

## DRAWN DEEPER INTO PAY BOARD NET

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By Royston Bull

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This Pay Board is the machinery of the corporate state for dealing with the working class. Once the trade unions accept it, they will be trapped inside the corporatist legislation of state wage controls.

These mean the government decides how much workers shall be paid and how to punish workers agitating to fix their own wage levels.

But to defeat this legislation requires a political fight to force the government's resignation. Rather than do this, the trade union leaders, almost to a man, are going to help sell the Pay Board idea to workers and do everything to break the growing strike movement.

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Union leaders representing hospital workers, civil servants, train drivers, and teachers are all resisting action, as did the G&MWU from the gasmen.

In cases where the trade union leaders cannot control the militancy of their members, the government will resort to bullying tactics, such as the fines against Jack Jones' transport workers union and Hugh Scanlon's engineering union, which both these 'lefts' tolerated.

Or else they will resort to threats of lock-out, such as that just used to persuade the train drivers' leaders to call off their industrial action. (See page 12.)

And behind all of this the

Tory government is preparing state machinery, 'bodies of armed men', to physically crush the strike movement if the union leaders are unable to betray it completely.

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By their servile crawling before the employers and the Tories, the union leaders hope to be able to avoid the class confrontation and lead a quiet life.

But the objective disintegration of the capitalist system makes this impossible.

The struggle will go on. The union leaders' weakness and unwillingness to fight will only disarm the working class and make the struggle more bitter.

Their political cowardice will give a hesitant government more determination to carry out attacks on the unions and working-class living standards which the economic crisis, and the extreme right wing of the bourgeoisie, both demand.

Once emboldened by successful inroads into working-class rights, the Tories will launch an outright onslaught to impose a corporate state.

The TUC, the 'lefts', and the Stalinists are pursuing time-wasting one-day stoppages, token strikes, overtime bans and other forms of pressure politics.

With half-hearted stoppages, the Ford workers, gasworkers, hospital workers, train drivers, civil servants and teachers are all fighting with one hand tied behind their backs against a ruthless ruling-class determined to pass the burdens of uncontrollable capitalist inflation onto the workers.

Once wages are effectively cut for all workers by tying them to a low government-imposed ceiling—while food and other prices rocket—the Tories will then begin to ruthlessly drive wages down.

This is the process the government is persuading union leaders to embark upon by first getting their

acceptance for Phase Two and the Pay Board.

Only by building a new leadership and by clearing out the Tory agents from the ranks of the labour movement can the working class prepare for a successful defence of their rights by defeating the Tory government.

Trade unionists must insist on recall conferences of their unions to reject any dealings with the Pay Board and Phase Two and to demand a General Strike to force the Tories to resign.

## Tenants in rally against bailiffs

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN BOLTON

TENANTS from all over the north-west demonstrated in Bolton on Saturday in defence of six council house families who have had their furniture seized by local bailiffs.

The six are the remnants of a

once-powerful rents strike in this Lancashire town.

Last Tuesday Bolton bailiffs, acting on the instructions of the borough treasurer, entered their homes and seized goods to compensate for their £22.88 rent arrears.

Tenants from Oldham, Hattersley, Manchester and a 50-strong delegation from Towerhill Tenants' Association, Kirkby, Liverpool, turned out for the march through Bolton town centre.

They chanted 'Tories Out' and other anti-government slogans. At one stage police wielding sticks moved in on the demonstrators when they attempted to sit down on Bolton High Street.

At a rally after the march Neil Duffield, a carpenter and one of the six tenants who have had their furniture confiscated, said that he would never pay the £1.04 rent increase imposed by the Labour-controlled council.

'There are only five of us left now. One family has paid because of intimidation. But I will not pay—they can take all my furniture,' he said.

His wife Eileen said: 'We need industrial support. Workers should realize that a rent rise is a wage-cut.'

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Tony Boyle from Kirkby told the meeting that the police had used brutal tactics last Monday against a demonstration outside Kirkby Town Hall.

'They piled in on us—men, children and pregnant women.'

Manchester tenants' leader, Connie Fahey, said that the fight of the tenants should be linked with the fight of the whole working class to get rid of the Tory government.

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## GUN LAW

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# workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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## MP says 'hang subversives'

IT WAS time treason was recognized, extreme right-wing Tory MP, Mr Harold Soref, said at Thornby, Lancashire, at the weekend.

'The Angry Brigade, the IRA and other revolutionary bodies should be treated as such and capital punishment restored,' he said.

Soref, the anti-immigrant MP for Ormskirk, was responsible for leading the Monday Club witch-hunt against the Young Socialists' summer camp held in Essex last year.

He also recommended that travel permits should be introduced between Dublin and Britain and some form of identity card which would also control illegal immigration.

It had taken more than a year to recognize the danger in Northern Ireland. It was more than two years since a bomb had been thrown in the House of Commons, he said.

'Surely we do not want to wait for fighting in the streets and the destruction of parliament before dealing with these subversive groups which threaten us.

'It is high time the police were protected from insults and slander attacks and abuse.

'The alternative is anarchy and civil war which is the logical conclusion of the activities of the civil rights workers and community relations partisans.

'There can be no opting out except at our peril.'

## Sinister series for BBC

ACTOR Kenneth Williams returns to Radio 4 next month in another series of shows in which he plays a secret agent fighting against the BRA—the Brotherhood of Revolution and Anarchy. The series, starting on April 3, is among new schedules announced by the BBC yesterday.

## Picket code in 2 weeks

THE TORY government will produce a code on picketing in the next two weeks.

Publication of the document follows pressure for tighter picketing laws by chairmen of nationalized industries, port employers and building industry bosses.

On its front page yesterday the Tory 'Sunday Express' said:

'As the miners prepare for a national ballot over their latest pay claim, a tight police crackdown on illegal, violent picketing is on the way.

'What really matters is that the law should be enforced and that the police should be better equipped and backed in enforcing it.'

Workers Press has already reported the formation of special inter-constabulary units or 'heavy mobs' to deal with pickets.

This squad was in action at a privately-owned wharf at Hull on March 9 and again at Shrewsbury last Thursday, when building workers appeared on conspiracy charges.

## Stalinists look for co-operation in Europe

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

A JOINT communiqué from the Communist Parties of the Soviet Union and Italy says nothing about support for the Common Market.

Issued after an Italian delegation visited Moscow it says the two parties accept the need for 'the definition of a policy of inter-European co-operation'. This can only mean co-operation between the Common Market and NATO on the one hand and COMECON and the Warsaw Pact on the other.

The Soviet bureaucracy obviously expects the powerful Italian party to be a main advocate of its policy of doing a deal with capitalist Europe, presented as 'detente' and 'peaceful co-existence'. The communiqué says the two parties 'reassert their wish to co-operate . . . with other Communist Parties and with all parties which represent forces of detentes, peace and social progress in Europe'.

Nothing is said about the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, which the Italian Party criticized at the time in order to placate public opinion and conserve its 'liberal' image.

## World-wide float an admission of failure

# Markets open in state of anarchy

BY JOHN SPENCER OUR FOREIGN EDITOR

CURRENCY markets reopen this morning in a situation of almost total anarchy after their record 17-day shut-down.

The system of 'fixed but adjustable parities' has been swept away and in its place practically every main capitalist currency is floating.

Finance Ministers and central bankers meeting in Paris on Friday could find no alternative to the 'floating' regime.

All their efforts to regulate the crisis since the breakdown of the 1944 Bret-

ton Woods system in August 1971 have ended in failure.

The adoption of a world-wide float is their admission of failure.

The American delegation at the Paris conference, headed by Treasury Secretary George Schultz, made only the most token gesture towards assisting the other capitalist powers.

The US said it would delay the removal of checks on US capital exports 'until the dollar is stronger' and would intervene 'in principle' to support the dollar if the rate falls against the EEC bloc.

In addition it will join the other 13 participants in 'studying' ways of 'making

the Euro-dollar market less volatile'.

These guarantees are so vague as to be meaningless.

The Euro-dollar market consists of those dollars exported from the US since the war. They cannot be redeemed for gold at the US Treasury.

The US government has no intention of taking charge of this immense pool of 'hot' money, which, in any case, is beyond the control of any single government (or group of governments).

The absence of any plan to deal with Euro-dollars makes it certain that there will be further and even more violent upheavals in the currency markets.

Not only will the failure of the Paris meeting fuel the existing lack of confidence in paper money, it will also create intolerable conditions for international trade.

Traders depend on having some guarantee that the different currencies will retain a stable relationship for quite lengthy periods of time.

That is why the six EEC countries, with Sweden and Norway, are trying to hold their currencies within a set of parity bands.

Already this relationship is showing signs of strain and it is not expected to last for very long before collapsing.

The breakdown of the capitalist monetary system must lead directly to a credit collapse on an international scale.



Imperial Typewriter workers outside the plant.

## Typewriter pickets claim wages cut by £10

pushed production of electric machines from 500 to 2,000 a week.

The highly-organized auto section clinched the best deal and the highest increases. But in the past couple of months management has been looking for ways of reducing the bonus.

When the wage-cutting began the auto men began

to clamour for negotiations.

Last Friday 400 workers at one gate signed a petition calling for a works' meeting. It is understood the union has refused the petition.

Benny Pinigar, speaking for the auto men, said his department was first on the firing line on wage-cutting. He called for support from other sections.

## Italian CPer was Pope's go-between

MORE information has been revealed about the part played by an Italian Communist Party delegation which acted as go-between in carrying peace proposals from Pope Paul to Hanoi in December 1966.

In an interview with the Rome paper 'Il Messaggero', communist deputy, Anton-

ello Trombadori, said he had told the Pope he was available to carry a message to the North Vietnamese government. He did this on instructions from Party secretary Enrico Berlinguer.

Negotiations with the Vatican were conducted through a Jesuit priest Father Roberto Tucci and it

was from him that Trombadori received the Pope's message just before the delegation left.

He was also sent by the Party to see the Pope in 1969 during a visit to Uganda, with a view to arranging for Cardinal Pignedoli to accompany him to North Vietnam at the Vatican's expense.

CEMENT WORKERS have occupied a residential church in Seville, Spain, in protest against the closure of their firm 'Andaluz de Cementos'. The 100 workers point out that there is a

great shortage of cement in the province, and that if they lose their present jobs, they will never get new ones. In Seville, factories have been closing down at a rate of one a month.

CIRCULATION

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## France: CP for Gaullist policy

GEORGES Séguy, Communist Party leader of the union federation CGT, has responded to the Gaullists' electoral victory with a blatant call for a corporatist state.

During the election campaign, the CGT leadership told workers not to upset the election chances of the Union of the Left by striking for wage increases.

Now, Séguy has made an appeal to the Pompidou government to execute the promises it made during the election.

This abandons even the common electoral programme with the Socialist and left Radical Parties.

Writing in 'Le Monde' Séguy reassures Pompidou that the CGT and CP will remain the main pillar of support for French capitalism:

'It is ridiculous to give the CGT some murky desire for political revenge consisting in exploiting the discontent of workers for the purpose of agitation and creating disorder.'

Particular reference has been made by the Stalinists to a speech made by Pierre Messmer in Provence in January calling for a meeting of the representatives of the employers, government and trade unions to negotiate wage increases and reforms.

On March 15, the CP daily, 'L'Humanité' printed the whole of Messmer's programme, which it is urging the working class to fight for.

It is no more than a string of vague promises to improve purchasing power, working conditions and increase pensions and family allowances—the customary right-wing 'social' promises.

Séguy claims that it will be difficult for the employers and their government not to make concessions, 'although their margin for manoeuvre is cut by the worsening economic and monetary crisis affecting the capitalist world'.

The workers will have to rely on their own strength, he adds . . . but the 'militants will need a lot of realism and a great sense of responsibility'.



## GERMAN SHARPSHOOTERS

The Union of West German Policemen has accused the social-democratic government of training members of the para-military Federal Border Police as soulless killers.

The union has demanded an answer from Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, saying that the well-armed border police have formed Ranger units with a licence to kill, trained in the arts of torture by American commandos stationed in West Germany.

According to the union, border policemen have been tortured and insulted to toughen them for combating 'terrorism'—a top preoccupation of Genscher's Interior Ministry at a time of great financial and social crisis.

The union has stated that border police commandos had their genitals tied to trees, or were locked in torture chambers and bombarded with cold water and noise to brutalize them for combat.

The police union president,

Werner Kuhlmann, has demanded a parliamentary inquiry into border police training methods. He says that as the Federal force is trained to shoot to kill—rather than shoot to wound like other West German police—it presents a hazard to civilian life.

A spokesman for the union said: 'The border police are training hardened killers, who are being used more and more in normal police operations. Where policemen are taught to shoot and capture, if they have to, these people just open fire and kill. They are trained as soldiers, not as policemen.'

In fact, the border police are effectively a military formation, set up in 1951 at the height of the cold war, just after Germany had been divided.

They patrol with armed high-speed launches in the Baltic, northernmost tip of the 'suicide strip' frontier running between the two German states. Apart from foot and ski patrols along the tightly-surveyed frontiers with East Germany and Czechoslovakia, they now use armoured troop carriers.

The green-uniformed guards have become increasingly con-

spicuous since the Munich airport shoot-out last year, when border police snipers were used in an attempt to trap and shoot down the Black September guerrillas who kidnapped Israeli Olympic team members.

Border force officers are to be seen at all West German airports lounging in sports jackets and carrying automatic rifles as they keep watch on passengers.

Increasingly, their role in West Germany is a preparation going on throughout the Common Market for civil war with the working class. Just as in Britain, behind the talk of the danger of 'terrorism' is the militarization of the police and the preparation for big class battles.

Coming only days after the police shootings at India House and the Old Bailey bomb blast provocations in London, these measures by the West German government demonstrate that the trend towards civil war is not confined to Britain.

## AMERICA DEMANDS COMPENSATION FROM THE COMMON MARKET

The United States and other major trading countries are claiming large amounts of compensation from the Common Market for trade losses resulting from the entry of Britain, Ireland and Denmark.

The compensation negotiations opened last week in Geneva, headquarters of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

They are likely to drag on for several months and will almost certainly give rise to bitter and acrimonious exchanges between Europe and America.

The American government regards the negotiations on compensation as a curtain-raiser for the world multilateral trade talks which are due to begin in the autumn.

The Geneva talks are very much part of the trade war between Europe and America, as the complete lack of preliminary agreement demonstrates.

Under GATT rules countries are allowed to claim compensation from a trading bloc like the GATT if its enlargement results in loss of trade to them.

This, the US claims, is what has resulted from the growth of the EEC, and in particular from the accession of Britain, a big customer for US products.

The Americans, together with other countries affected by the Common Market's enlargement—notably Australia, Canada and Japan—have gathered three truckloads of statistical documents to back their case.

The United States is taking the negotiations very seriously indeed. While its negotiators talk in Geneva, the Washington Congress is rushing through President Nixon's Trade Bill.

This empowers the President to impose tariffs against foreign exports either on a discriminatory or a wholesale basis and is a most potent threat against the EEC.

The Common Market countries could well face a 15-per cent surcharge on their exports to the United States unless they show willing and compensate the US.

This could only be the first step to complete capitulation to US demands.

The US wants lower tariffs on certain of its exports to the Common Market in compensation for the effect of Britain applying the restrictive Common Agricultural Policy.

Britain is the world's largest food-importing nation and the loss of markets in Britain is the last straw for American food interests which already feel the EEC farm policy discriminates against them.

The Common Market is showing no sign of accepting the American demands. It claims that the lower common external tariff on manufactured goods offsets any losses caused by increased food tariffs. This amounts to a total rejection of the US claim.

The system of negotiation being adopted is positively Byzantine. A single delegation representing the EEC will negotiate separately with any claimant country proving 'a principal supplying interest' in any product, but in consultation with others justifying 'a substantial interest' in it.

The result will apply automatically to all remaining GATT countries under the 'most-favoured nation' rule.

This could lead to all sorts of complications. For example, which outside country would be qualified to negotiate if Britain's major supplier of a given product should be one of the original six Common Market states?

Are Commonwealth countries entitled to compensation for withdrawal of preference? Is a variable imports levy equivalent to a customs levy?

Whatever the answers, if any, that are found to these questions, one thing is certain: under present conditions of trade war there can be no amicable settlement of the results of EEC entry.

Britain's entry to the Common Market was in itself an act of trade war against the United States, designed to gain increased protection for British industry from the cold wind of recession blowing outside.

The Common Market countries which have already had to take the costly decision to allow sterling to float on alone are in no mood to pay further bills for British entry.

The conflict between Europe and America will not be settled peacefully round the table, but only through ruthless conflict between the powers.

## SVETLANA BELIEVES IN THE GOOD LIFE

Joseph Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva Peters, has found happiness at last in the United States. 'I've found exactly what I was looking for in this country', she told the 'New York Times' society page reporter the other week.

She's certainly adapted well: the 'Times' says she's now a super-patriot who is fed up with 'long-haired hippies' and 'protesters in the streets'. She even has a credit card with a women's clothing store.

Worth about \$4m from royalties on her two appallingly sentimental books, Svetlana is enjoying a cosy exile in Princeton where she owns a black-shuttered mansion with a two-car garage.

Her best friend—she calls

him 'my American godfather'—is George F. Kennan, mastermind of the cold-war containment policies of the 1940s when he worked as a State Department diplomat.

But not everything has gone smoothly since she left the Soviet Union six years ago. Recently Svetlana divorced wealthy architect William Peters after refusing to live with him in a commune in Arizona.

'It was very painful, very painful,' related the daughter of the man who murdered thousands of Bolsheviks. 'But I believe in private property and they live a communal life. They share their incomes, their food, their living.'

'Everyone works, including the children. That's why I left Russia.'

As the saying goes, the apple never falls far from the tree.



# INSIDE THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY

Dear Editor,

In 1961, when I was 31 years old, I was introduced to the Communist Party by way of the 'Daily Worker'. Having read the paper for some weeks, I then decided to attend a branch meeting.

This I continued to do on a weekly basis for three months and for the next four years was left to stagnate. No real introduction to Marxist education was given, only boring talks from the branch secretary who thought that to question anything he said would be a disruptive element; he then left the district and unknown to my husband (who was also a member) and I, a branch meeting was called to elect a new secretary.

A week later we were introduced to him in the local pub; this one proved to be even worse than the last. By this time my husband and I were beginning to wonder what sort of organization we had in fact become part of, as public activity was never mentioned, let alone carried out.

We began to agitate and point out it was surely our task to get out to the people and try to awaken some real political awareness in them; first by a canvass with the 'Daily Worker' and then a leaflet campaign to let people know there was a communist branch in the area, as it seemed very much like a secret society at this time, with only 12 members.

We had our campaign, with my husband and I and the branch secretary, who made one appearance and then went underground again. The other comrades made excuses like they did not wish their children to come under any attacks due to having parents who might become known communists (incidentally I had six children) so the paper sales and any other activity were left to my husband and me.

In 1966, during the General Election, we canvassed for three weeks solid (my husband took two weeks off his summer holidays), leaving home at 8.30 a.m. in the morning and returning any time after midnight, as the candidate was not in our own area; again no other comrade would participate.

When this campaign finished my husband was elected branch

secretary and myself chairman. We held a meeting and put it down the line to the comrades that they had to start being active if we intended to be serious in our political task. This was treated with horror by the old Party stalwarts.

The district secretary was present and he informed us that we could not, and must not try to force comrades into doing anything they did not wish to do. We then decided what was urgently needed to instil some militancy into the comrades; there was also an obvious lack of a grasp of Marxism. We then held classes for three months, but to no avail.

Things remained the same, the sleeping members being fully protected by the Party officials. My husband and I carried on regardless and increased the branch membership to 34 in a matter of six months—all were young married couples who were willing to work the same as we were—but what happened was that the older members refused to come to any more branch meetings and even paid their dues direct to Party office.

## Intolerable

The situation regarding our position was becoming intolerable, as the older comrades were going about trying to block our work. People who had been buying literature for some great length of time suddenly stopped. We realized a smear campaign was being waged against us; we were being criticized at every turn, until, in the end, we left the Party.

Along with us left all the young people we had recruited. It obviously left us all with a bitter taste in our mouths.

I must point out here that the reasons given above are not the only reasons we were treated in this manner. Other major reasons were we had begun to question the role of the Party: why it would seem that they were not playing a true revolutionary role; why the change in the name of the 'Daily Worker' to the 'Morning Star' (which we voted against); why, when we asked what we felt were very important questions, we never received any answers?



Mrs Winnie Price (centre) pictured at rehearsals for the Pageant 'Road to Workers' Power'.

The main reason, as we then felt, was that the total leadership of the Party was very weak and, of course, we expressed all this at branch meetings and other meetings. It was always received with shock—how dare we question the leadership?

The year we left the Party was 1969. In 1971 we moved to Middleton and because we still wished to be active and stir people into being class conscious, we applied for membership of the CP, thinking things may have changed. But we were only fooling ourselves.

The attacks from this Middleton branch were even worse than the last branch and the first attacks came only a few months after rejoining, because I brought to task a Labour councillor and a member of the CP on their attitude to the anti-Common Market campaign in the area.

In my opinion there was no real fight and no linking up of other issues. I was then told by the branch chairman I was destroying left unity and this had to stop and that my husband and I were taking the Trotsky line.

Soon after this we began to buy the Workers Press. Again I was attacked and told I must not only stop buying the paper, but must not be seen speaking to the comrade who was selling me the paper in the local pub, as I was destroying the image of the Party.

The tenants' association in this area had long been defunct and my husband and I raised this issue at a branch meeting. After a long discussion on the matter it was decided that we would book a hall, leaflet the estate inviting people to attend and set about reforming the association.

This was done and 60 people attended. We then decided on a further meeting two days later, as the present secretary did not wish to carry on in that position (he was a CP member). Also the present chairman declined to carry on as he had just recently been nominated parliamentary candidate in the area—he was, of course, a Labour councillor.

Before the second meeting was called we were informed by the branch chairman that if there was any chance of one of us being elected as secretary or chairman we should decline the offer as, and I quote, 'it would affect our Party work,' particularly myself as I was standing in the local elections.

We went along to the meeting and when the election of the secretary came up I was nominated and seconded by members of the Labour Party. I declined the offer, but was having very grave doubts as to why I should decline.

A very lengthy discussion took place by all the 30 people present as to why I should

take the position and in the end I accepted. This obviously did not please the branch chairman who, after only a few weeks, began to accuse me of neglecting my Party work.

I then informed him that surely this was part and parcel of my political work and that it made it easier for me to get through to people canvassing for the election. He could not or would not see my point of view on this matter.

All during this period I had continued to read the Workers Press. For the first time in my political work I found that the Press was giving me the political answers to the issues facing the working class, so much so, that at a public meeting with over 400 workers present and because I had become so incensed by the statements being made by the association chairman (who was a Labour councillor), I grabbed the microphone from his hand and informed my fellow workers that there was only one way to fight the Housing Finance Act and that was to call for a General Strike to have a General Election to kick the Tories out.

I must state at this point that when I mentioned General Strike I had not really intended using this phrase, but I obviously would not retract it, and I was glad I didn't as there was a wonderful response from the workers.

I then went on to say we could not fight single issues; that we must all understand the connection between the Industrial Relations Act, the Housing Finance Act and entry into the Common Market, as this was the Tories' way of trying to take away our basic rights and for my fellow workers to remember that we have the power to stop them with the right kind of leadership.

Well, as you can imagine, this did not go down well with the reformers. I was accused of turning a tenants' meeting into a political meeting; needless to say I still continued to speak on these lines.

Suddenly the CP members who had come into the tenants' committee stopped attending meetings. Out of the blue my husband and I were invited to a Sunday morning meeting in the Labour Club, where we were to find out that members of the CP and LP had met the previous day and formed a committee, known as the September 6 committee.

Its role was to ask the people to sign petitions of support for the councillors who were going to vote against implementation and we had been invited to find out if the tenants' association would help them in this task.

In the following two weeks we were out every night with petition forms, asking people

over the loud-hailer to attend the town council meeting on September 6.

The bulk of this work was done by the tenants' association; we had collected over 2,000 signatures. On the night of the council meeting, they were all there basking in the glory of this wonderful political task they thought they had done.

After this the association decided on a further public meeting, so we called a meeting with the September 6 committee to ask would they help with the ground work—leaflets, posters, loud-hailer, etc. But no help was forthcoming. Even on the night of the meeting there was only one member of that committee present.

It was just before this state of affairs that I had decided once again to leave the CP.

After the public meeting I wrote a letter to the local paper expressing my disgust with the Labour Group for their betrayal of the people. Because of this I was barred from entering the Labour Club where the tenants' committee held their meetings. The rest of the committee was informed that they could stay; in other words, get rid of your secretary and everything will be OK.

## Reformist

We found another place to meet and are still functioning and will continue to do so without the CP or LP and more and more the Workers Press is being sold in this area, giving all workers, as it gave to me, the political understanding which, up until the past few months, was so sadly lacking in this area.

I wish to add here, that out of a branch of 98 members, only six did any work in the tenants' association. Even at public meetings we were lucky to get ten members of the branch to attend.

This, added to what I have already stated, proved the Stalinist nature of the Communist Party. It also proved that this Party is just another party of reform and backwardness, in which, for anyone who wishes to be a revolutionary, there cannot possibly be a place.

I am appealing to other comrades in the CP who feel the same as we do and want to build a big revolutionary party—come out before you get lost in the wilderness.

Don't fall for the Stalinist line of peaceful co-existence. Get truly involved in the class struggle. Work alongside comrades who are willing to fight, not hold you back. This fight is now, so don't waste any more time.

Yours fraternally,  
Winnie Price.

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# POVERTY THAT CRIPPLES AND KILLS

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

*'We believe from our experience of the children with rickets referred to the unit, and who came from different schools and backgrounds, that rickets will be found in all schools to a greater or less degree...'*

**A report on conditions during the Industrial Revolution? A description of the 1930s?**

The sentence quoted above comes from the report of a study carried out by four prominent doctors and scientists in the Birmingham area published in the British Medical Journal on February 10, 1973.

Out of 569 schoolchildren studied, aged 14-17 years, 233 showed signs of rickets when blood tests were taken, and in about 4 per cent the disease had progressed so far that X-ray examinations showed abnormalities of bone structure developing in the wrist, ankle and pelvic regions.

In addition to the 569 included in the study, a number of other children had also been referred to the medical unit because the bone distortions had become so obvious as to be noticeable without special tests.

Rickets, the dreaded disease of past generations, which produces undersized, weakened men and women with twisted pelvises and bent legs, is with us again. Caused by inadequate diets, particularly a shortage of vitamin D during crucial stages of growth, especially in the early 'teens, it shows in stark human terms just what the Tory attacks on workers' living standards means.

There is nothing abstract about the fight to defend the basic rights which the working class has won in past battles. Victory or defeat will be mirrored in the bodies and lives of millions of men, women and children.

The unemployment and poverty of the early part of the century not only brought desperation and misery, they also brought disease and death.

The Ministry of National Service, reporting on over 2 million men examined for military service in 1917 and 1918, acknowledged that, out of every nine men of military age, three were 'perfectly fit and healthy; two were upon a definitely infirm plane of health and strength... three... could almost [in view of their age] be described with justice as physical wrecks; and the remaining man as a chronic invalid with a precarious hold on life'.

Rickets and tuberculosis were rife. Infant and maternal mortality were high. The death rate faithfully reflected the living conditions of the working class.

The official figures at the height of the depression in 1937, ranged from 73-90 deaths per 1,000 in peaceful, middle- and upper-class areas such as Bournemouth, Exeter, Oxford and Cambridge, to 106 in working-class Birmingham, 113 in Bermondsey (south London), 128 in Manchester, 134 in Rhondda, 135 in Burnley and 138 in Wigan.

More people died of tuberculosis in the high unemployment areas of Durham, Northumberland and South Wales than anywhere else in the country. New-born babies died at the rate of 47 per 1,000 in comparatively well-off south-east England, 59 in the Midlands, 63 in Wales, 72 in Durham, and a terrible 114 in Jarrow.

The Pilgrim Trust, in an inquiry carried out in 1928-1934, found that the death rate amongst women in childbirth



The unemployment and poverty of the 1930s brought desperation and misery, disease and death. Today rickets, the dreaded disease of past generations, has reappeared amongst schoolchildren in the north.

was 19.8 per cent higher in areas with a lot of unemployment than in more prosperous districts.

For one thing, apart from the exhausting grind and despair of trying to make ends meet on the dole, and the unhygienic conditions of slum housing, few women could afford proper food. Doctors were prescribing a healthy diet of milk, cheese, butter, eggs, liver, fresh fruit and vegetables during pregnancy, but how many women whose men were out of work could afford even the 4s a week required for two pints of milk a day, let alone all the other necessary foods?

With the supreme cynicism of middle-class do-gooders, the National Birthday Trust Fund carried out an experiment in 1935-1937. One group of 10,384 pregnant women were given special food at a cost of 13s 4d a week each. Another group of 18,854 women were just left to bear their babies as best they could on what they could afford.

The Fund found that the maternal mortality rate in the first group was 1.63 per 1,000 births. In the second group it was 6.15—nearly 1,200 women—who died, the vast majority because they could not buy sufficient food to keep them alive in pregnancy.

The establishment of the welfare state after World War II was no accident. Nor was it a generous gift from a conscious-stricken ruling class.

It was the result of an enormous upsurge of working-class militancy and a firm determination never again to be subjected to the terrible, dark days of the past. The working class swept the Labour government to power demanding great changes. The employers, weakened by the war and terrified by the spectre of revolution which was stalking throughout Europe, reluctantly conceded.

The undersized, undernourished men and women reared in the 1920s and 1930s watched the new generations of post-war children grow up tall, strong and straight on the orange juice, cod liver oil,

milk and school meals of the welfare state.

It became the proud boast that one of the finest achievements of the 1945 Labour government was that everyone had the right to live as full, healthy and long a life as possible, regardless of their personal income.

But if the Tories were forced to accept the introduction of the welfare state in the 1940s, they have never ceased to hate it. They fought to limit the scope of the National Health Service and the Labour government, afraid of an all-out challenge to the capitalist class, agreed not to nationalize the highly-profitable drug industry and to retain the use of private practices and private hospital beds.

The Tories are today exploiting these loopholes to the limit in order to undermine

the health service.

Spurred on by the rapidly-developing international capitalist crisis, desperate to claw back the rights which the working class has won in years of struggle, one of their prime targets for destruction is the welfare state. They cannot tolerate any longer a situation in which workers can claim as their right food and medical attention which does not contribute in any way to profits for the employers.

Among the first acts of the present Tory government was the passing of legislation to deprive schoolchildren of free milk and to raise the cost of school meals. In 1971 the Ministry of Health stopped the distribution of free cod-liver oil, a prime source of vitamin D, to mothers and young children.

At the same time, rocketing

prices and rents and frozen wages ensure that, once again, families are finding it impossible to provide varied and healthy diets for their children.

As the Birmingham report shows, the incidence of rickets among schoolchildren is becoming a major problem.

When the first 133 children with rickets came to their notice, the doctors started special vitamin D treatment. Within a short while improvements were shown, although some children took as long as six months before they were back to normal.

'Non-specific symptoms of lassitude, muscle weakness, aches and pains... were relieved by therapy,' the report states, 'often in a sufficiently striking manner to be commented on by their teachers.'

However, as the writers point out: 'The unexpected size of the problem compelled the follow-up to be limited. Thus only 133... were treated, being those that were seen earliest in the survey. Those seen later were not followed-up or treated.'

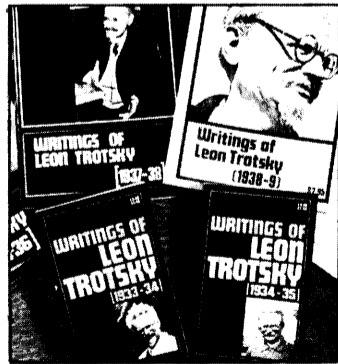
Behind the cold figures is the human suffering—100 underweight children, their growth stunted, plagued with 'lassitude, muscle weakness, aches and pains' who are receiving no treatment at all. And thousands more who have never even been diagnosed. Although some of the symptoms will clear up as the children reach adulthood, the twisted bones and lack of growth will be with them for life.

By robbing workers and their families of their right to a decent living standard and welfare benefits, the Tories are condemning thousands of people to disablement and an early death, just as surely as the gangster who maims and kills his victims.

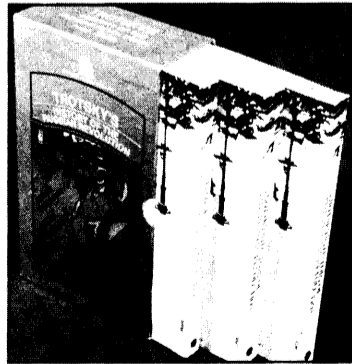
By refusing to mobilize the working class to defend their rights and bring down the Tory government, the Labour and trade union leaders play the part of accomplices to the crime.

But the working class is fighting back. In spite of the sabotage of its leaders, it will not allow itself to be driven back to the conditions of the past without an enormous struggle.

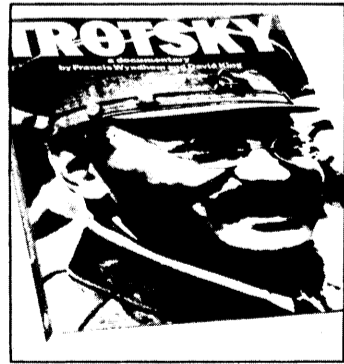
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# THE BISCUIT MILLIONAIRES

BY STEPHEN JOHNS AND ALEX MITCHELL

The United Biscuit company this week announced record profits for the third year running and celebrated by asking for another round of price increases.

Fifty per cent of the UB range, which includes McVitie's, Crawford's, Carr's, Penguin, Wright's and Macfarlane's biscuits, have already increased prices by 5 per cent. Now it is the turn of the other 50 per cent. Managing director Hector Laing blames increased raw material costs. If prices stayed the same, he says, the group would suffer from decreased profit margins. The government does not object to this argument. The case of United Biscuits is perhaps one of the most

blatant examples of deliberate Tory discrimination against the working class. While wage increases are kept down to the pittance decreed by government, the big monopolists like UB all contribute to the incredible rise in food prices now tearing away at a rate of 28 per cent a year.

## RECORD

UB's share of the rocketing cost of living is considerable. In 1971 profits were 43.1 per cent over the previous year and the latest returns show a further £2.8m increase to a record figure of £21m—this is before the latest round of increases. The profit increase for the first half of 1972 reached an amazing 67 per cent, though margins narrowed towards the end of the year.

UB's shareholders rake in such fabulous wealth because the company holds a monopoly position in the industry—the firm claims more than half the £200m biscuit market in Britain and, with the other giant, Associated Biscuit Manufacturers, (Huntley and Palmer, Jacobs, and Peak Frean) controls well over two-thirds of biscuit output. The ability to increase prices simply to maximize profit was revealed last year by one of UB's brightest executives Bill Bowman, who heads the international division. Bowman was commenting on the overhaul of the UB empire, which followed an investigation by business consultants McKinsey. 'There was no advertising, no product support, no image, they were just cut-priced products,' he said of the old-style 'family' UB. 'So we made a start on re-vamping McVitie. We put prices up massively, we im-

proved packaging and got away from the round English-style packs.' There is no disguising motive in this statement. UB was raising prices, exploiting its commanding position in the market to rake in more revenue. The UB group was an amalgam of family firms with a rather lazy attitude to marketing and making money. But recent years have seen a drive for rapid integration coupled with expansion into other food lines (KP nuts, crisps, flour manufacture, preserves and meat wholesaling). The overhaul has meant massive redundancies within the industry. Four of the UB biscuit plants and four of the nine general food factories have been closed. While the rationalization was going on, UB was relentlessly extending its monopoly power. In July 1972 it bought Wright's biscuits from the Cavenham food and retailing

group for £4m. One of the first moves after the take-over was a decision to close the South Shields plant, threatening several hundred workers with the dole in this area of high unemployment. At the same time UB teamed up with the other confectionery giant J. Lyons to buy 50 per cent of Fox's Biscuits. The only big company standing in the way of total monopoly now is Associated Biscuits—but price competition has effectively been eliminated in the industry in favour of the advertising war. In 1971 £2.9m was spent on TV advertising alone.

## BENEFITS

The people who benefit from UB success the most are the shareholders and the directors. The average UB

worker gets just over £1,000 a year—this is less than managing director, Hector Laing, gets each week. In 1971, for example, Laing personally received £68,000 in dividends in addition to his salary (£12,000 plus) and was also trustee of trusts which received £302,000. Other benefactors of UB include Lord Craigton who netted £13,000 a year as chairman in 1971. Craigton is an ex-Scottish Tory MP. The group's other connection with the Party is through British United Industrialists, which received £5,000 of UB cash last year. Organizations like UB make fabulous profits and directors enjoy incomes beyond the wildest dreams of the workers they employ. But there are no Tory controls for them—the laws apply only to the hospital worker, the railway driver or the gasman who earns a fraction of the amount of the food bosses.



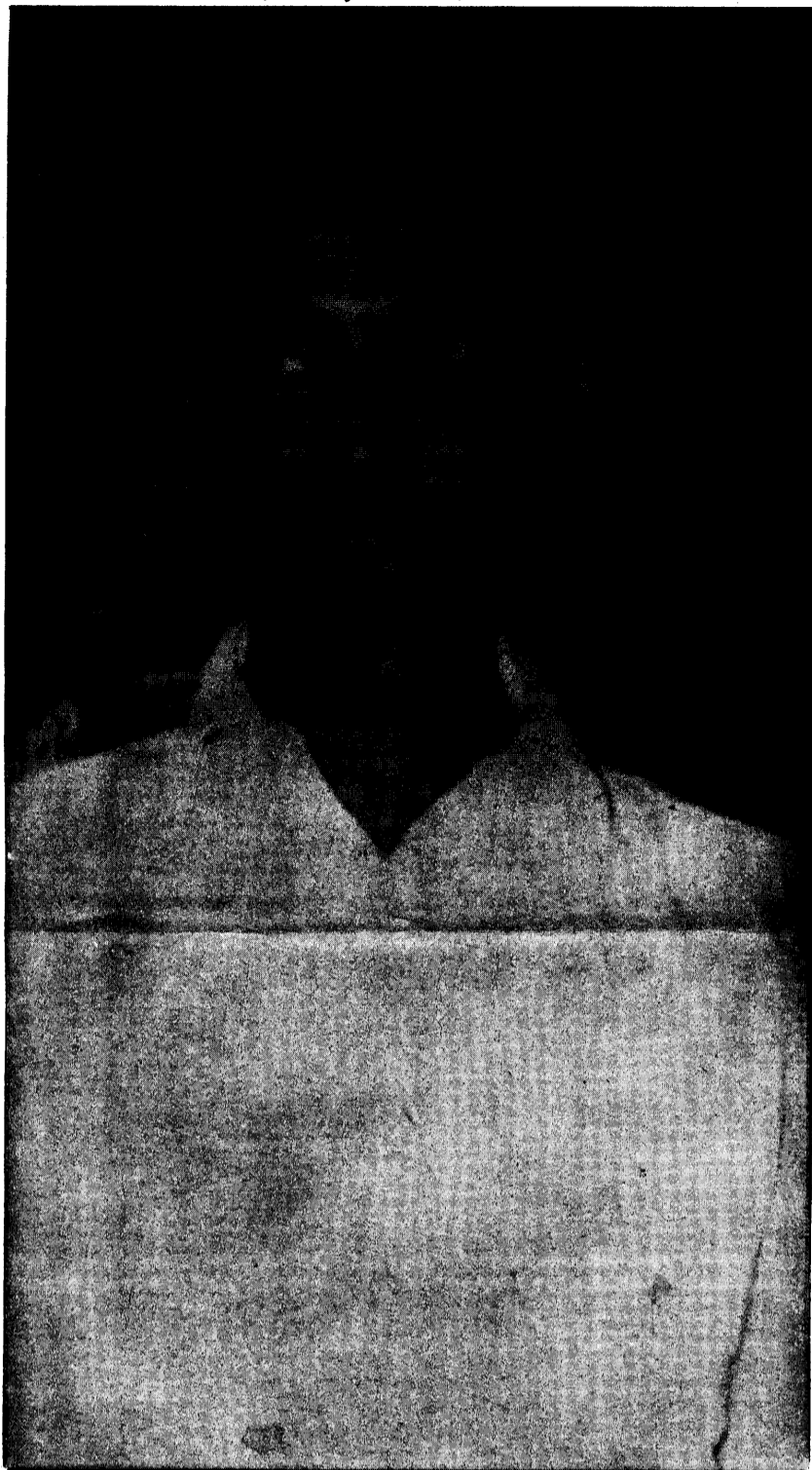
Edward Heath on his way to the 'Fanfare for Europe' Banquet. Above left: Poverty in Britain—soaring food prices put proper nutrition out of reach of millions of youngsters. The biscuit manufacturers, for example, make record profits—and still put their prices up.

Britain's big food monopolies enjoy the closest relations with the Tory government. Under the Phase Two laws these multi-million pound corporations have special privileges which don't extend to wage-earners. Under the new laws, workers are forbidden wage increases other than the £1 plus 4 per cent laid down by Heath. If trade unions or their members fight for a decent living wage above this ceiling, they face fines and imprisonment. But the food monopolies operate how they please. All fresh food and vegetables are exempt from the so-called 'freeze'. This has given the wholesalers complete freedom to launch an unprecedented price ramp. To get the price of processed food increased, the companies simply make application to the Minister in charge. And he has a 100 per cent record in granting these increases: tinned meat, bacon,

ham, cakes and biscuits. In other words, the 'freeze' on prices is a complete and utter Tory fraud. The code on prices has been blasted asunder by the profit-hungry food conglomerates. The Tories have no intention of injuring their relationship with the monopolies. They rely heavily on them for financial support. In this table, prepared by the Labour Research Department, we see that every single major food group is a substantial contributor to the Tory Party. Out of a total of more than

COMPANY	RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
United Biscuits (record profit of £21m last year)	British United Industrialists	£5,000
Associated Biscuit Manufacturers	British United Industrialists	£2,000
Reckitt & Colman	BUI	£20,000
	Aims of Industry	£500
Ranks Hovis McDougall	Economic League	£500
	Aims of Industry	£5,000
Spillers	Economic League	£4,500
Tate & Lyle	BUI	£5,000
	Aims of Industry	£2,500
Brooke Bond Liebig	Economic League	£2,025
	BUI	£3,500
Manbre & Garton	Economic League	£1,000
Unilever	Conservative Party	£1,000
Imperial Tobacco Group (chairman Sir John Partridge of CBI)	European Movement	£4,000
British American Tobacco	Economic League	£1,250
	Common Cause	£1,000
	Economic League	£1,250
	Aims of Industry	£1,000
	Common Cause	£250

£63,000, £37,000 went to BUI, which is a fund-raising body for the Tory Party. The president of Tate & Lyle, Sir Ian Lyle, is also president of the right-wing organization, Aims of Industry, and one of his directors, Mr M. D. Oliphant, is on the council of the Economic League. While the Tories and their backers in the food industry are accumulating record profits and drawing vast salaries, a survey has been conducted on the health of school-children. It established that 30 per cent of children in a sample throughout the country were suffering in one degree or another from rickets. This can be directly attributed to the soaring cost of food and the fact that the Tories ended free school milk and made the price of school meals higher and out of the reach of millions of youngsters.



# CIA MONEY TAKES TAMPOE TO THE STATES

A series on revisionism and Ceylon by Jack Gale. Part two continued.

Bala Tampoe's paid visit to the United States is admitted by Jaya Vithana in the International Marxist Group's recent pamphlet 'Ceylon and the Healy School of Falsification'.

But it is excused on the grounds that it was 'a study project on trade unionism' organized by Harvard University, and that it was useful for 'making contacts, learning about trade union movements in other countries and putting across our views regarding the problems of trade unionism'.

This garbage is an insult to everyone who reads it, but particularly to IMG members who are required to peddle it around.

May we point out to Vithana that United States imperialism is not in the habit of organizing international meetings in order to enable revolutionaries to make contacts and put across their views?

## American corruption

Every worker who has been in politics five minutes knows that one of the major activities of the Central Intelligence Agency is to corrupt trade union leaders, particularly in colonial and former colonial countries.

It is only that kind of inter-

national trade union 'seminar' that Robert McNamara would attend.

Do we have to inform the leaders of IMG, who claim to be Trotskyists, that the American ruling class is not interested in assisting the trade union movement, but only in making it safe from revolutionaries, in corrupting it and in smashing it?

The CIA expends money through institutions like the Asia Foundation precisely to organize such seminars. Vithana twists and turns this way and that, but one little matter he omits—who paid for Tampoe's trip to the United States?

Who paid, Mr Vithana?

Let us quote again from the Ceylon Commission's statement. Referring to actions by Tampoe which 'compromised the Fourth International', they list as number one: 'A trip to the US in the summer of 1967, financed by the Asia Foundation.'

The Indian member of the Commission was more explicit: 'The Commission cannot but take a dim view of the manner in which Comrade Bala got himself invited to the USA ostensibly under a project sponsored by the Harvard University.'

'Although Comrade Bala maintains that he had kept the Unified Secretariat and Socialist Workers' Party (US) informed about his trip, some of his activities in Washington like his interview with McNamara have not been fully explained.' (See Workers Press,

December 5, 1972.)

Vithana avoids altogether the delicate matter of who paid for the trip, because he knows, as we know, as the Unified Secretariat knows, as the IMG knows, that it was paid for by the CIA.

This means that Bala Tampoe associated with the CIA.

(We have not accused Tampoe of being 'a CIA agent', as Vithana maintains. What we have said is that Tampoe 'associated with' the CIA by taking a trip to the United States, paid for by an organization—the Asia Foundation—which he knew was financed by the CIA.)

Those who protect a man who associates with the CIA, who place him on their leading political bodies, disgrace the name of Trotskyism, a name which they have no right to claim.

It is almost embarrassing to explain to these self-styled Trotskyists that when Tampoe sat politely through the seminar conducted by Robert McNamara he was listening to the man who at that time was US Secretary of State in charge of the mass murders being carried out by American imperialism in Vietnam, a man with the blood of thousands of innocent workers and peasants on his hands.

How could a man with even the slightest feeling for the oppressed masses of Asia, for the heroic fighters of the Vietnamese revolution, have sat quietly listening to this leading spokesman of world im-

perialism? Yet this was a member of the International Executive Committee of the Unified Secretariat!

This is the man the IMG leaders defend.

But there is more.

## Champagne and ex-Nazis

Vithana has to admit that Bala Tampoe did attend receptions at the British and West German embassies.

One is the embassy of the colonial power responsible for some of the worst brutalities the world has ever seen on the Indian continent. The other was in honour of an ex-Nazi.

Ah well, says our apologist, 'it is the normal practice of trade unions representing workers of foreign-owned companies to send representatives to such functions'.

It may be. But is it 'normal practice' for members of International Executive Committees claiming to be Trotskyist to honour British imperialism and swill champagne with ex-Nazis? This is the issue, Vithana!

Let us ask IMG members one question. If one of your members attended a function in London in honour of an ex-Nazi, would you or would you not propose that that member be instantly expelled? Would you accept as a reasonable excuse that it was 'normal practice' for trade union officials to attend such functions?

Above: Tampoe (left) and Robert McNamara, US Secretary of State at the time when Tampoe met him and attended his seminar in Washington. Yet the question of Tampoe's visit to Washington, financed by the CIA remains unanswered by the revisionist Unified Secretariat.

Because, on the basis of Vithana's argument, only one conclusion can be drawn—that the leaders of the IMG would be prepared to attend such a function. That is precisely the behaviour they are condoning in Ceylon. And not only condoning, but rewarding with unanimous re-election to the highest body of their international organization.

The man who honoured a former leading member of Hitler's Nazi Party—the party which tortured and murdered millions upon millions of workers—is himself honoured and defended by the Unified Secretariat. The entire leadership of the Unified Secretariat—and Vithana himself—acknowledge that Tampoe did this, but say it was 'a mistake'.

We say it was not 'a mistake'. We say it was an unprincipled, degrading and politically filthy act.

That act alone should make Bala Tampoe a political leper. These are your leaders, members of the International Marxist Group!

And, as if that were not enough, Vithana proceeds to justify scabbing.

**TOMORROW:** Revisionists slander the RCL (Ceylon).



# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## BUDGET

Social priorities at Manchester and Salford have been got right! The budget for the police this year is to rise by £2m to a total of £10.5m.

The increase has caused indignation on the local authorities, particularly Salford, where the increase amounts to 18.9 per cent. Councillors are furious because the government is currently tightening up expenditure. On everything, it seems, except the forces of 'law and order'.

## TRAINING

This tasteful item appeared in one of the Manchester newspapers the other day:

There was training on the Armoury — Greek Street, home front for men of A Company (Cheshire) Mercian Volunteers Territorial and Volunteer Reserves — during the weekend.

The drill hall was the scene of intense activity as the infantry boys carried out assessment tests that covered radio communications, weapon-handling, map reading, first aid and driver training. Driving instructional films were shown.

The weekend programme was supervised by Major Ted Carrington, OC; Captain Ivor Townshend, second-in-command; Lt Ian K. Broomfield; WO2 Alan Coldrick and Staff Sgt W. A. Horncastle, staff instructors.

In the evening wives and girl friends joined the off-duty troops in the Mercian Club for a social evening.

Twenty-three men of A Company were also carrying out training at Proteus camp, near Ollerton, Notts, to form a support weapons unit for a coming camp. They were accompanied by Colour Sgt Bob O'Sullivan.

Cpl A. Denny, seven years a Territorial, has attended a hard-going sergeants' course at Brecon, South Wales. It involved firing exercises and being fired at with live ammunition.

And cadets of the No 1 (Stockport) Detachment, Army Cadet Force, have had an evening of strenuous tests. They took the physical activity section of the Duke of Edinburgh silver award at their Monday drill night.

## NEW MEANING

Last month PC Peter Slimon of Kensington police station and 27 other officers had placed their notices to quit.

They were angry about the disciplinarian James Starritt, the deputy commissioner at New Scotland Yard. Starritt, one of the old-time, hardline coppers, feels that the force is becoming too sloppy. He wants to put a bit of spit and polish into the ranks.

Apparently he turned up at 5 a.m. to do a full dress inspection of the morning shift and loudly abused officers wearing slightly long hair.

But a week before his notice was due to take effect, Slimon was involved in a shoot-out at a Knightsbridge bank. He pulled a gun and shot dead a bank robber while he himself was wounded.

Slimon and 15 of his mates have decided to stay in service. As someone who knows this fraternity well said: 'They feel that the shooting of the bank robber has given their vocation a new meaning.'

## DEPRIVED

Big Yugoslavian organizations which employ experts specially to find loopholes in the tax laws made more than £12m through their efforts last year, according to the Belgrade news magazine 'Nin'.

The magazine said firms had set up squads of 'regulation readers' who had helped deprive the state of huge sums in taxes. In some cases they were recruited from the ranks of expert foreign currency, customs and other tax inspectors—and they often proved to be smarter than the law-makers, 'Nin' said.

The state control service had uncovered 1,572 cases in which commercial firms, exporters and banks benefited by nearly £12.5m through apparent flaws in the regulations.

'Nin' called such activities 'white-glove' crime and said the losses they caused to the community were bigger than through illegal tax evasion and embezzlement.

Yet another indication of the bureaucracy's appetite for self-enrichment and of the bureaucratic state machine's inability to or unwillingness to control them.



Eyesham Perincek, had seen people beaten till they could not stand or sit. Above: A Turkish jail.

## TURKEY'S VICTIMS SPEAK OUT WITH COURAGE

Granada television's 'World in Action' programme on the Turkish military police torture machine — shown last Monday night — revealed the enormous courage of the opponents of the regime so loved by the British Tories.

Over 15,000 political prisoners have been jailed under 'Operation Sledgehammer', which followed the right-wing coup two years ago.

Brutal beating, electric shock treatment and sickening sexual assaults are commonplace in Turkish prisons and detention centres.

Yet of the nine former prisoners interviewed in Turkey by the 'World in Action' team — operating without the permission of the Turkish government — six were prepared to openly face the cameras and give their names.

The first was Eyesham Perincek, the wife of an avowed revolutionary. She had seen people beaten until they could not walk, stand nor sit. Of the risk involved of speaking openly, she said: 'There is a risk and I hesitated, but if we don't do anything it is going to continue.'

Siar Yalcin had seen two men — Hasan Cekin and Sarp Kuray — so badly tortured that they could not move.

Their defence lawyer, Mukkerem Erdogan, told how he had himself been arrested for

acting as defence lawyer, although he had no political connections with his clients.

He told of hearing a tortured woman screaming: 'I never heard such a human voice anywhere.'

When he was taken in himself he saw pools of blood on the concrete floor and met another prisoner on the way out. He said: 'The face I saw didn't look like a human face.'

After eight days of electric shock torture, he signed a false 'confession'.

In the same cell as Erdogan was Nuri Colakogou whose finger nails had been burnt off because he refused to obey orders to beat up a fellow prisoner.

Colakogou's wife, Sezi, said she had seen her husband unable to walk because of electric torture and the beating on the soles of his feet. He told her he had been forced to watch some girls being stripped, bound with chains and raped with electrical truncheons.

A young girl, whose identity was hidden at the request of her family, not of herself, had been charged with having possession of a forbidden book. She was given electric torture for 30 days and then found 'not guilty' on the grounds that 'there was no reason for her arrest'.

A student arrested after a demonstration had had his finger nails pulled off and a truncheon pushed up his anus. Another student had been badly beaten up and then

forced to watch a girl being raped by a grooved truncheon containing electric wires.

Yasha Kemal, a novelist and founder member of the banned Turkish Labour Party, declared that the Turkish government was lying about the use of brutality in its jails. Kemal, whose son is on trial, and whose daughter-in-law is in jail, declared: 'I will stay in Turkey until the end and I will fight this government.'

Dr Ergun Atasu — whose case is still continuing in the martial law courts — nevertheless appeared openly before the cameras and denounced the torturers.

After such displays of courage it was nauseating to hear Labour MP Frank Judd prattling on about raising 'the voice of a wide cross-section of European political opinion'.

A wide cross-section of European political opinion includes the Tories who lavish praise on the Turkish regime, Stalinists whose co-thinkers in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union seek closer economic and cultural relations with the barbaric regimes of Turkey and Greece, and outright fascists.

The 'World in Action' team have provided a useful service in showing such atrocities to as wide an audience as possible.

But the courage of the torturers' victims must inspire all those who are fighting to end capitalism and the inhuman degradation to which it sinks in its single-minded defence of profit.

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# FEATHER WILL JOIN EEC CELEBRATIONS

Two months' time will tell, but a document which reached the Workers Press offices a few days ago suggests that TUC opposition to the Common Market stands a good chance of being buried, appropriately enough, in a City of London crypt.

The crypt, the document tells us, is to be the venue for at least one session of a three-day conference organized by the European Movement.

The conference, which starts on May 11, is timed to celebrate the quarter of a century since big business first got together with politicians, academics, churchmen and union leaders to plot the formation of the European Economic Community.

A morning session involving all 900 expected delegates will introduce the main theme, 'The Future of European Society'.

Then the plan is to break up into smaller discussions on the future in Europe of political parties, youth, the mass media, education and the trade unions. One of the main speakers in the discussion on the unions is to be none other than Victor Feather, general secretary of the TUC.

Officially the TUC is supposed to be against British entry into the Market, but following the Tories' streamlining through of the measures,

with Labourite assistance, Feather has already taken the president's job in the European trade union federation.

Now he is to speak on the subject 'A Single Trade Union Movement?'. Also on the speakers' bill will be right-wing Labour peers Lord George-Brown and Lord Kennet, Eire Labourite Conor Cruise O'Brien (tipped for a job in the new Labour-Fine Gael coalition), Young Liberal Peter Hain and newspaper publishers' chief Lord Goodman.

The first session of the conference, which will take place in London's Guildhall, will be opened by the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London, Colonel The Lord Mais OBE, TD, ERD, JP (once plain Alan Raymond Mais).

Mais is a former member of the army's Special Forces, a building employer and a banker. Though 62, he remains a member of the Territorial Army.

Also involved in the opening session will be the Tories' Europe Minister, John Davies, and the extreme right-wing Tory Duncan Sandys, MP.

This orgy of reactionary sounding-off will be followed, on the afternoon of May 11 and the following day, by the 12 smaller discussions. These will take place simultaneously in Haberdashers' Hall, Guildhall, its Livery Hall . . . and, the European Society's hand-out says, 'one crypt'.

For those unable to make the conference, its proceedings are to be published—at £5 a copy.

# CONCORDE WORKERS FACE THE FIGHT AGAINST REDUNDANCY

Small groups of senior managers at the British Aircraft Corporation, Rolls-Royce and the French companies involved in the Concorde project are now juggling figures which could kill up to 60,000 jobs.

Following the cancellation of US options on buying the ill-starred aircraft, both management and unions have set in motion a series of inquiries, surveys and studies of the possible consequences.

There is one vital difference between these two, in some respects parallel, sets of activity.

On the one hand the companies are ruthlessly and single-mindedly dedicated to defending their profits at the workers' expense. On the other the unions are charged with the task of making sure not a single worker loses his livelihood.

A clash is inevitable—the only question for the working-class movement is how prepared are the unions to meet it.

BAC, Rolls and the Tories' Department of Trade and Industry are understandably extremely cagey about the stage their planning has reached since the January 31 announcement by Pan American World Airways and Trans World Airlines that they were cancelling their options on 13 Concorde.

The reason for the DTI's caution is obvious: the cancellations were, from the outset, political dynamite.

Besides knocking out almost a quarter of the 56 options then existing worldwide, they signalled a new turn in the trade war which could wipe out most of the other chances of selling this costly aircraft. And as Aerospace Minister Michael Heseltine was reminded in parliament on February 1, one out of every four MPs have at least some of the estimated 30,000 British Concorde workers living and voting in their constituencies.

## 'ONE HELL OF A SETBACK'

The DTI's current line is that the Minister has pledged every possible support to manufacture and selling of the aircraft and that it is up to the companies to work out any labour force cuts.

All BAC—the most heavily committed of the two companies chiefly involved—will say is that a slowing-down of its production programme will inevitably cause some redundancies in its commercial aircraft division and that the unions will be the first to know when anything definite is decided.

The company's public-relations machine cannot, however, erase the February 1 admission of chairman Sir George Edwards that the cancellations represented 'one hell of a setback'.

So to John Blackley, joint chairman of the BAC-Rolls workers' liaison committee at Bristol, all that is meant by the relatively more encouraging

noises now being made is that 'neither company wants any real dialogue with the unions'.

Says John, shop stewards' secretary at the Rolls engine factory at Filton, Bristol: 'It's not just a question of Concorde.'

'Concorde is a symptom of the instability of the whole aerospace industry. A job in aerospace used to be a job for life. But all that has gone now. This is the issue that's got to be looked at.'

Between 4,500 and 5,000 of the workers at John's factory—a third of the total labour force—are on Olympus 593 engines for Concorde.

At BAC, Filton, the situation is even more serious. There 6,000 out of 9,000 workers are engaged in Concorde work.

But John Blackley points out: 'We are all agreed it would be a trap just to get involved in a campaign to save Concorde.'

'As I say, the situation in the industry generally has to be examined. These will be political decisions if men lose their jobs. The livelihoods of whole areas will be destroyed, in France as well as here.'

'Certainly one of the things we have to fight for is nationalization of the entire industry.'

At the moment, however, most of the liaison committee's efforts are being expended on obtaining recognition from the companies (neither BAC nor Rolls will finance, or provide a venue for, meetings) and setting up investigations of the possible effects of the cancellations.

Vic Ryan, the Transport and General Workers' Union full-time official in closest touch with the situation, explained that there were two main ideas here.

The first is a public inquiry, probably with an academic in the chair, to examine the effect of redundancies on the unemployment situation, the impact of a Concorde wind-down on the life and finances of Bristol itself and other related topics.

If this fails to get off the ground, the proposal is to win the backing of the city council for a 'dispassionate study', conducted in private.

Says Vic Ryan: 'Before anything else we've got to get recognition for the liaison committee.'

'I reported the situation of no support from either of the companies to the district committee of the Confed [Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions] last Tuesday and they have authorized me to take this up with the companies again.'

'I am hoping to hear from Jack Service, general secretary of the CSEU, very shortly. Locally there are healthy signs of impatience.'

'We've got to get something off the ground, something moving. The main thing is to imbue people with a sense of the urgency of the situation. We can't leave it till we find ourselves faced with the old questions, the death of any real struggle against redundancy: "Where, when and how many?"'

Certainly the Concorde workers have very little time to spare.

World capitalism's deepening economic problems

threaten to cut away the last remaining possibilities of selling the supersonic transport (SST), claimed by the DTI to be in Iran, China, France and Britain itself. The currency crisis in particular makes these £23m-a-time aircraft extremely doubtful sales prospects.

As wave succeeds wave of the economic crisis, steady erosion takes place of the flimsy basis on which the British and French governments have authorized production of 16 aircraft, plus materials for a further six.

The speed of the development of the crisis threatens to overtake all plans for fighting redundancies which are made outside this perspective.

## 'IT'S A LAST DITCH STRUGGLE'

George Elliott, convenor of the BAC workers at Weybridge, Surrey, pointed out the great weight of responsibility which a campaign 'still only in its infancy yet' has to bear.

At their peak there were 10,000 workers at the Weybridge factories. Now there are 6,000. There have been six bouts of sackings in the last two-and-a-half years, reducing the labour force by 2,000.

These experiences have had two contradictory effects, according to convenor Elliott.

He says that the will to struggle has been weakened by numbers who have already gone. But, he points out as well, 'this time the members know it's the crunch. They know there are no prospects of alternative work for the number of people threatened—that it's a last-ditch struggle this time and they've got to fight.'

The rumour at Weybridge is that 2,000 of the 6,000 workers may be threatened over a period by the Concorde run-down, but a collapse of the programme, of course, would hit far more.

'Whatever our private opinions of this aircraft', George Elliott says, 'our livelihoods depend on it. We must have some basis for continuation of job security in this industry and at the moment Concorde's the only basis we've got.'

Not surprisingly there is uncertainty and discontent at both Filton and Weybridge. Workers are looking for a lead from the various liaison committees which have been set up, but besides the suggested inquiries the only concrete proposal to emerge so far is for a co-ordinated half-day stoppage once redundancies are declared.

This is clearly inadequate to meet the threat Concorde workers now face, as, by itself, is the demand simply for nationalization.

Mass unemployment in the aircraft industry can now be fought only in the struggle to force the Tories out of office, return a Labour government committed to socialist policies and nationalize all of aircraft production and components, and the airlines, under workers' control.

This would be just the first step to a planned, integrated world transport and transport production industry.

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# Chrysler man refuses to join engineers' union

PRODUCTION at Tilling Stevens' car factory at Maidstone, Kent, has been disrupted because a worker refuses to join the union. More than 700 carworkers are operating an overtime ban in protest against the man's action.

All members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers began the ban last Friday at the Chrysler-owned plant.

There were disruptions at the main Chrysler plant at Ryton, Coventry, at the end of last year when Joseph Langston left the AUEW.

He is now appealing against a decision by the National Industrial Relations Court that his complaint

against the union is groundless.

Clive Longworth (39), an air conditioning inspector, refuses to join the union.

'I believe that the government should be allowed to run the country and not the unions. I am not a "yes" man,' he said.

A management spokesman commented: 'We have been having talks with the union representative and hope that the men will resume overtime work shortly.'

# Porters & lecturers back grants sit-in



LECTURERS and porters backed Derby students when they organized an all-night work-in last week in support of the National Union of Students' national campaign for higher grants. Les Green, a textile design student at Derby College of Art and Technology, said: 'We want to show people we mean business. We are not getting a fair deal on grants. By working-in, we want to draw the attention of the government and mobilize support.'

# Food up 15 p.c. since the 'freeze':

THE INCREASE in the price of all fresh food is 15 per cent since the start of the 'freeze' in November, Mr Norman Buchan, the Labour Shadow Minister for Agriculture said in Renfrew yesterday.

This represents an annual rate of increase of 40 per cent, he said.

'Now, for the fourth time since the "freeze" the government has given approval for rises in the price of processed meats.'

Buchan said the Tories dare not tell the truth about the rise in food prices since November. He accused them of delay and distortion.

Fish prices had gone up by a quarter and eggs by a third. He said the government's figures on the price rises were 'two months out of date'.

● People in Britain ate less red meat—beef and lamb—last year, according to Ministry of Agriculture estimates released today.

The average consumption of beef on the bone went

down by 3.7lb per head for the year from 40.9lb in 1971 to 37.2lb last year.

This drop in meat-eating can be directly attributed to the colossal price increases: for the majority of people steak and lamb is now way outside their budget.

At the same time, however, people are eating more white meats—poultry and pork—the cheaper meat products.

There was an increase of 3.2lb per head in poultry consumption to 26.9lb for the year, while pork consumption went up by 1.2lb to 27.2lb a head.

On average people ate fewer eggs and butter consumption also fell.

A fall in fruit consumption was almost matched by a rise in vegetable consumption. But alcoholic drinking went up.

# Foresters on poverty line

A PAY offer made to forestry workers is below the poverty line, Reg Bottini, general secretary of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers said at the weekend.

He told a union conference at Preston, Lancs, that the Forestry Commission offer would bring the basic rate up from £16.60 to £18.52.

'Not only is it 98p less than the farm workers' minimum rate after this has been unfrozen on April 1, it is £1.45 less than the poverty test for a family with two children for the purpose of paying Family Income Supplement.'

'I warn the commission and the government that there could be serious trouble in British forests unless a further effort is made, and made quickly, to meet the reasonable—indeed modest—demands of a most deserving group of workers.'

# Green Anger

THE PROPOSAL in the government's Green Paper on pay and prices to control profit margins 'will be ineffectual in bringing inflation under control', says the Bow Group of 'intellectual' Tories. The principal effect of the policy will 'be to remove the incentive and reduce the funds available for investment', they add.

# MARCH FUND £491.90 WITH ONLY 13 DAYS LEFT

NOW IS the time for a big effort for our March Fund. We are 13 days away from the end of March and still have £1,258.10 to raise. Make a fight of it now and we can possibly complete our target in time.

As the money markets open today, the enormous

crisis of the capitalist system will be revealed even further. The capitalist class has no solution to its huge inflationary crisis. The only way it can attempt to try and inject value back into their currencies is by an all-out onslaught against every working-class right and living standard.

Workers Press is the only daily paper prepared to meet this crisis. We must reach out to workers everywhere and warn them of the political nature of the confrontation immediately ahead. The Tory government will fight back desperately. Our paper must be used to build a revolutionary leadership to lead the working class and defeat the Tories.

Everything you can raise, therefore, will be vital for our paper. Step up your efforts today. Wherever possible, try to collect extra amounts. Post all your donations immediately to:

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## BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.25 Cywain. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Woodentops. 1.45 Pets and vets. 2.05 Schools. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.20 Yao. 5.40 Sir Prancelot. 5.45 News. Weather. 6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 TOP OF THE FORM. 7.10 STAR TREK. The Gamesters of Triskelion. 8.00 PANORAMA. 9.00 NEWS. Weather. 9.25 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'MAN ABOVE MEN.' By David Hare. With Gwen Watford, Alexander Knox. 10.40 COME DANCING. 11.15 SKY AT NIGHT. 11.35 NEWS. 11.40 Weather.

## BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University. 7.05 UP THE ORGANIZATION. 7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather. 7.35 LOOK, STRANGER. Sitting on a Fortune. 8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. Everything Else You Can Steal.

## ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.33 World War I (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Hickory house. 12.25 Alice through the looking glass. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'The Village'. John Justin. 4.25 Pardon my genie. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 Lollipop loves Mr Mole. 5.50 News. 6.00 TODAY. 6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS. CORONATION STREET. 7.30 LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR. 8.00 THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Anonymous Letters. 9.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.00 THE WILD, WILD WEST. The Night of the Lord of Limbo. 11.30 DRIVE-IN. 12.00 WORLD WAR I. 12.25 PRIORITIES. Howard Roots talks to Lord Robens.

8.55 CALL MY BLUFF. 9.25 SHOW OF THE WEEK: NANA MOUSKOURI. With Michael Legrand and Shari Lewis. 10.10 SPECIALIST IN MURDER. Dr. Denis Hocking. 10.45 OPINION. Naseem Khan looks at British theatre. 11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.

## REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-11.52 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.00 Schools. 2.25 Film: 'The Battle of the Villa Fiorita'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Maverick. 6.45 London. 10.33 Sound stage. 11.00 Department S. 11.55 News. weather. WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 Date with Danton. 10.30 News. 11.55 Faith for life. SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 1.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Schools. 2.10 Cartoons. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Film: 'Gasbags'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 London. 10.30 Aviation. 11.00 News. 11.05 Theatre. 12.00 Farm progress 12.25 Weather. Guide-line. HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date line. 3.00 Film: 'The Love War'. 4.25 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'Saturday Night Out'. 12.15 Weather. HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 2.30-3.00 Hamdden. 6.01-6.22 Y dydd. 8.30-9.00 Yr wythnos. HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week. ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Marcus Welby. 3.55 Romper room. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Russell Harty. 11.30 London. 12.00 Big question. ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Programme guide. 12.05 London. 3.00 Film: 'I'd Climb the Highest Mountain'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Stories. Weather.

## TODAY'S TV

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 Film: 'Out of the Clouds'. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Dick Van Dyke. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.40 Film: 'Seven Women From Hell'. YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Mr. Man Godfrey'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 Yoga. 12.15 Odd couple. 12.40 Weather. GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 Songs. 12.05 London. 2.30 Film: 'A Place to Go'. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'. TYNE TEES: 9.20 Believing to live. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 Film: 'The Foreman Went to France'. 4.25 London. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the Press. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.25 News. 12.40 Lectern. SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 Film: 'Passport to China'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 Lion and the dragon. 11.20 Quentin Durgens. GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 12.13 Cartoon. 12.25 London. 1.00 Ed Allen show. 1.38 Schools. 3.05 News. 3.08 Film: 'Calculated Risk'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Royal Clansmen. 6.40 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.35 Meditation.

# ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'  
COVENTRY: Monday March 19, 7.30 p.m. Biggin Hall Hotel, Binley Road. 'Victory to the hospital workers. Force the Tories to resign.'  
RUGBY: Monday March 19, 7.30 p.m. 'The Engine', Bridgett Street. 'Victory to the hospital workers. Force the Tories to resign.'  
DAGENHAM: Tuesday March 20, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue.  
BRIXTON: Tuesday March 20, 8 p.m. Control Room, Brixton Training Centre.  
EAST LONDON: Tuesday March 20, 8 p.m. Festival Inn, Crisp Street Market, E14.  
ACTON: Tuesday March 20, 8 p.m. 'The Rocket', Churchfield Road, W.3.

TOTTENHAM: Wednesday March 21, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, Tottenham High Road, nr. White Hart Lane.  
WOOLWICH: Wednesday March 21, 8 p.m. Castle, Powis Street, SE18.  
READING: Wednesday March 21, 8 p.m. Transport and General Workers' Union office, Kings Road. 'The battle against the Tory pay laws.'  
WEMBLEY: Wednesday March 21, 8 p.m. Copeland School, High Road, Wembley.  
SOUTHALL: Wednesday March 21, 8 p.m. The Library, Osterley Park Road.  
HOLLOWAY: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road.  
HACKNEY: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, opp. Town Hall, Mare Street.

LEWISHAM: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road.  
SLOUGH: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road, Slough.  
STEVENAGE: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. 'Red Lion', Stevenage Old Town.  
WILLESDEN: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. Labour and Trades Hall, High Road, NW10.  
WANDSWORTH: Monday March 26, 8 p.m. Kings Arms, High Road, SW18. 'The Fight against Stalinism'.  
BRADFORD: Thursday March 22, 7.30 p.m. Room 1, Central Library, Bradford.  
MIDDLETON: Thursday March 22, 7.30 p.m. 'Assheton Arms'.  
LIVERPOOL: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. YMCA Main Hall, Mount Pleasant.

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Assemble: 10.30 a.m. Corner of Cray Avenue and Orpington High Street.

## SLL LECTURE SERIES

The Socialist Revolution in Britain  
Middleton  
Langley Community Centre  
Middleton  
4 p.m.

Sundays: March 25  
April 1 and 8  
Lectures given by  
Cliff Slaughter  
(SLL Central Committee)  
The Socialist Revolution in Britain:

1. Political tasks facing the British working class. Marxism and the revolutionary role of the working class. Lessons of the history of the working class in Britain.  
2. The roots of capitalist crisis: Marxism and the contradictions of capitalism. Britain and the world crisis.  
3. The state and revolution. Reformism and revolution in Britain. The fight for democratic rights today means preparing for working-class power.  
Basic reading:  
Perspectives for transforming the SLL into a revolutionary party.  
Marxist Analysis of the Crisis. Problems of the British Revolution (Trotsky).  
Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International Communist Manifesto.

**TEACHERS MEETING**

Victory to the teachers!  
Force the TUC to call  
a General Strike!  
Make the Tories  
resign!

**WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 21**

**6.30 p.m.**  
Norfolk Room  
Caxton Hall  
Caxton Street, SW1

# Three anti-pay law teachers face expulsion

THE NATIONAL Union of Teachers may expel three schoolmasters following disruptions at a Westminster Central Hall mass meeting last month.

Greenwich association secretary Roy Porter has lodged a complaint of unprofessional conduct against the three and the case is now before the union's

Law and Tenure Committee.

All but about 30 of the 2,000 teachers at the Central Hall meeting wanted to vote on a resolution drawn up by Wandsworth association calling for indefinite strike action against the Tory pay laws.

The three men under threat of expulsion from the union are all members of the Wandsworth

association. They are Fred Scott, Eric Porter and David Whitely.

They are charged with mounting the platform without authority and refusing requests to leave by the platform party and the chief steward; addressing the meeting by means of an unofficial public address system; removing the plugs from the official microphones and refus-

ing to obey the chairman's instructions to sit down and refrain from reading the Wandsworth resolution.

Since the Central Hall meeting, at which the union's executive was forced to quit the platform, the council of Inner London Teachers' Association has voted for all-out strike action.

## Military, police and civil service link-up

# Earl to head secret force

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

THE TORY government has set up a special security committee headed by Earl Jellicoe to deal with any 'national emergency'. It comprises heads of the military, the secret service, police and the civil service and will be directly responsible to Prime Minister Edward Heath.

This is the first time in peacetime that a government has vested such vast martial powers in the hands of a body not controlled by parliament.

The Tories have used the pretext of the central London bomb incidents to set up this body. The Press has been carefully fed with stories that the committee is solely in operation to deal with the possibility of further explosions when the White Paper on Northern Ireland's future is published. This is untrue.

The committee has been set up permanently. It has been given a full-time staff, special offices and a large budget authorized by the Civil Service Department, headed by Jellicoe.

News that the government had seized these wide-ranging security powers was given by the Home Secretary, Robert Carr, at a private briefing with crime reporters late on Friday afternoon.

The story was 'leaked' to the Tory Press by Carr, thus by-passing a proper parliamentary announcement and the prospect of a debate.

When asked if the government had any evidence that bomb attacks were being planned for White Paper day, a spokesman said 'No'. He said it was better to be prepared than sorry.

It then emerged, however, that the committee has been 'unofficially' meeting under Lord Jellicoe's chairmanship for at least a week.

Its announcement was made only after the miners' executive voted unanimously to hold a strike ballot.

It is worth remembering that Jellicoe was made head of the emergency committee set up during last year's miners' strike.

This body was responsible for misjudging the mood of the miners, the support they would receive and mishandling the question of supplies.

This time, it seems, the Tories are going to war stations well in advance. They are determined not to be caught unprepared this time.

The security committee must be seen as a body similar to the Organization for the Maintenance of Supplies (OMS), the notorious group which co-ordinated the attack on the 1926 General Strike by the army, the police and a strong force of blacklegs.

But because British capitalism is today profoundly weaker and desperate, the Tories will try to smash a General Strike more ferociously.

And if they defeat such a national strike movement, they will push forward their plans for dictatorship over the working class.

One feature of the new body is its wide ruling-class representation. It will comprise military men and the police, plus senior civil servants who will maintain links with big business.

Carr has also invited private security firms to help in his plan to meet a 'national emergency'.

There's little doubt this call will be well received by the country's largest private army, Securicor, where Carr himself was a director prior to joining Heath's Cabinet.

Establishment of the committee marks a considerable victory for the policies of Brigadier Frank Kitson and a clique of reactionary army officers.

For more than two years Kitson has been arguing for a national command meeting in secret and accountable to nobody but the 'national interest' to crush the leadership and organizations of the working class.

● See 'Hang subversives' and picket code—p. 2.

## Hospital strikers slam policy

BY IAN YEATS

BEHIND the return-to-work vote by 400 ancillary workers at London's Whittington Hospital lay total disillusionment with union leadership.

Feeling among General and Municipal Workers' Union members was so high at Friday's mass meeting that a petition was circulated which few refused to sign.

The petition, to be sent to G&MWU headquarters, condemned the 'deplorable lack of leadership and guidance by officials during the recent strike'.

Whittington was one of the few hospitals where workers voted for all-out, indefinite industrial action.

Instead, say the strikers, they found themselves ignored and isolated.

Consultants, senior medical staff and volunteers broke workers' picket lines.

About 40 NUPE laundry workers were allowed to stay at their posts throughout the stoppage providing the strike breakers with their incentive.

Few, if any, of the ancillary workers at Whittington had confidence in the policy of selective industrial action to which the unions were committed. They hoped their example would push them to adopt tougher tactics.

But it did not. The last straw was reached last Thursday when union officials told about a quarter of the G&MWU strikers they were not eligible for dispute pay because they had not been union members for more than six months.

Under heavy pressure from the strike committee, the decision not to pay was later partially reversed, but not before about 60 strikers had been so disgusted that they decided to call it a day and go back to work.

By Friday, feeling themselves defenceless against the bitter attacks made in the Tory Press and seeing no snowballing of support throughout the country because of the selective strike policy, the poorly-paid ancillary workers were ready to go back.

They voted by about three to one to end the strike and work to rule instead.

The decision was egged on by the rumour that, in any case, the strike would have to be called off once they become illegal under Phase Two of the Tory pay laws.

Few at the packed meeting at Central Halls, Archway, on Friday wanted to go back.

But most believed that unless a national all-out strike was called and all the hospital unions acted together, they could not win.

## Rail delay is time-wasting

THE DELAYING tactics used by the train drivers' union leaders in once again postponing industrial action in return for further talks at British Rail headquarters today will not put off a decision on drivers' pay for long.

The talks can settle nothing. The government is determined that there shall not be a single exception to the Phase Two pay laws. No matter how long-standing the grievance over a review of drivers' pay, British Rail has strict instructions to negotiate a £1 plus 4 per cent deal for all railwaymen for 1973 and nothing more.

The threat Richard Marsh delivered on Friday to lock out the train drivers if their non-co-operation campaign did not stop was the real voice of the government and the employers. The five-four vote by the ASLEF executive to back down before this ultimatum is a move fraught with dangers.

On the one hand, it will encourage British Rail and the government to be even more ruthless next time. On the other, it will weaken the train drivers' determination and destroy any confidence they had in the union.

The railway drivers, who could have given a lead to the whole working class, are now faced with more time wasting instead of being given the opportunity to fight for their right to a decent standard of living which they are clearly willing to do.

## Peron plea

GENERAL PERON has declared in Madrid that the new Peronist government in Argentina must 'strive for a government of national union capable of liberating and reconstructing the country'.

The urban guerrilla movement had now lost its 'raison d'etre': 'Once the causes have disappeared, the effects will disappear in turn, as will the methods of violence.'



Cllr Gerry Ross, one of the opponents of the Housing Finance Act in Hackney Council, speaking on Saturday.

## Pie-in-the-sky housing plan

A CONFERENCE called to discuss the Tories' Housing Finance Act was staged by the National Association of Tenants and Residents in London on Saturday.

The Communist Party-dominated body was examining a 14-point programme 'to solve London's housing crisis'.

The programme does not once mention the Tory government and its one 'socialist' demand is the 'nationalization of all urban land except that owned by owner-occupiers'.

It also contains pie-in-the-sky calls for the building of 100,000 homes a year 'until London's housing problem is solved'.

**13th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF  
YOUNG SOCIALISTS  
BLACKPOOL APRIL 14/15 1973**

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 14 & 15, WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL

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