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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY ROYSTON BULL

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1 To eliminate casual engagements in those cases where it is used as a normal source of cargo handling.

2 To ensure that the conditions and terms of employment at non-scheme undertakings should not be less favourable than the standards laid down by the national joint council for the registered ports.

Jones said lamely yesterday that 'it is highly desirable for

the maintenance of peace in the industry that non-scheme ports should be brought as quickly as possible within the Dock Labour Scheme and the union will be making urgent representations to the Secretary of State for Employment'.

Dockers will treat this comment with the derision it deserves. It is what Jones has been saying for years—but equally, has been doing nothing about.

But the non-Scheme ports are to remain outside the jurisdiction of the National Dock Labour Board which by law regulates the employment of dockers.

The report admits all of the criticisms that have been made about the cowboy wharves: that they work significantly longer hours than dockers are required to do at scheme ports; that in many cases they have far lower basic pay rates and less favourable holiday, sick pay, and pension arrangements than the scheme ports.

'In respect of labour costs therefore, these non-scheme undertakings cannot fail to enjoy a cost advantage over scheme ports,' the report states.

But despite these strictures nothing is proposed to be done to stop these smaller ports creaming off the specialist traffic; from undercutting the major ports in costs through not having to supply a full range of facilities for proper training and welfare conditions for dockers; or from providing a pool of scab labour if the registered ports are ever in dispute over pay and conditions.

TUC CALLS MAY DAY STOPPAGE

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Yesterday's meeting of the TUC Finance and General Purpose Committee called for the protest against the state control over wages and the soaring cost of living.

Although we support the one-day protest and urge all workers to stop work on May 1, it is entirely inadequate to meet the present situation.

The Tories won't be budged an inch by this one-day affair. Let's look at the facts.

● It has taken the TUC leaders 17 days—since the March 5 special congress—to choose a date. And then they choose one which is another six weeks away. This is the most cynical time-wasting.

● By the time the protest takes place—May 1—the Phase Two laws which end wage bargaining and impose state control over wages will be fully operating.

In the meantime, what is to happen to the hospital workers,

the gasmen, the civil servants, the London teachers, the Ford workers and the other sections of workers now under the Tory wages hammer? Nothing.

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There is no instruction, not even a call for a national demonstration.

This pussy-footing has already given the right-wing bureaucrats of the National Union of Railwaymen, the National Union of Teachers and the electricians' union the opportunity to declare that they won't take part.

The tens of thousands of workers who are in battle against the Phase Two pay laws don't want one-day protest strikes. They don't want a repetition of the protests which failed to 'Kill the Bill'.

There is tremendous support throughout the labour and trade union movement for an indefinite General Strike to defend their standard of living and their basic democratic rights. And only this action can put an end to the Heath government once and for all.

But at this point in the struggle against the Tory government, the TUC cynically turns its back on the rank and file—as it did

with the postmen—and calls yet another worthless 'protest'.

In this it is helped by the Communist Party and the 'Morning Star'.

The Communist Party's policy is not an indefinite strike to force the Tories to resign. The 'Morning Star' said this week: 'A one-day General Strike is the minimum requirement and needs to be a first step in what the special conference resolution described as "a determined campaign".'

In fact the full wording of the special TUC resolution is for a 'determined campaign' against the wage-control policy and food prices. Not a word about the government.

The Stalinists' policy remains, therefore, a radical-sounding cover for the movement of the TUC leaders' collaboration with the government over Phase Two.

This, in turn, strengthens the extreme right wing of the TUC who are now hellbent on emasculating even the one-day stoppage and getting into the Pay Board as quickly as possible.

There is therefore a direct thread connecting the Stalinists, the so-called 'lefts' like Jones with the 'moderates' like Feather through to the right-wingers like Chapple.

After the one-day stoppage they will concentrate all their forces attacking and discrediting the left wing. In this they will have the support of the Wilson-Jenkins leadership in the Parliamentary Labour Party as well as the Tories and Liberals.

For all workers, housewives and youth concerned about the threat to working class rights, and the corporatist plans of the Tory government, May Day must be the start of a campaign to get rid of the class collaborators in their own ranks; to bombard the executives of unions and the TUC with resolutions for an indefinite General Strike to force the Tories to resign and to elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

This must be the theme of every banner and placard carried on May 1.

- No surrender to the Tories!
- Clear out the right wing traitors!
- Down with Stalinism!
- Forward to the General Strike!
- All out on May Day!

Clamp on news at pit

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Board member for production, Norman Siddall, told journalists who asked about reasons for the disaster: 'I am not trying to duck questions but we are not involved in an inquiry at this stage. We are holding a rescue operation.' Late yesterday afternoon rescue teams reported that the water level sealing off the disaster face had fallen 14ins in one hour. There were also indications that the flow of water into Lofthouse had been arrested.

Full investigation by Stephen Johns on Page 3.

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Lofthouse miners work to fill in the old mine shaft which collapsed forcing tons of water into the nearby seam.



Shadow of 1931

BY JOHN SPENCER

BEHIND a facade of short-term borrowing from abroad the balance of payments position of British capitalism continues to deteriorate at a rapid rate despite the floating of sterling.

In fact the basic deficit on the country's balance of payments is actually well in excess of the £800m which existed when Harold Wilson took office in 1964.

This deficit at the time produced a prolonged sterling crisis in which the Labour government attempted to save the balance of payments by a series of anti-working class measures.

The official figures now show that in the second half of last year the basic deficit was running at more than £1,000 million a year, and that the deficit is growing rapidly as a result of a worsening in Britain's trade position.

The underlying reality is concealed chiefly by borrowing short-term loans from abroad to finance British investment overseas. These loans, borrowed mainly on the Euro-dollar market, are running at the rate of about £700m a year.

The money is being borrowed in the form of short-term loans and used for long-term investment. This creates an extremely dangerous and explosive position.

Not only does it make the British balance of payments heavily dependent on the supply of dollar funds in Europe, which could contract dramatically under certain conditions.

It also leaves the borrowers themselves in a completely exposed position. If they are unable to raise further loans when their existing debts mature they will find themselves illiquid, creating the prospect of a chain reaction of defaults.

Given the extremely close ties linking all the main capitalist banks in the Euro-currency market (where they now act through consortium banks in which all have a share) such a collapse in one part of the market could rapidly be trans-

mitted throughout the international banking system.

It was just such a failure in 1931 which gave rise to the financial crisis that brought down the Labour government and led to the betrayal of the right-wing company, the Prudential, was under Ramsay MacDonald.

Britain's biggest insurance involved in the crash of the German Danat Bank, which was unable to pay its debts. Prudential had been borrowing on short terms and lending on long terms to the Bank.

The result was that when the Danat Bank crashed Prudential were faced with short-term loans to repay having lost their long-term investment in the Danat Bank. Faced with the threat that the Pru might collapse, the Labour government sought loans from the US.

The American banks demanded conditions for their loans—in particular slashing cuts in the dole and in the social services. These were imposed by the right wing on the recommendation of the May Committee, headed by the chairman of the Prudential, Sir Ernest May.

Today the extension of the credit system, the dependence of the British economy on foreign loans and the lack of any control over the inflated Euro-dollar market make it certain that any such crash today will have world-wide consequences involving the liquidation of whole branches of industry.

Cuts made in Poulson film

GRANADA television have cut out re-enacted courtroom scenes between bankrupt architect John Poulson and Muir Hunter, QC for Poulson's creditors.

The latest version of their Poulson film was submitted to the Independent Broadcasting Authority yesterday.

Actors George A. Cooper and John Nettleton played the parts of Poulson and Hunter in the court exchanges and their script was taken from the official transcripts of the bankruptcy case. This section has been deleted.

A Granada spokesman said: 'We ourselves decided some weeks ago that we would change the courtroom scene, but we would use the same information. That was our decision and not that of the IBA.'

'We decided to make changes in style and content; content mainly because we were updating this from six weeks ago when it was first ready to be put out, and, in terms of style, we decided to avoid any accusations of trial by television.'

'We have dropped the courtroom scenes but are keeping the content.'

As yet there is no viewing date for the film, 'The Friends and Influence of John Poulson'.

Alex Mitchell writes: The removal of the re-enactment of the court drama is a major concession to the IBA and the Tory Press.

The 'World in Action' team had reconstructed the scene using transcripts from the hearing.

When the film was shown at a private Press screening the Tory Press said the scenes were 'unfair' to the participants. There was only the suggestion that using the transcripts represented a technical contempt of court.

This claim can scarcely be substantiated since the 'Sunday Times' Colour Magazine reproduced vast chunks of the transcript without any contempt proceedings being launched.

Inflation cuts jobless

UNEMPLOYMENT in the United Kingdom on March 12 was 717,669 on the official count, a reduction of 35,624 on the previous month.

The fall reflects the wave of inflationary spending encouraged by the government, the other side of which is the floating of the pound and the worsening balance of payments position.

A rapid growth of unemployment will be inevitable when the government crack-down on spending begins.

Vauxhall men fight £10 lag

VAUXHALL MOTORS are due to reply today to the wage claim made on behalf of its 26,000 hourly-paid workers.

The current two-year agreement expires early next month. If the company makes an offer within the government's wages norm of around £2.45 this will leave Vauxhall workers at least £10 below the Midlands car factories.

Vauxhall rates vary from £29.60 for labourers to £38.60 for top skilled workers.



WHAT WE THINK

WORKERS' CONTROL . . . OR CONTROL OF THE WORKERS?

YESTERDAY'S 'Guardian' came out in enthusiastic support for Labour leader Harold Wilson's call for 'worker participation' in the management of industry. Not only the capitalist Press, but the Tory Party's Central Office, has endorsed Wilson's stand. A Conservative Political Centre pamphlet published this week—'Workers on the Board'—agrees with Wilson's demand for statutory works councils and calls for private industry to follow the example of the British Steel Corporation in appointing employee-directors to divisional boards. The fraudulent and anti-working class nature of these schemes is exposed by the support they receive from such quarters. Their purpose is to head off the struggles of the working class on wages, jobs and working conditions and to transform the trade unions into corporatist-style adjuncts of the state. Workers would be represented not by stewards elected by themselves nor by officials of their unions, but by men who sit alongside the boss in the boardroom.

The employers, the government and the reformists would develop a system of labour stooges who would 'front' for the management, act as progress-chasers in industry and present themselves as 'humane' apologists for every attack made on the working class.

Every steel worker knows that the presence of 'worker-directors' on divisional boards has not prevented the Tory axe from coming down on 50,000 jobs in the steel industry.

The 'Guardian' makes clear what the employers and their supporters consider should be the role of these functionaries in such circumstances:

'If British steel is to remain competitive it must modernize. As in steel, so in other industries: no degree of worker involvement can avert the need for such decisions unless all British industry is to ossify. What workers' participation can do is to make sure that the decisions are rational and that they are carried out humanely.'

Workers can defend their jobs only by acting as a class, through the class organizations they have built up over the last 200 years.

When Wilson talks of the 'individual as a free citizen' he seeks to take away this organized strength of the working class. The power of the working class is not the power of individuals but a collective, organized power.

It is significant that the Common Market—a monopoly conspiracy against the working class—which would place 'worker-directors' on the boards of all public companies employing more than 500 workers.

In both France and Italy the Communist Parties participate enthusiastically in such schemes, and earlier this year the British trade union 'lefts' Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon took part in a TUC study group on such EEC legislation and recommended that it be accepted.

Jones, in particular, has long been an advocate of such corporatist-style involvement with the state and the employers. As long ago as November 1970 he told a businessmen's 'teach-in' that there were 'certain objectives which can be mutually advantageous' and that it was 'perfectly pos-

sible to hammer out agreements which injure neither side but benefit both'.

Last December the T&GWU launched the 'Ernest Bevin International Study Group Scheme' to promote 'the improvement of industrial relations'. Firms co-operating in this venture include Ford, Lucas, British-Leyland, Cadbury-Schweppes, Dunlop, John Laing, Rank Hovis McDougall, Sainsbury and ICI.



Jones

Jack Jones and Vic Feather sit on its management committee together with ex-Tory cabinet ministers Lord Watkinson of Cadbury-Schweppes and Lord Thorneycroft of Pirelli.

Jones is a vice-president of the revisionist 'Institute Workers' Control' which exists in order to mislead workers into thinking that genuine workers' control can be attained without a struggle to overthrow capitalism.

This is a reformist myth. Workers control is completely incompatible with the capitalist mode of production. Capitalism exists in order to make profit, by the exploitation of the working class who produce all wealth. Its function is to extract surplus value from those it exploits.

The Institute for Workers' Control says that workers' can have 'control' over their own exploitation!

On the contrary real workers' control can be established only in the struggle for the social revolution in which the working class seizes the power. This requires the construction of the revolutionary party, which the Institute for Workers' Control and all its friends bitterly oppose.

The demand now must be, not stooges on the boards, but 'open the books'. As Trotsky wrote in 'The Transitional Programme of the Fourth International':

'The immediate tasks of workers' control should be to explain the debits and credits of society, beginning with individual business undertakings; to determine the actual share of the national income appropriated by individual capitalists and by the exploiters as a whole; to expose the behind-the-scenes deals and swindles of banks and trusts, finally to reveal to all members of society the unconscionable squandering of human labour which is the result of capitalist anarchy and the naked pursuit of profit.'

Wilson, Jones, the Institute of Workers' Control, the Common Market law-drafters and the Conservative Central Office all talk of 'worker participation' precisely to hold the working class back and place it under the power of a corporate state.

By 'workers' control' they really mean corporatist control over the workers.

Taverne exposed

DICK TAVERNE, the newly-elected Democratic Labour MP ('He is neither a democrat nor Labour'—Anthony Wedgwood Benn) has been exposed in his true Tory colours.

In his first speech to parliament since his success in the Lincoln by-election, Taverne has come out in support of the Tories' state control over wages. And in the same speech he attacked the hospital workers who are battling all over the country for a decent wage.

Taverne said: 'This strike is profoundly and tragically mistaken and should not be successful. They deserve sympathy in all except their present action.'

Turning to his erstwhile colleagues on the Labour benches, Taverne went on: 'Those who are concerned with a fairer structure in wages must condemn this strike unequivocally.'

'It would be unfortunate if this strike succeeded. It would be unfortunate because it would, in fact, remove the hope of such a fairer structure.'

'If there was a Labour government tomorrow there would be no question about it. A Labour government would have to impose a statutory incomes policy in the present circumstances which would be every bit as stringent.'

'The Labour government would be forced to resist this strike and other strikes which are designed to break this policy. There would be no question about it.'

The capitalist Press was quick to congratulate Taverne for his 'frankness'. Their 'man of integrity' had spoken out again.

Taverne's statement must be the sharpest warning to the working class. He represents a tendency in the parliamentary Labour Party which goes right to the top of that body.

What he is saying openly is no different from what MPs Jenkins, Prentice and Shirley Williams are discussing in private. A recalled Labour Party conference can answer this right-wing clique of class collaborators with a socialist programme to meet the Tory onslaught.

NEWS DESK

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THE LOFTHOUSE DISASTER

Why S9B flooded

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS
at LOFTHOUSE COLLIERY

LOCAL MINERS say that like Aberfan, the Lofthouse pit disaster which appears to have claimed the lives of seven miners could have been avoided.

It was the Coal Board's cavalier attitude to tip safety, they insist, that caused the deaths of 144 children and adults in the South Wales village seven years ago.

At Lofthouse ignorance of old mine workings appears to be the main factor in the tragedy.

The kind of haphazard attitude towards old tunnelling around the Yorkshire colliery was best expressed by George Hayes, deputy director of mining for North Yorkshire.

'The plans of this area,' said Hayes at the pithead, 'are very unreliable. We are talking about the 1830s, there could have been

something done in the old seams which we did not know about.'

One could be forgiven for assuming that this ignorance would have led to an ultra-cautious policy at Lofthouse. But no, the NCB instead use their very lack of knowledge as an excuse. 'With so few facts, who could have foreseen this disaster?' they argued the day of the tragedy.

It has been admitted that the South 9B face in the Flockton seam was being driven into a dangerous area. Roland Hollis, deputy chief mining engineer, commented: 'The face was in a critical position.'

S9B was about a year old and approaching two old shafts in the vicinity of the pit. NCB officials make three damning admissions about this situation.

THEY ADMIT they knew of these shafts;

THEY ADMIT they had old, and perhaps unreadable plans of them; and

THEY ADMIT that no real effort to locate their exact whereabouts on the surface had been made.

Yet it was apparently the enormous build-up of water in the old workings around the shafts that burst through S9B on Wednesday morning and trapped seven miners working belly down on the face.

CRATERS

Soon after the disaster two craters appeared in a nearby ploughed field—the old shaft had collapsed. Below came the roar of water rushing into the Lofthouse workings.

Water drains into all workings through the shaft. This can be prevented by 'capping'—filling the shaft column with concrete or other materials.

One of the three old shafts near Lofthouse was capped. The other two now exposed as gaping holes in farmland three miles away, were not.

Yet the NCB say they did know their whereabouts from old plans.

As it was these two shafts appear to have provided a drainage channel connecting water from the surface and the topsoil to the tunnels below.

There are outdated and totally inadequate regulations that govern mining near the old workings.



Rescue workers move up pumping gear



Deputy mining director Hayes



Deputy chief mining engineer Hollis

Under the 1911 Coal Mines Act owners were required to record full plans and details of abandoned workings. But the old tunnels around Lofthouse were abandoned before this date. Records were therefore vague and did not give a clear picture of the warren of passageways underground.

One shaft had been located and capped by the NCB. The position of two others was known by the Yorkshire authorities—but they were not marked on the surface. Around the approximate position of these two shafts a 50-yard safety barrier had been drawn by management.

The NCB argue that the reason for this omission was the depth of S9B—about 150 yards below the bottom of the two old shafts. 'We have plans showing old workings at a different level from S9B,' said Mr Hollis, 'but not at this depth.'

VAGUE

But as the NCB admit, the plans are vague.

There seems to be an inconsistency. On the one hand the NCB uses the vagueness of old plans to explain their lack of knowledge of the area around Lofthouse. On the other they use the existence of old plans to justify their decision not to drill.

They seem to rely on old plans when it suits them.

'The facts', we now learn, are being 'established'. But why were they not established before this disaster?

Because, says Mr Hayes, a wall of coal stood between modern mining and the tunnelling of the 1830s. This is almost the same as saying: 'We don't know anything until a wall of water engulfs our pit and traps seven miners!'

EXPOSED

Here really are shades of Aberfan. Geologists at the Aberfan inquiry exposed the NCB claim of ignorance.

It was possible, they said, to predict a tip slide in the village given the prevailing condition in and around the tip.

The truth is simply no one in management bothered to investigate the Aberfan tip or any other tip in South Wales properly.

Lofthouse may not be an isolated incident. There are about 7,000 old shafts in the Yorkshire area, the bulk of them in the West Pennines. There is no reason to suppose that plans are any better than at Lofthouse or that S9B is the only 'critical' face.

Lofthouse exposes a prevailing philosophy handed down from

the days of private ownership—coal is to be had at all costs. What happens to tips, old workings and flood water is secondary; the primary consideration is to get the black mineral to the surface.

The seven Lofthouse men may be the latest in a long line of martyrs to profit and greed. The miner will never be safe from death, maiming or crippling

diseases until the industry he works in is placed under his control—workers' control.

This can only be won under socialism. The immediate fight to take the whole working class along this immediate road is the removal of the hated Tory government of Edward Heath.

Lofthouse Colliery tells us we must redouble our efforts to this end.

'The women always worry'

CONDITIONS at Lofthouse colliery, sunk during the 19th century, are said to be 'good' for the 1,116 men who work there. But to appreciate what 'good' means you have to be a miner and work down the pit.

Seams are narrow, the work is backbreaking, the dust—especially the invisible killer dust—clouds the air and there is the ever-present threat of death or serious injury.

The journey to the face can be as much as two miles from the pithead. There the men work on their knees cutting the coal with the aid of enormous machines.

'On the majority of faces you can kneel or creep,' Lofthouse miners' union branch secretary Mr L. Thompson told me. 'When we work kneeling we call this comfortable conditions.'

The seven men who were trapped on the S9B face were, however, believed to be belly down tackling Lofthouse's 2ft 6in Flockton seam.

'That is about the average for this colliery,' said Mr Thompson. 'They vary from 30ins, the highest is 4ft but this is exceptional.'

'The conditions at this colliery are good. It's a dry pit. As far as natural water is concerned we have never had a serious amount, what there has been has been normal for



NUM branch secretary Thompson

collieries and it has percolated through.

'It was a big shock—no one could imagine that a disaster like this could happen.'

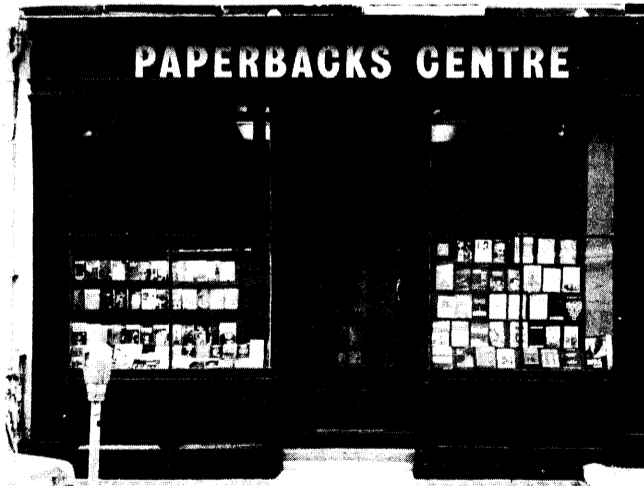
'This is the first big disaster at the colliery. We call a big disaster one where several men have lost their lives. As far as I am aware this has never happened before. There have been single fatalities but this is usual in mining,' said Mr Thompson.

'Disasters are always a tragedy. The women always worry after an incident.'

'At Lofthouse they heard it on the local radio early in the morning but they did not give the time when the flooding occurred. The wives were worried that their men who went on at 6 a.m. might be involved. They never stop worrying until he comes home.'

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CP EVADES THE FIGHT AGAINST STEEL CLOSURES

BY IAN YEATS

A major Communist Party statement on the steel industry recommends Upper Clyde Shipbuilders-style campaigns to halt the Tory plan to axe 50,000 jobs.

The statement, in a recent issue of the Party's fortnightly magazine 'Comment' says: 'The government and the British Steel Corporation must be compelled to withdraw these plans.'

It goes on: 'United action, backed by the whole community, can stop closures and rundowns. The UCS showed the way. We call on the trade union movement to maintain the right to work and to resist any sacking or redundancy.'

'The fight to prevent closure and to defend existing jobs is the basis for defeating unemployment and forcing a new policy.'

The statement ends: 'It will become a reality only if the workers, and all unions organizing them in the steel industry, combine their efforts to resist the attacks on them by all forms of militant action. The Communist Party pledges its full support to them in their struggle and is confident that the whole working-class movement will do the same.'

NO DEMAND

Verbiage aside, these 'fighting' paragraphs contain only one definite call to action—and then addressed only to those unions involved directly in the industry.

Angry rank and filers are already accusing some of these unions—or at least their leaders—of being prepared to accept the Tory carve up. There is no call to the Trades Union Congress to act to halt the closures and redundancies; no demand on the Labour Party leaders.

Most outstanding of all the conscious omissions in the statement there is no demand for a General Strike to kick out the Tories and halt once and for all their attacks on jobs and living standards.

The only thing UCS showed was how to divide and thereby weaken the working class in their struggle against the main enemy now attacking on all fronts in a ruthless bid to avoid the consequences of slump.

And, as everyone knows, the so-called community-backed 'work-in' to save all the jobs at all four yards on the upper Clyde was an unprecedented political fraud which concealed the eventual acceptance of the Tory's original plans for the shipyards.

There cannot be a repeat of UCS in steel. BSC chairman Lord Melchett's plan is not equivalent to the Ridley document. It does not envisage the rationalization of a single installation into a smaller unit, but the wholesale closure of complete units.

Unlike the upper Clyde shipyards, there is no level of output or technology at which the Tory government will be prepared to renege a single doomed works.

All calls for 'militancy' to 'strike a blow' in 'persuading' the Tories to change their plans can only foster dangerous illusions, ending in defeat for thousands of steelmen.

The Communist Party uses the utterly discredited reformist argument that plants due to be axed can be kept open by raising output—although with bulk of production centred on the new, basic oxygen works.

They base their assessment on TUC estimates of a possible 6 per cent economic growth rate—in short, a return to boom conditions!

Optimistically they say this 'would demand a steel output of from 45 to 50 million tons by 1980.

It probably would. But in the first place there is no sign that the economic fantasies of the TUC Economic Committee are about to become a reality.

Even if they did, Melchett has warned, over and over again, that raised output would not necessarily involve more jobs.

The Tories are not interested in raising output to keep men in work. They want cheaper, better quality output that will sell in world markets against the toughest competitor and thereby relieve the downward pressure on the BSC's rate of profit.

Open-hearth steel-making is labour-intensive and expensive and most if not all the works where it is carried on are obsolete.

WRONG

These are the reasons for which the government and the BSC have already rejected the 'specific solutions' drawn up by works action committees to save their jobs and which the Communist Party recommends.

If it comes to a question of increasing output because demand has picked up, Lord Melchett has said repeatedly that with small additions—such as a third BOS converter at Port Talbot—capacity could be pushed up to 40 million tons and beyond.

The Party's assertion that after modernization the BSC will only have a capacity of 33 million tons is absolutely wrong.

So is the argument that the Tories are deliberately cutting back on capacity because of quota arrangements within the Common Market.

Their statement says that EEC 'regulations allow us [the UK] a maximum of 13 per cent of total market output'.

A BSC spokesman confirmed that no such statement exists, although 'it has been considered'.

Distorting the impact of the

EEC on the steel industry is consistent with the Communist Party's nationalistic hostility to it and the policy statement is peppered with allusions to 'Brussels' knowing about British steel closures before anyone else and about the fight for jobs and security being identical with the fight against the EEC.

This blaming of the Common Market without an analysis of the economic trends at work in the community and throughout the capitalist world system is a diversion from the real cause of the crisis in steel—trade war and slump.

It is this remorseless recession which is driving the Tories forward to snatch jobs and livelihoods from men and women in the steel industry and everywhere in the working class.

The events of the past two years and the appearance on the statute books of vicious anti-working-class laws have shown clearly that the Tories cannot be defeated or even deflected by militancy.

Yet in their statement on steel the Communist Party deliberately persists in speaking of nothing else.

At the end of its remarks it concedes that 'the future of steel is bound up with the fight to end the Tory government'.

And it adds that a new policy for steel means, 'nationalizing the major industries, making possible the integrated planning of all steel-producing and steel-using industries'.

Without specific calls for tangible political entities to act to bring these policies to reality they are, of course, doomed to appear and to remain Utopian.

And without a call for workers' control of a nationalized steel industry including those parts still in private hands—without compensation—it must remain subordinate to the interests of capital.

PASSIVE

The only way Tory attacks on steelworkers and their families and upon the jobs and living standards of the entire working class can be stopped lies in forcing them to resign.

Yet at no time in its long statement does the Communist Party make the demand for a General Strike to force the Tories out.

At no time does it call for the election of a Labour government and the organization and mobilization of the working class behind the revolutionary Marxist party to force it to immediately implement socialist policies.

It makes only the passive call for workers to 'defend' themselves against the Tory onslaught 'to resist the attacks on them by all forms of militant action'.

The only possible outcome of this policy will be to divide, weaken and demoralize all those workers who follow it.



Lord Melchett, BSC chairman. His plan envisages the wholesale closure of steel plants and the rationalization of those that remain open.

TORIES, LIBERALS, AND LABOURITES ON THE RADIO GROUP

The only ruling-class group not represented on the successful consortium to run the commercial radio franchise for the Greater Manchester area is the church.

If only a bishop was a director, the group would be complete!

As it is, the consortium is a highly representative group of Tories, Liberals and Labourites. The group was originally put together by Anthony Blond, the London publisher who is much-revered in 'radical' circles.

It includes newspapers such as the 'Rochdale Observer', 'Warrington Guardian', Lancashire's Newspapers (publishers of the 'St Helens Newspaper' and the 'St Helens Reporter'), St Regis Newspapers (publishers of the 'Bolton Evening News') and the 'Lancashire Journal', Lord Bernstein's Granada Television, the Northern Commercial Trust, the Amalgamated Weavers' Union and the Bolton, Wigan and Oldham Co-operative Societies.

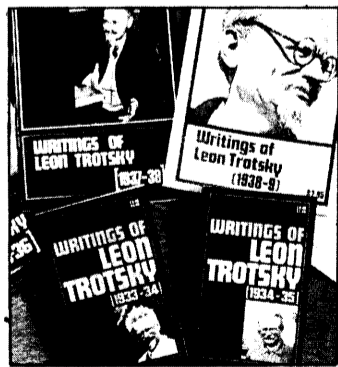
Philip Birch, who was head of the now-outlawed pirate station, Radio London, is to be managing director.

Others who have shareholdings include:

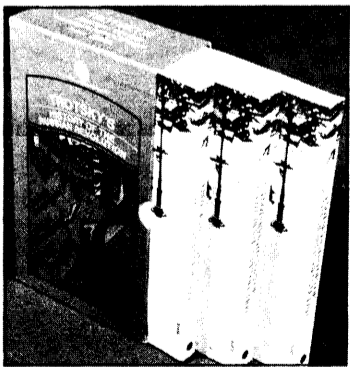
Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw; Sir Johns Foster, QC, the Tory MP for Northwich and chairman of the banking house, the Northern Commercial Trust; **Sir Paul Bryan**, another Tory MP, who was a junior minister at the Department of Employment until a recent reshuffle; **Dr Michael Winstanley**, the former Liberal MP; **Norman Quick**, chairman and managing director of the H.J. Quick group, the motor industry supplier; and **Arthur Hopcraft**, the Manchester-born sports writer.

The chairman is **Mr Neil Pearson**, a solicitor, who was chairman of the North Regional Advisory Council of the BBC, and was actively concerned with the Pilkington Report on 'Broadcasting in the Seventies'.

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BLUEPRINT FOR TRADE WAR

BY JOHN SPENCER

The collapse of the post-war monetary system is now openly admitted by the spokesmen of world capitalism. West German Finance Minister, Helmut Schmidt, announcing the Common Market decision to float six of the nine currencies jointly against the dollar said: 'This is the end of Bretton Woods.'

He added that the two principal pillars of this 1944 agreement—the dollar as the main reserve currency and the prevalence of fixed but adjustable currency parities—were now things of the past. Schmidt, of course, was only voicing publicly what has been acknowledged behind closed doors for many months.

The Bretton Woods system came to a decisive end on August 15, 1971, when United States President Nixon declared that the US would no longer sell gold even to central banks at the official price of \$35 an ounce. This was the decisive, irreversible break with Bretton Woods.

What has happened since has been the inexorable unravelling of all the international agreements and treaties which governed trading relations in post-war capitalism. Not a single one of these arrangements, all of which derived ultimately from the Bretton Woods agreement, can now be regarded as viable or stable.

This is most evident in the field of trade which for many years has been governed by the rules of the 81-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade based in Geneva. The GATT rules governing international trade are being systematically flouted today by all the parties to the organization, almost without a single exception.

The capitalist world is becoming the arena of a ruthless trade war taking the form of a three-cornered struggle for markets between the US, the Common Market and Japan. In this struggle the United States holds the trump cards.

It has already shown its aces. From August to December 1971, Nixon imposed a 10 per cent surcharge on all imports to the United States. The purpose of this indiscriminate tariff was to force the EEC and Japan to accept an all-round revaluation of

their currencies against the dollar.

This was intended to make US products more competitive in overseas markets and simultaneously reduce the relative value of the huge stock of dollars in foreign hands. These dollars represented assets bought over the years since 1945 by American government and business abroad.

They were, in fact, claims on the United States Treasury. But that institution had refused to honour them by exchanging them for an



Helmut Schmidt—announces the end of the Bretton Woods agreement, eighteen months after the event. Above: US President Nixon.

officially-fixed amount of gold. Now they were further devalued by the terms of the Smithsonian agreement of December 16, 1971.

In return for this all-round upvaluation against the dollar, Nixon removed the surcharge on imports. But he insisted that the Europeans and the Japanese must agree to conduct sweeping negotiations on trade in 1973 with the aim of abolishing the American balance-of-payments deficit.

This meant that the Common Market countries, Japan, Canada and other trading partners of the United States must agree to accept a cut in their own exports at the same time as taking in more American imports. It was a situation that could only produce bitter conflict. The United States' competitors were being invited, and none too politely, to cut their own throats.

Even the bluster of John Connally was not enough to bring this objective about. So Nixon had recourse to a weightier instrument. With the support of the trade union



leaders—bought at the price of plum jobs for the bureaucracy within the administration—the President is pushing the Trade Bill through Congress.

This Bill is the most protectionist document ever put before the American legislature. It is a thoroughgoing blueprint for trade war. With the combination of trade union backing and his own Republican party, Nixon is virtually assured that it will speed through Congress into law with its teeth intact.

The rampant protectionist mood in the American Congress is demonstrated by the report entitled 'A New Initiative to Liberalize International Trade', released earlier this month by the sub-committee on international economics of the joint Congressional economic committee.

The text of this document is being circulated round the world through the official US information services, indicating that the administration regards it as a major policy pronouncement. The title should fool no one. This initiative has nothing liberal about it.

The document opens by paying lip-service to the benefits that the world derives from international trade and investment. These, it says, are so well-known they have virtually become clichés. But it is more interested in what it calls the 'growing concern about the effects of import competition and the impact of foreign investment in both the United States and abroad'.

The report's purpose is to draw up a policy to deal with this 'politically sensitive' issue of foreign imports and investment. It lays down a basic policy guideline which is protectionist through and through.

'No statutory authorization to negotiate the reduction of tariff and non-tariff impediments to trade will be granted the President until a majority of the House and Senate are satisfied that an adequate policy response to import competition is included in that legislation.'

Then the report spells out the kind of policies Congress and the Senate will require: '(a) Restrictions that can be instituted to protect domestic firms and workers from severe import competition; and '(b) financial and technical assistance to the firms and workers that will permit them to move into lines of output and jobs that are independently viable.'

These are, of course, the two classic prongs of protec-

tionism—keep out foreign rivals and subsidize home industry. The report wants to see the President given 'a range of tools' appropriate for protecting individual firms as well as branches of industry. It wants the present 'cumbersome' procedure streamlined so firms can get prompt protection from foreign rivals.

'An increase in the import duty on a particular product, the imposition of a quota on that good, or the negotiation of an orderly marketing agreement between the United States and foreign producers is an appropriate remedy to apply in response to an industry-wide injury,' the report says.

It adds that where particular firms only are hit they should be able to get state assistance through technical aid, loans or tax benefits. These measures, in their very essence discriminatory, are only the opening shots in the American armoury, however.

Even more Draconian are the measures proposed to deal with countries which persist in running trade surpluses with the United States. As we have pointed out already, the United States is, in fact, in debt to these countries, which have been forced to accumulate and hold vast amounts of depreciating paper dollars.

Japan, for example, is currently holding some \$20,000m, despite having undergone currency revaluations totalling over 30 per cent in three years on the insistence of the Americans. Yet the report states quite brutally that:

'When the United States is experiencing a fundamental persistent official settlements deficit in its balance of payments, the President should have by law discretionary authority to impose a tariff surcharge at a rate he considers appropriate against any countries that refuse to make or frustrate the exchange rate adjustments necessary to eliminate the US external deficit.'

It adds that the prompt and appropriate adjustment of exchange rates to do away with the US deficit is necessary if the system of 'temporary' tariffs is not to degenerate into a wholesale bout of protectionism. This is simply another way of saying that such a bout of protectionism is underway.

Behind the tortuous language of the report—the threat is quite clear: the document is very much written not only to appease the protectionist lobby at home, but also to terrorize America's trading 'partners' overseas. It is against this

backdrop that the report goes on to propose the 'liberalization' of trade.

Once again, the purpose of the proposal is to give the US a trading advantage over the rest of the capitalist world. As the report points out, the progressive elimination of tariffs would mean the destruction of special preferential agreements between the Common Market and third countries.

As ever the US bourgeoisie is at its most predatory when it appears the most liberal: who could quarrel with the laudable slogan 'Down with tariffs', which has actually become the rallying cry against Europe of America's most protectionist sections.

The final section of the document deals with farm produce, which is already being made the spearhead of America's trade war against Europe. The US government has abruptly altered its farm policy, which previously paid farmers not to grow certain crops and even to keep their land totally fallow.

Not any longer. As the Congressional report says: 'One of the outstanding examples of international comparative advantage favouring the United States is our ability to produce agricultural products and particularly grains, at prices equivalent to or lower than those almost anywhere else in the world.'

'Our capacity to exploit this comparative advantage has been frustrated by Japanese quotas and by the Common Market's variable levy on agricultural imports,' the report says.

It goes on to argue for the gradual abolition of quotas and tariffs on farm produce. It is precisely this outcome that the increase in US farm production is intended to bring about.

Unless the EEC and other countries cut their tariffs on food products in the round of talks later this year the US plans to 'dump' its products on the world market, forcing down the world price and undermining the complex and delicate system of agricultural protection in Europe.

The Congressional report is nothing more than a blueprint for trade war, for the systematic erection of barriers to imports while smashing down the protective walls built by foreign countries against the import of American products.

Under conditions of monetary chaos, inflation and rapid slide towards slump this Congressional report puts a veritable economic bomb under the European capitalists.

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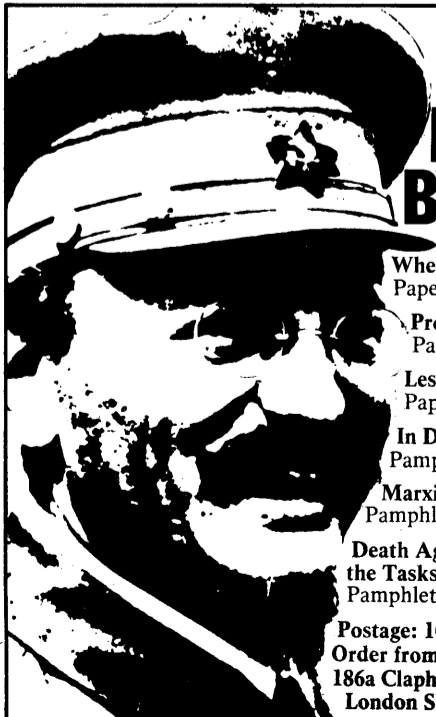
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THE FRAUD OF 'BLACK CAPITALISM'

August 1965. The ghetto area of Watts, Los Angeles, exploded.

It started simply enough. Policemen on patrol in Watts stopped a car carrying two men, dragged them out and charged them with drunken driving. Passers-by protested at the brutal way the men were being handled. The police drew their guns.

Rumours that the police were shooting blacks flew round the ghetto. Within minutes the riots had started. Generations of frustration, anger and bitterness burst out into the open as thousands of people stormed through the area, burning buildings, looting stores and fighting the police.

Middle- and upper-class California panicked. Armed police reinforcements and the National Guard were hastily drafted in to restore law and order.

It took six days to put the riots down. By the end, 34 black workers were dead and

hundreds more injured. Nearly 4,000 men, women and children had been arrested. Some \$40m worth of property had been damaged.

When a sullen 'peace' was eventually imposed on the ghetto, the rest of Los Angeles heaved a sigh of relief. Life was back to normal. But what was 'normal' in the suburbs was something quite different in Watts.

Seventy per cent of Los Angeles' 650,000 black and Mexican workers lived there. Housing was overcrowded, rattle-infested and lacking in even the most minimal facilities.

The unemployment rate was two to three times that of the surrounding white community. At the time of the riots 50,000 black and Mexican workers were out of a job.

The education system was a cruel farce played out at the expense of children destined for nothing more than the most menial jobs or the dole queue.

Police harassment and brutality, and the humiliations of racial discrimination, were

part of everyday life.

But though the riots were brutally suppressed, the rest of Los Angeles was uneasily aware that unless changes were made things could easily blow up again.

The more reactionary elements called for more repression. Others, more far-sighted, pointed to the conditions which had led to that spontaneous and violent expression of desperation. Having lived for years beside the most abject poverty and misery without giving it a second thought, they were now suddenly denouncing the evils of ghetto life and demanding that improvements be made.

The white business community was particularly worried. Many stores had been wrecked. Other industries had been disrupted when black employees had failed to turn up for work for a week, and when they eventually came back were sullen and unco-operative.

Social workers poured into Watts to investigate the causes of the uprising. Not surprisingly, they found that the majority of ghetto-dwellers were

desperately poor and felt bitter and alienated from the rest of society.

A number of prominent businessmen decided that, in order to safeguard their own future interests, they would have to help the blacks find a stake in society which would dissuade them from going on the rampage again.

What, they reasoned, makes a man feel he has an interest in maintaining law and order more than having his own property to maintain? And what better example for rebellious black youth to follow than the successful black businessman, the living incarnation of the American 'log cabin to White House' dream?

THE DREAM SOURS

'Black capitalism' became the slogan of the hour. The creation of black businesses, it was argued, would create jobs, foster community pride, reduce the amount of welfare benefits paid out and, above

all, establish a stable middle class with economic interests closely tied to those of the white middle class which would act to damp down the anger of the ghetto.

Organizations were set up to give business advice to would-be black tycoons. Banks were canvassed for high-risk loans to help black businessmen get off the ground. New industries were planned and training schemes devised to enable unemployed black youngsters find a new, worthwhile future.

With a great fanfare of publicity, all kinds of middle-class do-gooders, industrialists, financiers and trade union bureaucrats, together with the federal government and the state legislature, were drawn into the act. A new era of peace and prosperity for the ghetto was promised.

No one, of course, suggested doing away with the ghetto altogether.

And then the dream began to turn sour.

As the 'Los Angeles Times' discovered in a special survey published five years later:

'For the most part conditions blamed for the riots still exist and in some cases are worse (unemployment is now 16 per cent compared to 10 per cent in 1965).

'Blacks living in what was the riot curfew area are divided on the questions of whether housing, education, health and welfare have improved since the riots.

'There are a few things on which almost all those recently interviewed by the "Times" did agree: crime is worse, narcotics flow is much freer, business is bad and those who can afford it are moving out.'

'**Black Capitalism: Problems in Development**', by Frederick E. Case, was published in 1972 on behalf of the Praeger Special Studies in US Economic and Social Development.

It sets out to analyse what went wrong.

Case himself writes from the point of view of a supporter of American capitalism who is looking for a way to make the system work. His book, however, for all its facile conclusions, unwittingly

reveals the contradictions which make it impossible for the vast majority of blacks, Mexicans, or any other minorities to improve their intolerable conditions except through the revolutionary struggle against the whole capitalist system which oppresses them.

The black businessmen were faced with an impossible task. By the time they came on to the scene, the main markets had already been seized by established white entrepreneurs.

The friendly white capitalists who were so eager to help them get a start were equally eager to ensure that they did not cut into their own profits in the process. Black businesses were, therefore, confined almost exclusively to the ghetto where no one had the money to buy their products.

Banks were only too happy to make loans available for up-and-coming black businessmen — providing they could be sure they would get a reasonable rate of return.

Inexperienced in the ways of the economic jungle, black businessmen were encouraged

to start up with too little capital, a practically non-existent market and virtually no possibility of expansion. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that, whilst one or two managed to get by, the vast majority existed for a while on a hand-to-mouth basis and then quickly went bankrupt.

'Let me go downtown in Los Angeles, right in the middle of Bunker Hill, and do my thing,' pleaded a black entrepreneur in despair. 'Then we can say the minority businessman is getting into the mainstream, that minority capitalism has begun. There's no money out here in the wasteland, brother, it's all down there in the centre of the pit.'

'We're living out here where white business rakes the money off and doesn't leave anything for the black community. The black man even goes to white areas to shop. How can there possibly be any money left in the ghetto for the black businessman?'

'The place for minority capitalism if it's ever going to go anywhere, is down there with

go well. A lot of young people, desperate to escape the frustrations of unemployment, besieged the training centre hoping to learn a trade and improve their chances in life.

Those who were taken on soon proved themselves to be enthusiastic and competent. They graduated, eager to start work in what appeared to be an expanding industry. The majority of them were soon placed in employment and the future looked rosy.

Then the government began to cut back on the aerospace industry.

Within a short while highly-trained and experienced workers, white and black, were out on the streets, queuing up for food parcels to feed their families. For the hopeful black youth the ball was over. The training centre has recently closed down altogether.

As one young black said, when asked why he was unemployed again: 'There was no future with the company. It wasn't discrimination though. There wasn't any future for anybody.'

That just about sums it up.

As the crisis grows, President Nixon prepares for war on the American working class every bit as ruthlessly as he did on the Vietnamese workers and peasants.

He and the ruling class he represents know they have a desperate battle on their hands if they are to save American capitalism. As the Tories in Britain, they have to take on the working class and defeat it, driving millions of workers into poverty, if the dollar is to be saved.

The much-vaunted high wages of large sections of American workers are disappearing as inflation sends prices rocketing skywards. Unemployment is on the increase.

Far from a stable middle class acting as a brake on the mounting anger of the workers, as the exponents of 'black capitalism' hoped, the middle classes, black and white, are themselves driven into a frenzy as they see their ambitions and hopes fade before the spectre of bankruptcy.

American workers of all races, fighting to defend their jobs and living conditions, are seeing their picket lines attacked by armed police and in some cases, their leaders jailed.

Under the pressure of the crisis, the American working class, the most powerful working class in the world, is beginning to stir. Once they move, there is no force on earth that will stop them.

Although racialism has always been used to keep worker from worker, the conditions are fast being prepared for the united fight for all races and nationalities against the common enemy of American imperialism.

This unity can only be forged and given a political direction through the fight to break the working class from the reactionary twin parties of big business, the Republicans and Democrats, and build a Labour Party based on the trade unions. Only the Workers' League, the American Trotskyist movement, is fighting for this policy.

Such a political struggle will prevent the fighting capacity of the American working class being dissipated in such courageous, yet in themselves hopeless, eruptions as the Watts riots.

The rubbish of 'black capitalism' is fully exposed by the development of the crisis of world capitalism. Based on what happened in Los Angeles, Case comes to the gloomy conclusion that it is not really feasible at the moment to think of setting up separate 'Mexican capitalists', or 'American-Indian capitalists'.

No. But the way is opening for the unity of the working class—white, black, Mexican and Indian—to overthrow capitalism for good.

Left: National guardsmen by a looted store. After the riots 'Black capitalism' became the slogan of the hour to tie blacks to capitalist society and damp the anger of the ghettos.

Mister Charlie.

But the new businesses were not to be allowed to go into competition with 'Mister Charlie'. A concern for the well-being of one's fellow man is a very good thing, but business is business and the one must not be allowed to interfere with the other.

'The federal government is only going to develop cobbler shops or cafes or that kind of thing that will net at the most \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year,' one disillusioned black complained bitterly.

Another was more outspoken: 'Minority capitalism is one of the biggest frauds ever perpetrated on the aspirations of the black people. They're pork barrels for politicians to use for putting their people in jobs.'

An example of such a 'pork barrel' was Watts Industrial Park.

A 40-acre site laid out for the development of new industries which, it was said, would create thousands of new jobs, its opening was accompanied with great publicity. The only problem is that the park is actually situated in the all-white city of Lynwood and is not easily reached by either black businessmen or black workers.

Any businessman who tried to branch out into something different, found it virtually impossible to get started.

A young film-maker who wanted to make a film about ghetto conditions found his request for financial aid turned down immediately. Under no circumstances, he was told, would money be made available for any enterprise with a propaganda potential, such as film-making, publishing, or broadcasting. However, if he wanted to open a barbershop or barbecue stand . . .

The idea of a separate 'black capitalism' was, of course, Utopian nonsense.

It was never really meant to work in the sense of making any real changes in ghetto life.

Although it was hoped that a handful of black businessmen might have been established and a few hundred extra jobs provided, for the great mass of poor, exploited blacks life was to continue in its usual brutal way.

Some black nationalists and ambitious middle-class elements were in favour of the scheme, but its main purpose was, by allowing them the right to a small share in the exploitation of the black working class, to ensure their cooperation against any future uprisings.

In any case, how could black capitalism work when the whole of the world capitalist system was already beginning its plunge towards the present enormous crisis? How could new job opportunities be created for black workers when unemployment was already on the increase for workers of all races?

BACK ON THE STREET

A good example of the way in which the world crisis affected the project was the outcome of the various training schemes for black youth.

Situated close to the Californian aerospace and defence industries, it seemed a good idea to train previously unemployed young men and women for this work.

The most successful scheme was that run by the Urban League Training Centre which was supported by the Bank of America and IBM to train black youth for computer work.

At first things seemed to



A RENEGADE PROTECTED BY RENEGADES

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

Jaya Vithana tries to appear extremely 'revolutionary' by pouring scorn on our demand that the Communist Party and Lanka Sama Samaja Party be forced to break from the Bandaranaike coalition government.

It is, he says, 'a meaningless slogan' put forward because of the 'tailist and opportunist politics' which our Ceylonese comrades have 'copied from the mandarins of Clapham High Street'.

This from a member of an 'International' which has tail-ended behind every petty-bourgeois tendency from Che Guevara to the Provisional IRA in the most opportunist fashion!

No one who has read Workers Press in Ceylon—or who even reads the extracts quoted in this series—can seriously believe that we tail-end the Ceylonese Stalinists or the LSSP.

We have said, again and again, that these parties have spearheaded in the most despicable manner the oppressions launched by Bandaranaike. But, unlike her Sri Lanka Freedom Party, they get their votes in the main from Ceylonese workers and peasants.

It is therefore a correct demand to call on the Ceylonese masses to force these parties to break from the Bandaranaike 'United Left Front'.

It was not correct to call for support for the United Left Front candidates in the 1970 elections. It would have been correct to call for votes for the CP and LSSP candidates, while demanding that they break from the alliance with Mrs Bandaranaike.

The LSSP(R), Vithana tells us, called for a total boycott of the elections—that is, no

opposition to the bourgeois parties at all.

It is correct to place demands on the leaders of parties who draw support from sections of the organized working class.

That is why, in Britain, we call for the return of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. That does not mean we have illusions in Wilson or tail-end social democracy.

In France we call on workers to vote for Communist Party and Socialist Party candidates, but to demand that they break from the bourgeois Radical Party and take the power. That does not mean we have illusions in or tail-end Stalinism.

There is, of course, one thing which Vithana leaves out.

The demand that the CP and LSSP break from the coalition has been made at the same time as our comrades in Ceylon fight to build up revolutionary cadres to lead the masses against reformism, Stalinism and revisionism and towards the socialist revolution.

Conditional support

Vithana also seeks to make capital out of the fact that the Socialist Labour League gave conditional support to the Indian Army when it invaded Bangla Desh in 1971. This, he claims, is another example of 'opportunism'.

We did give conditional support to the Indian army when the Indian bourgeoisie was forced to send it into Bangla Desh against the army of the murderous Yahya Khan.

A full statement of our position can be consulted in a series of articles by Michael Banda in Workers Press of January 3, 4 and 5, 1972.

The Unified Secretariat, in

a statement of December 5, 1971, had claimed that 'these bankrupt classes (i.e. the Indian and Bengali bourgeoisie) have no right and no possibility of taking upon themselves the solution of the problems of the Bengali people'.

This at a time when the genocide launched by Yahya Khan was being backed to the hilt not only by American imperialism, but also by Russian and Chinese Stalinism!

Trotskyists recognize that the bourgeoisie cannot carry through a democratic revolution—nevertheless they have the right to fight for national independence.

Would Vithana deny the right of the Egyptian bourgeoisie to nationalize the Suez canal—or to wage war against Israel?

In real life the native capitalist class can be forced into conflicts with imperialism and be forced sometimes to summon the masses to its support.

Marxists critically support the right of the native bourgeoisie to fight imperialism while insisting on the organizational and political independence of the revolutionary workers and peasants.

We asked at the time—and we were never answered—what would Vithana's co-thinkers of the 'International Marxist Group' do if the troops of the Irish Free State invaded Ulster in support of the Provisionals?

Of course Marxists recognize, as we did, that the bourgeoisie will seek to behead the revolutionary masses at the first opportunity.

Only a blind man, a fool or a liar can claim that Workers Press did not pursue this principled line not only during the war but after Sheikh Mujib Rahman came to power.

As early as January 5, 1972, we wrote: 'Mujib's party expresses the requirements of the Bengali bourgeoisie, which is



Sheikh Mujib—now trying to impose 'law and order'. Above: A recruiting camp for the Bengali liberation fighters during the war against Pakistan.

now trying to impose capitalist law and order on the armed workers and peasants.'

We have been consistent on this, as even a glance through Workers Press headlines will show. For example:

April 3, 1972: 'Bengali Workers Shot Down.'

April 5: 'Peasant Leader Slams Mujib's "Shoot on Sight" Order.'

June 7: 'Five Years for Strike in Bangla Desh.'

June 7: 'Unions Under Fire From Bangla Desh Leaders.'

June 9: 'Bangla Desh Leaders Prepare to Gun Down Opponents.'

June 28: 'Mujib Clamp on Left-Wing Papers.'

July 6: 'Students a New Threat to Mujib.'

August 28: 'Bengali Workers Face Living on Pig Food.'

September 2: 'Awami League Attacks Bashani Hunger March.'

September 11: 'Mujib Purges the Left.'

September 19: 'Students Lead Attacks on Mujib's Policies.'

October 11: 'Secret Killings in Bangla Desh.'

October 19: 'Capitalists Loot Bangla Desh Economy.'

So much for our 'opportunism'. Vithana cannot back up his allegations with a single statement from our Press.

That is the pattern of Jaya Vithana's entire pamphlet. In seeking to justify a series of actions that would sicken every self-respecting member of the working class, he resorts to lies, clumsy evasions and unsubstantiated slanders.

That is to be expected from a totally unprincipled revisionist outfit like the International Marxist Group.

We are not surprised that they are 'proud' of the scab, ex-Nazi-toasting Bala Tampoe.

They are worthy members of a fraudulent 'International' which laid it down at its ninth congress in 1969 that the slogan 'Victory to the National Liberation Front' should be the slogan of all Unified Secretariat sections in those countries which did NOT have troops in Vietnam.

No compromise

They cannot deal with Tampoe.

He is a renegade protected by renegades. He remains in their international leadership because it is not a Trotskyist international.

It is an organization based upon the utmost contempt for principle, upon dishonest combinations, evasions and lies, upon dirty manoeuvres in place of honest examination of political questions.

The genuine Fourth International can, and will, be built only in relentless struggle against such renegades and charlatans.

This struggle is now being led by the International Committee of the Fourth International, of which the Socialist Labour League is an affiliated member.

There can be no compromise.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

JOBLESS

Mexico—the land of tequila, and chilli con carne? No, it is a land ravaged by unemployment.

Secretary of the National Patrimony, Horacio Flores de La Pena (appropriately, Horace Flowers of Grief) reported: 'We have around four million people of working age who are permanently unemployed or occasionally obtain work.'

The unemployment index for 1971 recorded one million jobless.

ADVENTURER

Raul Roa, Cuban Foreign Minister, has earned the title 'Minister of Dignity', for his defence of 'revolutionary principles' in the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

He told admiring reporters in Havana: 'I discovered I was a revolutionary the day I felt out of conformity with the world and came to long for a more just and beautiful one.'

An enthusiastic reader of adventure novels, and like his chief, Fidel, a great sporting man, he went on modestly to claim: 'There's no alternative: I have to admit that the nicest guy of us all is me.'

Raul's latest work is called 'Adventures, Ventures, and Misadventures of a Mambi.'

ARRESTS

Colonel Armando Molina, leader of the government of San Salvador, has begun to build up repression of all oppositionists.



At the beginning of February—after a television appearance by Molina on the subject of agrarian reform, national economic development and 'disarmament'—police made hundreds of arrests.

In a raid on the offices of the Trade Union Federation of San Salvador, two trade union leaders were arrested. Several Communist Party members have joined them in jail.

Col Molina is demanding 'absolute respect for the law'.

The CP, in pursuit of an alliance with the liberal bourgeoisie, calls for the defence of individual rights as guaranteed in the constitution.

ONE MAN

Enoch Powell, the anti-immigrant, anti-union MP, is quietly building his support among the Tory grassroots.

Although the Central Office of the Conservative Party won't admit it, Powell is the most sought-after speaker.

The other day he was at the Higher Blackley Conservative Club in Manchester. He told the faithful that 'it is a choice between freedom and servitude'. After his 40-minute speech of woe, Dr H. Pigott, the president of the division, moved a vote of thanks.

He said that some months ago the division had decided to invite a leading Conservative member to speak. There was only one man they would have at any price—Mr Powell. It was either Mr Powell or no one, he added.

TORY STANDARD REACHES NEW LOW

BY ROYSTON BULL

TORY PRESS



Mary Kenny is a supporter of the 'state capitalist' International Socialism group. She writes for the London 'Evening Standard'.

In this capacity, it is possible she is not free to say all that she would like to say knowing the extreme right-wing Tory views of the 'Standard's' proprietors, the Beaverbrook family.

But this hardly explains the extremely reactionary ideas appearing lately under her byline. No journalist, however heavily edited, can be made to write things he does not want to write.

The inescapable conclusion is that IS is such an unprincipled alliance of middle-class opportunists that this very right-wing lady is by no means out of place in their company.

Recently, Kenny wrote from Rome about the terrible problems caused by all the strikes there, and how everyone was worrying about the Red influence with even the Pope not above suspicion. Her story continued:

'That Pope', said my friendly neighbourhood barman (what journalists usually call an informed source, and indeed he is) 'I wouldn't trust that Pope as far as I could throw him'.

'My friendly neighbourhood barman is a Fascist, too.'

'He told me that most Italians agree that the only wrong thing that Mussolini did was to fall in with Hitler. If it hadn't been for Hitler, he said, everything would have been fine.'

'Which I suppose is a fair enough summing up of the last 50 years of European history.'

Presumably, Mussolini fascism on its own would have been all right. And the hundreds of thousands of Spanish, Italian, Yugoslav, Albanian, Greek, Libyan, and Ethiopian victims of Italian fascism just didn't matter.

This is either extreme ignorance or extreme viciousness. Either way, it is extremely reactionary.

Shortly before she made such good friends with the fascist barman in Rome, Kenny reviewed a book on women's emancipation by Sheila Rowbotham.

It contained a withering attack on the revolutionary struggles of the international working class. In the name of women's lib, Kenny ridicules Marxism.

'Karl Marx perceived that women were exploited as wor-

kers, but failed to see how they especially could have been the agency of his revolution; meantime, he kept his wife slaving over a hot stove and put the serving wench in the family way.

'Frederick Engels, a nice guy by all accounts, eschewed marriage because he considered it a living symbol of property capitalism, and instead lived in free union with two Irish proletarians, to whom he was as genuinely kind as any 19th century paternalistic employer—but the girls were still essentially his domestics.

'Lenin exhorted the workers to help in the house, but travelled around Europe with a submissive wife and an adoring young mistress, both of whom ministered to him.'

Marxism-Leninism has transformed the world due to the scientific understanding it has given mankind of human society and its history. Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky have played the major essential roles in human development because of their leadership of the revolutionary class struggle of the international proletariat.

The working class and all the oppressed—the vast majority of mankind—will only be emancipated from the deadening existence of wage slavery, which condemns millions to spend their lives as expendable 'hired hands' who are nothing but an extension of a machine, by the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist class and the dictatorship of the proletariat.

For this IS supporter, 'the coming dictatorship of the proletariat means that they (a lot of left-wing men) get to be the dictators and we get to wash the dishes again.'

She follows this with: 'Hands up any London Trotskyist who regularly changes nappies.'

Thus the long struggle of generations of Marxist revolutionaries to fight for a correct theoretical understanding of the developments of the class struggle in order to prepare the working class for taking the power is reduced by this 'Marxist' to a question of 'Who is going to change the baby's nappy?'

And this on the eve of the most colossal class struggles in all history.

She then wonders in some amazement why there is criticism 'that women's lib is not in itself an authentic revolutionary doctrine, but a bourgeois distraction which takes people's minds off real politics.'

But Kenny deals with such criticism in masterly, or even mistressly, fashion.

'These blokes don't fancy forfeiting home comforts, and it suits them better to have the dinner on the table when they come home from making the revolution.'

One imagines Kenny has certain armchair radicals in mind about whom this may or may not be an accurate description. What matters is that scorn is poured on all revolutionary struggle via these cheap attempts at humour.

Kenny later describes the Soviet Union as 'just another kind of imperialism,' which is not surprising being so close to the state capitalists.

She goes on in a subsequent article to say what she thinks are the real forces of 'radicalism' in European society:

'Consumerism, the drug culture, immigrant labour, grass-roots politics, the sex revolution,' and adds that 'many essentially women's liberation topics are right now rocking European politics.'

'Abortion in France and Belgium, divorce and contraception in Italy and Ireland, the "feminization" of low-skill jobs in Germany and Britain—these have become central political issues.'

The monumental crisis of the capitalist system, the preparations for armed class struggle and civil war by the bourgeoisie, and the crisis of leadership in the working class, all of these pass her by.

Finally, a long section from a recent article on Bernadette Devlin, which is a prize example of the crass political triviality of the Tory press and its loyal servant Mary Kenny, as well as unintentionally revealing about Devlin herself, another 'famous' supporter of International Socialism.

'In her view most of the politicians involved in Ulster can see nothing except their own spoils—with the exception of Ian Paisley, whom she nominated as the only MP at Westminster with clear vision and real understanding.'

And further on: 'She spoke scornfully of meaningless rounds of internecine political squabbles and pointless statements (in parliament). "I'd rather work in the constituency. I really would. It's not as glamorous, of course, but it's much more important".'

'Although she's quite secretive about it, another draw for Bernadette to the grass roots is that she is being courted—the old-fashioned Irish expression was exactly how the relationship was described to me—by a young man in the constituency who has been influential in persuading her to stay and work at home.'

'She gives two surgeries a week now, and is collecting a dossier on the sectarian assassinations.'

'Oddly enough, she does make the odd sortie to the Continent where she seems quite keen on strengthening left-wing links in France and Italy.'

'When I last saw Bernadette in Dublin a few months ago, I did think that she had become much quieter and rather sweet. Rarely for her, she was wearing make-up and talking about the joys of motherhood.'

'I did wonder if she would drop out and opt for domesticity. But I should have known Bernadette better: she's too tough a nut to crack.'

'When she says she's biding her time, I know that that is exactly what she is doing, and when the time is right for her, I am convinced she will move back into top gear again.'

The 'Evening Standard' can hardly wait.

POLITICAL PROFILES

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

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Why I won't stand

MANCHESTER tenants' leader Mrs Connie Fahey has announced that she will not stand as Labour Party candidate for Cheadle Hulme at the forthcoming local government elections in May. She was nominated for Division J in the elections by the local Labour Party and at first accepted. Later, however, 'after very serious consideration', she has decided to withdraw.

Mrs Fahey (left) told Workers Press that when she decided to accept the nomination she was convinced that the fight should be waged on national issues—the Housing Finance Act, rates, rising prices, the prices and incomes policy (Phase Two), the Industrial Relations Act, school milk and meals. But right-wingers in the local party told her that they were 'sick of Tory-bashing'. After deliberating on the issue Mrs Fahey wrote to the secretary of the local Labour Party and also to the Stockport 'Advertiser'.

Following a considerable delay Mrs Fahey learnt that the paper would not agree to publish the letter in full. She has decided, therefore, to publish it in Workers Press so that members of the local labour and trade union movement are made aware of her reasons for withdrawing.

I HAVE withdrawn from the forthcoming election as prospective candidate of Cheadle Hulme constituency, and my reasons are as follows.

That I feel my socialist views are very different from those of the committee that I am working with.

Their ideas are that we should not offend the Tories in the area, and one person actually stated 'don't let us go Tory-bashing'. Needless to say one must realize that the Tories are continually bashing the socialist party in every possible way.

I have found the same situation prevailed in the Cheadle Hulme area as did in the Wilm-slow constituency.

They are completely out of touch with real workers. This prevails at both local and national level, and I would hasten to remind the party that Messrs Jenkins and his followers are not the true voice of the socialists, and Mr Jenkins is not the party leader yet. It is the workers of this country who will change the leadership of the party, not the right-wing Labour membership of constituencies

like Cheadle Hulme and Wilm-slow.

As you must be aware the workers are more than capable of making this change as is shown at the present time by their attitude to the trade union leadership who are trying to sell them out. There are people on strike who have never been on strike before, i.e. hospital workers, gas workers and civil servants.

These are all decent law-abiding citizens who along with many other sections of workers are being turned into criminals overnight by virtue of the Industrial Relations Act which has needless to say been implemented by the Tory government and many right-wing members of the Labour Party.

If my views which are very consistent and are for the workers of this country are termed as 'Tory-bashing', then I hope that it will not be too far distant when there are more people with my views and together we can make an effort to erase these iniquities which are very prevalent in society today.

As I do not wish to have any part of this charade I have no alternative but to withdraw my nomination.

Constance Fahey.



Mrs Connie Fahey . . . tenants' leader.

Black shares

SIR Desmond Plummer, leader of the Greater London Council, has issued details of GLC shareholdings in companies trading in South Africa which have been named in reports criticizing low wages paid to African employees.

He was replying to a letter from GLC opposition leader Sir Reginald Goodwin.

Sir Desmond said: 'Like you, I was disturbed at the startling allegations about wages paid in South Africa by certain named British firms. I have already asked for information and enclose

a list of superannuation fund holdings in the companies named.'

Sir Desmond listed the GLC's holdings in:

Associated Portland Cement, 230,000 ordinary shares; Metal Box, 83,933 ordinary shares; Courtauld's 580,000 shares; Reed International, 255,475 shares; Chloride Electrical, 390,000 shares; British Leyland, 1,127,460 shares; Slater Walker, 65,000 shares; Dunlop, 260,000 shares; Hoover, 25,000 shares; Associated British Foods, £150,000 7½ per cent convertible; Chloride Electrical, £30,000 7½ per cent convertible.

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:

1. Political tasks facing the British working class. Marxism and the revolutionary role of the working class. Lessons of the history of the working class in Britain.

2. The roots of capitalist crisis: Marxism and the contradictions of capitalism. Britain and the world crisis.

3. The state and revolution. Reformism and revolution in Britain. The fight for democratic rights today means preparing for working-class power.

Basic reading:
Perspectives for transforming the SLL into a revolutionary party.

Marxist Analysis of the Crisis. Problems of the British Revolution (Trotsky). Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International. Communist Manifesto.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

LEWISHAM: Monday March 26, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road. 'Build Councils of Action'.

WANDSWORTH: Monday March 26, 8 p.m. Kings Arms, High Road, SW18. 'The Fight against Stalinism'.

WATFORD: Monday March 26, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall, Woodlands Road, near Watford Junction.

ABERDEEN: Monday March 26, 8 p.m. West Front Room, Music Hall, Union Street.

DUNDEE: Tuesday March 27, 7.30 p.m. YMCA, Constitution Road.

TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.38-11.45 Schools. 12.25 Holi' hynt. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Teddy Edward. 1.35 Ring a ding. 1.45-2.00 Television doctor. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Children talking. 2.35 Parkinson. 3.35 Tomorrow's world. 4.00 Noggin and the flying machine. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Deputy dawg. 5.00 Crackerjack. 7.3. 5.40 Sir Prancelot. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.40 **FILM: 'FORTY GUNS TO APACHE PASS'.** Audie Murphy. Western.

8.15 **MORECAMBE AND WISE SHOW.** Guests Peter Cushing, Wilma Reading, Alan Price and Georgie Fame.

9.00 **NINE O'CLOCK NEWS.** Weather.

9.25 **THE REGIMENT.** Settling In. 10.15 **THE DIMBLEBY TALK-IN.**

11.00 **LATE NIGHT NEWS.** Weather. 11.05 **FILM: 'FAME IS THE NAME OF THE GAME'.** Tony Franciosa, Susan Saint James, Jill St John. Murder mystery.

12.40 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.30 VAT 73 (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Hickory house. 12.25 Happy house. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Time was. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 2.50 Racing from Doncaster. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.20 Elephant boy. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 Arnie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.35 **CROSSROADS.**

7.00 **THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.**

7.30 **THE FBI.** The Mechanized Accomplice.

8.30 **ON THE BUSES.** Goodbye Stan. 9.00 **JUSTICE.** After All, What is a Lie?

10.00 **NEWS AT TEN.**

10.30 **POLICE FIVE.**

10.40 **FILM: 'SO LITTLE TIME'.** Marius Goring, Maria Schell, John Bailey, Barbara Mullen. Wartime drama.

12.10 **PRIORITIES.**

12.15 **JASON KING.** Nadine.



Last show in the present Morecambe and Wise series tonight, BBC-1.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University. 7.05 **TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.** Animal Logic. 7.30 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather. 7.35 **GARDENERS' WORLD.**

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Homes of history. 2.50 London. 4.15 Puffin. 4.25 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Report. 6.35 London. 7.00 Cartoon time. 7.30 London. 8.30 Who do you do? 9.00 London. 10.35 **Film: 'The Search for Bridey Murphy'.** 12.05 News and weather in French. Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 4.15 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 7.00 Miss Westward 73. 10.32 News. 12.05 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women only. 2.50 London. 4.20 Romper room. 4.50 London. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weekend. 10.35 **Film: 'The Curse of the Mummy's Tomb'.** 12.20 News. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 2.50 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Doctor in charge. 7.00 **Film: 'The Seventh Dawn'.** 9.00 London. 10.30 Upper crusts. 11.00 Press call. 11.30 UFO. 12.30 Weather.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 About women. 2.50 London. 4.20 Romper room. 4.50 London. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 **Film: 'The Mummy'.** 12.40 At the end of the day.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Programme guide. 12.05 London. 4.20 Forest rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 London. 7.30 Comedians. 8.00 Protectors. 8.30 Adventurer. 9.00 London. 10.30 **Film: 'Term of Trial'.** **ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 2.55

8.00 **MONEY AT WORK.** Caught in the Act. 9.00 **FILM: 'DEUX OU TROIS CHOSSES QUE JE SAIS D'ELLE'.** Directed by Jean-Luc Godard. One day in the life of Paris. 10.25 **FILM NIGHT.** 11.05 **NEWS EXTRA.** Weather.

London. 3.40 Women only. 4.10 Cartoons. 4.23 News. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 London. 7.30 Pathfinders. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 About Britain. 11.00 Bearcats. 12.00 Look up.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 4.10 Make a wish. 4.25 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Me and the chimp. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 **Film: 'The Two Faces of Dr. Jekyll'.** 12.00 Cade's country. 12.50 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 Handful of songs. 12.05 London. 4.10 Crossroads. 4.25 TV funnies. 4.50 London. 5.15 Please don't eat the daisies. 5.50 London. 6.00 Newsday. 6.30 Upper crusts. 7.00 **Film: 'The Wings of Eagles'.** 9.00 London. 10.30 Kick off. 10.55 **Film: 'Short Cut to Hell'.** 12.35 Spyforce.

TYNE TEES: 9.20 Believing to live. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Yoga. 2.50 London. 4.20 Woobinda. 4.50 London. 5.20 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 5.45 Cartoon. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.35 London. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 **Film: 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'.** 12.05 Chicago teddy bears. 12.35 News. 12.40 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Dateline. 2.50 London. 4.10 Pipers an a'. 4.20 Nanny and the professor. 4.50 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Scotland today. 6.30 Doctor in charge. 7.00 London. 7.30 **Film: 'Please Turn Over'.** 9.00 London. 10.30 Friday night. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Man in a suitcase. 12.00 Love American style.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 News. 2.45 London. 4.20 Dave Cash. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.35 London. 7.00 **Film: 'The Jackpot'.** 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Partners. 11.00 **Film: 'Dracula'.** 12.25 Meditation.

Athens police beat up students

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

UNREST among Greek students took a new turn in Athens with bloody clashes that injured about 50 demonstrators and police when riot squads stormed the university law faculty to evict protesting students.

About 800 students staged a sit-in at the law faculty building in the centre of the city in a protest demanding more academic liberties.

The majority of university students have stayed away from classes since last January demanding a greater say in university affairs and an end to the conscription of the regime's student opponents.

During recent demonstrations marked by clashes with police in Athens, Salonika and Patras, the students also used political slogans. In the course of the sit-in protest at Athens they gathered on the roof of the law faculty building.

They flew the Greek flag at

half-mast, shouted slogans such as 'Freedom, freedom', 'Down with the junta', 'The people are sovereign' and called for solidarity from the people.

The senate of Athens University called on the students to disperse peacefully saying the demonstration was not authorized.

The rector gave them an ultimatum to evacuate the building by a certain time after which he warned he would call in police forces which had cordoned off the area.

Hundreds of policemen charged with batons following a written request by the Senate, and in the scuffles that ensued about 40 students and 11 policemen were slightly injured.

After their eviction from the law faculty, the students staged a march through Athens main streets shouting 'Down with the assassins' and 'No more blood'. Many students with blood streaming from their faces were seen running down the side streets to avoid arrest.

Police arrested about 40 students, but most were set free after an identity check. Spokesman for the police said that only 12 students were injured in the clashes.

Security police arrested for

interrogation a former professor of economics at Athens University known as a strong opponent of the regime.

The professor, John Pasmazoglou (55), a former deputy governor of the Bank of Greece, was dismissed from his post within a few months of the army takeover in 1967. He was held at security police headquarters for questioning.

Before the riot police attack students gathered in the law lecture theatres to pledge publicly that they will 'struggle to the end' to secure all academic liberties and the release of all students who have been detained by the police.

The attack demonstrates the Greek colonels' fear of the militancy and defiance which has mushroomed on the university campuses with the support of workers and townspeople. The only solution the authorities have is even tighter repression and they are now likely to do away with all remaining academic freedoms.

Student protests are still under way at a number of places outside Athens. At Patras University, in south-west Greece, students occupied the main university building for four hours on Tuesday.

Jail for meetings threat in Italy

BY JUAN GARCIA

ITALY'S Federation of Engineering Employers, the Federmeccanica, has warned workers that they face up to five years imprisonment if they follow union policy decided on March 18.

In pursuit of a favourable renewal of wage contracts, union leaders then decided on 'the organization of a day of struggle expressed in all the big factories with workers' mass meetings open to representatives of other unions and political organizations'.

Carniti, secretary of the FIM-CISL trade union federation, described this latest tactic in the pressure campaign of the union leaders as a 'symbolic occupation of factories'.

The employers invoke articles of the penal code and labour laws to prove the illegality of such a step, and have made an appeal to the government and judiciary to enforce the law of the land—in particular Article 614, the law of trespass.

The employers' preoccupation with the enforcement of law against workers fighting for their rights contrasts sharply with the kid-glove treatment which the authorities are giving to the policeman Gianni Gallo.

On the evening of January 23, Gallo shot Roberto Franceschi, a



Police agent Gallo (left) 'can't remember' shootings.

student, and Roberto Piacentini, a worker, at a student meeting in the Bocconi University in Milan. Franceschi died from his wounds.

After his exploits in Bocconi, Gallo was immediately moved into hospital in a state of shock, suffering from loss of memory. He then spent a long period of convalescence in the military hospital in Baggio.

On Tuesday morning, a relaxed Gallo visited the scene of his crime with Ovilio Urbisci, the prosecuting magistrate, in

an attempt to help his memory.

Urbisci invited along a team of 'expert' psychiatrists, doctors Garavaglia, Ponti, and Toffanin. Gallo's defence lawyer, Silvano Martini, also came along, with two more medical consultants.

A good case is clearly being elaborated to excuse the police sharpshooter, who was called in by the university authorities to break up a meeting attended by 'elements alien to the university'. Gallo had no mental blockages when it came to doing his job.

Socialist Labour League
PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Road to Workers' Power
Build the revolutionary party

LIVERPOOL

Sunday March 25, 7.30 p.m.

Mona Hotel, James St
(entrance at back Moor St)

PRESTON

Sunday March 25, 8 p.m.

Windsor Castle Hotel,
Egan Street

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.

TONY BOYLE, former boss of the United Mine Workers of America, denied before a court in Erie, Pennsylvania, that he had instigated the 1969 killing of his rival, Joseph Yablonski.

A union organizer, William Prater, is on trial for hiring the gunmen who carried out the crime with union funds. The killers have said that they were committing the murders 'for Tony Boyle', but so far no hard evidence has come to light to implicate him.

Boyle did admit to the court that he had approved a transfer of \$20,000 in union funds to Albert Pass, secretary-treasurer of the union in Kentucky, Tennessee. It was paid out to retired miners and then returned in cash to Prater.

'\$1m to stop Allende' - CIA admits offer

FORMER Central Intelligence Agency head, John McCone, now a director of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, admitted to a Congressional committee that the CIA had offered \$1m in the fight to prevent the election of Salvador Allende as president of Chile.

This offer came after the September 1970 popular election when Allende headed the vote in a three-cornered fight. The money was intended to prevent his endorsement by the Chilean Congress in October.

McCone claimed that no action had been taken despite a

meeting he had with Dr Henry Kissinger, the president's special adviser. He had frequently discussed the political situation in Chile, where ITT partly owned the telephone service, with Richard Helms, then director of the CIA.

ITT officials carried on negotiations with Chilean politicians opposed to Allende.

One executive of the firm in Latin America said a well-informed Chilean had told him that the American ambassador had received a message from the State Department 'giving him the green light to move in the name of President Nixon.'

'The message gave him maximum authority to do all possible—short of a Dominican Republic-type action—to keep Allende from taking power.'

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Teachers' leaders let off the hook

BY IAN YEATS

WEDNESDAY's decision by a mass meeting of teachers at London's Conway Hall to set up an *ad hoc* committee entirely separate from the structure of the National Union of Teachers will lead to isolation and demoralization for all those who support it.

It leaves the right wingers and Stalinists who dominate the union executive completely free to go their own way.

Indeed it has already done so. Despite all the angry shouting and the passing of militant-sounding resolutions at Westminster Central Hall on March 1 the message from the executive is. 'The campaign has ended'. As NUT president-elect and Communist Party member Max Morris said contemptuously after the meeting, 'They can shout as much as they want'.

The same political tendencies which led the Central Hall rebellion were in the van of the move at Conway Hall to set up an *ad hoc* teachers' ginger group. Wandsworth headmaster and 'International Socialism' group supporter Eric Porter, one of the three men threatened



with expulsion from the union, claimed the only way to fight the executive was to set up a grass-roots organization. Once they succeeded in 'making the executive jump' and think twice about its policies the committee could, if necessary, fade into the background, he said.

The Hackney Teachers' Association, which sponsored the meeting, counter-posed the demand that the Inner London Teachers' Association set up a salaries' action committee to continue the campaign for a rise in the special London allowance.

IS consciously duck the abso-

lutely unavoidable fight with the Stalinists and the right wing by suggesting the setting up of rank-and-file committees quite outside the union. And both concepts sidetrack the fact that in the present atmosphere of economic crisis the Stalinists and the right wing are acting concertedly and consciously as a counter-revolutionary force.

The NUT executive knew they could not defeat the Tory anti-inflation plans when they called for protest action aimed at winning a rise in the London allowance. They never intended industrial action to bring them

into open conflict with Phase Two of the Tory pay laws. They have said they will not back the day of action called yesterday by the TUC against the laws. They are witch-hunting those who at the Central Hall meeting stood up to fight against those craven betrayals. And if the new *ad hoc* committee presents them with occasion they will witch-hunt, discipline and expel in that direction too.

Witch-hunting by the executive has already had its effect. Teachers at the Conway Hall said they were proud not to be Trotskyites, communists or anything else. But whether they like it or not the teachers are locked in a political battle against their own executive and against the Tory government.

The role of the Stalinists and the right wing on the executive must be recognized and fought. This can only be done by recognizing, too, the role of the revisionists in the IS and the International Marxist Group.

Far from showing signs that they are preparing to step up the fight on teachers pay the NUT executive is lashing out at all those trying to push it forward. And far from showing signs that bigger doses of militancy will force concessions the Tories are preparing to fight the working

class, including the teachers, with every weapon at their disposal. They will use their class law, the police and if necessary the army to defend their interests.

The IMG called on the NUT executive to organize a national strike on the teachers' national claim and to sponsor indefinite strikes on the London allowance. They called for unity with other sections of workers fighting the 'pay freeze' and for the NUT to seek TUC support.

Such a resolution falls far short of the central issue. The Tories are not engaged in a 'pay freeze'. They are engaged in imposing permanent state pay laws. There are to be no special cases and no concessions. The only way to defend the living standards of teachers and all other sections of the working class lies in forcing the TUC to call a General Strike to make the Tory government resign.

Rank-and-fileism lets the NUT executive off the hook. They must be forced to reverse their decision not to back the TUC's day of action and to campaign for the General Strike. The only way forward lies in building an alternative Marxist revolutionary leadership based on the policies of the All Trades Unions Alliance.

White Paper an 'advance'—SDLP

ULSTER'S social democratic and Labour Party is prepared to collaborate in carrying out the Tory plan for Ulster outlined in the White Paper.

After a line-by-line examination of the document at a two-day session in a remote County Tyrone hotel, party leaders declared: 'We recognize clearly that the proposals represented in some areas an advance on our previous position, while in others we must express both our reservations and our disappointments.'

They expressed support for quadripartite talks between both sides in the North, the South and Britain and indicated that it would take part in elections to the new Assembly.

This Assembly will have no control over the armed forces or foreign policy and is no more than a cloak for the continued control of Northern Ireland by British imperialism.

The position of the SDLP evades all the main issues, strengthens the right wing and gives no lead to the Irish working class.

Its comment on the Loyalist response of opposition is once again to try to find some common ground. 'We cannot help feeling that their reaction has been governed by a basic spirit of self-determination which is very similar to the spirit which governs our own reservations', its statement says.

It goes on to express the hope of finding some common ground

once the question of differences about the basic loyalties can be resolved. 'We have already started discussions on this basis,' says the SDLP, 'and are prepared to continue them.'

Loyalist leaders came out forthrightly against the White Paper after a four-hour meeting at Stormont and have entered into a new united front which includes the Rev Ian Paisley, Capt Lawrence Orr, Leader of the Unionist Party at Westminster and the Vanguard leader, William Craig.

Paisley and Orr said that they would exhaust every parliamentary device in opposition to the White Paper and Craig pledged backing up action in Northern Ireland.

This means a complete rejection

by the main Loyalist forces of former Prime Minister and Unionist Party leader, Brian Faulkner, in favour of a hard-line policy.

Paisley has returned to the limelight to join forces with the paramilitary Vanguard movement. An advocate in the past of the integration of Northern Ireland into the United Kingdom, he shows signs of moving closer to Craig's position which accepts the possibility of a unilateral declaration of independence (UDI).

The SDLP leaders leave the way open for these reactionaries as well as offering their services in enabling British capitalism to continue its exploitation and oppression of the Irish working class.

MARCH FUND STANDS AT £708.43— ONLY NINE DAYS LEFT!

IT IS STILL much too slow. If we do not step up the fight now we will not reach our £1,750 target in time. We have nine days left to completely turn the situation around. We urge you all to go into action immediately and raise all you can.

We know you will not let us down, but we are concerned that the fight is not left to the

last week. We have many plans, after the enormous support we received from our Pageant at the Empire Pool to expand our circulation in every district.

Amongst miners, railwaymen, hospital workers, gasmen, teachers and thousands of others, there is a huge movement growing against this Tory government. Workers Press is vital today. It is the only daily paper politically prepared to fight back against this Tory government.

Help us expand. Don't let our fund drop back. Collect extra amounts wherever you can and push our total right up. Rush every donation immediately to:

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

Police harass hospital picket



FOUR HUNDRED ancillary workers at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, have come out on strike for the second time.

Initially they will stay out for five days, but this may be extended.

Don Steadman, NUPE branch secretary, said yesterday. 'We came out again because we want the wage increase and we were

unhappy at the way management was treating us.

'After the first strike at the beginning of the month they changed the system of working and adopted a very aggressive attitude towards us. I would like to see all hospitals out and a more positive lead from the union executive.'

A determined force of pickets went to the hospital gate yesterday (above) but they were harassed by police. Immigrant workers were apparently threatened with arrest.

The pickets called on delivery drivers not to cross their lines.

Workers at Esso and British Oxygen have decided not to deliver goods to the strike-hit Basingstoke District Hospital.

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

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

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