the majority. This is the lesson of Taff Vale and the most important lesson of the Pageant.

The struggle in South Wales has already yielded enormous results. A cast of 60 workers and youth has been assembled and, for the first time since the early 1920s, revolutionary leadership is being constructed once more in the valleys. The youth are the vanguard of this movement. They have joined the Pageant and the work of the movement with an inspiring dedication.

The campaign in South Wales has proved one thing—that the Pageant is only the merest beginning—what lies in front is the construction of a movement that can lead the whole working class—the youth, the older workers and the housewives.

This is now a possibility in South Wales. It has been made so by the campaign.



Derek Thomas (right) Rehearsing for the 1901 strike.





DERECK THOMAS, a Merthyr Hoover worker, who has taken a leading role in the campaign:

There is now a fight going on in Merthyr for the future of the whole working class. We have the facts from today and from the history we are trying to reproduce. The working class now faces a crisis that will affect the lives of every one of us. At Wembley when we put on the Pageant, we have the opportunity to say to workers, 'This is the road your forefathers took. This is the road you must take.'

It was talking to a reader of the 'Morning Star' at the Triang factory. He said: 'There is nothing happening in Merthyr, to take the working class forward.' But I said to him: 'Well now there is.' I talk to my mates. They say: 'Oh the socialists have been here before and they went away.' But it is up to us now to keep that movement going. How else do we build the revolutionary party? How did they build the Labour Party? They did it. Only them.

When we put this Pageant on before 9,000 or 10,000

workers they will see that such struggle goes through them, not apart from them, that they have to do it. I would like to say that the revolutionary movement has come to these valleys to stay.

CLIVE BUNCE, garage worker:

Look around this valley and this town and what do you see?

People have been ripping the wealth out of these valleys and exploiting the people for hundreds of years. Even now there is no security. I have a job at the moment, but how long will it last? That is always the question in South Wales. Merthyr is Hoover's now, there is nothing else. If that goes, the town is finished.

The Pageant shows this history and puts it into perspective. We learned at school about the degradation and the squalor of these areas and their history. But one thing they keep very secret from you — how did the working class drag themselves out of this?

There is the feeling that something changed, someone maybe came along and helped

them. But this is not true. We had to fight for all we got. That's what we are trying to show in this Pageant.

Did people realize that our forefathers starved in the past for what we have got today?

Did they realize that men were sent up the line with not enough coal to get back — deliberately so they would have to steal the coal to get more money?

Did they realize that one of the jobs of the driver's mate was to nudge the driver to stop him falling to sleep because he worked such long hours?

People have forgotten these things. It is a good thing to make them remember it because the Tories then are the same Tories we have today.

I was talking to a man the other day. He said: 'You don't want to talk about history. What has that got to do with me?' I said: 'You are history. Everything that makes you stand there today is the history of your class.'

People don't realize this, but we have to show them that it is true and that they will have to fight again in 1973.

Derek Thomas (right), campaigning with the Pageant team in Merthyr. Above left: Rehearsing for the Wembley rally. Above right: The Taff Vale railway, scene of the 1901 strike.



From right to left: André Marty, Jacques Duclos, Maurice Thorez and Monmousseau, French Communist Party leaders who brought the general strike to an end and instructed the party not to take power.

THE FRENCH POPULAR FRONT

1936: CP puts an end to the General Strike

BY TOM KEMP

Delegate meetings were called for each industry in June 1936 at which the trade union leaders tried to sell the Matignon Agreement and end the mass sit-in movement.

In the case of the Paris engineering workers, the terms were twice rejected by delegate meetings. Many were demanding a mass demonstration against the employers in Paris. Acceptance of the Agreement proved equally difficult in other industries and the strikes continued.

Sections of the Press and organizations representing the capitalist class did not hesitate to describe the situation as revolutionary. They clamoured for Socialist Party leader Léon Blum to take action. The Prime Minister of the Popular Front government hastened to pass the laws on the 40-hour week and holidays-with-pay in an effort to calm the workers and defuse the situation.

On June 12 the Trotskyist paper 'La Lutte Ouvrière' was seized at the printing press and action was begun against its supporters. This was a sign that Blum saw the danger of a new revolutionary leadership placing itself at the head of the strike movement.

In the days after Matignon the Communist Party played a key role. Its support for the Popular Front ensured that this should be a counter-revolutionary one. On June 10 it congratulated the workers 'on realizing the slogans of the party concerning a national reconciliation.'

It went on to 'address its warmest wishes to Catholic and Croix de Feu [i.e. fascist] workers who, with the Socialists and Communists, fight together and display on the factories, workshops and offices, the tricolour of our fathers and the red flag of our hopes, reconciled by the Communist Party . . .'

For good measure the CP's Political Bureau denied that 'the Gardes Mobiles [armed police] and the army are hos-

tile to the workers in struggle'.

While churning out this treacherous stuff the Communist Party had to contend with the dangerous fact that the workers were still in the factories despite the employers' willingness to accept the Matignon agreement. CP Secretary Maurice Thorez and his colleagues did not hesitate.

On June 11 Party members in the Paris region were summoned to an aggregate meeting addressed by Thorez. He insisted that there was no question of taking power.

To re-assure the militants who saw the Party as genuinely revolutionary, Thorez said that its goal still remained Soviet power — something which the present CP Secretary Georges Marchais would not say today. But the time for this had not come. 'We have not got behind us, with us, with us to the end, all the population of the countryside,' said Thorez. 'We run the risk of alienating some of the sympathy of layers of the petty bourgeoisie and the peasantry. What then?'

'Then we must know how to bring a strike to an end when satisfaction has been obtained. It is necessary to know when to make a compromise when all demands have not been met, but when victory has been won on the most essential demands.'

THANKFUL

This passage was given front-page prominence in the CP paper 'L'Humanité' on the following day and set the keynote for the Party's work: get the strikers out of the factories . . .

Within a few days the Party's strenuous efforts began to yield fruits, despite the opposition of some elements in its own ranks. The workers accepted the agreement in one factory after another and the occupations were brought to an end. The ruling class had a lot to thank Thorez for.

A Central Committee resolution passed on June 13 contained the following passage: 'The Communist Party, con-

scious of its responsibilities, has courageously taken its stand without fearing to attack the hysterical gesticulations of the Trotskyists and their near-Trotskyists . . .'

'The CC approves the Political Bureau in combating the opinions of those who declare, without any thought for the responsibilities which weigh on the workers' organizations, that "everything is possible" and they oppose to this dangerous formula the communist declaration that everything is not possible; the principal slogan of the party remains: "Everything for the Popular Front, everything for the Popular Front".'

Without any doubt the French Stalinists played a major part in June 1936 in bringing the strikes to an end and preventing the development of a revolutionary situation in France.

The revolutionary current in the working class had to be arrested before it upset the policy of class collaboration with the 'left' of the bourgeoisie, represented by the Radical Party in the Popular Front. The French Stalinists did in 1936 what they were to do again in 1944-1946, 1958 and 1968.

This position is defended today in the official Party histories. Take, for example, a little book published last year under the auspices of the 'Institut Maurice Thorez' on the Popular Front period. It is one of a series put out by the Party to cover the period 1934-1954. The reason for this period of time being taken is that the Ministry of Education has recently introduced a course on this period into the history curriculum of the universities.

The Party therefore has to produce its own, 'official', version of events, in which it played such a prominent role, for the benefit of students. It called upon Party intellectuals as well as some old-time Party members who could speak from personal experience to give courses of lectures which provided the bases for these books.

In the volume for 1934-1939* as much space is devoted to the question of

whether the Party should have participated in the Blum government as is given to the strike movement. This is dealt with in a very sketchy way. It says that the strikes began to decline after June 11—but does not say why: that it was after Thorez had said it is necessary to know how to end a strike and the Party put all its forces into that task!

The question of how the strikes began is left vague; the main emphasis is on the fact that they were not carried out on orders of Moscow. The author, Jacques Chambaz, now has to deal with the accusation that the CP betrayed the workers in struggle. The question is, he says, that the situation was not revolutionary and he claims that the majority of historians — presumably he means bourgeois historians—believe that it was not.

The evidence he gives for this negative conclusion on examination proves to be threadbare. First he says that the workers wanted change through the Popular Front, not revolution.

But the workers did challenge the rights of private property, did begin to establish their own organs of power. It was lack of leadership which prevented this elemental striving from taking the road of a struggle for power.

Then, echoing Thorez at the time, he says other sections of the population, such as the peasantry, did not want revolution—and they amounted to half of the population. So the Communist Party, to put the best interpretation on the official view, tail-ended the petty bourgeoisie.

But this is not the real history at all. This was an alibi which looks no better today than it did when it was put forward at the time. The Communist Party was not waiting for a revolutionary situation to declare itself; it was actively and consciously stifling it by confusing the working class with the policy of the Popular Front and holding it back from any development of consciousness and a struggle for power.

The record of the strikes shows that the CP played a

treacherous, counter-revolutionary role, making use of the confidence of advanced sections of workers to keep their struggle within the limits of bourgeois legality and respect for private property. It was exactly the same role as that played by the CP in Spain in 1936-1939 with tragic results.

The Stalinist leaders were well aware that they could be outflanked on the left by a revolutionary leadership. That fear paid tribute to the fact that the situation was revolutionary.

It accounts for the especial venom which they reserved for the Trotskyists, who were small in numbers at this time, as well as other left currents which they feared might become a pole of attraction for workers who chafed at the restraints imposed by the existing leadership.

It explains the purge of left elements which went on in the CP's own ranks before they could constitute a dangerous opposition to the opportunist course of the Thorez leadership. Party policy conformed at all times with the requirements of the Soviet bureaucracy which dreaded a revolution anywhere in Europe and in 1935 had made a defence pact with France which still remained the fulcrum of its policy in Europe against the menace of Nazi Germany.

In any case the question of whether there was a revolutionary situation cannot be decided by counting heads or by pointing out that the middle class and peasantry were not prepared for revolution. The decisive classes were the ruling class and the working class; the one a tiny minority of the population and the working class, in France at this time, also a minority, though a much larger one than the Russian proletariat in 1917.

PANIC

Several years of economic depression and growing social crisis had undermined the morale of the big bourgeoisie. The strike wave revealed it to be in a state of panic, forcing it to turn to Blum to find some way of saving property—which he did with the CP's help and support.

Even Thorez said that the army, made up of conscript soldiers, would not fight the people. In fact there was no way of bringing the strikes to an end by armed force, as even the generals regretfully admitted. If the CP had put itself at the head of the working class in preparation for the taking of power, no force was strong enough to stand in the way.

Once they saw a determined leadership large sections of peasants would have come over to the workers' side, as they were already doing when the strikes were in progress. The same applies to the middle class which, in any case, could not constitute a force except behind some fascist movement.

But the fascist leagues were not comparable in strength in 1936 to Hitler's movement in the early 1930s. They began to receive considerable subsidies only after the events of 1936 when the employers saw that strong-arm methods were necessary to prevent a repetition of the sit-in strikes.

The crucial question was the absence of revolutionary leadership able to pose an alternative and expose the betrayals of the Stalinists.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

*'Le Front Populaire (La France de 1934 à 1939)' by Claude Willard et al. Editions Sociales 1972.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

NO EXCEPTIONS

Young Post Office workers have been singled out for a particularly painful slap in the face from the Tory government.

When Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan met leaders of the six unions involved in the current £5 claim recently he insisted that any relaxation of the hated incremental scales system operating in the corporation would only be made as part of the £1 plus 4 per cent Phase Two pay law formula.

This hits every Post Office worker between 16 and 24.

At present they do not receive their maximum pay until aged 24. But under the Hardman report of 1971, they were promised that they would reach their maximum at 21. The Post Office was preparing to implement the promise this year.

Now, the Tories are saying, this can only happen if older workers agree to give up part of the miserly £2 the government is offering them.

Macmillan made brutally clear to the union chiefs that there could be no exceptions to Phase Two, and that the government was determined to hold firm to this policy.

The Employment Secretary would not even promise that postal workers would receive special treatment under Phase Three. But they would be able to submit evidence to the Pay Board once it was set up, he offered.

SCRAPPED

David Leitch was a former feature writer on the 'Sunday Times' and then its Paris correspondent. He decided to write a book about his life in journalism.

It was published last week. For a fee of something like £2,000 the 'Sunday Times' bought the serialization rights. The 'New Statesman' advertised that excerpts from Leitch's book would be appearing in the 'Sunday Times' on February 25.

Come February 25, no Leitch book. But a small note saying that the excerpts will now be run in April in the 'Colour Magazine'. Why the hasty change of plans?

It seems that Leitch's exotic adventures included a trip to Moscow with his boss, Lord Thomson, to see Khrushchev.

Leitch reports that the Canadian billionaire spent most of the time trying to launch a takeover bid for 'Pravda'.

The courageous editors of the 'Sunday Times' saw these rude references to his lordship only days before serialization. Hence the series was temporarily scrapped.

We can confidently predict that when the articles appear in the magazine they will not include the Moscow trip with Thomson.

Below: Khrushchev and Lord Thomson. Leitch reports that the Canadian billionaire spent most of his time bidding for 'Pravda'.



TWENTY YEARS AFTER STALIN'S DEATH: HIS DISCIPLES ARE SILENT

BY JACK GALE

The obituary column in the 'Morning Star' last Monday, March 5, contained two interesting items. One read: 'Stalin, Joseph. In memory of Joseph Stalin, General Secretary of CPSU—May, Tom, Pam Hiron'.

The other, a more expensive 'box' layout, said: 'In Memory of comrade JOSEPH STALIN, builder and defender of Socialism who died March 5, 1953—Jean and Harry Fawcett'.

But the mourning Hiron and Fawcetts scanned the Communist Party's daily paper in vain searching for any further mention of their departed hero. He didn't rate a single mention.

How different from 20 years ago, when Stalin's name was going to live for ever! This is what the arch-Stalinist agent Monty Johnstone had to say in 'Challenge', the Young Communist League paper, on March 14, 1953:

'In the passing of J. V. Stalin the working people of the whole world have suffered an irreparable loss . . . No man in our times has done so much as Stalin to change the course of world history through the inestimable leadership and help he has given the oppressed of the world in their struggle for freedom and a happier life . . . His life is an example to every young socialist of courage, tenacity, faith in the people, the combination of study and action, constant devotion to principle . . .

'On his passing we can say, as Engels said of Marx's death exactly 70 years ago: "Mankind is shorter by a head, and the greatest head of our times at that. His name and work will endure through the ages".'

Stalin's name does, indeed, endure as a byword for counter-revolutionary treachery and brutality—which is why the faithful political lapdog Johnstone can find nothing to say on the anniversary of his master's death.

Communist Party general secretary John Gollan was also silent on this 20th anniversary. Perhaps, like his predecessor, his eyes were so blinded by tears that he could not put pen to paper. For this is what Harry Pollitt wrote in the 'Daily Worker' on March 6, 1953:

'Today, countless millions of

people in every country in the world are plunged into the deepest grief at the news that the heart of the most outstanding revolutionary leader of all times—COMRADE JOSEPH STALIN—has ceased to beat . . . Stalin—loved as no other man in world history has ever been loved by working people . . . Stalin—who has written golden pages in world history whose lustre time can never efface; indeed, with the advance of years, their grandeur and nobility will increase . . .

'With tear-blinded eyes and a grief we have not the language at our command to describe, we swear that our Communist Party and our "Daily Worker", will do all in their power to pick up that banner of national independence [!] that Comrade Stalin spoke about in his speech to the 19th Congress, hold it proudly aloft, and never allow it to be sullied by any power in the world. ETERNAL GLORY TO THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH STALIN!'

Pollitt rated Stalin above Lenin, though the Party theoreticians were slightly more modest. They only considered Stalin the equal of Lenin—though, of course, the equal of Marx and Engels as well:

ANDREW ROTHSTEIN:

'Stalin was indeed, from first to last, an exponent of the Marxist art of combining theory with practice at the level of genius—a level which put him abreast of his great predecessors, Marx, Engels and Lenin . . . Of this gigantic figure in world history we may say what Engels said at Marx's graveside in Highgate 70 years ago: "His name and his works will live on through the centuries".' ('Daily Worker', March 6, 1953).

JAMES KLUGMANN:

'As we mourn the death of the world's greatest working-class leader, we receive a magnificent gift and guide for those fighting in Britain in the cause of socialism—the first volume, in English, of Stalin's "Collected Works" . . .

'One of the greatest features of all Stalin's work—his combination of the most profound theoretical understanding and constant theoretical explanation with the most consistent revolutionary practice and the utmost simplicity and clarity—is reflected throughout these early writings of the young Stalin . . .

'From the style of Stalin alone—its simplicity, its illustrations from the daily experience of the workers, its logic, its humanity and warm love for those for whom he is writing . . . how much there is to learn . . . ('Stalin's Legacy', 'Labour Monthly', April, 1953).

In the same issue of 'Labour Monthly', R. Palme Dutt's eulogy reached a religious fervour:

'The genius and will of Stalin, the architect of the rising world of free humanity, lives on for ever in the imperishable monument of his creation—the soaring triumphs of socialist and communist construction . . .

'After nearly six decades of tireless theoretical and practical activity and political leadership, rising from height to height of achievement and from triumph to triumph, the greatest disciple and successor of Marx and Lenin completed his lifework on March 5, 1953 . . .

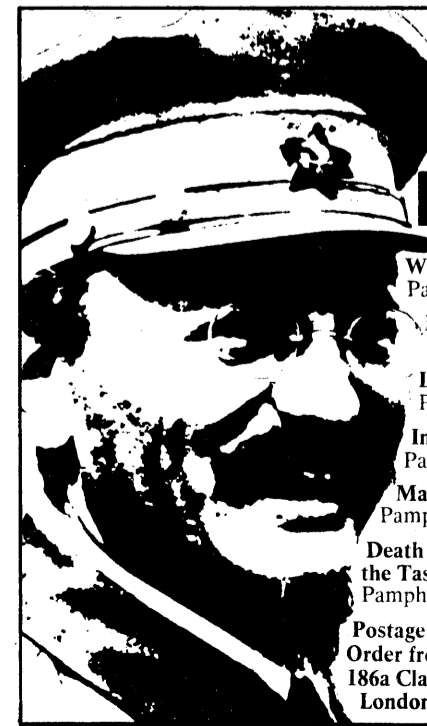
'Through all the storms of a thunderous dawn, of the dissolution of an old era and the birth of a new, he steered the ship of human hopes and aspirations with unflinching tenacity, courage, judgement and confidence. Now the road lies plain ahead. Departing, he could say with Bunyan:

"My sword I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage, and my courage and skill to him that can get it. My marks and scars I carry with me to be a witness for me" . . .

'Like a penetrating searchlight, the loss of Stalin laid bare the contours of the modern world, the light and the darkness . . . The commemoration of Stalin, the profound study of his teachings and example, and the absorption of the rich treasury of the inheritance he has left us—all this is now and will continue the indispensable weapon for further advance.' (Palme Dutt, 'Labour Monthly', April 1953.)

The last word must be with the late D. N. Pritt, the great apologist and defender of the Moscow Trials, in which Stalin butchered the Bolshevik Party. In 'Labour Monthly', April 1953, that hack wrote: 'We can indeed be thankful of the Stalinist developments of our history.'

So thankful, in fact, that they are forced to maintain a shameful silence.

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Scanlon

BY DAVID MAUDE OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH trade unions have never claimed to be an alternative government, writes Hugh Scanlon, engineers' union president, in the March issue of his union's journal.

The unions, Scanlon says in an editorial, did not seek a confrontation with government. During their talks with the Tories at Chequers and Downing Street last year they had been prepared to give them 'a package deal never before offered in peacetime'.



While the AUEW, together with all other unions, considered that there could be no long-term solution to the country's economic problems until the Tories were removed from office, they would campaign to do this through the ballot box.

Writing in advance of Monday's special TUC, Scanlon calls for 'maximum unity and the pledge that an attack by the government against one is an attack against us all'.

Under Phase Two of the Tory pay laws, he points out, the Pay Board, Price Commission and their respective codes constitute, in effect, a permanent system of statutory wage control.

If accepted by the unions, collective bargaining would be destroyed. The unions themselves would be emasculated.

'HYSTERICAL'

Scanlon attacks the Fleet Street Press for supporting Heath's about-face on incomes policy, for their 'unprincipled and hysterical' outbursts against the unions and their leaders.

'In their enthusiasm to convince the unions that suicide is beneficial,' he says, 'the papers are now constantly writing about the possibilities of an election fought on a "who governs Britain" theme.'

quotes history But only to avoid clash with the Tory government

But in his own enthusiasm to avoid the implications of the present situation, Scanlon goes on to play tricks with history.

'Let our members remember,' he says, 'that this is not the first time this old chestnut [the "who governs Britain" issue] has seen the light of day.'

'In "The Times" of August 3, 1925, the then Tory Home Secretary, Joynson-Hicks, said: "This thing is not finished. The danger is not over. Sooner or later this question has got to be fought out by the people of the land."

"Is England to be governed by parliament and the Cabinet or by a handful of trade union leaders?"

What Scanlon does not say is that this was in the period of Tory preparation to defeat the General Strike which broke the following year. Neither does he draw the lessons of that defeat or mention the treachery of the union leaders.

Joynson-Hicks is quoted merely

to afford Scanlon the opportunity of claiming that this is not the issue today.

He says: 'Rather should the question be posed "Who governs the unions?" Is it to be the editors of Fleet Street, the dictates of an arrogant government machine, or the membership who voluntarily join together and democratically elect leaders to protect and advance their interests?'

ALTERNATIVES

'In this country the unions have never claimed to be an alternative government. Similarly we do not expect Fleet Street or governments to pose as alternative union leaders.'

Scanlon here places his members in an entirely defensive stance in relation to the Tory government, leaving them completely open to the Tory preparations for confrontation with the working class today.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

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

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'.

HACKNEY: Thursday March 8, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, opp. Town Hall, Mare Street. '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'.

HARROW: Tuesday March 13, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Harrow and

Wealdstone. 'The fight against Stalinism'.

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

CLAPHAM: Tuesday March 13, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, S.W.4.

CAMDEN: Tuesday March 13, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross.

ACTON: Tuesday March 13, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W.3.

PADDINGTON: Tuesday March 13, 8 p.m. 'Prince of Wales', corner of Harrow Road and Great Western Road. 'Forward to the revolutionary party'.

KINGSTON: Thursday March 15, 8 p.m. 'Liverpool Arms', corner of Cambridge Road and London Road.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday March 15, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road.

WALTHAMSTOW: Thursday March 15, 8 p.m. Royston Arms, Chingford Road, E.4.

CROYDON: Thursday March 15, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road.

BASILDON: Sunday March 18, 5.30 p.m. Barnstaple Community Centre.

Castle 'discovery' to be Pay Board deputy

THE MAN in charge of investigating 'pay anomalies' created by the government's anti-inflation policies when the Pay Board is set up was named yesterday.

He is Mr Derek Robinson (41), who worked for the former Prices and Incomes Board and at the Department of Economic Affairs.

He will be a deputy chairman of the Pay Board under its chief, Sir Frank Figures, responsible for looking into pay anomalies of groups such as the gas and hospital workers and some groups of civil servants.

Mr Robinson was one of Mrs Barbara Castle's discoveries and advised her Department in 1968. Educated at Barnsley grammar school, he was a clerical officer in the civil service from 1948 to 1955 and then won a TUC scholarship to Ruskin College.

He became lecturer in industrial relations at Sheffield University, teaching trade union students in the extra-mural department. Since 1961 he has been senior officer at Oxford University Institute of Economics and Statistics.

BBC 1

9.42-12.10 Schools. 12.25 Disc a dawn. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Trumpton. 1.45 High street. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 2.50 Cinema now. 3.15 Parents and children. 3.40 Bean's boots. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 John Craven's newsround. 5.20 Brady kids. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 TOP OF THE POPS. 7.15 Z CARS. Defection. 8.00 SOME MOTHERS DO 'AVE 'EM. 8.30 THE BURKE SPECIAL. James Burke. 9.00 NEWS. Weather. 9.25 PLAY OF THE MONTH: 'PLATONOV'. By Anton Chekhov. With Rev Harrison, Sian Phillips, Clive Revill, Geoffrey Bayldon, Joanna Dunham.

11.20 MIDWEEK. 11.50 NEWS. 11.55 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.30 VAT 73 (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Mr. Trimble. 12.25 Witch's brew. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Jokers wild. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 There's money in roses. 3.25 Misfit. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Barkleys. 5.50 News. 6.00 TODAY. 6.30 CROSSROADS. 6.55 FILM: 'THE PRINCE WHO WAS A THIEF'. Tony Curtis, Piper Laurie. A prince who was supposed to be murdered is raised by a thief. 8.30 THIS WEEK. 9.00 LONGSTREET. This Little Piggy Went to Marquette. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 CINEMA. CHILDREN TO CHILDREN. From Poland—Album. 11.30 SCOTLAND YARD MYSTERIES. 12.00 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. 12.15 A TIME TO SPEAK.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University. 6.40 SIXTEEN PLUS. 7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY. 7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather. 7.35 THEIR WORLD. Hunters in the Reef. 8.00 EUROPA. 8.30 WEIR OF HERMISTON. 9.15 TIMES REMEMBERED BY

PROUD MUMS. Julie Andrews mother, Barbara. 9.25 HORIZON. Acupuncture. 10.15 PLAY: 'I WANT TO MARRY YOUR SON'. By David Cregan. With Richard Johnson, Estelle Kohler. 10.45 DON McLEAN. In concert. 11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather. 11.45 REAL TIME.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 4.20 Lottery. 4.25 Follyfoot. 4.55 Jackson five. 5.20 Doctor in charge. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Maverick. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Gunfight at Dodge City'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.00 London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.02 Cinema. 11.35 Scales of justice. 12.00 News, weather.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 10.30 Report. 10.59 News. 12.00 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women.

3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Film: 'Destroyer'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Anna and the king. 9.30 All our Saturdays. 10.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Guideline. 11.15 Film: 'The Naked Street'. 12.40 Weather.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.05 Film: 'The Undercover Man'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.00 London. 10.30 Sir Geraint Evans with John Morgan. 11.15 Spyforce. 12.15 Weather.

HIV Cymru/Wales as above except: 2.30-3.00 Hamdden. 4.25-4.35 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 4.50-5.20 Rovers. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. **HIV West as above except:** 6.18-6.35 Sport West.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Katie Stewart.



Clive Revill plays Nicolai Triletki in Chekhov's comedy 'Platonov', being repeated on BBC 1 tonight, with Rex Harrison in the title role.

3.00 London. 4.25 News. 4.30 Land of the giants. 5.20 Cartoons. 5.35 Wind in the willows. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Forgotten Man'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Pathfinders. 10.00 London. 10.30 Bygones. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Living and growing. 12.05 Frighteners. 12.30 Living word.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Julia. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Battle Taxi'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 10.00 London. 11.00 Gardening. 11.30 UFO. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.31 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Emmerdale farm. 3.55 Harriet's back in town. 4.23 News. 4.25 Elephant boy. 4.55 Phoenix five. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Caxambu'. 8.30 London.

9.00 O'Hara. 10.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Avengers.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.30 Jobs around the house. 3.00 London. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 Rovers. 5.20 Dave Cash. 5.00 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Thief of Damascus'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Mod squad. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 Felix. 12.05 London. 5.15 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.30 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Film: 'Bengal Brigade'. 8.30 London. 11.00 What the papers say. 11.20 Nichols.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Just one word. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Place in the country. 3.00 London. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 Stingray. 5.20 F troop. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads.

7.00 Film: 'The Jackpot'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 News. 11.50 Monty Nash. 12.20 Greatest fights.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 4.25 Lost in space. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Scotch corner. 7.00 Cimarron strip. 8.30 London. 9.00 Pathfinders. 10.00 London. 11.00 Gardening. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Edgar Wallace.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.53 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Emmerdale farm. 3.55 Harriet. 4.25 Skippy. 4.50 Merrie melodies. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Carry On—Follow That Camel!'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 10.00 London. 11.00 Odd couple. 11.30 Living and growing. 12.00 Meditation.

Remand home cruelty 'Hell-hole' boys punched

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE LARCHGROVE Assessment Centre in Glasgow is one of the 'hell holes' where teenage boys are sent on remand.

The idea of such institutions is to assess the boys by creating an atmosphere of 'worthwhileness'.

But as working-class youth know only too well, this is far from the reality of these homes. An official inquiry into Larchgrove proves the point. It reveals that remand staff frequently punched, kicked, pushed and cuffed the boys.

After an 18-day investigation into allegations against staff, 13 incidents were found proved—nine incidents of violence towards boys, two incidents involving neglect and two incidents of 'unsympathetic handling'.

Mr Ronald Bennett, QC, and Mr Peter Righton, stated in their report:

'There is ample evidence to support a clear conclusion that shouting, pushing, cuffing and shaking frequently occurred particularly at line-ups and when minor offences were committed.

'We also find that there was sporadic punching and kicking.'

Glasgow Corporation which owns the centre was blamed for taking more than three years to implement recommendations for improvement after a boy was stabbed to death there in 1969.

'The malaise is the fault of the system rather than of any particular individuals—staff or boys—who are subjected to it.'

TUC steel committee lobbied over jobs

ANGRY steelworkers from Shotton, Ebbw Vale, Teesside and Stanton and Staveley lobbied the TUC steel committee meeting in Sheffield yesterday.

The men shouted 'Heath out' and 'Feather out' as union delegates from British Steel Corporation plants went inside for the meeting.

A contingent of 300 travelled from Shotton in north Wales for the lobby while a further 100 came from other plants threatened by the Tory 'rationalization' plan.

So far the TUC has provided not an ounce of leadership against the attack on some 50,000 jobs in the steel industry.

It was significant that the visiting steelworkers were not greeted by Sheffield steelmen. There was no delegation to meet them at the station and there was no Sheffield representation on the lobby.

This is despite the fact that by far the biggest employer in Sheffield is BSC. It is also worth noting that the AUEW district secretary is George Caborn, a leading member of the Communist Party and that CP members are in prominent positions in the leadership of the Sheffield steel unions.

The fact that the CP leaders did not mobilize a lobby against the TUC steel committee is in line with their failure to mount a lobby outside the special Congress of the TUC last Monday.

Mass picket mounted over sacked trade unionist

WORKERS at Zenith Carburettors, Honey Pot Lane, in Stanmore, Middlesex, have organized a mass picket for tomorrow.

The dispute at Zenith's is over union recognition and the sacking of Mr Mike Dale, the quality manager and chairman of the white-collar ASTMS group.

ASTMS members are claiming that the company offered Mr Dale a substantial golden handshake to end the dispute.

A union leaflet alleges trouble with the com-

pany for the past nine months over union recognition.

On January 28 ASTMS served strike notice on the company and when the seven days expired the 40 members at the Deptford works walked out in a one-hour official stoppage.

Immediately they returned Mr Dale was called to the firm's head office. He was asked to give the following assurances:

● That he would never

take part again in a union dispute.

● That he would quit his position as chairman of the union group.

● That he would not act in a way to give support or encouragement to other members.

When Mr Dale rejected these conditions, he was dismissed on the spot.

His sacking led to a walk-out by 40 ASTMS members demanding his immediate reinstatement.

The following day 120 members of the General

and Municipal Workers' Union staged a one-day strike in support of the ASTMS fight.

Suppliers are believed to be using non-union drivers to break the picket lines. They have been told the strike is unofficial.

Other sections have been threatened with closure if they back the white-collar workers.

Tomorrow's mass picket will be maintained throughout the day to protest against Zenith and its 19th-century attitude to trade unions.



Among the many women on the picket lines this week are these ancillary workers from the hospital at Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales. They were seen by our Pageant team who are working in the area for next Sunday's Empire Pool rally (see page 4).

Pools workers' treble chance—the union

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

EIGHTY-ONE workers, mainly women, at Empire Pools, Blackpool, are now in their fourth week of strike demanding recognition of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers. It is an official strike.

Last November Empire Pools (formerly Edwards Promotions Ltd) recognized the union in the presence of the conciliation officer, but in January recognition was withdrawn.

It has now rejected efforts by the government's Conciliation Department to bring the sides together.

Now the firm is giving double bonus, free meals and transport to and from work to anyone who works during the strike. The management is also claiming that girls now working will have to be sacked if the strike is successful.

USDAW denies this and says it only wants recognition.

The pools workers are also fighting for improved wages and working hours which are at present £12.80 for a 21-year-old clerk working 40 hours a week.

Weekday overtime rates are time and a quarter, rising to time and a half on Sundays.

There is no pay during sickness and two weeks holiday a year is only granted after 12 months' service.

This compares with the Littlewoods Pools (trade union organized) rate of £18.80 for 36½ hours per week for a pools clerk aged 19, with time and a half overtime rate and double time Sundays.

One 16-year-old girl at Empire Pools told me she received only £9.20 for a 40-hour week. But with Blackpool's high rate of unemployment the comparison is often made, according to one union official, not between £12.80 and £18.80, but between £12.80 and the dole.

Last Saturday, two coachloads of Littlewoods and Vernons pools workers and a contingent from Duple's coach-making firm in Blackpool joined the picket.

The girls are determined to fight until they gain recognition.

And they have written to Victor Feather, general secretary of the TUC, demanding that the Trades Union Congress should be transferred from Blackpool this year.

Why should the unions pour money into Blackpool, they reason, when it remains a town of low wages and widespread refusal by employers to recognize trade unions?

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WHAT THE STRIKERS SAY

TENS of thousands of workers in various sectors are in struggle against the Tory government's state pay legislation.

Gasmen, civil servants, teachers, hospital ancillary workers and railwaymen are all rallying

to fight against state control over wages and Heath's moves towards the corporate state.

Almost without exception Workers Press reporters have found that the rank and file is determined to resist these laws

and defend its basic standard of living.

But also, without exception, it is faced with a weak trade union leadership: none of the union leaders is willing to call for national strike action on be-

half of his members.

In this series of interviews Workers Press talks to some of the trade unionists in struggle and asks them about the TUC's call for a day of 'national protest'.

TEACHERS

GASMEN

HOSPITAL WORKERS

Public is very much behind us

BERT COLLINS, chief shop steward at the North Thames Gas Board, said: 'The public is very much behind us. When we began the Press said there would be deaths and explosions all over the place. But as far as I know, I am the only casualty so far.'

(Mr Collins suffered a heart attack following a heated meeting with gas board officials. He is now confined to his home resting.)

'I think the TUC is very weak. I have always thought so.'

'It sits on the fence too much, particularly Vic Feather. He is retiring soon

and he's got a good job in the Common Market.

'I would have liked the TUC to have gone much further on Monday. A week would have shaken the government, but one day means nothing.'

'Had they come out with a policy of one week, I think we would have got somewhere.'

Frank Veal, of the Westminster depot, said: 'The one-day effort is a waste of time. What's that going to show? What we want is two bloody weeks. We want something really strong.'

'All this mumbling is useless. People are starting to say we should take things into our own hands.'



T&GWU strike leader at King's College Hospital, John Lawrence.

One-day strike is not good enough

A PORTER at Kings College Hospital, Denmark Hill, Oliver Batter-shield, said:

'This one-day national strike means nothing to me. The TUC is going to the government on its knees when it should be telling them what to do. It's not good enough.'

'I take home £23 a week for 52 hours. I've got three children, and I have to pay £6 rent for two rooms. This can't go on.'

'We're out for a week, and I think that when we hold our next meeting we must extend this action. But we need the support of all the workers.'

Ridiculous

John Lawrence, co-chairman of the T&GWU strike action committee at Kings College Hospital, said:

'A one-day action is ridiculous.'

'This struggle against the Tories is obviously becoming national—you've got teachers, the gasmen, Ford's civil servants, all involved with us.'

'But at the moment we're all split up.'

'If we don't get satisfaction, we will have to have everyone out.'

'We've got 700 union members here and they are all for further action.'



Hackney teachers Sue Lilley (right) and Alison Brodie.

SUE LILLEY, a young teacher from Hackney, said:

'It's good that they've done something at last. But a one-day strike won't be effective.'

'It's the same with our executive. They're just not militant enough.'

'Young teachers like myself are taking home under £20 a week. You can hardly pay the rent with that. It's existing, not living.'

Alison Brodie, also from Hackney, said:

'A one-day strike won't work. We want everybody out indefinitely.'

'After April 1, of course, this will be illegal according to the Tories. But I think

teachers are so angry now that they are prepared to face that and carry on.

'The TUC seems to be like our executive. They want to back out.'

David Orty, from Greenwich teachers' association, said:

'The TUC was forced to call some form of action, but there are dangers in the protest policy they've hit on.'

'It's not only that the people we should be giving a lead to will become exasperated, but also those in our own ranks will get disillusioned.'

'My association demanded an extended strike from the executive. This struggle is political, and that's the only way it can be won.'



Militant women ancillary workers at King's College Hospital, London. See more on page 11.

UNIONS: HOUR OF DECISION

FROM PAGE 1

working class for the failures of the leadership.

The time has come to end this fatal hesitation by a bold struggle to transform the situation and end the political sleep-walking.

The SLL calls on every trade unionist and member of the Labour Party to accept his or her responsibility to help build an alternative leadership to that of the Feathers, the Scanlons, and the Wilsons. It means mobilizing the most advanced sections of the working class and trade union movement into a revolutionary party.

A giant step has already been taken in this direction with the organization of a mass anti-Tory rally at the Empire Pool, Wembley, next Sunday March 11 at 3 p.m., where a pageant of working-class history 'The Road

to Workers Power' will be performed before thousands of trade unionists, housewives, and youth.

The Pageant shows how the working class heaved itself up from the depths of 19th century degradation through struggle to the powerful strength it possesses today. Only through struggle can those gains be held and the Tory onslaught thrown back.

To workers we say: This is

your history. It is your responsibility once again to ignore those who would treacherously sue for peace with the arrogant Tory government and to fight instead to defend your basic rights.

Come in your thousands to the Empire Pool and help take the decisive step towards building the alternative leadership which will take the working class to power.

BRIEFLY ● BRIEFLY ● BRIEFLY

A CASE against Sir Hugh Fraser, the millionaire department stores chief, on a charge of aiding a man commit motoring offences has been postponed until May 2. Sir Hugh has pleaded not guilty to a charge of aiding and abetting Maurice Vincent Taylor, of Trossachs Hotel, Callander, to drive while Taylor was disqualified and without insurance. Sir Hugh was not at Dunblane Sheriff Court when the case was called yesterday, and Sheriff Harold Ford fixed May 2 as the new date. No reason was given for the postponement.

PRESIDENT of the National Industrial Relations Court Sir John Donaldson, spoke out in favour of collective bargaining rather than negotiations by individual workers with their employers yesterday. 'In principle this court is in favour of collective bargaining and the appointment of sole bargaining agencies,' said Sir John. The court dismissed an application for withdrawal of a sole bargaining agency granted to the Transport Salaried Staffs Association in a London travel agency.

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

MARCH FUND NOW STANDS AT £158.51

DON'T LET our pace start to slacken. By now we should have reached at least a quarter of the way to our target of £1,750. Make an effort today and give our Fund a boost.

This month it is vital. More than ever we need to use Workers Press to warn our readers of the nature of the economic crisis. The Tories' Budget must be seen as a preparation by the government for a snap election in order to bring in even harsher measures against the working class.

LORD STOKES, chairman of British-Leyland, yesterday told shareholders he would not be prepared to recommend breaking up the group. He told critical questioners at the annual meeting: 'We are one of the more

profitable motor companies not only in the UK but in Europe.' Mr Redvers Veale, who led the attack on the Stokes management, said he was not satisfied with the answers to questions about improving profitability.

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