

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● TUESDAY MARCH 20, 1973 ● No 1026 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY  
ALEX  
MITCHELL

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'In my view we are heading for a national miners' strike.'

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colliery lodge meetings throughout the area urging support for national action.

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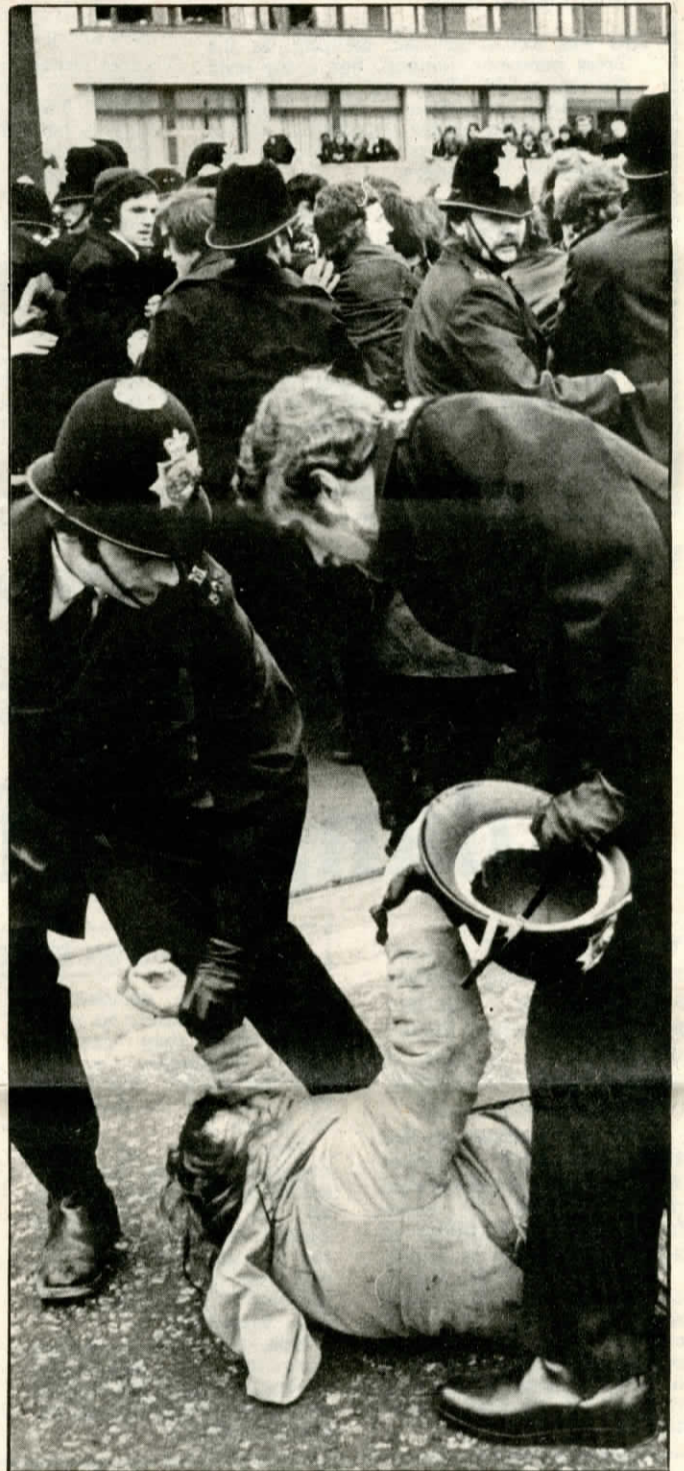
One speaker said: 'Even if you don't agree with our strike, you can't agree with this police violence. We can't let it go on.'

This is the third time in recent weeks that the newly-formed, anti-picket squads have been used against workers:

● On Friday, March 9, they turned up in strength at a private wharf at Hull to intimidate 2,000 dockers who were trying to stop the unloading of timber by unregistered labour. After a three-hour confrontation management backed down and the loading was stopped.

● On Thursday, March 15, a similar force went into action at Shrewsbury in Shropshire when 24 building workers appeared on a total of 210 charges. They ringed the township with roadblocks, circled the courthouse with makeshift riot barriers and used dog patrols in the main streets.

At St Thomas' yesterday about 100 pickets from many London sites joined electricians who have been out on strike fighting for a wage increase since February 1. The strikers called for



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extra support following the use of a police-type coach to break through the picket lines last week.

For yesterday's picket-smashing operation the police used two coachloads of police, and a group of mounted police.

A man suspected of being a police photographer stood across the road taking pictures of everyone on the picket line.

Shortly before the Laing's coach arrived, the police bundled the pickets into two groups on either side of the gate. They held them behind this wall as the coach drew up.

As the pickets tried to break out to intercept the coachload of scabs, they were brutally punched and kicked. There were shouts of 'fascist bastards' as the

police punished the pickets. The police arrested two men and one has been charged with threatening behaviour while the other has been charged with causing wilful damage.

The incident is a sign of the times. It is the clearest confirmation that the Tories now have their anti-picket squads set up and raring to go.

Plans for the formation of these squads were put into operation immediately following the miners' strike last year and they have been secretly trained on an inter-constabulary basis ever since.

Workers now engaged in the fight for decent wages, and in defence of their rights must be prepared to meet the challenge which licensed thugs represent.

### 'Molotov' article denial

TONY SOARES appeared at the Old Bailey yesterday on four charges of inciting to murder, to make a Molotov cocktail, to commit arson and to possess a firearm with intent.

The charges arise out of an article in 'Grass Roots' magazine.

The article gave instructions on how to make a Molotov cocktail and a 'people's hand grenade'.

It tried to persuade readers that the use of such

items amounted to self-defence after 400 years of black people being brutalized by the capitalist system.

In his defence, Soares said that there was no evidence to link him with the publication or the distribution of that issue of 'Grass Roots' which appeared in November 1971.

At the time Soares was working at the North Kensington Law Centre.

The case, which has been in progress for a month, is continuing.

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# TORY STRATEGY

THE MORE the trade union leaders grovel and retreat, the more arrogant and aggressive the Tory government becomes. Last weekend, premier Edward Heath held talks at Chequers with Conservative Party chiefs including Lord Carrington (chairman), James Prior (deputy chairman) and senior officials from Central Office.

This was not a 'routine' meeting, as the Press hand-out claimed, but a top-level discussion on Tory election strategy, including preparations for a possible snap election under conditions where the working class is left confused and divided by its leaders.

The Tories become more and more confident as these leaders play into their hands. In the last few days:

- The ASLEF leaders have bowed to a British Railways lock-out threat and called off the locomotive's action.

- The General and Municipal Workers' Union, after weeks of militant action by its members in the gas industry, has imposed a ballot on accepting a pay offer within the government's state pay law limits of £1 a week plus 4 per cent.

- And the hospital workers have been left isolated and exposed to the danger of defeat, just as the Post Office workers were in 1971.

This means that under cover of whining appeals to the government to relax its pay laws in favour of the hospital workers, the union leaders are in reality pressurizing the entire working class into accepting Phase Two of those laws.

Figures issued yesterday from the London School of Economics prove that under Phase Two, wage increases will fall rapidly behind rises in the cost of living for thousands of families. Large sections of the trade unions' membership will be driven into impoverishment.

This is what the Tories want to see. They are standing firm on their state pay laws and no extra money will be forthcoming for any section of the working class unless this government is defeated and brought down.

On the contrary, the government and its agencies are consciously staging provocations against workers with the deliberate intention of preparing a General Strike on the terms most favourable to them.

Yet TUC general secretary Victor Feather

pleads with Heath for an 'independent public inquiry' into hospital workers' pay. Their industrial action, according to him, was not launched in order to defeat the government and win their £4 claim, but merely 'to draw attention to the merits of their case'.

The Tories have nothing but contempt for such requests. Secretary of State for the Social Services Sir Keith Joseph, has made it clear that the only 'inquiry' he will accept is consideration by the government's corporatist-style state Pay Board.

Yet Mr Bernard Dix, national officer for the National Union of Public Employees, says the union is 'well satisfied' with the help given by the TUC. And the Communist Party's 'Morning Star' yesterday carried Feather's appeal under the headline 'Backing Grows for Hospital Workers'.

The truth is that while there is enormous support among the working class for these low-paid men and women, the TUC has given them no help or backing whatsoever. And this increases the Tories' determination to force a show-down. They aim to isolate groups of workers like the ancillary workers or the gasmen and impose Phase Two of

their state pay laws on them.

This would not only throw back the working class, it would also swing sections of the middle class—who could be won for the unions by a real fight—firmly behind Heath and create the conditions for a Tory victory in a snap election. The Tories would then claim a mandate for an intensification of their ruthless attack on workers' living standards and basic rights.

All those reformists, CP Stalinists and revisionists who refuse to raise the question of a political leadership to bring down the Tory government now expose the working class to grave dangers. Isolated, piece-meal actions and futile one-day protest strikes merely dissipate workers' energies and help the Tories.

The Conservative government can be defeated—but only by a struggle to make the union leaders call a General Strike to create the political and industrial conditions for forcing the Tories to resign. This involves the construction of a revolutionary leadership.

We urge all those in struggle against the Tories to join with us in the historic task of transforming the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party.

## WHAT WE THINK

# With 'dirty floats' against the dollar Credit system in grave danger of collapse

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

WITH ALMOST all currencies floating either separately or together against the United States dollar there is now a grave danger of a collapse of international credit.

This could centre on the Euro-currency market which has mushroomed over the last 15 years from a size of \$1,000m to almost 100 times as much.

This market is the source of the bulk of the funds required for the continued conduct of international commerce and its operations have been upset by the disruption of currency relations.

It was the decision of Euro-dollar holders to move into what they consider safer currencies, notably yen and marks, that forced the closure of the exchanges on March 2.

Two weeks of international haggling have resulted in agreement to float all the major currencies against the dollar. Sterling, the yen and the Italian lira will float alone, but six of the nine ECC currencies will float together.

Now the crisis is thrown back into the Euro-dollar market, which is showing all the signs of building-up towards a crash.

The float will affect this market particularly because it is here the big multinational firms raise their funds.

This market is completely beyond the control of the various national governments and what is more it has no 'lender of last resort' standing behind the banks that take part in it.

A 'lender of last resort' is someone who will step in to prevent a collapse in the event of a firm being unable to cover its short-term debts.

Many firms on the Euro-dollar market have been borrowing short-term and

lending the proceeds for long periods, exposing themselves to this danger.

One failure could have widespread repercussions because of the close links between banks in the Euro-currency markets.

A new type of bank called the 'multi-national consortium bank' has sprung up to deal with Euro-currency requirements.

The large number of these banks and the close links between them could well spread the effects of a single failure throughout the banking world, above all in the United States where the leading banks are deeply involved in the Euro-currency market.

# Expose slave labour in South Africa

BY IAN YEATS

TWENTY-SIX major British companies were yesterday accused of using black and coloured workers as 'slave labour' in South African factories.

British Leyland topped the list followed by Rio Tinto Zinc, Plessey, Joseph Lucas, Reckitt and Colman, Pilkington Brothers, ICI and Barclays Bank. At a House of Commons Press Conference, spokesmen claimed that African workers were earning less than a quarter of the wages paid to whites. They demanded:

- An end to loans to the South African government and to British companies operating there.
- No new investment.
- An end to white immigration.
- Massive media exposure of companies exploiting African workers.

Secretary of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Mr Abdul Minty, said he would be asking an international conference on apartheid, due to meet in Oslo next month, to take the toughest possible action against companies paying poverty wages in South Africa.

York Labour MP, Mr Alex Lyon—whose constituency includes the Rowntree company, one of the firms named by Adam Raphael in 'The Guardian'—called for an inquiry into the wages policy of British firms.

He told Pressmen: 'A select committee set up here would not have access to South Africa. But if the South African Institute of Race Relations accepted this obligation it would provide a detailed picture of the real situation in British companies.'

Churches have major shareholdings in many of the firms named by Anti-Apartheid.

Methodist minister, Mr David Haslam, said: 'It is totally out of keeping with the churches' principles to profit from what amounts to slave labour.'

He said churches should use their positions as shareholders to gather information about the pay policies of British companies and to urge them to end unequal treatment of African workers.

# Journalist tried in secret by Rhodesian regime

BY OUR OWN  
CORRESPONDENT

THE trial of Peter Niesewand, a Rhodesian journalist accused of contravening the Smith regime's Official Secrets Act, began yesterday — behind closed doors.

Defence counsel made an unsuccessful last-minute effort to persuade magistrate J. E. T. Hamilton to amend an earlier order that the trial be held in camera.

Journalists representing local and international organizations were cleared from the court.

## WIFE EJECTED

Also ejected were the 28-year-old journalist's pregnant wife, Nonie, and his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Warden.

Precisely what Mr. Niesewand is alleged to have done is not known, but Mr. Brendan Treacy, Director of Public Prosecutions, told a court hearing earlier this month that he was charged under a section of the Act concerning the publication of information 'calculated to be, or which might be, useful — directly or indirectly—to any enemy'.

The accused man faces two

alternative charges under the 1970 Act. The first provides for a penalty of up to 25 years' imprisonment without the option of a fine, and the second for a maximum fine of \$20,000 (about £11,000) or up to 20 years' imprisonment, or both.

Outside the court, Mrs. Niesewand said the conditions of her husband's confinement were much more stringent in Salisbury than they had been in Gwelo jail where he was first held after being detained under Rhodesia's

Emergency Regulations last February 20.

She said he was in a small cell with a tiny barred wire enclosed quadrangle for exercise. He had to do his own laundry and apart from the warders and a total of one hour visiting time a week, he had no contact with anybody else.

## SECOND TRIAL

Mr. Niesewand is the second journalist to be tried under the Official Secrets Act since Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965.

# Spanish police step up repression

SPANISH police have arrested 15 members of the Basque nationalist army, ETA, in the Northern province of Guipuzcoa.

They also claim to have shot leading ETA activist, Eustaquio Mendizabal, near a road-block in Zumarraga.

Immediately, the Civil Guard began a wide struggle for Mendizabal who is accused of participating in the kidnapping of industrialist Felipe Huarte.

## Conspiracy: Not guilty

FOUR AFRICANS and two whites pleaded not guilty in Pretoria yesterday on charges of conspiring to incite violent revolution in South Africa. The six are alleged to have planned to bring arms, ammunition and explosives secretly into the country as well as to train guerrillas. The conspiracy is alleged to have had its origins in the Soviet Union, Britain and Somalia as well as South Africa. The accused, charged under the Terrorism Act, are Alexandre Moumbaris (34), a naturalized Australian born in Egypt of Greek-French parentage, Dublin-born John William Hosey (23), Theophilus Cholo (45), and Gardener Sijaka (30), both of the Transkei, Justice Mpanza (34) and Petrus Mtambu (37), both of Natal.

Whilst those youth who have followed the policies of Mao in the Basque movement are imprisoned and persecuted, the fascist newspapers and politicians have been congratulating themselves on the diplomatic relations established between Peking and Madrid.

Don Fernando Herrero Tejedor, chief prosecutor in the Supreme Court, stated: 'In questions of international relations, realism is always necessary. I support re-

lations with all peoples . . . provided we maintain the quality of our own political system.'

Don Antonio Garcia-Trevijano Forte, a lawyer, was especially delighted: 'I think it's very good, I am in favour of understanding and good relations with all countries because that is good for peace and world expansion.' Forte has been invited to Peking to be decorated by Prince Norodom Sihanouk with the Royal Khmer Order.

# Picket squad wades in Feather



BUILDING workers who came to support striking electricians at the St Thomas' hospital site yesterday were injured as a special police picket squad

waded into them. The electricians, who have been on strike since February 1, had called for support to stop the contractors, Laing's, taking alternative

labour into the site in a police-style bus each day. A much larger turn-out is expected on the picket line today. See lead story by Alex Mitchell and another picture.

## Expulsion is the main remedy

# Right-wing Labourites carpeted by parties

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THREE RIGHT-WING Labourites are facing disciplinary action from constituency parties. They are Reginald Prentice, Shadow Employment Secretary and a member of Wilson's front-bench team, and the 'friends of Taverne', Andrew Faulds and Richard Crawshaw.

## Shotton delegation to see furnaces in Czechoslovakia

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

SHOTTON steelworkers are to visit Czechoslovakia in a bid to make the British Steel Corporation change its mind over closures.

A three-man delegation from the Shotton Steel Action Committee will fly to Ostrava tomorrow to inspect tandem furnaces at the town's steelworks.

Action committee member Geoff Hett said that they had calculated that the furnaces would cost £10m compared to the £250m for comparable furnaces used in this country.

'We will gather to-

gether our figures and give them to the BSC,' he said.

'But I can't say I am hopeful because of their negative attitude so far. 'One thing is certain—we will not accept an end to steel-making in Shotton.'

The Czech visit is seen as the final overture to BSC.

● On April 13 Shotton is organizing a national rank-and-file steel conference in the industry to discuss the campaign against closures, which is expected to cost 50,000 jobs. Over 6,000 men at Shotton face redundancy.

## Regd. unions meet

WARWICK UNIVERSITY has been chosen as the venue for the first conference of unions which have registered under the Industrial Relations Act. About 50 small associations are planning to set up a rival 'TUC' at the conference tomorrow. Jack Ogden, general secretary of the Union of Sales, Technical Representatives and Agents, who issued the invitations, is hoping to form a Federation of Registered Trade Unions.

Prentice, who attacked five London dockers while they were in Pentonville prison last year, has been censured by his own branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The branch—at Transport House, the headquarters of the T&GWU and the Labour Party—suggests that the union should no longer sponsor him as MP.

The motion to withdraw support was passed by 24 votes to one.

Prentice has dismissed the branch's action as being 'silly'. He went on:

'I have been sponsored by the union since 1957. I have never been told what I had to do and I would not accept such directions.'

Prentice was among those right-wingers at the top of the Parliamentary Labour Party who was in favour of the Tory state pay laws.

When Tory Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan threw a party to thank all those who had helped the Bill become law, Prentice went along.

Last week Prentice again showed his lack of sympathy for the plight of the ordinary trade unionist when he attacked ASLEF drivers.

ON THURSDAY the Toxteth constituency party will consider the future of its MP, Richard Crawshaw, who was one of the Labour MPs who sponsored Dick Taverne's re-entry into parliament as 'independent Labour' MP.

The day after the sponsoring ceremony, Crawshaw's management committee passed a resolution by 19 votes to two condemning his support of the 'anti-Labour' Taverne.

It also urged the party's

NEC and the Parliamentary Party to condemn this 'calculated insult which once again shames the name of the Toxteth division within the Labour Party'.

The Taverne incident was not the first time that Crawshaw has crossed local Labour people.

He backed 'In Place of Strife' and almost brought down the Labour government by voting with the Tories in a bid to retain the Territorial Army.

THE THIRD Labourite in bother with his local constituency is Andrew Faulds, a member of the actors' union, Equity.

He explained his position to a two-and-a-half hour executive meeting at the weekend.

Earlier the party had moved a unanimous vote of censure against his conduct.

These three MPs constitute a significant force in the parliamentary party which is opposed to continued trade union links.

They want to break all ties with the unions and establish 'a centre-left party which appeals to the whole electorate'.

This 'theory' is a complete denial of the history of the Labour Party, which was founded in 1906 by the trade unions to represent and fight on behalf of the working class for socialist policies.

Consistent with this history the local parties and unions must 'do a Taverne' on Prentice, Crawshaw and Faulds—kick them out of the party.

# Feather has EEC job ready

TUC GENERAL secretary Victor Feather is to be rewarded for his efforts on behalf of the Common Market lobby by being offered a very highly paid job with the EEC Commission when he retires later this year.

Feather is a dedicated pro-Marketeer who has been brazenly flouting Congress policy of boycotting EEC institutions by attending one 'European' function after another in the last few months.

His new job will be to organize political propaganda work among British trade unions on behalf of the EEC. This means he will continue to do what he is already doing, but receive an astronomical salary for it.

In Brussels, he will join other renegades from the labour movement who have gone over to the service of the monopolists, like former Labour Party secretary Harry Nicholas, ex-deputy secretary Gwyn Morgan, and one-time Labour Cabinet Minister George Thomson.

Throughout the political fight that has gone on over the Common Market, the working class has been hampered in its resistance to this corporatist union of the big bourgeoisie by the Marketeers in its midst.

Sixty-nine renegade Labour MPs were prepared to sell out the working class by providing the Tories with a majority in parliament for joining the EEC in 1971 just when the government could have been brought down.

Feather and a group of staunch pro-Market trade unionists were also discussing how to minimize the trade union opposition to entry.

Since then, he has

● ACCEPTED the presidency of the pro-Market European TUC.

● ATTENDED the Hampton Court banquet marking Britain's entry.

● PROMISED his future employers that the TUC will have agreed to participate in EEC institutions within 12 months time under the leadership of the General Council regardless of Congress policy.

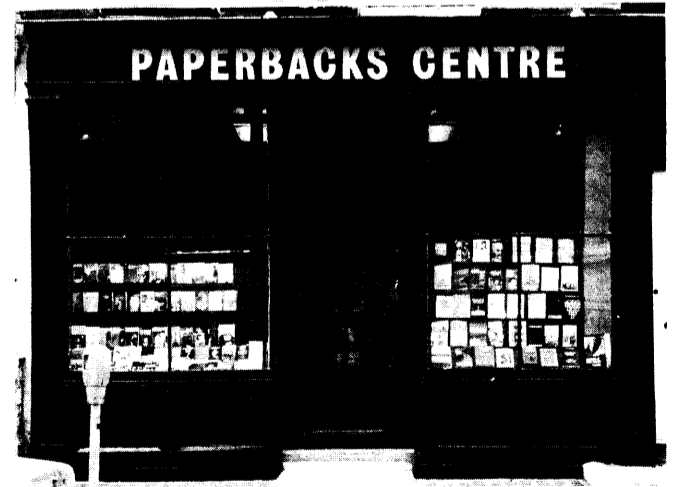
Capitalism's main hope for surviving the coming storms of economic crisis is the Common Market trading bloc, which will be used to fight off the American and Japanese competition and to orchestrate corporatist controls on the workers' movements in western Europe.

Feather is acting as an agent of capitalism in advocating trade union participation in the EEC at a time when the Tories are trying to impose a corporate state stranglehold on the working class.

He and all the Common Market traitors should be kicked out of the labour movement.

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# ARCHITECTS OF DEFEAT

BY PETER JEFFRIES

**The struggle of the Socialist Labour League against the Tory government's plans to destroy trade unionism have involved us in a continual battle against Stalinism and its subsidiary, the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.**

This body has used all its influence consciously to undermine and destroy a united fight by the working class against its common enemy, the Tory government.

First the Liaison Committee advanced the fraudulent slogan 'Kill the Bill' which tried to lull workers into thinking that the Heath government could be persuaded into changing its plans.

Now, as new layers of workers enter the struggle, it aims to demoralize them by trying to limit the fight against the Tories to a series of one-day 'protest' strikes.

Here is only the latest in a long line of crimes and betrayals by Stalinism against the British and international working class.

The Stalinists have been joined in these activities by the group calling itself International Socialists. This tendency was founded, and is still led, by renegades from the Trotskyist movement at the time of the Korean war in 1950. They abandoned defence of the nationalized property and the workers' states in Russia and China and advocated neutrality between US imperialism and the workers' states in China and North Korea.

Their false theory of 'state capitalism' in the USSR was the result of the pressure of imperialism on people who had always fought, and still fight, against the Marxist method.

## CENTRISTS

Tony Cliff and his collaborators have deliberately created confusion, allowing themselves to be referred to as some sort of Trotskyists. In fact their group is founded on anti-Trotskyism: they are confirmed centrists. This is what makes them capitulate to the line of the Stalinists in the Liaison Committee.

Their anti-communism on the question of the Soviet state

is perfectly consistent with their willingness to collaborate in the Stalinists' sell outs.

In a front-page story in a recent issue of their weekly paper 'Socialist Worker'—'Mass Action Shows the Way'—they tell their readers:

'The government insists that it will never give in to the strike movement. No one should be fooled by this empty bravado. The same Tory Ministers gave in no less than three times to trade union militancy in the last year after equally emphatic statements.

'They said they would never give in to the miners—and then they did. They said they would never raise their offer to the railwaymen—and then they did. They said they would never free the five imprisoned dockers—and then they did.

'They can be forced to reverse it [the anti-trade union law] if industrial action begins to bring key sections of the economy to a halt.'

**What is this if not the complete adoption of the rotten reformism of the Stalinist Liaison Committee?**

Nothing could be more deliberately designed to confuse and derail the working class in this time of great crisis.

To speak of Heath's plans as 'empty bravado' is the most ignorant and dangerous stu-

pidity. The more the capitalist crisis deepens, the more the 'state capitalists' run away from it and its revolutionary implications.

After weeks of calls for 'mass action' and the crudest forms of syndicalist activity, we are now told that Heath can be forced to retreat and drop his plans. This in the midst of capitalism's greatest-ever financial crisis, in which merchant bankers speak openly of a 'return to 1929'!

There is not a single word, in this front-page statement, on the financial crisis. Naturally there is no review of the 'theory' of 'permanent arms economy' by which leaders of this revisionist group sought to show throughout the boom that capitalism was now a changed animal and that preparation for power by the working class was referred to only by dogmatists and sectarians.

On an inside page Chris Harman is forced to say something about the crisis. But his analysis is one which even the 'Financial Times' and the most naive capitalist commentator would laugh out of court.

'The crisis facing the owners of the British economy is simple,' Harman reassures any readers who might be worried by the turmoil in Bonn, Lon-

don and Tokyo. 'Any growth of the British economy leads to imports rising more quickly than exports and to a balance of payments crisis.'

To reduce the crisis to a mere external payments crisis reflects the levels of ignorance and stupidity to which Harman and his friends have sunk. Heath faces an international crisis which originates not in London, but in New York. Nixon has declared economic war on Europe and Japan. But Harman appears not to have heard the news.

Typical of the method of the group to which he belongs, Harman combines his ignorance with complete contempt for the truth. In discussing the rising trend of unemployment after 1966 he writes: 'Meanwhile productivity deals were pushed through, forcing up unemployment.'

'Meanwhile' we must remind Harman that it was his group, along with the Stalinists, which actually advocated acceptance of productivity deals, against the principled opposition of the All Trades Unions Alliance.

His political mentor, Cliff, had the following to say in his recently reissued book 'The Employers Offensive: Productivity Deals and how to fight them':

'We must always start by opposing the productivity deal



a trickster with language, really means 'principled'] rejection of any productivity deal can lead to a catastrophic division between the stewards and their members which will be eagerly exploited by the employer and may lead in the end to the acceptance of a far worse deal than was necessary.'

Today it is the same rotten centrism so blatantly expressed in these policies which tells workers that industrial action can force the Tory government to 'reverse' its legislation against the unions.

Together with the Stalinists, the 'state capitalists' make noises about industrial action and 'initiative from the rank and file' in order to avoid the main question of uniting in the struggle to defeat the common enemy, the Tory government. They know that such a step forward by the working class would throw reformism into its greatest crisis and wreck for ever the comfortable co-existence of their own rotten group with the reformist leadership.

According to 'Socialist Worker': 'The strikes of the last few days have shown that the feeling exists among rank-and-file workers for real, united action to break the government's freeze.'

For the rest, they simply advocate more and more 'mass action' and 'solidarity', with 'joint action committees' and so on. They point out that the TUC will give no lead, but they themselves deliberately avoid the number one question of building alternative leadership to defeat the existing reformist apparatus. This is absolutely at one with their avoidance of the fight to force the Tory government to resign.

All that 'Socialist Worker' asks of the working class is that it should be 'united and resolute'. The working class has shown in every struggle under this government that it is absolutely determined to fight for its basic rights. That is not in question.

United? Surely it is the existing leadership that stands in the way of unity. The political defeat of that leadership in struggle is the precondition of the necessary unity. Instead of fighting for this alternative leadership, the centrist IS group tails along behind the actions of the working class. In this way it plays the game of the reformist traitors, to tie the working class down to the level of capitalist ideology, never posing the question of the power of the working class.

It is for this reason, and not out of any 'leftism', that the IS never raises the question of replacing the Tories with a Labour government, nor of how to fight for socialist policies when that is achieved.

Centrism always talks 'left', worshipping 'mass action' — and it always betrays when it comes to the question of power. This is the role of the IS group.

## DESTRUCTION

What the 'state capitalists' are now seeking, at every turn, is to present the crisis facing the working class as merely a wages issue. They are thereby able falsely to portray last year's strikes as ending in a series of unqualified victories.

Heath's plans, as we in the SLL have alone insisted, go far beyond mere wage-cutting plans. The legislation now on the statute book, together with the emergence of the most reactionary trends in the very top layers of the state machine, are a preparation for the destruction of trade unionism as it has been known in Britain for the last century. This can be capitalism's only answer to the now raging economic crisis.

We have to say bluntly to these smug revisionists: it is a

gross lie and deception to paint last year's strikes as a series of straight 'victories'. How can they be when the Tory government remains in office, thanks to the open support it receives from the trade union and Labour leaders? All the wage gains that were made in last year's strikes have more than been wiped out in savage price increases. Meanwhile the Heath government is now armed with Draconian laws ready to be employed against the working class.

The government survives because the working class is still dominated by traitors, whether 'left' or 'right'. But this the 'state capitalists' will not and cannot discuss. Their front page contains not a single mention of the abject and spineless collapse of every single 'left' on the TUC. Neither these 'lefts' nor the 'state capitalists' have had the political courage to answer right-wing miners' leader Joe Gormley when he told the 'lefts': 'Either fight or submit.'

## COVERING UP

The 'state capitalists' not merely refuse to expose these 'lefts'. They spend every moment actively covering up for their dangerous and thoroughly treacherous role in the working class.

In an editorial statement in the same issue, 'Socialist Worker' says: 'The responsibility falls to the real left wing. The groundwork has to be done at the grassroots.'

There is no ambiguity here. Turn away from the unions. Let the 'left' traitors off the hook and demoralize the working class with blind rank-and-file activity which separates the most advanced workers from the rest of the working class and teaches them absolutely nothing.

No serious socialist or worker should be under any illusions. These are the formulas for those who at the first big setback for the unions in the struggle against the Tories will be ready to leap forward and denounce the unions as 'finished'. For this is exactly the position which the revisionist groups hold in relation to the USSR.

For them the emergence of Stalinism was not a setback with which the working class would have to deal, but a total defeat for the Russian Revolution. Just as they write off the powerful Soviet working class, which certainly has yet to have its final say in the fight against the Stalinist bureaucracy, so they are preparing to write off the working class and its organizations, particularly the trade unions.

The other side of their rejection of the ability of the working class to resolve its crisis of leadership is a cringing, middle-class support for Stalinism.

Their editorial ends with a call for the creation of Councils of Action. 'A call from this month's conference of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions for the setting up of such councils of action would be a great step forward. Every effort must be made to push the vacillating leadership of the Liaison Committee into giving the lead.'

Here we see a blatant and unashamed tail-ending of Stalinism. This most counter-revolutionary force in the international working-class movement can be forced 'into giving the lead', according to IS.

As every worker engaged in the fight knows, the entire struggle against the Heath government has involved the most bitter conflict with the Liaison Committee at every turn. It is only in this fight that the ATUA has been forged into the important body which it is today.

In any case it is crystal clear

that the 'state capitalist' conception of Councils of Action is completely opposed to that for which the ATUA has fought. What these vacillating centrists want is a fraudulent gathering of 'lefts' of all stripes in which no political or theoretical principles are ever thrashed out in struggle.

'We are not speaking of meetings of representatives of political groups', they say in a crude swipe at the SLL. 'We are speaking of committees of genuine [!] representatives of trade union and shop-floor organizations.'

Here the 'state capitalists' only prove once more that they learn absolutely nothing from history. For the history of the working class is littered with examples from Spain, Germany, Britain, etc. of the creation of Councils of Action, or soviets, which because of the absence of Bolsheviks to struggle inside such bodies, led to the most tragic defeats.

Cliff and company are here only resurrecting the hoary old 'theory' of 'soviets without Bolsheviks', a theory for which the working class has paid a bitter and bloody price. What the 'state capitalists' want are not Councils of Action which will prepare for power, but Councils of Action which are controlled by the Stalinists and used to destroy the struggle of the working class for power.

As if to underline their determined hostility to Bolshevism, they include an article by ex-Trotskyist, Harry Wicks which purports to deal with the role of Councils of Action in the 1926 British General Strike.

Wicks's piece is the most vulgar form of eulogy for syndicalism and spontaneity. His 'analysis' fails entirely to 'mention' either Stalinism or that the strike actually ended in defeat!

'In the days preparatory to the General Strike of 1926 . . . the revolutionary left and rank-and-file Minority Movement campaigned in earnest for the trades councils once again to transform themselves into councils of action.'

Wicks ignores in the most deceitful manner the fact that by 1926 the Minority Movement, an organ of the Communist Party, had been almost entirely destroyed by Stalinism as a revolutionary instrument. From 1924 onwards, as part of the theory of 'socialism in one country', Stalin had forced the British Communist Party into increasingly craven support for those 'lefts' in the TUC who were members of the Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee.

It was because the Party had no political independence of 'lefts' such as Swales, Purcell and Hicks that in the General Strike it fought not under the slogan of 'All Power to the Trades Councils' (as Wicks tries to pretend to his readers) but with the slogan 'All Power to the General Council' (of the TUC).

By 1926 the Communist Party had been destroyed by Stalinism. It was able to learn no lessons from the 1926 experience. The right wing was able to launch a vicious witch-hunt against what was left of the Minority Movement after 1927.

Wicks is deliberately silent on all these matters. For him the lead given by the Minority Movement was of 'inestimable value', just as today the Liaison Committee (which is, of course, a complete degeneration compared with even the Minority Movement) can, according to 'state capitalist' conceptions, be forced 'into giving the lead'.

Trotskyism has nothing but contempt for such positions. As the political crisis becomes ever sharper it will be necessary to step up the fight against every brand of revisionism on all theoretical and practical questions. Such a task is inseparable from the building of a mass revolutionary party.



The release of the Pentonville Five.—The International Socialists point to this and say that the Tory government can be forced to give in. Above left: The 'Kill the Bill' campaign. The fight was limited to one day 'protest' strikes. Above right: Tony Cliff, leader of the International Socialism Group.

completely and then later, if necessary, retreat to a position where we can try and get the best out of the deal we can' (p. 216). A little later (p. 227) Cliff tells us that the aim must be to 'destroy the worst aspects' of such deals.

On this same page, his thoroughly opportunist position on this very question—for which Harman wishes to blame 'increased unemployment' — is even more clearly expressed:

'The alternative to maintaining an inflexible [Cliff, as ever

# 'IT IS AS CERTAIN AS CAN BE THAT THE TELEPHONES OF EVERY MAJOR TRADE UNION IN THE COUNTRY ARE PERMANENTLY TAPPED BY SOME PROCESS'

— Richard Briginshaw, general secretary NATSOPA.

BY ALEX MITCHELL

Since coming to office the Tory government has increased the amount of phone-tapping by the secret police.

On February 1, Robert Carr, the Home Secretary, revealed that 1,250 telephone tap warrants were issued in 1972 to the Metropolitan Police who cover London alone. That's almost three warrants each day.

This is double the number issued two years ago. The warrants authorizing phone-tapping last for a month. If nothing worthwhile emerges the warrant is not renewed. It is known, however, that the police have long-running warrants on some telephones which the Home Office renews as a formality every few weeks.

The enormity of the increases can be gauged from the fact that between 1938 and 1956 the average number of warrants issued to Scotland Yard was about 130 a year. This means that the 1972 figures represent an increase of a 1,000 per cent on these earlier times.

The Home Office has long insisted that the only person authorized to issue warrants is the Home Secretary himself. This tradition has been completely undermined by the government. It is now known that any Secretary of State is able to issue the appropriate authority. Which means that not only Carr but ten other Cabinet Ministers have the power to let the secret police listen in on your phone.

Peter Burden, the chief crime reporter of the 'Daily Mail', revealed recently that authorization is often sought after the tap has been placed.

Burden stated: 'Throughout the country police officers visit the Post Office "intercept" offices and listen to tape recordings of phone conversations. The police can get any part of the conversation type-written.'

'Phone-tapping is authorized by the Home Secretary. But the police are putting in so many requests that the job is being delegated to other officials.'

'Sometimes phones are tapped before the Home Secretary has seen the authorization. But each request is ultimately seen by him.'

The police try to cover up their large increase in the use of phone taps by saying it is to hunt bank robbers and the like. This is utter rubbish.

Bank robbers in Britain long ago gave up using phones as a means of communication—if they ever did use them!

There is not the slightest doubt that the large increase in phone tapping is being used almost exclusively against the labour and trade union movement and organizations on the left.

This runs directly against the policy laid down by previous governments in relation to phone-tapping.

The Birkett Committee stated that it was Home Office practice to issue warrants 'only in the case of really serious crime'. Normal investigation methods must have been tried and failed or must be unlikely to succeed if tried, and there must be good reason to think that an interception would result in a conviction.

There is no evidence at all to suggest that the huge increase in the number of phone-taps has assisted the police fight against serious crime.

In the latest issue of his union journal, Richard Briginshaw, general secretary of NATSOPA, warns that the increased secret surveillance by the police is directed against the trade unions.

Briginshaw says: 'It is fair to assume, on the basis of years of experience by the general labour and trade union movement, that telephone-tapping is a habit and a general procedure by government agencies. It is as certain as can be that the telephones of every major trade union in the country are permanently tapped by some process. The technicalities, as is well known, have been raised to a high level.'

'It would be interesting to compare the percentage of telephones that are tapped within the trade union movement by the authorities, or their agencies, with the number tapped within Conservative Party organizations—the Economic League and similar right-wing organizations—and it would turn out that the whole work of the Special Police is based upon a suspicion or original political "sin" being present with ordinary people and particularly the working people in this country and Tories being all time innocents.'

Only rarely does proof emerge that the police are using their sinister tapping methods. Such a case was late last year involving journalists on the 'Railway Gazette'.

In September the 'Sunday

Times' published a large article on a 'Blue Book' prepared by the Department of the Environment on plans for British Rail. This confidential document revealed that the Tories intended slashing the rail network with the loss of some 25,000 jobs.

Within days plainclothes detectives from C1 Department were interviewing the reporter involved, Tony Dawe, and the editor, Harold Evans. In a statement to the Press, Evans said that he was threatened with the Official Secrets Act.

The scenario then moved to a little known publication called 'Railway Gazette', edited by Richard Hope. The police became convinced that the 'Gazette' was the source of the story which had created a wave of indignation among railwaymen.

Hope began to notice funny things happening to phones at his office and his home. He complained in the Press and on television that bugs had been placed on his phones. 'There certainly is something very sinister going on,' he said.

There certainly was. Two days later a journalist on the 'Gazette', Chris Bushell (25) was the victim of police harassment. They called at his home twice. They mentioned details of Mr Bushell's private life which they could only have learnt by listening in to phone conversations. They threatened to pass on the information to Mr Bushell's friends and relatives.

A reporter from the 'Sun' said: 'Mr Bushell claims the remark indicated to him that the detectives would bring to light his close relationships with certain friends unless they received more helpful answers.'

Mr Bushell was so distressed he had to be taken to the home of the deputy editor who believed there was a real danger that Mr Bushell might commit suicide.

Another dramatic turn came in the House of Commons. Mr Leslie Huckfield, Labour MP for Nuneaton, asked Heath about 'the monstrous and sinister witch-hunt on the Press'.

He went on: 'There is a strong suspicion that a telephone call that I made to the editor of the "Railway Gazette" on December 1 was tapped.'

After the Attorney-General, Sir Peter Rawlinson, had given a defensive and evasive answer, the Opposition leader,



Harold Wilson, piped up: 'You will recall the prime ministerial directive in 1964 that no MP's phone was to be tapped. Will the government give a similar directive on the phones of the British Press?'

In his reply Rawlinson said: 'I would repeat that nobody is immune from investigation if the police feel there is a proper matter to investigate.'

In other words, the Tories will tap anybody's phones—including the leader of the Labour Party—for their own purposes.

The issues raised in the 'Railway Gazette' incident sent a shock of disquiet even among the members of the judiciary. An editorial in the 'New Law Journal' said publication of the document did 'little more than confirm that

British Rail was in a mess. Its

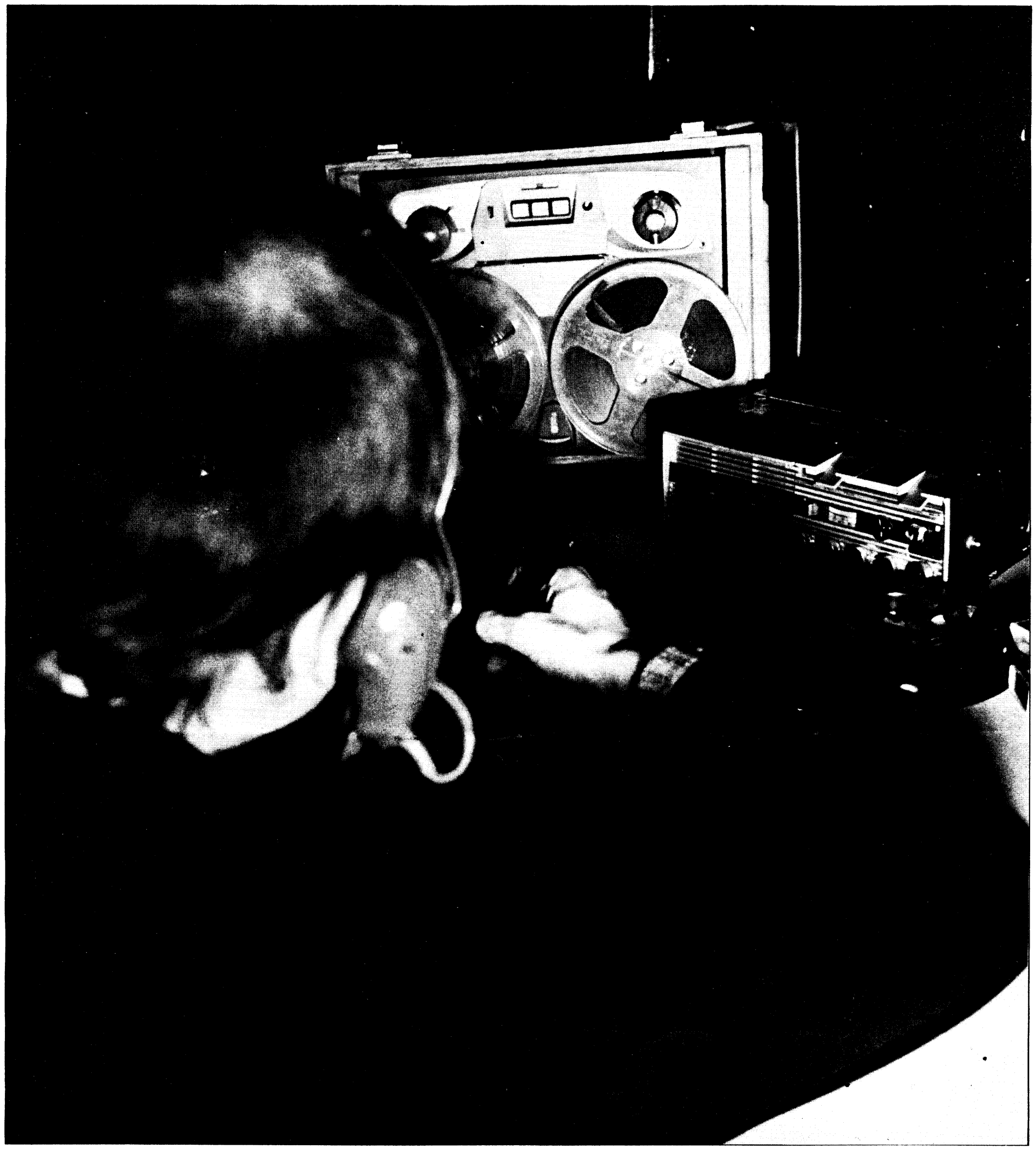
publication did not breach national security.

'Yet what followed smacked more of the over-reaction of the banana republic dictatorship than of sensible and cool, democratic government.'

In the event, the Tories and the police backed off. Both the 'Sunday Times' and the 'Railway Gazette' were exonerated. But the experience was a salutary one for members of the National Union of Journalists who were abruptly faced with the fact that 'public service journalism' was now illegal and could lead to criminal proceedings.

The telephone tapping goes hand in hand with other developments in the police force:

- The arming of police.
- The introduction of a national police computer.





# MYSTERY AT AVENUE DE TOURVILLE

Telephone-tapping goes on with official approval in every country, but seldom has it been laid bare so completely as in France. A recent article in the weekly 'Le Nouvel Observateur', obviously an inside job, gives some sensational details.

Strictly speaking telephone-tapping is illegal in France, but the government has admitted that it goes on 'to protect the state and the public interest'.

The technical basis for telephone-tapping in France was laid down by the Gestapo during the German occupation in 1940, when all the telephone exchanges in Paris were linked to a building near the Invalides. Successive French governments have kept it in operation and a special team of technicians links up lines which are to be tapped.

The building in question, 2b Avenue de Tourville, is closely guarded by members of the three armed forces and the gendarmerie. It is run by a body called the Interministerial Control Group and only those in possession of a special identity card are admitted. To enter the rooms where the tapping goes on a special key is necessary.

This part of the building is under the direct control of Military Security. Here the wires from the main telephone lines are attached to tape recorders under the control of specially-recruited civil servants paid from secret funds which come from the budget of the Prime Minister.

The tapes are collected, classified and stored under the direction of a General, Eugene Caillaud, assisted by representatives of the civil and military security agencies. The staff is not big enough, nor are there sufficient machines, to permit all the conversations recorded during the day to be played back.

In some cases, the phone being tapped is relayed directly to an operator who can record and note what is being said. As French equipment appears to be somewhat out of date, when this is done it is not possible to identify the other party to the call. Moreover, only about 200 lines can be dealt with in this way.

Most tapped calls are simply recorded, checked from time to time at random or communicated to the Minister or official who has authorized the tapping. The apparatus available in the provincial towns is less advanced.

The anonymous author of the report says that the work is carried on in an atmosphere of tension and rivalry between different branches of the military and civil services. There is resentment because influence is used to permit highly-placed but jealous husbands to record the telephone conversations of their wives or businessmen to spy on their rivals.

A good deal of the tapping is, of course, political. Opposition politicians and journalists, trade union leaders and left-wing militants have their phones tapped as a matter of routine.

Use is also made of more sophisticated methods of listening in, such as micro-nails inserted in the walls of buildings or fired by air gun. These enable conversations inside the building to be monitored in neighbouring buildings or from vehicles. Telephones can also be transformed into microphones which pick up conversations going on even when the phone is not in use.

Devices of this kind have been widely resorted to in Italy by the police and security services to check up on the conversations of leading politicians including the Prime Minister himself.

## PRESIDENTIAL PHONE IS BEING TAPPED

A Rome magistrate investigating a major telephone-tapping scandal has issued a warrant for the arrest of a former Italian secret service agent.

The scandal involves the tapping of phones at the presidential palace and interception of calls to hundreds of politicians, trade unionists, show business personalities and even some businessmen.

The former agent, Alessandro Michele, turned up at the office of the investigating magistrate to give evidence. He was asked to wait, but subsequently disappeared. Police believe he may have been kidnapped in the latest of a series of mysterious developments in the case.

Michele, once a member of the Defence Ministry's counter-espionage network (SID),

worked closely with Signor Walter Beneforti, a former head of the Milan criminal police, who was arrested a fortnight ago for his alleged part in the phone-tapping case.

Beneforti is the eighth person to be arrested in the investigation. The others are five Rome private detective chiefs, a telephone company official and an unidentified man. They are variously charged with theft, suppression of mail and violation and fraudulent interruption of telephone conversations.

It has emerged that the organization, closely connected with the fascist groups, bugged the President's phone and an estimated 70 per cent of phones at the presidential palace.



● The formation of anti-picket squads.

● The increase of recruitment to Special Branch and other 'political' departments of the police, i.e. bomb squad, Special Patrol Group (SPG).

● The joint training of police with the army in handling 'national emergencies'.

● The increase in the amount of funds made available to the police to recruit and pay informers in the factories, universities and the media.

The Tories are desperate to get their corruption-ridden force into a war-footing. They know that although they have legally fleeced the working class of many of its basic democratic rights—the rights to strike, to picket, to negotiate increased wages, to organize—only a physical confrontation in which the working class is

defeated can carry these laws into effect.

As shown at the Pageant of working-class history at the Empire Pool on March 11, workers and their families won't surrender their rights to the Tories. It's just not on. The working class today stands undefeated and determined to hang onto all the gains that have been won in two centuries of courageous struggle against the ruling class.

In other words, the phone-tappers, mail-openers, spies and Colonel Blimps, together with the asset-strippers and money-lenders in the Tory government, seriously believe they can turn back the tide of history on the world's most powerful labour and trade union movement. They have another think coming.

Nevertheless, the parting words of NATSOPA's Richard Briginshaw are worth recording:

'Last, but not least, the trade union movement at all levels, based upon the working people of this country with their experiences of our rulers over a long period of years, should polish up their counter telephone tapping procedures on the basis of the understanding that **all their phones are tapped.** [His emphasis.]

'And the mass of the people in this country should be told that if they want to keep anything to themselves so far as their private lives are concerned, then they should work on the basis that has commended itself to the working people over all these years—never use a telephone.'



# REVISIONISTS SLANDER THE RCL

Part three of a series on revisionism and Ceylon by Jack Gale.

**Bala Tampoe and the Ceylon Mercantile Union did not support the 1967 devaluation strike, the International Marxist Group tells us, because the leaders of the strike 'had no serious perspective for a struggle'.**

Presumably, therefore, the IMG tells workers in Britain that if a strike is called by people who have 'no serious perspective for a struggle', they should scab on it.

If limited actions are called by trade union leaders against the Tory state pay laws, will IMG urge workers not to take part because their leaders have 'no perspective for a struggle'? Yet that—and exactly that—is the excuse put forward in the IMG pamphlet 'Ceylon and the Healy School of Falsification' for Tampoe's conduct in 1967.

## Complete freedom

There is another difficult problem to get round for its author Mr Jaya Vithana. At the height of the 1971 repressions when some 16,000 people were arrested (note: 16,000 not 3,000 as Vithana claims) Bala Tampoe was allowed complete freedom of movement. Only one leading member of his Lanka Sama Samaja Party (Revolutionary) was arrested.

The IMG pamphlet claims that not only Tampoe but other leading trade unionists were

left free because the Bandaranaike government was afraid to take on the working class.

It names, however, only three: Watson Fernando, Senviratne and Prins Rajasooriya. What are the facts?

Of the three named, one—Rajasooriya—is the assistant-secretary of the LSSP(R), so his freedom strengthens our argument and not Vithana's, and another—Watson Fernando, a leader of the pro-Chinese Communist Party—was arrested.

Vithana cannot be ignorant of these facts. His claim is a miserable, lying evasion that does not stand up to five minutes' serious examination.

We are also accused by the IMG of saying nothing about our own co-thinkers in Ceylon.

But we say a great deal about them. The Ceylonese Section of the International Committee of the Fourth International is the Revolutionary Communist League and its youth organization is the Revolutionary Communist Youth. Unlike Messrs Tampoe and Rajasooriya, four leading members of the RCL—Wakkumbura, Sisira Jayasuriya, Kirithi Balasuriya and Wilfred Pereira—were arrested and released only after working-class demonstrations.

While not a single LSSP(R) journal was touched by the Bandaranaike regime, nine other newspapers were banned. These included 'Kamkura Parath', 'Tho'lilar Seydi' and 'Virodhaya' published by the RCL, and the 'Tharuna Satana' published by the RCY.

Many RCY members were

jailed in a witch-hunt which, far from leaving trade union leaders alone, jailed over 4,000 of them.

Even members of the coalition parties were jailed—like Vasudeva Nanayakkara of the LSSP. N. Sanmagathasan—the leader of the pro-Peking Communist Party—was also arrested and many, many more. But not, repeat not, Bala Tampoe.

The Bala Tampoe who took money from the CIA, the Bala Tampoe who organized scabbing on a strike, the Bala Tampoe who honoured British imperialism and an ex-Nazi, the Bala Tampoe who sits on the International Executive of the IMG's parent body, the Unified Secretariat—is the Bala Tampoe who was allowed to speak and move freely by the Bandaranaike regime when the leaders of other working-class tendencies were jailed and witch-hunted.

No amount of IMG white-wash will cover that stark fact. That is the incontrovertible truth beneath Vithana's lies.

Now we come to some real slanders—directed at the genuine Trotskyists by Vithana.

Workers Press, says the IMG pamphlet, depicted the JVP movement, which bore the brunt of the Bandaranaike repressions, as a 'petty bourgeois' organization and **blamed it for the repressions.**

We defy Vithana, Joseph Hansen (who has maintained a prudent silence since the Unified Secretariat's official statement) or any other revisionist distorter to show us one single line from Workers Press which blamed the JVP for the repressions.

When the full-scale war against the JVP was launched by Mrs Bandaranaike and her Stalinist and ex-Pabloite allies in April 1971, Workers Press carried a Political Committee statement which declared:

'The task of British labour (lies in) intensifying its struggle against Stalinism and frustrating every attempt to supply arms to the reactionary regime of blood, lies, hunger and misery which masquerades as a socialist united front.'

'Despite our differences with the petty-bourgeois, Guevarist policies of the JVP, we appeal to the trade union and labour movement everywhere to demand of the Soviet government that its planes and pilots be withdrawn and that Mrs Bandaranaike's regime release all political prisoners and stop all executions immediately.' (Workers Press, April 21, 1971.)

## 'Death and repression'

In a series of articles which began on April 22 we denounced the 'death without trial and bloody repression of the workers' and peasants' movement' in Ceylon.

We declared: 'The students and peasant youth who have taken up arms against the coalition's betrayals are stubbornly continuing their fight—they have widespread popular support against the regime.'

Example after example can be quoted. On May 21, 1971, we carried an editorial 'Free All Prisoners And Press in Ceylon.'

Tampoe under the banner of his union, the Ceylon Mercantile Union. Tampoe refused to support the 1967 strike against devaluation.

Our record is there for all to see.

It is a deliberate, cynical lie to say we placed the blame for the suppressions on the JVP—a lie that any IMG member can check out by consulting our Press.

Yes, we did politically characterize the JVP as a petty-bourgeois organization. That is not to detract from their courage nor from the support they must be given inside the British labour movement against the Bandaranaike government.

Should we avoid insisting on Marxist analysis of a tendency that is in struggle? Or should we, as the Unified Secretariat did, pronounce the JVP to be a Marxist-Leninist organization?

Without the construction of a Trotskyist Party in Ceylon, as part of a Trotskyist International, there can be no victory of the workers, peasants and students of Ceylon.

It is not only our right, but our duty, to analyse all political tendencies from that standpoint, to support those who fight imperialism and its agencies, but to support them critically, insisting at all times on the construction of the independent revolutionary party.

This is what the youth of Ceylon need and deserve. They certainly deserve much more than they got from Bala Tampoe.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## CHARTISM 1842

The name of Ben Brierley is probably mainly known today in the Manchester area through the pub which is named after him. But in his lifetime he was well-known in the area, as a popular writer and humorist, the author of a number of short stories and of the jocular and witty 'Ab O'th' Yaites Dictionary', supposedly penned by 'Ab', the weaver who was at the centre of his humorous anecdotes.

Brierley himself was a weaver, and although chiefly a humorous writer, he had known serious times in his youth, when the weavers and other Manchester workers played a big part in the struggles of the Chartist movement for working-class rights.

In his memoirs, he recalled that he and his friends turned to literary efforts after the Chartist movement had declined. But as a lad, he had witnessed the movement in its heyday. Here he is, recalling the period of the great Strike of 1842, and its impact on workers in his neighbourhood:

'In 1842, four years after I had left the factory, the "great strike" took place, an event which some of our neighbours had been expecting a long time before, and were, in their way, prepared to meet. During the four years, Chartism had been rife, and the strike was its culmination.

'The "Northern Star", the only newspaper that appeared to circulate anywhere, found its way weekly to the Cut Side, being subscribed for by my father and five others. Every Sunday morning these subscribers met at our house to hear what prospect there was of the expected "smash-up" taking place. It was my task to read aloud so that all could hear at the same time.'

In this way, then, the workers tackled what they recognized as an essential task, that of educating and preparing themselves for struggle. That the Manchester workers' aspirations were, although a little naive, nevertheless revolutionary is also shown by Brierley, who writes of the way they were thinking at the time:

'Ten thousand pikemen would sweep England through, and Holinwood would furnish a contingent of at least a thousand.'

The Holinwood workers were not content to daydream about this prospect. Brierley tells us:

'Besides reading the "Northern Star" on Sunday mornings, my Saturday afternoons were occupied by more arduous work. I had to turn my father's grindstone while rebelliously - disposed amateur soldiers ground their pikes.'

Maybe the Manchester workers who spent their Saturday afternoons sharpening pikes were naive. Certainly, the Revolution they were preparing for did not come, although they later won, by means of the labour movement and organized struggle, many of the rights they were fighting for.

Today, these same rights are being attacked by the Tories. And although much of Ben Brierley's humorous writing is now badly dated, it is his accounts of his earlier life and the struggles he saw which today become relevant and alive.

And this time, we are going to win.

## EXOTIC HAMBURGERS

Mr Ainsley Cole, proprietor of the Old King Cole restaurant in the City of London, is worried about the hamburger.

'I feel the British public has too often been misled over the hamburger. Relatively few people have been served a true hamburger,' he says.

Cole is about to change all that. He has been recruited to Allied Finance and Insurance Service, which has a stake in everything from men's clothing to property. In preparation for his new job, Cole and his wife went around the world 'globe-trotting'.

The result includes a number of exotic dishes: the Axtex (with avocado and red peppers), the Cossack (sour cream and caviar), the Iberian (pimentos), the Athenian (aubergines) and the Sundowner (from Australia, garnished with a fried egg).

How successful Cole's attempt to popularize the hamburger will be remains to be seen. The price of each hamburger will be about 80p!



# IT'S A HARD LIFE

TELEVISION REVIEW BY JOE HARPER

**Play for Today: 'Hard Labour'. Devvised and directed by Mike Leigh. Produced by Tony Garnett. This was one of the most depressing plays seen on television for a long time. Superbly devised and acted though it was, the play must be considered as liable to feed anti-working class sentiment.**

It presented a powerful picture of one side of life—the helplessness that can accompany physical and emotional poverty.

But the one-sidedness itself created a problem. By telling only part of the story, the play was in danger of inspiring a very biased response.

The working class does suffer, but it also fights back. By leaving out this potential for development, 'Hard Labour' left out something crucial for understanding the working class.

The characters, though real, become unreal through being placed in an unchanging vacuum.

The 'acceptance' by the working class of its degraded existence is relative. But because there was nothing to contrast the Thornley family with, the subjection appeared to be absolute.

Therefore, although painfully accurate in one sense, the play was in fact a distortion.

The makers' intention was presumably to win sympathy for the lot of the poorer sections of the working class who are locked in a life of misery by bad conditions and educational and cultural backwardness.

Instead, the play was in danger of provoking contempt for the individuals portrayed because of their passive acceptance of their wretchedness and down-troddenness.

The hopelessness of the life of the Thornley family living in a northern slum was totally convincing and a considerable artistic achievement.

Five minutes in the company of the whining cowardly bully

Jim Thornley (Clifford Kershaw) nightwatchman, was enough to make us realize how Mrs Thornley (Liz Smith) became such a crushed wretch after 30 years of it.

So convincing was the scene of Thornley making his weekly convenience of his unresponsive resentful wife's body that it was literally nauseating.

But the Thornley children, in-laws, workmates, and neighbours were all equally demoralized or degraded in one way or another. Not a positive spark anywhere.

But in such an assemblage of working-class characters, is it likely that they would all be so uniformly dejected? Should not such a cross-section reveal other aspects of working-class life if it is to be truthful?

The truth is that while working-class people are crushed by their conditions, they also fight back and show a resilient capacity for courage and humour as well.

Having so tellingly made the point about how difficult it is to live a decent life in such wretched circumstances, is it not also relevant to ask why things are the way they are, and do they have to remain that way?

The makers are, of course, in no way obliged to write to a pattern or be tied to any compulsory list of things required to be mentioned. Works of art cannot be made that way.

But it is valid to ask the writers how they arrived at this very pessimistic view of working-class life and where they think such an attitude will lead.

The questions are worth asking because the play was too powerful to serve as a mere reminder for any middle-class viewers who might have forgotten the fact that life at the bottom is in some ways as squalid, brutal and degrading as it ever was in Dickensian Britain.

One could have enormous pity for Mrs. Thornley silently suffering a life of skivvying at home for a pig of a husband; skivvying at work for a mean middle-class woman who doles

out a shilling tip as Mrs T polishes a table-load of silver; and then getting exploited by the local church when sister calls for a contribution.

But so abject was she in her mute acceptance of being abused by her husband, and being fobbed off by the priest with five Hail Marys when she complained about her plight, that she nearly turned into being just a symbol of oppression, a partly cardboard, partly vegetable figure for whom pity was in danger of becoming contempt.

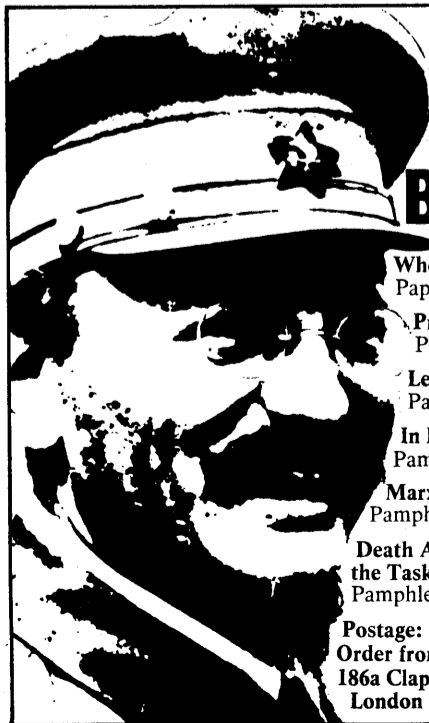
This was even more true of the rest of the characters. Thornley, although he is made what he is by the soul-destroying existence of being a company flunkey and having no horizon other than a few pints of beer each week, is nevertheless so unsympathetic as to be an object of hatred.

The son is a wet blob, married to a caricature of a house-proud, nagging, jumped-up middle-class wife. The daughter is more independently-minded, but plays no role.

The workmate/chief night-watchman is a slimy creep; the butcher/drinking companion a cipher; the neighbours all miserable.

None of these things are surprising in themselves. All of them are not unusual phenomena in the working class. But is there not a danger that in lumping all of them together in one play, and in showing only these phenomena, that the audience could write off the working class as being too pathetic to bother about?

In attempting to draw attention to the human waste caused by the capitalist system, 'Hard Labour' runs the risk of reinforcing prejudices about the lower paid by relentlessly stressing the abject condition of this one family. Leigh and Garnett may have achieved the opposite of their intention.



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**BBC 1**

9.38 Schools. 12.30 Croeso'n ol. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Andy Pandey. 1.45 Ask the family. 2.05 Schools. 2.50 Sixteen plus. 3.15 Gardeners' world. 3.40 French chef. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Lissie dripping. 5.10 John Craven's newsround. 5.15 Vision on. 5.40 Sir Prancelot. 5.45 News. Weather.

**6.00 NATIONWIDE.**

**6.50 FILM: 'FOLLOW A STAR'.** Norman Wisdom. British comedy.

**8.30 WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LIKELY LADS?** Count Down.

**9.00 NEWS.** Weather.

**9.25 DOCUMENTARY: 'WHEN JOHNNY COMES MARCHING HOME'.** Ordinary American people talk about the Vietnam War.

**10.15 FILM 73.** 10.45 MIDWEEK.

**11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS.**

**11.35 VIEWPOINT.** Bridging the Gap. Anthony Dyson, Principal of Ripon Hall, Oxford.

**12.00 MEDICINE TODAY.** 12.25 Weather.

**ITV**

9.30 Schools. 10.30 This week. 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Hickory house. 12.25 Pinky and Perky. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Lunchtime with Wogan. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 About Britain. 3.25 Kate. 4.25 Junior showtime. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 I dream of Jeannie. 5.50 News.

**6.00 TODAY.** 6.40 **CROSSROADS.**

**7.05 WHICKER'S SOUTH SEAS.** New Zealand's got a real Clobbering Machine. . .

**7.35 COOL MILLION.** Assault on Gavaloni. James Farentino.

**9.00 SO IT GOES.** Free Fall.

**10.00 NEWS AT TEN.**

**10.30 DOCUMENTARY: 'GRIEF'.** Death.

**11.30 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.**

**12.15 PRIORITIES.** Howard Root talks to Dannie Abse.

**REGIONAL TV**

**CHANNEL:** 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 4.20 Lottery. 4.25 London. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. weather. 6.10 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Whicker. 7.30 Film: 'Edge of Eternity'. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.20 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 12.12 News. 12.15 Faith for life.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Junkin. 7.05 Doctor in charge. 7.35 Madigan. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Try for ten. 7.00 Whicker. 7.40 Film: 'The Redhead From Wyoming'. 9.00 London. 12.15 Looking at . . . 12.45 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales** as above except: 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd. 10.30 Ar waetha'r gelyn. 11.15-11.30 O'r wasg. 12.15 World in action. 12.45 Weather.

**HTV West** as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.

**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.09 London. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Cartoons. 5.35 Wind in the willows. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Whicker. 7.30 Banacek. 9.00 London. 12.15 Reflection.

**TODAY'S TV**

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Osmonds. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Whicker. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Columbo. 9.00 London. 12.15 Sue Jay reports. Weather.

**ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.2 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 McCloud. 8.30 Whicker. 9.00 London.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 12.25 Hammy hamster. 12.40 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Here's Lucy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Whicker. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Columbo. 9.00 London. 12.15 Douglas Fairbanks presents. 12.45 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Collecting on a shoestring. 2.55 London. 5.15 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Police file. 6.35 Smith family. 7.05 London. 7.35 Film: 'The Challenge'. 9.00 London.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.20 Believing to live. 9.30 London. 5.20 Jackson five. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Whicker. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Columbo. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.30 Lectern.

**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Adam Smith. 7.00 Whicker. 7.30 McMillan and wife. 9.00 London. 12.15 Late call.

**GRAMPIAN:** 10.58 London. 12.25 Hammy hamster. 12.40 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.35 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Doris Day. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Whicker. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Columbo. 9.00 London. 12.10 Meditation.

**BBC 2**

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.50 Open University.

**6.40 TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.** Bed and Breakfast.

**7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.**

**7.30 NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.

**7.35 COLLECTOR'S WORLD.**

**8.05 WATERLINE.** Power, Sail and Safety.

**9.00 POT BLACK.**

**9.25 WORLD TELEVISION THEATRE.** 'Beginning to End'. Adapted from the writings of Samuel Beckett. With Jack MacGowran.

**10.15 LEAP IN THE DARK.**

**10.45 OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST.**

**11.20 NEWS EXTRA.** Weather.

**SLL LECTURE SERIES**  
The Socialist Revolution in Britain

**Middleton (nr Manchester)**

**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:**

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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.

**Friends make £130,000 available to clear debts**

**Big names 'nobble' the Poulson case**

THE POULSON affair has been mysteriously wound up. All the architect's £130,000 debts are to be paid by a group of anonymous friends.

News that the money has been handed over to the creditors will send a sigh of relief through the upper echelons of both the Tory and Labour Parties.

It means that there will be no further revelations about gifts and handouts to public figures.

The prospect of further names being mentioned in the case seemed a certainty when, in January, a truckload of files was removed from offices previously occupied by John Poulson in Pontefract.

There were a reported 1,347 separate bundles of papers in the haul which previously had not been brought to the attention of Mr Muir Hunter, QC, for the creditors.

It is understood that among this material was the controversial 'parliamentary file' which revealed more names of prominent politicians who did services for the Poulson architectural and engineering empire.

When Mr Hunter made known the existence of the new set of files, at least one prominent ex-Minister in the Labour government went to see Harold Wilson to admit his connection with Poulson.

He said he was Poulson's 'London man'. Two other northern MPs, both members of the Shadow Cabinet, were also implicated. Workers Press has learned that there was an immediate get-together between Labour and Tory managers at the House of Commons.

Following this informal discussion it was decided to launch an anti-Hunter cam-



**MUIR HUNTER, QC . . . No names at last hearing.**

paign which manifested itself in a Bar Council inquiry into the QC's conduct.

Although the council exonerated Mr Hunter, his handling of the case appeared to alter drastically when it re-opened on March 5.

Instead of a full day's proceedings, the case was adjourned after only a few hours of relatively trivial interrogation of the bankrupt.

And the case is not to reopen until June.

The fact that anonymous donors have paid off Poulson's debts can only strengthen rumours that someone is trying to bury the case.

The 'Sunday Telegraph' said the other day:

'Loyal supporters of both the Conservatives and Labour Parties have helped to raise funds. They believe the bankruptcy hearing is unfair to the people named.'

'In the business world a syndicate has negotiated a settlement making £130,000 available to Mr Poulson's creditors.'

'Contributions have been made on the understanding that they will not be disclosed.'

The article concludes by

saying that 'there was little doubt in legal circles that the overtones of political scandal in the Poulson inquiry are at an end.'

'In particular, the "parliamentary file", said to be among those yet to be dealt with at the hearings, will remain closed except to the police.'

There can be little doubt that there has been a deal between the two major parties to 'nobble' the inquiry.

This became clear after Anthony Crosland, the former Education Minister, and a mysterious 'Mr George Brown' (apparently not Lord George-Brown, the ex-deputy leader of the party) were named in January.

Still to be explained, however, is the involvement in the Poulson empire of Mr T. Dan Smith, the so-called 'Mr Newcastle'.

Smith, a friend of both Harold Wilson, Brown and Labour's Chief Whip Robert Mellish, was retained to assist the party in public relations during the 1964 and 1966 General Elections.

For his services to the party he was made first head of the Northern Economic Planning Council to assist development in the north east.

Smith is apparently still engaged in the day-to-day running of his consultancy companies in Northampton.



**POULSON . . . His 'parliamentary file' may never be opened.**

**Stationery Office printworkers fear for jobs**

**PRINTERS** at Her Majesty's Stationery Office Press in Wealdstone, Middlesex, fear they may be faced with massive redundancies. Shop stewards in the National Graphical Association have issued a statement saying that 400 jobs may be lost

under plans for a national reorganization of HMSO print shops.

The government has put forward proposals to completely reorganize its nine presses and

binderies and the Wealdstone works will be the hardest hit.

A spokesman at Atlantic House, head office of the HMSO, refused to comment.

**ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS**

'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

**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, W3.

**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.

## Jackson to collaborate with Pay Board

# UPW chiefs accept Phase Three

LEADERS OF 200,000 Post Office workers have accepted Phase Three of the state pay control laws in advance and are preparing evidence for submission to the Tories' Pay Board, despite the TUC decision not to co-operate with it.

This is the latest turn in the policy of total capitulation which seems to have gripped the Union of Post Office Workers since its special conference in February.

Tom Jackson, UPW general secretary, told the conference that there were only two alternatives facing the trade union movement: massive, all-out industrial action to 'change the government's mind' on pay, or a new bid to strike a bargain with Heath. The unions would lose a confrontation, he claimed.



JACKSON . . . On road to capitulation.

### NOTHING

Two days later Jackson and the heads of five other unions who have lodged a £5.50 claim with the Post Office were closeted with Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan.

He gave them nothing. There would be no exceptions to Phase Two of the pay laws, Macmillan

crawling back for more punishment.

When the TUC General Council went to see Heath on February 15, Jackson attempted to put his case for exceptional treatment to him direct. No response. Then he wrote it all down and sent it to the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, the far right-wing Sir John Eden.

Just before the special TUC on March 5, the Romford and Upminster postmen's branch of the UPW passed a motion rejecting government interference in pay claims and calling for non-co-operation with the pay laws.

### ADOPTED

This fairly mild policy, which did not even go as far as the TUC General Council a few days later, was adopted by the London district council and forwarded to the national executive.

In reply, Jackson claimed that 'no one at union headquarters would disagree' with the call for non-co-operation.

He argued that his conference

said, and there could be no promise of exceptional treatment under Phase Three either.

His parting shot was that the government was going to stop the Post Office levelling-up the earnings of young workers this year as agreed in the Hardman report of 1971.

The reaction of the UPW executive, however, was to turn the other cheek, or rather to go

and other statements calling for a 'more flexible' approach from the TUC to the government had been 'designed to persuade the TUC to try and negotiate a much better deal than is at the moment on offer to the trade union movement.'

'I have been talking to the Post Office about the size of the pay bill [in other words, about the £1 plus 4 per cent Phase Two guideline] and other related matters. In addition we are preparing a document for submission to the Pay Board in relation to Stage Three.'

## Biggest strikes in Denmark since 1936

SOME 258,000 workers seem certain to be involved in strikes and lock-outs in Denmark tomorrow. It will be the biggest labour conflict in the country since the general strike of 1936.

The issues at stake include equal pay for women, special wage increases for lower paid workers, cost of living increases, holiday pay and the length of the working week.

The TUC, which represents some 900,000 wage-earners, has threatened to call out 153,000 of its members and the employers have threatened to lock out an additional 105,000.

Social Democrat Prime Minister Anker Joergensen, a former trade union leader, says: 'The strikes must run their course.'

## Engineering boss attacks Heath's policies

PREMIER Edward Heath was attacked in scathing fashion yesterday by Mr Ernest Barrett, president of the Engineering Industries Association.

He said Heath could win the title of 'the big spender of all time'.

'The same Mr Heath

who at the last election pronounced in favour of cutting public expenditure, today bids fair to win the title of big spender of all time.'

Heath had done a complete about-turn on prices and incomes.

He said that nothing in the Phase Two Green Paper would encourage the expansion and investment in industry

which the Prime Minister was seeking and the squeeze on profits must act as a disincentive.

'Some companies will eventually find themselves in extreme difficulties,' he added.

It was futile for the government to foist the total blame for rampant inflation on the unions.

'True, they do bear a

grave responsibility for their repeated refusal of all co-operation and the selfish pursuit of their own sectional interests.

'But few doubt that government policies have helped to fan the flames,' Barrett told a Press conference in Leeds on the eve of the association's annual exhibition.

# 'Trade loss' threat over docks flexibility

BY DAVID MAUDE OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

LONDON DOCKERS are being threatened with a disastrous trade loss from the port if they carry out their decision to withdraw from flexible working practices in two weeks' time.

Employers of the 8,000 men in the port's enclosed docks issued the threat yesterday afternoon after being told by union officials that there was no change in the dockers' decision, made almost a fortnight ago.

Meanwhile in Hull, earlier yesterday, dockers followed the pattern set by London and Liverpool and accepted a pay offer based on Phase Two of the Tories' state pay control laws.

The London dockers say they will withdraw from flexible working practice—as laid down in Clause 12 of the Devlin 'modernization' agreement in the port—because of dissatisfaction with the employers' £2.60, Phase Two pay offer.

The offer itself, however, has been accepted along with similar settlements for tally clerks and men working on the riverside wharves.

If Clause 12 is abandoned with official union backing on April 1, the employers say they will refuse payment of the £2.60.

Were it abandoned simply as a decision of the dockers' 18-men lay committee, it is likely they would wait a few days to

see what the actual effects on working were.

Although the employers say they are taking the dockers' decision 'extremely seriously', they are clearly leaving most options open in the hope of a deal with the unions during the next two weeks.

HULL DOCKERS voted by an overwhelming majority to accept a wage offer of £2.65—but went on to reject proposals to bring 'casual' dockers onto the quays.

At a 2,000-strong meeting at City Hall only between 50 and 100 voted against the offer.

Acceptance was recommended to the meeting by local Transport and General Workers' Union official Brian Barker.

There was unanimous rejection of a recommendation for the establishment of a supplementary register, which would allow recruitment of 'casuals' on a week's notice.

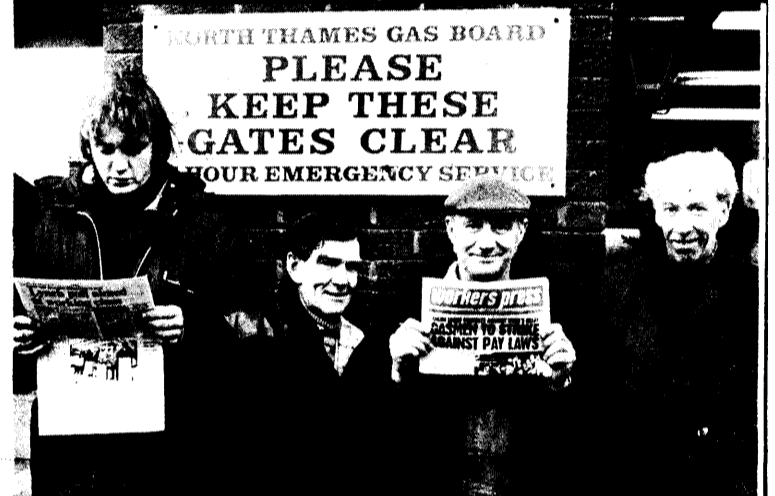
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### TEACHERS MEETING

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

ORPINGTON and SIDCUP  
Council of Action

### DEMONSTRATION

- Halt rising prices and rents.
- Force the Tories to resign.
- Elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies and to restore democratic rights.
- Victory to gasmen, civil servants, hospital workers, teachers, railwaymen and car workers.

SATURDAY MARCH 24

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

## MDW moves stop Leyland

ALL DIRECT workers in the assembly plant at British-Leyland's Cowley factory, Oxford, walked out yesterday when management put in industrial engineers.

The spontaneous walk-out occurred when industrial engineers arrived simultaneously at all five departments in the plant.

Last week the company warned that in furtherance of its Measured-Day Work scheme, these special engineers would be brought into the factory to oversee work.

Letters were sent to all employees explaining why the company was going to intervene.

A subsequent mass meeting decided to reject any attempt to impose industrial engineers on the shop floor.

Today day shift workers will turn up at the normal hour. If the engineers are still in their sections, a further walk-out is anticipated.

# Yorks hospital demo on Friday

BACKING from miners, engineers and steelworkers is hoped for by hospital workers in the Yorkshire area, who plan a mass demonstration through Sheffield on Friday afternoon.

The hospital workers' industrial action campaign, which was yesterday affecting 850 hospitals nationally, is being waged particularly strongly in Yorkshire at the moment.

Five hospitals in the Barnsley area are out for a week. And 26 hospital laundries are being kept closed at any one time. On Friday, 30 hospitals will be pulled out for the day of the demonstration.

Across the country, a total of 261 hospitals was totally or partially hit by strike action yesterday.

Four hundred workers at a top London teaching hospital are to strike from

Thursday for five days, announced the main hospital union NUPE.

The strikers — porters, domestics, laundry and catering staff at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington—form two-thirds of the hospital's ancillary staff.

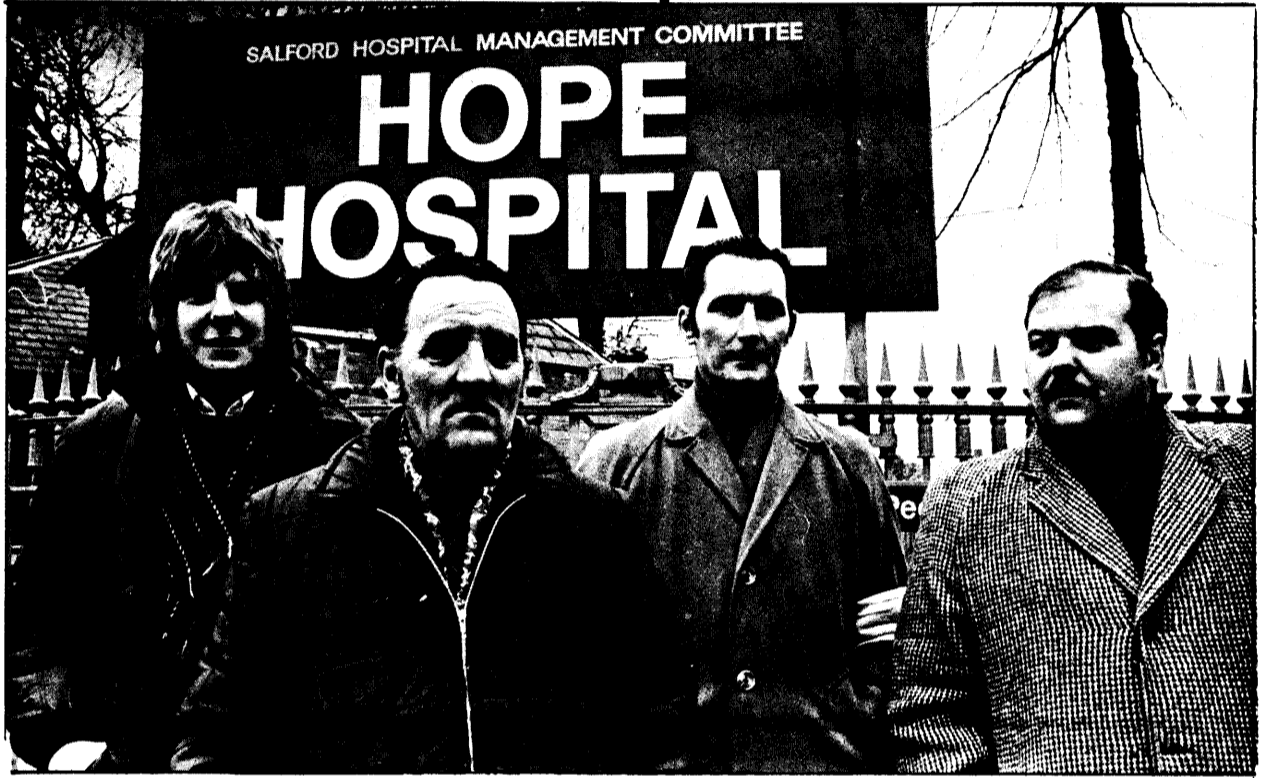
'There is a possibility that St Mary's will be closed,' said NUPE branch secretary

Don Steadman.

'This hardening of attitude has come about because members feel they are being treated with contempt by the government and Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State.

'Services for the very seriously ill will have to be covered by the people the management have got left.'

## Kitchen and stores staff join Hope Hospital 'drivers



MANAGEMENT at St James's Hospital in Balham, south London, have totally failed to intimidate ancillary staff back to work.

The big hospital's staff, who have been out on strike for more than two weeks, were sent a circular letter asking them 'most sincerely to return to your normal duties at the usual time on Monday, March 19'.

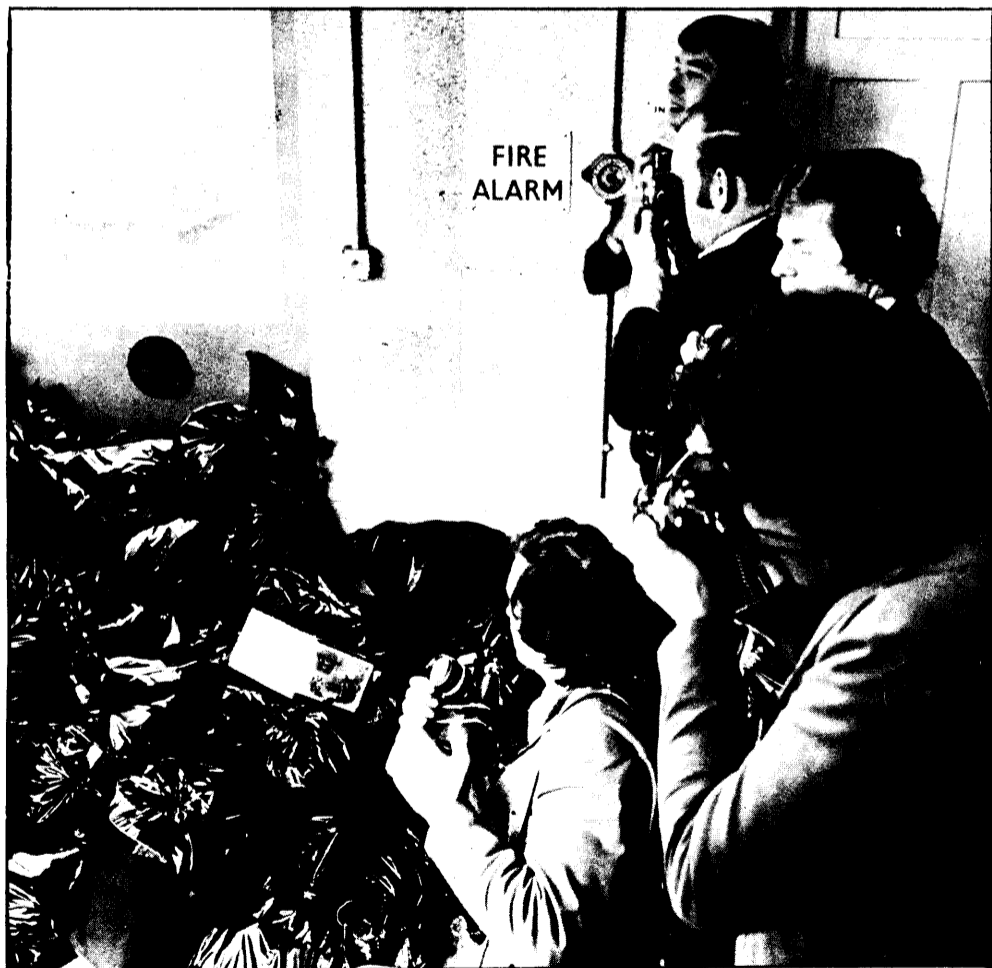
But yesterday workers simply handed these letters to their shop stewards and formed a large picket at the gatehouse.

The letter says: 'The pre-

sent situation at St James's Hospital is becoming critical. Many patients in need of in-patient treatment are not being admitted and as a result some of them are being caused unnecessary hardship.'

This is not correct. The strike committee has gone out of its way to provide the finest emergency cover and to keep the casualty department in operation.

And because some patients—not regarded as serious cases—have been sent home, the care of the remaining patients has been increased to top efficiency.



To further their propaganda war against the hospital staff the St James' management committee yesterday invited the Tory Press onto the premises. They deliberately contrived photographs to show 'hardship' to the remaining staff.

SALFORD hospital workers yesterday welcomed a bid by their union to escalate strike action.

'It's about time this happened,' Arthur Craven, drivers' shop steward at Hope Hospital, told me.

He was commenting on a circular sent out to trades council by National Union of Public Employees organizer Ken Barrett.

'People talk about the working class uniting. I think it's about time the unions and the union leaders united,' he said.

The Hope drivers have been on strike for 19 days and they were joined yesterday by kitchen and stores staff.

The hospital management refused to allow the nurses' kitchen to remain open despite a union offer to keep it going.

'This is a deliberate attempt to turn the nurses against us.'

Driver Graham Briscall said: 'We must have all-out strike action straight away. Nothing else will impress Heath.'

Ken Shaw, another driver: 'The TUC leaders are just sitting on their backsides hoping the strike will go away—but we will not weaken.'

Bill Bradbury said: 'I think it will come to all-out strike action soon. The miners will be out and this will be a big blow in our favour.'

## MARCH FUND £553.57 ONLY 12 DAYS LEFT

WE CANNOT stress enough the importance of raising our Fund this month. So far it is a tough struggle and we are a long way from raising our £1,750 target. Let's press ahead as never before and pull our total right up.

More and more workers are looking to Workers Press for a lead. As the trade union leaders retreat from the struggle against Phase Two, the Tories gain strength and press on with their brutal attacks.

But still the working class has not been defeated. The battle has just begun. Our paper must be used to build a revolutionary leadership and expose these treacherous union leaders. The TUC must be forced to call a General Strike and this government made to resign.

Let's therefore go into action immediately. Raise everything you can for our March Fund. Step up the fight now and we know you will do it. Rush all donations straight away to:

WORKERS PRESS MARCH APPEAL FUND  
186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG

## Civil servants hit airports

GUERRILLA STRIKES are to be staged by civil servants at Civil Aviation Authority airports throughout Britain this week. And according to union leaders they will dislocate communications, cause delays and cancel aircraft.

The staff affected are teleprinter operators, air traffic control assistants and clerical staff, who, along with their fellow civil servants, are battling the Tory pay laws.

First airport action began at the Preston, Lancashire, control centre late last night. This morning the radar units at Manchester and Lindholme, Yorkshire, will be hit.

Other units expected to be affected by selective strike action are London's Heathrow airport, the air traffic control centre at West Drayton, Middlesex, Croydon communications centre, Glasgow airport, Prestwick airport, and the Prestwick control centre.

Small numbers will strike in the different units at different times. The total number is 150.

Meanwhile more than 300 girls at the National Savings headquarters computer complex at Cowglen, Glasgow, yesterday decided to strike for a second week after a recommendation by their union. Civil servants at Southend, Essex, also extended their strike for a further week.

From next Monday civil servants in Northern Ireland are to introduce an overtime ban, Brendan Harkin, general secretary of the Public Service Alliance, which represents 22,000 government employees, said yesterday.

At the St Stephen's Press, south London, where 16 CPSA members have already decided to strike for a second week, union representatives are still waiting to hear if the Transport and General Workers' Union will stop its House of Commons messenger members from crossing their picket line.

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

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

FOR DETAILS TELEPHONE 01-622 7029

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG. Printed by Plover Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG. Newsdesk: 01-720 2000. Circulation: 01-622 7029.