

## MARCHERS RALLY TO HOSPITAL WORKERS

# TORY PAY BOARD SHOUTED DOWN

BY DAVID MAUDE

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### £100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

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The total is now £78. Keep it up. Who will be next? Post to:

Party Building Fund  
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SEE PAGE 2

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He said: 'We won't get anywhere by going to the Pay Board. We must continue this fight and we must have the support of the rest of the trade union movement. It would be disastrous for the whole movement if we were to be defeated.'

Oxford branch secretary, Vince Scannell, said: 'We need help to get the Tory government out—but this must be done regardless of whether we win or lose. Our branch is absolutely convinced we must continue with this action. It has to be escalated further.'

Don Steadman, NUPE branch secretary at St Mary's, Paddington, also criticized Fisher's statement.

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Many strikers felt real bitterness about the role of the TUC.

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for the hospital workers will be heard.

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All that Feather, Scanlon and Jones will do today is to express 'sympathy' with the ancillary workers and offer 'moral' support.

At today's meeting Scanlon has the opportunity to act on his declaration that if the hospital workers are beaten, it will mean the end of trade unionism as we know it.

But since these 'left'

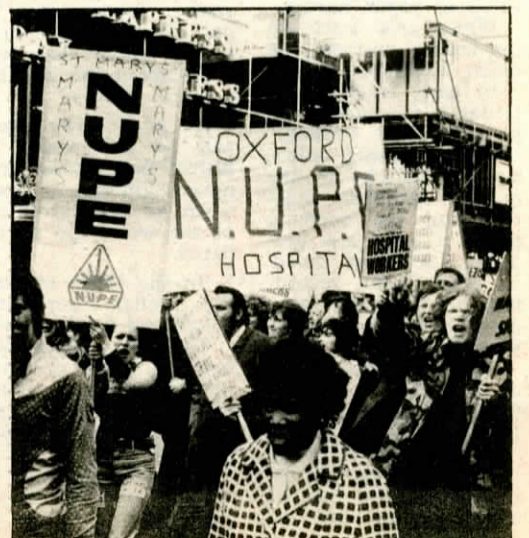
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The Glasgow engineers have pledged to take industrial action if the government uses the penal powers of the pay laws against the hospital men.



Contingents on the demonstration



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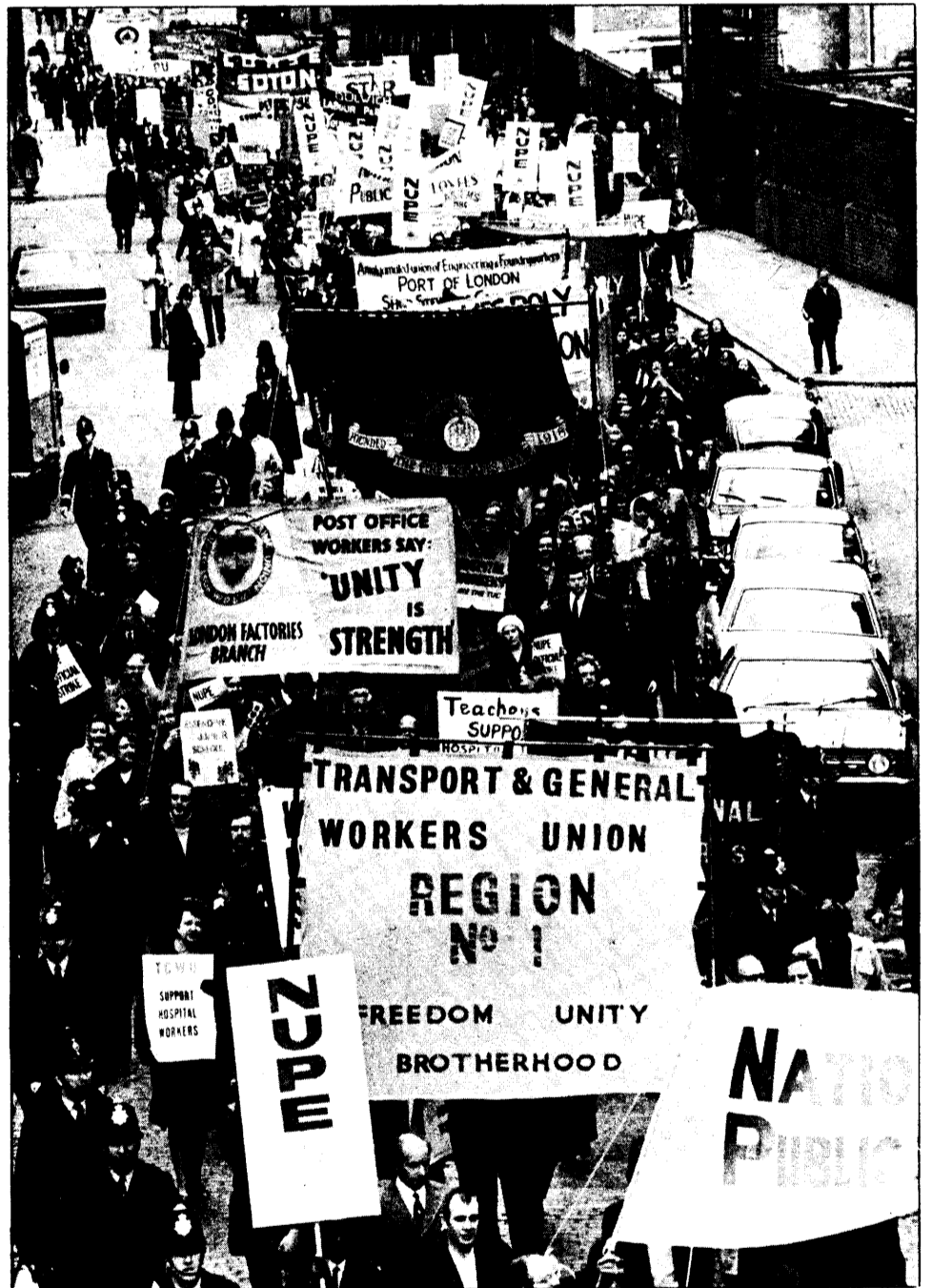
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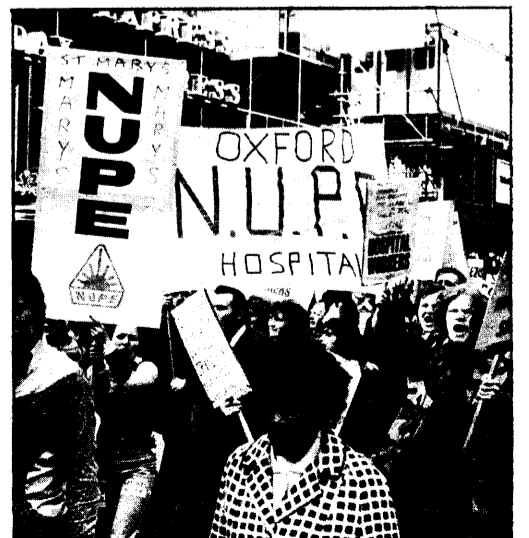
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# That was Phase 2 that was

ANY WAGE award within the Tory state pay norm of £1 plus 4 per cent has already been taken away by the soaring cost of living.

The increases in mortgage rates alone make a Phase Two rise worthless to any worker seeking to buy a house.

The arrogance of the building society chiefs in rejecting all pleas to keep mortgage rates down has taken pounds out of the pockets of many workers and middle-class people.

The increase from 8.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent on typical 25-year mortgages means an extra 68p per month on every £1,000 borrowed.

Repayments on a £3,000 mortgage will go up from £24.45 per month to £26.50; on a £4,000 mortgage from £32.60 to £35.32; on a £5,000 mortgage from £40.75 to £44.15; on £6,000 from £48.90 to £52.98; and on £10,000 from £81.50 to £88.30.

9.5 per cent is the highest amount ever charged for home loans, but a further rise is certain in July. The Tories' three months subsidy of £15m is a blatant manoeuvre to hold the rate below 10 per cent until after the local government elections. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Anthony Barber, made it clear that under no circumstances would the subsidy be extended beyond three months.

In London it is virtually impossible to buy a house for less than a £10,000 mortgage. So people repaying such mortgages face an immediate increase of £6.80 now and a further rise of £3.40 a month in July. That is an increase in their cost of living of £5 a week.

In the north-west the average price of new houses mortgaged to the Nationwide Society in the last quarter of 1972 was £7,878. The average on older houses was £4,972.

On a 90-per-cent mortgage, which is the maximum normally obtainable, repayments on the former will go up about £5 a month and on the latter £2.86. In July £2.50 and £1.43 will be added.

The second part of the Tory rent Act comes into operation this month, bringing rises of 50p per week to many council houses. Rates are also going up.

All properties were recently revalued for the first time since 1962, and the new levels reflect the soaring inflation. Increases of 30 to 40 per cent in ratable values are expected throughout Britain.

Sir Robert Thomas, leader of Manchester City council, has said that a 25 per cent predicted increase in ratable values could mean an increase of 50 per cent in rates payments for council houses and some private houses. The lower-valued houses, he said, would be hit most.

This could mean an increase of 50p a week or even more in rates.

Since January 17, when Phase Two of the Tory state pay laws was issued as a White Paper, the price of almost every basic foodstuff has risen.

Large white eggs, for example, have gone up from 19p per dozen to 30p. Cereals, meat, sugar, flour, biscuits, tea, coffee and most canned foods have risen in price.

A family with two children could not manage adequately on less than £12 a week expenditure on food, and in London—where prices are much higher—the figure would be around £14.

The cost of the same amount of food has gone up by some £2 a week since mid-January.

Many more rises are due. The European parliament today debates, and is expected to accept, a basic average increase of 2.76 per cent on farm prices throughout the Market.

The Tory government has already indicated that it will accept further rises of 8 per cent on beef, 4 per cent on pork and 2 per cent on milk. But there is mounting pressure from other EEC powers to make Britain accept more. In particular, there is pressure to impose VAT on food. Britain is the only Common Market country which zero-rates food for VAT.

The cost of running a car is also rising. The biggest car insurance firm in the country—General Accident—has just announced a £33.5m annual profit and said it wants to put up premiums by not less than 10 per cent. Petrol is also going to cost more.

All this means that any wage increase accepted under Phase Two has already been swallowed up.

Take the case of a miner who has been awarded the Coal Board's offer of £2.29 per week. If he lives in the north west, has two children, is buying an old house and trying to

run a car, his expenditure since the Phase Two White Paper was published has gone up as follows:

**Mortgage repayments UP 72p a week. Rates UP 50p a week. Family food bill UP £2 a week. Car expenses UP at least 20p a week.**

This is an increase in his living costs of £3.42 a week. He is £1.13 per week worse off than he was three months ago, even after his wage increase.

This excludes any expenditure on fares, clothes, cinemas, laundries and football matches all of which are costing more.

In the next three months when food prices will rise even faster and mortgage rates will go up to at least 10 per cent, he will be another £2.36 a week worse off—that is £3.49 down since the Phase Two White Paper was introduced.

This can only mean new battles on wages between workers and the Tory government. The trade union leaders who have negotiated with Heath while he picked the pockets of their members must be swept aside.

The only way to protect the standard of life of the working class against capitalist inflation is to force the Tory government to resign and return a Labour government forced to nationalize basic industries, including the land, the food industry, the banks and the building industry without compensation and under workers' control.

## Gold may go on the US market

BY JOHN SPENCER

GOLD REACHED \$92 an ounce on the London bullion market yesterday morning as a result of the news that the United States senate has approved the purchase of gold by American citizens.

The measure, which has still to pass the House of Representatives and gain presidential approval, would extend the scope of the 'free' market considerably. Private US citizens have been banned from holding gold for almost 40 years.

The Nixon administration is opposed to restoring the right of private citizens to hold gold.

It claims this would lead to a further deficit in the balance of payments caused by the import of gold to supply home demand.

The private gold market was reopened in Japan at the beginning of this week and dealing was reported to be brisk with large amounts of gold entering the country for sale.

The rising gold price is, above all, a reflection of the decline in the value of paper money.

While gold rises on the bullion markets, the dollar continues to fall.

In early trading yesterday it fell another 16 points against sterling.

The collapsing dollar, floating anarchy in the money markets, inflation and the zooming price of gold are producing 'a queer mood' on Wall Street, according to 'Evening Standard' columnist Jeremy Campbell.

'One man describes it as depression sometimes tempered by mere dejection.

'Another talks about "a sense of fear, a rising of all the demons and goblins of the dreadful past".

'In this strange climate a new breed of analyst is flourishing among those great cathedrals of Mammon which soar into the blue Manhattan sky: Superbear, Urso Major, the Pessimist extraordinary who fearlessly predicts a re-run of the nightmare of 1929 when the great post-war bull market finally came crashing down with a terrifying roar that haunted the dreams of a generation.'

Campbell quotes William Tehan of P. R. Herzing and Co, an analyst who is investing all his money in 19th century gold coins.

'The present currency crisis,' Tehan says, 'is only the first stage of a money panic that will bring about the greatest crash in history.'

He adds: 'The crash will be the worst in history because we have never known a time when all the currencies of the world are so inflated.'

'In the 1930s at least the dollar was still sound and fixed to gold. 'England abandoned her role as the mainstay of the monetary system then, but the world could turn to America for help.'

'Now the dollar is in default and the world has nobody to turn to. Nobody at all.'

## Top price of EEC entry

THE PRICE of Britain's admission to the Common Market is reflected in sharp increases in food prices in every high street.

Decisions taken in Brussels or Luxembourg now determine what the cost-of-living will be. The traditional low-price food upon which Britain has depended for decades are no more.

British prices are being adjusted to the much higher European levels. Much as they are happy to be in the Common Market, the Tories are wriggling under the consequences of its farm price policy.

They know that higher prices mean higher costs for British industry, a bigger import food bill and anger among working-class consumers.

The Common Market Agricultural Commission has proposed an average 2.7-per-cent increase in farm prices, to be as high as 11 per cent in the case of beef.

Even these prices do not satisfy those interests which need the political support of the peasants and farmers.

The influential Christian Democrat bloc in the Market wants an average 4 per cent increase.

The French Communist Party has also denounced the 2.7-per-cent increase as inadequate.

The higher prices which will be paid for food in Britain will prop up inefficient peasant agriculture for a bit longer at the same time as thousands of peasant holdings are being abandoned each year or taken over by big farmers.

But large-scale farming does not mean price reductions: rather the contrary.

As the big firms move into agriculture, whether in production or on the marketing side, they use their monopolistic powers to force up prices.

There is no chance that the protests of Tory Minister of Agriculture Joseph Godber will stem the tide of higher prices flowing in from the Continent.

His plea for a price freeze was a King Canute act and just as futile.

The 'partners' of British capitalism in the Common Market are determined to take away what remains of its historical advantage in free access to cheap food and raw materials from the world market.



JOSEPH GODBER . . . Canute act failed.

They intend to make it pay to subsidize European agriculture's transition to a new large-scale basis.

In this way they intend to ensure that any advantages British capital derives from entry will be dearly bought.

But the major part of the increase in prices, plus a percentage for all the middlemen concerned, will be passed on to the working-class consumer.

Further steep increases in a wide range of foods are inevitable as supplies have to come from Europe rather than from overseas countries with lower production costs.

Far from giving British capitalism a new lease of life, Common Market entry sets the seal on its decline and brings to an end a whole historical period of which cheap food was a part.

## Solidarity strike with Renault 400

WORKERS at the giant Renault factory outside Paris at Boulogne-Billancourt are to stop work for three hours in solidarity with 400 press-shop workers in the third week of a pay strike.

Some 7,000 workers at the factory have already been

laid off and yesterday Renault executive director Marc Ouin warned:

'If the conflict continues it is clear that we are heading slowly towards a paralysis of the company.'

● See centre pages.

## Chilean bus 'plot'

THE CHILEAN government yesterday placed Santiago's state-owned public transport system under military control because of a bus drivers' strike.

The walk-out by 1,800 men demanding large pay rises began early on Wednesday.

President Salvador Allende charged that there was a plan afoot to cause Labour unrest, including factory occupations.

The president is supported by a coalition of Stalinist, social-democrat and Radical Parties.

Last week he reshuffled his cabinet, bringing in civilians to replace the army, navy and air force commanders.

Now, under the guise of combating a 'plot', the armed forces are being used to break strikes.

Allende maintains that his economic policies are 'democratic and rational'.

## Important solidarity move

# Lorry drivers back dockers' wages fight

**LORRY DRIVER** members of the Transport and General Workers' Union in London and the south-east have backed dockers fighting a £2.60, government-controlled pay offer from the employers. For the fourth day running London's enclosed docks were at a standstill yesterday.

At a mass meeting today the dockers' 18-man committee is expected to ask for reaffirmation of the policy decided last month. This was to accept the £2.60 but 'devalue' an agreement covering flexible manning. It was the employers' refusal to accept any devaluation of the agreement which sparked Monday's walk-out by dockers at Tilbury, in the Royal group and at West India and Millwall docks.

The London and south-east road transport stewards' committee of the T&GWU has 'blacked' all docks, wharfs and stores where dockers are in dispute—and called on drivers in other areas to do the same.

### SOLIDARITY ACTION

The resolution passed by the committee, which represents an estimated 30,000 men, reads:

This committee, representing registered container and meat drivers and general haulage drivers in London, Essex and the south-east calls upon all our members to show solidarity with our fellow trade unionists in the docks by refusing to move traffic in or out of docks, wharfs or other premises where dockers are in dispute.

The committee also calls upon our members to refuse to service any unregistered ports where

### BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

shipping may be diverted by the dispute.

We invite our colleagues in other areas to join with us in this campaign and wish every success to our docker brothers in this fight.

Limited picketing yesterday morning halted a small-scale return to work by some dockers.

John Lurch, director-general of the Port of London Authority, has told the 7,500 men in the enclosed docks that there can be no concessions to their demands.

The national port shop stewards' committee is expected to discuss support for the London men's struggle at its meeting in Birmingham on Saturday.

## Bow St Court

### picketed as hospital strikers are remanded

**THE three pickets arrested at St George's hospital, Hyde Park Corner, on Wednesday were remanded until May 10 at Bow Street magistrates court yesterday.**

**The hospital workers at St George's had earlier voted at a mass meeting to support**

**the one-day stoppage and to picket the court, where they were joined by delegations from several other London hospitals.**

**The three arrested pickets (l. to r.) Mark Palmer, Alex MacKay and Peter Bradley.**



## British Steel Investment plans curbed

**TORY INTERFERENCE** in the steel industry is criticized today in a parliamentary investigation into the industry, where 50,000 sackings are planned.

A report on the British Steel Corporation by the special House of Commons committee on nationalized industries finds that the government deliberately delayed the BSC's capital investment programme and stopped it charging big business a fair price for steel.

The committee paints a picture of grim hostility between the BSC and the Department of Industry and Trade, led by ex-City financier Peter Walker. The report says:

'The Corporation has suffered from ministerial interference in its commercial operations, having been frustrated from charging what it thought proper and delayed in carrying out the capital investment programme which it thought necessary.'

'The benefit to the national interest from these interferences is dubious: the damage to the corporation is patent.'

However, the report backs the present sacking and closures which have been dictated by Common Market steel plans. These are on the right lines for future competition, it says.

## Beef price 'ever-rising'

A **FUTURE** of ever-rising beef prices was forecast yesterday by the head of Britain's largest multiple butchers. He said world demand would continue to be greater than supplies. Already the Common Market was 360,000 tons of beef imports short.

## Perkins diesel men seek parity

**WORKERS** at the big Perkins diesel engine factory in Peterborough have banned overtime, begun a work-to-rule and are refusing to accept new work-study timings.

This action, which was recommended by shop stewards, has won full backing from the district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Most of the 5,700 hourly paid workers in the factory are AUEW members.

The Perkins workers are in a militant frame of mind over the company's £2.09, Phase Two pay offer—made as part of the annual review of the Measured-Day Work deal governing pay and conditions in the factory.

This deal has now expired—it ran out on Monday—and the workers are pressing for concrete steps towards parity with Massey-Ferguson workers in Coventry.

Although part of the same combine, the Coventry workers

are much higher paid. Reg Briers, AUEW convener at Perkins, told me yesterday the differentials were as much as £16 and £19.

'We are telling the company they can't hide behind the government on this', he said.

'They say they're paying competitive rates in the area. But all our sick pay and holiday schemes are Massey-Ferguson, the same as in Coventry—why should the rates of pay be any different?'

On Monday 3,000 Perkins workers walked out demanding the withdrawal of a work-study team and the reopening of negotiations on their parity claim. The following day 4,000 day-shift workers staged a sit-in and the whole night-shift walked out.

## Slater to shatter glass plant?

**SUSPICIONS** that the property tycoon Jim Slater was behind a decision to close a Middlesex glass factory and throw over 600 workers on the dole have been confirmed.

Rockware glass, which is closing its Greenford plant next January, has revealed that Slater—boss of the Slater Walker empire—controls a quarter of the company.

Peter Parker, Rockware chairman, said that Slater's stake was a sign of his 'confidence' in the way Rockware was 'rationalizing' by axeing assets.

Unions believe that the Slater tie-up is part of a plan to net a profit on the land owned by Rockware around the Greenford plant, situated in a prime development area West of London.

The closure is not due to any decline in Rockware's performance. As the biggest independent bottle-making firm in Britain it increased its profits over the last 12 months from £1,775,000 to £1,830,000.

Parker said that he and Slater had enjoyed 'friendly and frank discussions' and that the property magnate had given 'categorical assurance' that his investment was long term. Rockware rationalization plans had encouraged Slater to make the decision.

Announcing the Slater stake, some of which is held in unit trusts, Parker said: 'Since this announcement, large blocks of shares have changed hands and we recently gained a clearer understanding of the situation.'

Last year Slater—the guru of 'moral' capitalism—bought the nearby Westland Helicopter factory in a deal that led to hundreds of redundancies. The site is now being promoted for property development.

More recently 'The Guardian' exposed the near starvation wages paid by the Slater Walker empire on its South African ranches.

**Why the Rockware fight collapsed—See page 4.**

## Court says men can leave union

**UNION** members have the legal right to resign whether their reasons for wanting to do so are good, bad or indifferent, the National Industrial Relations Court has ruled.

Giving judgement on a conflict between the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, and two mem-

bers of the non-teaching staff at Imperial College, London, NIRC president Sir John Donaldson said unions could invite members to say why they wanted to quit.

But, he added, they had no right to require the reason be given.

The Industrial Relations Act

gives union members the right to resign 'on giving reasonable notice and complying with any reasonable conditions'.

The court held that it constituted an unfair industrial practice for ASTMS to threaten to treat them as members whether or not they gave reasonable notice of resignation.

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## TOP FIRM SACKS 82 BRISTOL ENGINEERS

One of Britain's top 50 companies will today sack the second 'batch' of workers from a Bristol engineering factory which is to close completely by the end of June.

The company is Thomas Tilling Ltd, a £120m industrial holdings group which financially backs the right-wing Economic League.

The factory is BDR Machines, which produces high-quality butter-packing and egg-grading equipment, and where 1,700 workers will have lost their livelihoods in a year by the time the closure takes place.

### Sit-in

Last Friday Tilling's sent the first group of 82 workers down the road after crushing a sit-in strike with the threat that closure would be immediate, and workers would lose benefits unless it was stopped.

The sit-in, which involved all 500 production workers and staff left in the factory, started a week last Tuesday after the breakdown of negotiations with management on plans to keep the factory open.

Backing was given by the regional committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. With employment in Bristol already threatened by the cancellation of US options on Concorde, the fight to keep BDR open was crucial. But by Thursday the strike was finished.

Three years ago Brecknell, Dolman and Rogers was taken over by the Vokes engineering group.

In its turn, Vokes was taken over by the Thomas Tilling holdings company, after a serious fall in its profit rate. Soon after this happened, last year, a question-mark was hung over the future of BDR Machines.

### Black picture

Tilling's claim that BDR is 'bankrupt', and that there is no alternative to closure, but union officials say they suspect a black picture is being painted to justify what the company intended to do anyway.

Former chairman, and founder of BDR, Harry Dolman, has been quoted as saying: 'I'm wondering if they haven't just piled up all the Vokes losses into one corner.'

Tilling's, under its chairman Sir Geoffrey Cecil Ryves Eley, last year increased its profit rate by 4.2 per cent (from 16.4 to 20.6 per cent). Its pre-tax profits went up from £16.3m to £22.5m.

Eley (69), a former naval intelligence officer and director of contracts in Churchill's wartime Ministry of Supply, has chaired British Drug Houses and steel firm Richard Thomas and Baldwin, and sat on the board of the Bank of England.

Besides the Tilling's job, his present posts include chairmanship of publishers Heinemann, vice-chairmanship of British Oxygen and a seat on the board of the Equity and Law life assurance company.

Eley succeeds Sir Charles Hardie, chairman of BOAC, as ultimate master of the BDR workers' fate. Hardie, who chaired the Vokes group, has now resigned.

# WHAT WENT WRONG AT ROCKWARE GLASS?

The fight to keep open the Rockware glass factory at Greenford, Middlesex, has, on the admission of its leaders, collapsed.

Yet there has been no lack of enthusiasm on the part of the 650 workers threatened with being sacked next January.

Rumours of an impending closure of the 60-year-old works began to circulate before Christmas. On February 9, at a lively 600-strong meeting of the men, the decision was taken to fight tooth and nail to keep the plant open.

A five-union co-ordinating committee was set up and less than a week later the plant was brought to a dead stop by a 24-hour strike.

On the day of the stoppage deputations from the factory lobbied MPs at Westminster.

The following day, the local No 4 branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers sent a resolution to both the district and executive committees calling for action against the closure by workers in all four of the Rockware group's factories.

A month later, at a mass meeting on March 13, the fight for jobs appeared to be over when the leadership was defeated on an amendment from the floor calling for negotiations with the company to get the best possible redundancy terms.

What went wrong? How was the initial militancy and determination transformed in the space of a few short weeks into demoralization?

When co-ordinating committee co-chairman and engineers' leader Mr Arthur Harris got up to speak for a continuance of the protest

campaign he was howled down. Why?

Some shop stewards blame the collapse of the fight on their men.

Mr Harris and Communist Party AUEW district secretary Mr Len Chouleton blame it on Transport and General Workers' Union stewards and officials in opening talks with Rockware about redundancy pay off their own backs.

Mr Chouleton claims: 'This split the men. What could we do with the majority against us?'



Slater: Rockwares are now owned by Slater Walker Securities.

T&GWU stewards admit they went it alone with management, but only after they had come to the conclusion that the fight could not be won as it was being waged.

The attitude of both stewards and men appear to have been 'If we can't win, let's do the best we can for ourselves.'

The company is offering statutory redundancy pay, plus up to 165 per cent for long service employees.

Rockware, now owned by Slater Walker Securities Ltd, has never yet been stopped

from shutting a works even when, as in the case of Garston, Liverpool, it has been brought under considerable shop-floor pressure.

Mr Fred Annakin told me: 'The men just got disillusioned. Nobody seemed to have any plans. They didn't say we were going to sit-in or strike or anything.'

He added that the 100-strong engineer's group led by Arthur Harris had been thought the most militant in the works.

He said: 'I'm sorry to have to say that I'm very disappointed with the engineers. They said they thought they could keep the place open, but they never came out with any plans.'

On March 20 the AUEW, the electricians' and plumbers' union and construction, allied trades and technicians pledged to 'discuss all aspects of the closure' with Rockware aimed at getting a 'fair settlement'.

In addition to the action of the T&GWU stewards, Mr Harris told me he believed the stuffing had gone out of the fight 'because you couldn't show in tangible form how you could stop the closure'.

He said: 'I don't believe we could take the factory over because of process difficulties and the glass furnaces could be damaged if we stopped work.'

'Taking the UCS idea, we were trying to organize pressure on Rockware from outside.'

He explained that the plan was to enlist the backing of the four other factories in the Rockware group at Portland, Wheatley and St Helens and to mobilize the community in support and to lobby MPs.

But T&GWU steward and co-ordinating committee chairman Mr Brian Holder

told me neither he nor his men could see how this campaign would prevent the closure. 'They felt they would just end up losing money,' he said.

The factory has no hope of reprieve. It is old and when the glass-melting tanks decay beyond the point where they are not worth repairing, they are not replaced.

The question for the leaders of the 650 shop-floor workers and the 300 staff is not merely whether Rockware can or cannot be saved.

The question is are employers to be freely allowed to shut factories leaving workers to find their own alternative employment?

If they are not, what can be done about it?

Unemployment will only be ended with the nationalization of all the major industries, including glass, without compensation and under workers' control.

This is the policy on which shop stewards at Rockware should have fought and can still fight.

Without a campaign to mobilize workers first in the Rockware group and second in the London area around this demand, all 950 jobs will certainly be lost.

This struggle for the right to work through expropriation of the employers can only be fought through the campaign to force the Tory government to resign.

The way would then be clear for the election of a Labour government forced by mass action to carry out real socialist policies.

The Rockware men know the epoch of protest is over. The Tory enemy must now be taken by the throat and a serious fight for the right to work begun.

## INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY TO DEBATE COMPANY LAW

The Industrial Society continues to scour the leaderships of the trade unions looking for guest speakers.

At their next major seminar on Wednesday, April 11, there are none of the old favourites

like Hugh Scanlon, Jack Jones, Roy Grantham and Derek Gladwyn.

The society has enticed Mr J. M. Boyd, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Union executive council member, to speak. Which is some feat because Boyd is usually regarded as the strong, silent type.

What weighty matters will Boyd be sermonizing about to the assembled businessmen at the Hotel Russell? Company law!

This may sound odd, and it probably is, but it makes a little more sense when you read a Press release from the society's headquarters.

'A series of practical amendments to the Companies Act have been drawn up by a

working party including George Goyder, former chairman, British International Paper; Professor L. C. B. Gower, vice-chancellor of Southampton University and one of the country's leading authorities on company law; Sir Bernard Miller, former chairman of the John Lewis partnership; and John Garnett, CBE, director of the Industrial Society.

'These amendments are gaining wide support among managers and union officials(!) and will be submitted to the Department of Trade and Industry — which is responsible for changing the Act — after the conference.'

Why, you may ask, are trade union officials worried about amendments to the Companies Act? Most unions are pledged to expropriate all companies and put them under state ownership.

But all becomes clearer when we see the corporatist principles of the working party. They are:

- Extending the definition of a company's 'members' to include employees.
- Rights of employees to include at least as much information as shareholders.
- At least two directors to have their appointments endorsed by employees.
- Employees and shareholders to be told if industrial relations practice meets standards of the Code of Practice (of the Industrial Relations Act).
- Appointment of a liquidator during voluntary winding up to be approved by employees.

These 'principles' are part of the 'industrial partnership' which the society is perennially urging. But it is always a one-way partnership — the employers and owners retain

the whip hand while the workers are left holding a few artificial flowers.

For example, what is the possible use of the 'right of employees' to get as much company information as shareholders. By reading the City pages of the national Press you will realize that shareholders are up in arms about the lack of details they receive in company reports. Companies give to their shareholders the very minimum of information — it is uncheckable and often 'rigged' for stock market.

Workers don't want these scanty figures. They want control over the books of the firm to see how much profit is being creamed off for the bosses and how much is being put aside for wages and new plant.

It should also be noted that the 'principles' include acceptance of the Industrial Relations Act and a laughable — if it wasn't so cynical — reference to the joint appointment of liquidators in the event of bankruptcy.

At this get-together Boyd will be putting 'the trade union view'. The brochure inviting chairmen and senior managers to attend — £25 for members and £38 for non-members — says that Boyd will speak on 'trade union attitudes towards the responsibility of companies to their employees'.

Companies have one main responsibility and that is towards making profits.

And, as Michael Clapham, the CBI president, said last week, companies must solve their problem of declining profitability by getting more output from each worker. That's 'company law.' That's the law of capitalism.

## POLITICAL PROFILES

By LEON TROTSKY  
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Corporatism in Spain by Juan Garcia. — Part five

# 162 YEARS FOR THE CARABANCHEL TEN

On June 24, 1972, the Spanish Civil Guard arrested ten workers in Pazuelo de Alarcon, a village on the outskirts of Madrid. They were charged with holding an illegal meeting of the 'National Co-ordinating Committee of the Worker' Commissions'.

The Public Prosecutor has recorded in his report to the Madrid Tribunal of Public Order that the men were part of the workers' commissions 'built on the initiative of the Communist Party on a national scale with a view to subversive action to violently overthrow the Spanish regime through the means of a General Strike'.

The arrested men have been fined between 100,000 to 250,000 pesetas each (£600-£1,500) and now face the following prison sentences:

- Marcelino Camacho Abad 20 years
- Eduardo Saborido Galan 20 years
- Nicolas Sartorius 19 years
- Francisco Salve 19 years
- Fernando Martin 18 years
- Juan Ruiz Zapico 18 years
- Francisco Acosta Orge 12 years
- Miguel Angel Zamora 12 years
- Pedro Santiesteban 12 years
- Luis Fernandez Costilla 12 years

Far from following any path of 'subversion', Camacho and his companions have pursued faithfully the CP policy of taking over the fascist union.

A brief survey of the record of Camacho and Nicholas Sartorius will show how

hollow is the claim in the CPs fortnightly paper 'Mundo Obrero' that this policy has 'disrupted the vertical union'. It has only led militants to jail.

Marcelino Camacho Abad entered trade union activity when he joined the reformist UGT (General Workers' Union) in Osma la Rasa in 1935.

After the insurrection of the generals against the Republic, he had to go into hiding in the hills of Soria since the region quickly became a fascist stronghold.

In September, he joined the volunteer militias, soon to be transformed into the Republican army units.

At the end of the war, he was jailed for six years for being a UGT member. He escaped to Algeria where he worked in the engineering trade until 1957. Then he returned to Spain when 'amnesties' were granted as part of Franco's 'new liberal, European' face.

From 1957 to 1964, Camacho held positions in the corporate union for the engineering industry. He was elected and re-elected as vertical union representative in 1957, 1960 and 1963.

He has been in and out of prison ever since:

**June 1966:** Arrested for organizing a petition with 30,000 signatures that was presented to the Labour Minister.

**January 1967:** Arrested following huge demonstrations on January 27. Released after the strike of over 50,000 engineering workers for his release.

**February:** Tried for organizing these demonstrations.

**March 1:** The Public Order Tribunal sends him to jail for 'as long as the present latent

state of labour abnormality lasts'.

He remained in jail until March 10, 1972. On June 24, he was back in Carabanchel prison Madrid, and has remained there while awaiting trial.

Nicolas Sartorius belongs to a young generation of students who have fought against the Franco regime.

**1956:** Leader of the Democratic Students' Union built in opposition to the state students' union.

**April 1962:** Arrested in the Asturias and condemned by the Military Tribunal for activities proscribed under the laws against banditry and terrorism. Sartorius had written and distributed leaflets in support of the miners' strike.

**1965:** Joined the committee of representatives of print workers in Madrid within the official union.

**1966:** Sacked from the editorial board of the magazine 'Triunfo'.

**1969:** Sacked from the publishing house of EDAF when he was arrested because of the state of emergency.

**November 1970:** Arrested in relation to the Burgos trials. As the police have no proof of connections with the Basque nationalists, he was tried for having been present at an illegal meeting of workers in La Moraleja.

**January 1972:** After his release, he wrote for 'opposition' journals like the Christian Democrat 'Cuadernos para el Dialogo'.

**June 24:** Arrested in Pozuelo. The Communist Party has chosen the Carabanchel Ten as their central campaign now, as a vehicle for party policy on the Common Market and

the 'democratization' of the vertical union.

The future of the Carabanchel Ten along with the future of the Spanish working class, is handed over by the CP to the European Economic Commission, the International Labour Organization, the trade union bureaucracy throughout the world and the strange phenomenon of 'world public opinion'. Pressure from these progressive quarters will, in theory, make the fascists see reason.

In a letter from Carabanchel to Franco's Minister of Trade Union Affairs, Enrique Garcia Ramal, dated February 6, Camacho makes this most clear:

'... I have spent 105 days in freedom over the last six years for my crime of "illegal association". Now they are demanding a 20-year sentence and not a sentence of just a few months.

'Because of my activity as a trade-unionist, recognized by my fellow workers when they elected me, by the then Minister of Trade Union Affairs, Solis, who received me on January 7, 1965, as a member of the engineering workers' committee, by the international workers' movement, and by the International Labour Organization (ILO)...

'For identical reasons, there are at the moment several workers in jail; this is the truth, Minister, and it would be logical if you told this to the Procurators, who listen to you... [members of the puppet parliament.]

'If only you would recognize us as the real representatives of the working class, making your vertical union a real workers' organization.

Above left: Building workers in Asturias. Above right: Marcelino Camacho Abad faces 20 years for 'illegal association' for being part of the workers' commissions.

This is the plea from Carabanchel.'

While it is conducted on this basis, the campaign for the release of the Carabanchel Ten, holds enormous dangers for the arrested men. Fascism has never been shifted by public opinion or protests from trade union bureaucrats.

The eager response from men who are leading the British trade unions into the corporate state trap is proof enough of these dangers.

TUC general secretary Victor Feather has registered his protest with Franco's ambassador in London, and Jack Jones (T&GWU), Hugh Scanlon (AUEW), Alan Fisher (NUPE) and others issued a statement on February 21 on the lack of 'human rights' in Spain.

These same men who did not utter a murmur during the trial of the Burgos 16 are now exercising their new found 'responsibilities' in Europe. And they are beginning to accept laws which can put British trade unionists in jail.

Their statement said:

'... It is obvious that there can be no support in the labour and trade union movement in Great Britain towards the establishment of relations between Spain and the EEC as long as the Spanish government denies its workers the right to create their unions and practise other basic freedoms.'

So Messrs Scanlon and Jones, etc, now have a say in the decisions of the EEC!

CONTINUED TOMORROW



# FRENCH STALINISTS ON THE SPOT AT

**Talks broke down again on Wednesday between the management and the unions at the state-owned Renault combine, France's largest automobile manufacturer.**

The largest Renault plant, in the Paris suburb of Boulogne Billancourt, has been strike-bound for three weeks and the firm has laid off 7,000 men.

There have been sympathy strikes in other parts of the Renault combine. Press workers at Sandouville and Flins walked out in sympathy with the Boulogne-Billancourt strikers last week.

At Le Mans, site of another big Renault factory, there were walk-outs and stoppages in support of the Paris strikers by press-shop workers.

At the core of the dispute are 400 workers from the factory's press shop — mostly immigrant workers brought in to this dirty and dangerous section of the plant from north Africa and Spain.

They are demanding reclassification of their jobs—

which would bring an increase both in pay and job-security over the present grading.

The strikers belong to the same grade as the majority of workers in the Renault empire. They are among the 48,000 manual workers who are graded as 'specialized workers'.

These workers are at the heart of the system of exploitation which reigns at Boulogne-Billancourt. They are the men on the production lines and in the press, paint, trim and assembly shops.

There are 12,000 workers at this grade in the Paris factory alone. Their attention is riveted on the press-shop dispute, because regrading for the press-shop workers would mean regrading for most if not all their grade.

The whole hierarchical pyramid of job gradings is in danger unless the press-shop workers can be driven back or forced to accept a rotten compromise. Hence the management's determination to force the strikers back.

Renault management is well aware that what it decides today will set the pattern to-

morrow throughout the entire engineering industry in France. Behind the management is the patronat, the powerful employers' organization.

And behind the patronat stands the Pompidou government, flushed with its victory at the March elections for the National Assembly.

And caught between the workers and the management are the leaders of the main union confederations, the Stalinist-led CGT, the reformist CFDT and the FO.

The Stalinists, who treat Boulogne-Billancourt as their own political fiefdom, have been holding back the wage demands of the factory's labour force for months.

The workers were told that to ensure the success of the Union of the Left at the polls they must restrain themselves and above all do nothing to frighten the middle class.

This typical cowardly, reformist line did not succeed in winning the election for the Communist Party and its allies. They remain in opposition and the workers are still face to face with Pompidou.

That is what gives the Renault dispute its potentially explosive significance both for the employers and for the union leaders. Their attempts at a compromise were rudely shattered when the 400 press-shop workers threw out the agreed formula.

The CGT and the Communist Party Press proclaimed 'Victory at Billancourt', but they spoke too soon. The workers voted to stay out on strike and rejected the management-union compromise.

In negotiations the shop floor was represented by union delegates, most of them drawn from the core of hardened CP militants who rigorously toe the Party line.

'You know, the delegates don't know us very well,' one striker said. 'In my shop there are two delegates, but neither of them works on the big presses'.

Another says to loud laughter: 'We've had enough of delegates. They are never there to start action, they're always there to put the brake on us and tell us to go back to work.'

The Communist Party's technique in the factory is not very subtle. The hard core of delegates, who often act as a strong-arm squad against 'leftists', are used to intimidate the workers and push through the required decisions.

The striker adds: 'It's a scandal. In Department 34 when they voted on whether to return to work, the delegates came from all the other shops. Out of 60 voters there were 26 delegates.'

'And the other day in the press shop when the day and night shifts had to vote on the management offer, several dozen delegates, almost 80 of them all told, were there to give advice to 120 strikers. We just refused to listen to them.'

The press shop workers have been particularly affected by the speed-up at Renault over the past two or three years. Even the management has been forced to acknowledge the inhuman pace of work and the appalling conditions, and Renault has offered to pay special bonuses for the work.

Press-shop wages before the

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# STRIKE AT RENAULT

strike totalled 1,724 francs a month for a worker with four years' experience. This is equivalent at current exchange rates to £153 a month.

This does not include certain fringe benefits. The management's rejected offer would have brought the wages to 1,827 francs a month for a 43-hour working week. Given the cost of living in France, this is not by any means a princely wage.

The Renault management obviously considered, however, that it was more than sufficient for the immigrant workers in the press-shop.

For years these workers have been neglected by the official trade union movement and their demands ignored. The Stalinists have now begun belatedly to pay some attention to the problems facing workers from foreign countries, fearing that they might otherwise fall into the hands of the 'leftists'.

A third of the total workforce in France is composed of immigrants, many of them condemned to live in appalling conditions in the Bidonvilles

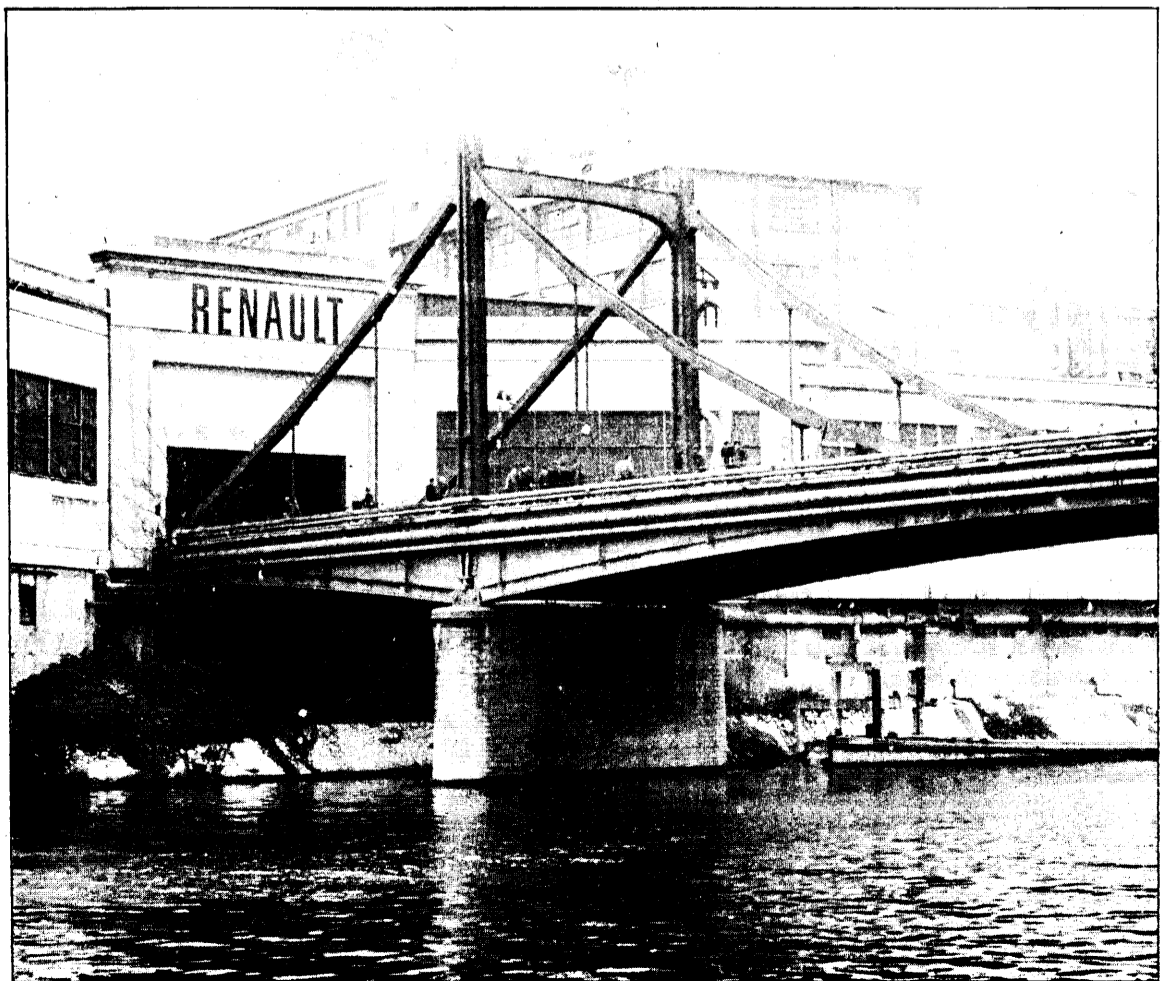
**Above left: On strike at the Renault Billancourt factory in May, 1971. Above right: Renault workers leaving the factory. Many immigrant workers from north Africa and Spain are now at the centre of the current dispute. Right: Renault factory, the press-shop is on the right.**

(shanty-towns) around the cities, under close police surveillance.

These workers, once regarded as a docile labour force for French capital, have begun to demand their rights and their action at Renault threatens to shatter the fragile 'social peace' which the Stalinists have forcibly imposed on the workers' movement.

This explains the government's latest turn of the legal screw against immigrants: the Fontanet circular which tightens work-permit regulations and which has been met by hunger strikes in cathedrals in various parts of France.

As one immigrant said at a recent demonstration against the new law, the Renault press operatives are showing their fellow immigrants a far more effective way to fight than hunger strikes.





**Left: Dr Stephanos Pandelakis, recently jailed for eight years and tortured by Perissos Security Police. He was told by Lt-Col Favatas, 'Don't imagine that we care if you go to trial and say we tortured you. We don't give a damn about the Council of Europe or Human Rights.'**

were arrested in 1968 when they were charged, among other things, with distributing a document 'The International Revolutionary Youth Call For Struggle'.

A. Liakos, a leader of the 'Workers' Vanguard' together with the Trotskyist students T. Mytaphidis and A. Darberis, was given life imprisonment by the Greek regime for violating Special Law 509/1947.

This was a law passed during the second civil war in 1947 and aimed at suppressing all democratic and socialist ideas.

Liakos told the court:

'The moving force of history is the class struggle: and the working class, through this struggle, is going to bring the social change. Anarchism (which we are being accused of) substitutes the class struggle with terrorism, a thing that our organization is against.

'We are struggling against the capitalist social system, for building the workers' state organized on the political and economic strength of the working class and for the democracy of the workers' councils.'

The Trotskyists jailed by the colonels face not only torture but the hatred of the Stalinists, some of whom collaborated with the prison authorities against them.

Letters smuggled out by Trotskyists in the Aegina and Korydallos prisons in January 1971, reveal that Stalinist prisoners had appealed to the jailers to isolate the Trotskyists (see Workers Press, January 31, 1973, for a full account).

On January 19 this year Workers Press printed the statement of Alexandros Panagoulis, a former student jailed for the attempted murder of Papadopoulos, Panagoulis is kept in a concrete cell, measuring three metres by one-and-a-half metres, at Boyati prison. He has been in this living tomb for four-and-a-half years.

On January 20 his brother Stathis was jailed for four-and-a-half years for planning to help him escape. Stathis was lured from Italy by an *agent provocateur*.

The Greek repressions continue. Leaders of the Greek Communist Party's 'Bureau of the Interior' were hauled before the courts in January, accused of plotting to overthrow the regime by force.

On January 29, a further eight people were jailed for up to 12 years four months under a 1947 anti-sedition law passed during the civil war.

And now thousands of Greek students are clashing with the state police as they demand academic freedom and political liberty.

Yet the Stalinists have called for a restoration of the monarchy in Greece 'to form a government of national unity and lead the country back to normal democratic rule!'

In Britain the Stalinists have appealed to the ultra-Tory Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas Home to get the government to 'assert its influence' on the Papadopoulos regime to restore democracy!

Such calls are a betrayal of the heroic Greek workers, peasants and intellectuals who have fought and suffered at the hands of reaction.

Only the construction of a revolutionary party in Greece, as part of the International Committee of the Fourth International, can overthrow the colonels' junta and establish freedom.

**CONCLUDED**

The Greek regime. Jack Gale investigates the tortures and the police state. — Part four

## POLITICAL PRISONERS OF KORYDALLOS

Yiannis Leloudos was arrested on August 21, 1967, and sentenced to life imprisonment by the Greek junta. The prosecutor had only demanded 16 years, but Leloudos had the temerity to defend himself in court.

He was subjected to all the usual tortures but testified:

'The worst part of being held in the Athens security police headquarters is the sounds. It is the screams of people being tortured, the moans, sometimes the weeping of your neighbours, the orders for the people not in solitary confinement to go down and more than anything else the agonizing soft, slow, five-minute, four-metre interminable voyage on all fours of a tortured man

whose name you do not know, and whose face you cannot see, from his cell to the toilet and then the whole bowel-tearing thing all over again on his way back.'

Most of the political prisoners are former resistance fighters against the Hitlerite fascists. Some have served—at different times—as many as 25 years in jail under different regimes. Some were prisoners during the 1936 dictatorship.

One of the most serious cases was that of Communist Party member Argiris Baras (see previous article). Baras was thrown into Avirof prison on June 28, 1969, dying from the tortures he had undergone at the hands of the Third Army Corps in Salonika, led by Maj Kourkoulakos.

Baras refused to denounce his Party and in open court reaffirmed his loyalty to it, denouncing instead his police

and military torturers and the colonels' regime.

He also accused the doctors at the 424 military hospital—in particular Lt-Col Vletsos—of being cowardly and inhuman and 'behaving like torturers'.

He was subsequently incarcerated in the Korydallos prison where his fellow-prisoners campaigned for medical treatment for him.

Some of the most heroic prisoners in Greece are held at Korydallos. In messages smuggled from the jail they continue to shout their defiance of the Papadopoulos regime. One statement from them declares:

'The aim of the junta is to kill us off inside the dungeons since we refuse to exchange our liberty for a humiliating and dignity-destroying declaration of "law-abidingness" and submit to the fascist regime.

'We denounce with all the power within us this fascist regime which for years has oppressed and tormented an entire people. This regime bases itself exclusively on the support of its foreign patrons and on intensified terror.

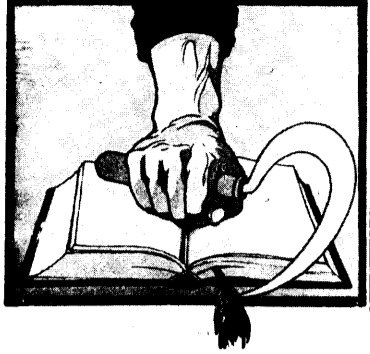
'We protest with all our strength against our unjust and illegal detention in the prisons and concentration camps of the dictatorship. We denounce with all our strength the inhuman treatment and the destructive policies enforced against us by the government.

'Let the slogan "Freedom to the Political Prisoners" resound more loudly throughout Greece and throughout the world.'

Defiant statements against the junta's courts and jails were also made by members of the Ergatiki Protoporia (Workers' Vanguard).

A number of these comrades

## BOOK REVIEW



'The Road From Wigan Pier. A biography of Les Cannon.' By Olga Cannon and J. L. R. Anderson. Gollancz. £3.90.

On his road from working-class Wigan, Les Cannon was, in turn, an electrician, a faithful servant of British Stalinism, a union official, the leader of the most celebrated anti-communist witch-hunt since the war and the president of the Electrical Trades Union.

He died in the bosom of the establishment with a knighthood.

This biography by his widow Olga and ex-journalist Anderson tells the story. It is a chronicle of Cannon's unrelenting thirst for office. Though the treatment is extremely favourable to Cannon, the book leaves an unpleasant impression of the man.

In the biographies of the great trade union leaders—men like James Larkin, Ben Tillett—the personality mingles with the great working-class struggles of the day; the sacrifices, the victories, the defeats and above all the determination of the working class to push forward.

In 'The Road From Wigan Pier' we learn absolutely nothing of the electricians, their battles or conditions. In the 321 pages they get only one paragraph and then only by way of proving Cannon's greatness as a trade union leader.

Once we leave Wigan, where Cannon grew up as the son of a blacklisted miner, the action is restricted to the bureaucratic corridors of the ETU and the nightmarish manoeuvres of Cannon, first with the Communist Party faction, then against it.

This is perhaps a fitting backdrop because it is apparent from the biography that Cannon's primary concern was to make his influence felt.

He died an extreme-right winger, an advocate of 'creative' incomes policy and the principle of the Industrial Relations Act.

Some might marvel at his conversion from Stalinism. But it is not surprising. Cannon was never a Marxist, though his widow claims he

remained a Marxist to his death.

He joined the CP just after the Moscow Trials where Stalin 'legally' murdered most of the Bolshevik old guard.

The Party trained him during the period of the Popular Front when the Stalinists were embracing everything leftwards from 'progressive' Tories.

The first measure of Cannon's allegiance came after the Stalin-Hitler pact. The Party was ordered to denounce the war as imperialist after years of patriotic clamour for hostilities to start against Germany.

For Cannon, then working on Tyneside, the 'new line' was too unpopular for him to stomach. He abandoned Party work. But he was back in 1941 when Hitler invaded Russia and the Stalinists brought out the Union Jack once more. Cannon, we learn, switched back into Party work avidly and without questioning the earlier 'line'.

He read the war reports and became one of the army of Stalinists who drove up productivity and broke strikes as part of the 'fight for Britain'. At heart he was a patriot, the 'Marxism' of the Communist Party had left this prejudice unscathed. We read:

'Les was also deeply rooted in the working-class body of English life and the atavistic feelings that have animated the common people of England from Agincourt (or, indeed, from the revolt of Queen Boadicea) onwards were deep within him.'

But it came to pass that Cannon broke ranks for the extreme right. The 20th Congress speech by Khrushchev, which substantiated many of Trotsky's accusations over the Stalin purges, shook Cannon. He was also starting to question whether the way forward in the trade unions lay in the Communist Party.

In 1956 he resigned over these issues (not over the invasion of Hungary by Soviet troops as many think).

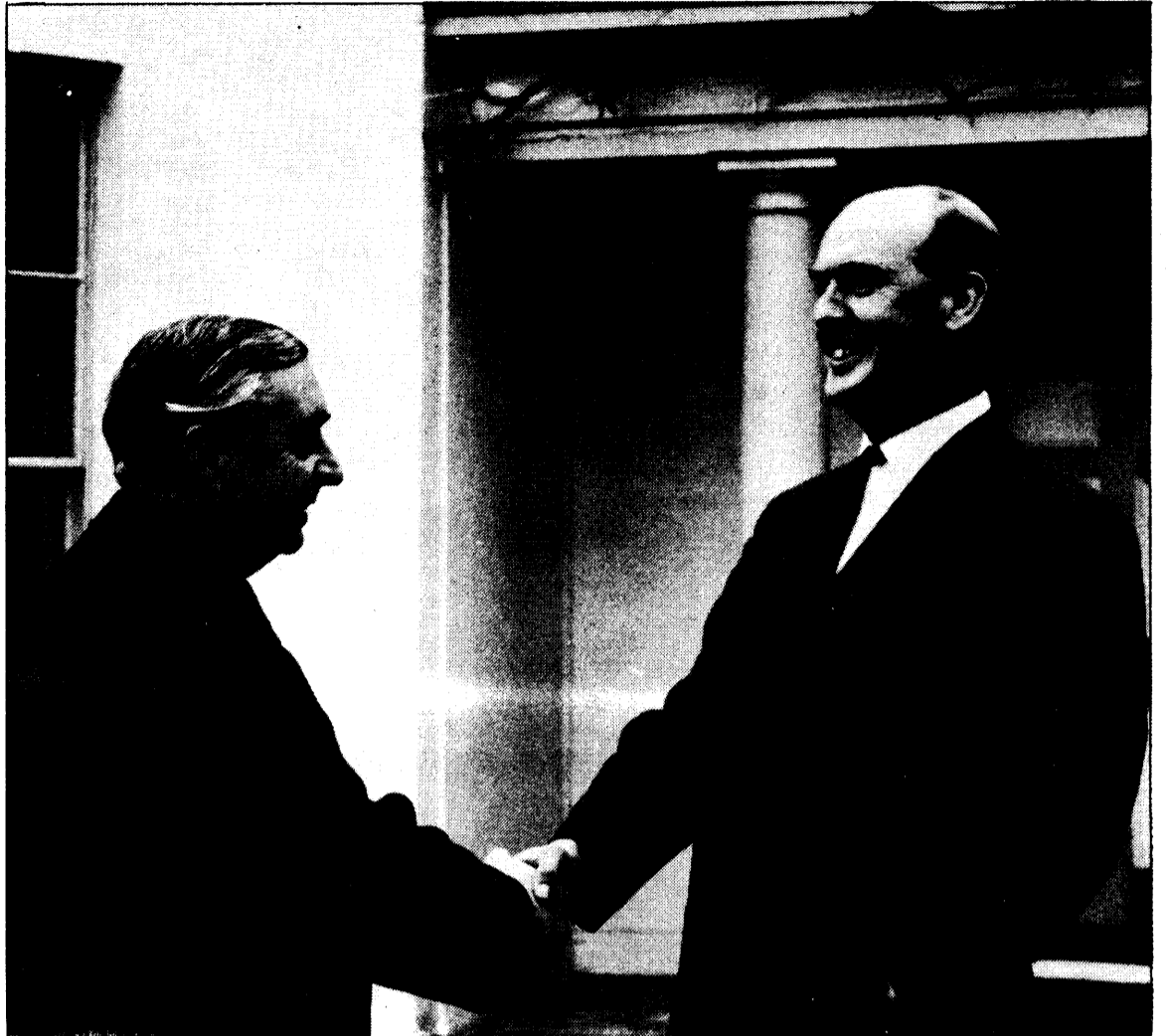


Frank Foulkes: deprived of ETU presidency in 1961.

But it is important to note that Cannon's keen interest in ballot-rigging came only after the Stalinist-dominated ETU executive sacked him as an ETU education officer.

From Stalinism to Corporatism —

## THE STORY OF LES CANNON



George Brown with Les Cannon at the Department of Economic Affairs in 1966.

It was after this trauma, when Cannon had to go back to work, the allegations of fraudulent practices began.

Cannon's campaign had little affect until it was utilized by the Tory Press as the centre point in an anti-communist witch-hunt. On the suggestion of Sir Trevor Evans, (knighted in 1967 by Harold Wilson's Labour government) the industrial correspondent of the 'Daily Express', Cannon called a Press conference alleging undemocratic practices by the ETU leadership at the 1958 TUC. The campaign ended in the High Court in 1961, when CP member Frank Haxell was deprived of his seat as general secretary and Frank Foulkes the presidency after complaints over ballot-rigging were upheld.

But one major question is not answered in the biography. Cannon had been instrumental in spreading Stalinist influence in the union. He was a member of the Party's ETU Advisory Committee which worked out the Stalinist policy line on the ETU and the details of all their campaigns. He also sat for some years on the ETU executive.

Did he then know anything about ballot-rigging before 1956? It was apparently going on before that date as one in-

vestigation by the extreme right-wing Labour MP Woodrow Wyatt (who helped finance some of Cannon's anti-communist activities) proved.

He found in 1955 that the Blackpool branch which voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Stalinist Haxell returned more ballot papers than members! At that time Cannon was still high in ETU and Party circles. He either knew nothing or chose to say nothing.

Later, however, he joined with another ex-Stalinist, Frank Chapple, and used his knowledge of Party tactics to rout his old allies and ban CP members from holding office in the union.

It is a murky story. Cannon joined with the most extreme right-wing forces in the trade union and labour movement to carry out his task. The biography mentions, Wyatt, Walter Padley, Victor Feather and John Freeman as Cannon's particular friends. He came to be the most dedicated advocate of co-operation with capitalism, higher productivity and the principles of corporatism.

The biography reproduces the fulsome tributes to Cannon from many employers, including R. D. Roberts, chief negotiator of the Central Electricity Generating Board. This is hardly surprising when one

reads some of Cannon's openly corporatist views reproduced in the book.

For example he wrote: 'It is our contention that the tensions created by these difficulties are both healthy and creative shades of the Industrial Society. A balance must be kept between employers and employees. If this balance is lost it will, in the first instance, clearly be against the interests of whichever party is placed at a disadvantage. In the long run, however, it could easily be destructive to both parties.'

The logic of this passage is somewhat obscure—but the message is clear enough: 'Workers must never be allowed to get the upper hand.'

Cannon came to this position because, above all, he represented the opportunist current within the British working class. On this careerism and bureaucracy feeds. This was not altered at all by Stalinism—itsself a corrupt and corrosive force.

This first biography is sycophantic and of little merit. But it stands as a warning to workers and trade unionists who ignore the essential question of combating all bourgeois ideology with a struggle for Marxist theory within the revolutionary movement.

## BOOKS BY TROTSKY

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## WORKERS NOTEBOOK CAREER

Guess who's seeking a parliamentary career? Eric Morley, the boss of Mecca. His company is responsible for the Miss World contest. Morley narrowly missed selection as Tory candidate for Dulwich, south east London.

He was defeated by Kevin Laffan, chairman of the Pressure for Economic and Social Toryism (PEST) group.

One of Morley's lesser-known ventures is Merrie England, a plan to take Coal Board land in the north and create a Disney Land-style castle for tourists. His partner in this as yet unfulfilled deal is Judah Binstock, formerly of the Victoria Sporting Club.

## 17 YEARS

What is the sanity in recent sentences for 'mugging'? Paul Storey (16) of Birmingham got 20 years for it. Last week Stanley Clark (17) admitted going into a shop with a toy pistol and hitting the 80-year-old storekeeper on the head.

In Manchester Crown Court last week Judge Basil Gerrard said: 'This is one of the worst cases I've had to deal with in a long time.' And he gave Clarke three years in jail.

The moral of the story seems to be that it's 17 years' lighter to do mugging in Manchester than in Birmingham.

## FIGHTER

Mrs Doris Garner is something of a fighter. She hates the house she lives in at Pendleton, Manchester, but she refuses to be pushed into another one which she also doesn't like.

At present she lives in Priory Street. She has lived there for 17 years. The walls in the two bedrooms are covered in fungus.

The fungus is so bad that sheets on the bed are made permanently damp. 'It's getting worse and worse,' she says.

In September last year her husband died of bronchitis. They had been trying for seven years to get out.

Now Mr Garner is refusing to pay the rent unless she is moved.

The council offered to put her in Thorncourt, Pendleton, but that was a very long way from the shops; it would have made life even more difficult for Mrs Garner.

'I understand that Mrs Garner has agreed to be moved to multi-story accommodation,' said a Council spokesman, 'and so her chances of a transfer in the near future are better.'



# Brown quits Courtaulds in 'slave labour' row

BY ALEX MITCHELL

LORD GEORGE-BROWN, the former deputy leader of the Labour Party, has been forced to resign from Courtauld's because of a disagreement with the chairman, Lord Kearton, over the condition of African workers in South Africa.

The £400m textile group has holdings in the racist republic where workers are paid starvation wages.

When articles about the wages and conditions on Courtauld's farms were published in Britain, Kearton, a Labour peer, sent two senior executives to investigate.

A report on Courtauld's timber farms by the University of Natal found 'appalling conditions' of squalor, poverty, dirt and ill-health at the Beaumont Wattle Estate.

Five members of the university found conditions at Beaumont were 'disgraceful and wages far below subsistence level.

'The houses were filthy, the lavatories were infested with maggots and rat droppings, there was no furniture or beds in the houses, and the compound itself was a sea of mud.

'No sick pay, maternity leave, paid holidays or rations, were provided by the company to most of the workers who earned—according to the wages commission—as little as £10 a month.



George Brown . . . twisting the night away aboard the QE2 on her maiden voyage.

## 'Conditions favourable' he claims



African workers transported to work from squalid camps in tractor-drawn wagon.

The clash between Kearton and Brown came when the two executives reported that 'The Guardian' article was substantially correct.

This was despite the fact that Brown had paid at least two visits to the apartheid state at the expense of the company to examine conditions there.

When he first visited South Africa in May 1971 he told the Press at Heathrow:

'My wife and I will take some

time seeing the place. We haven't been there before. We intend having rather a pleasant time.'

While in the Wilson Cabinet, Brown led the campaign to resume the sale of arms to South Africa.

This plan was scuttled when news of it leaked to the Press and there was an outcry from the trade unions and Labour constituencies.

Six weeks after leaving the

government, Brown accepted the Courtauld's directorship.

He told Pressmen: 'I bet the people I know in Belper [his constituency] don't think I'm selling out to capitalism.'

Brown was hopelessly wrong. At the General Election in 1970 he was resoundingly thrashed by a Tory.

It was reported yesterday that following his abrupt departure from Courtauld's, Brown was 'somewhere in Scotland'.

### MALNUTRITION

'According to the workers, their staple diet consisted of meal porridge and pumpkin leaves. . . . the direct result of this poor diet was that many of the children on the farm had "pot bellies, thin arms, glazed eyes—the traditional signs of malnutrition".'

It is understood that Brown, the company's productivity director, on a £5,000 a year retainer, visited the South African holdings recently.

He reported to the company that, despite minor reservations, the conditions 'for Courtauld's employees were favourable.

Brown, a former Foreign Secretary and official of the Transport and General Workers' Union, was apparently displeased with the revelations in 'The Guardian'.

During exchanges in the House of Lords on March 22 he said that a number of British companies were operating standards far higher than might be otherwise obtained if they were not there.

Finally he asked Lady Tweedsmuir, Minister of State at the Foreign Office:

'Would the Minister say to Mr Alastair Hetherington, the editor of "The Guardian" that he has done no service to anyone by the articles he has written?'

The Tory Minister replied: 'No'.

## Tory-type thinking in TUC pamphlet

THE TUC bureaucrats are stepping up their efforts to save capitalism on behalf of the British ruling class.

Their latest document, 'Prices and Incomes: The Case for the Unions', invites the working class to make new sacrifices so that the few thousand families that own Britain can continue to live in their Mayfair nightclub and country house weekend style.

The TUC admits that the Tories' 'plain intention is to make working people relatively worse off than they are now in comparison with their landlords, the people who own shops and property, the company they work for or those who live off income from stocks and shares'.

But then, several pages later, it calls on the same government to put things right.

This is the real voice of the TUC bureaucracy. The anti-Tory invective is just for show to keep the workers happy.

'The way to get things moving', says the pamphlet, is for the government to 'act quickly'.

And this is being asked of a Tory government which during the two years ten months it has been in office, has added still further to the inflationary spiral by deliberate anarchic policies.

The TUC further requests 'a new approach in which the government can act directly on checking imports without causing drastic side effects elsewhere'.

Import quotas 'would give us the time we need to alter the British industry so that we can become more competitive'.

Import quotas mean a nationalistic trade war against other countries in which the only people who really suffer are the working classes of these countries.

The capitalist crisis will work itself out through trade war and slump leading to a shooting war with massive suffering for the working classes ONLY if the international working class lets it happen.

The TUC are advocating precisely this solution to the economic problems—a capitalist solution.

## 'Bring Cuba into OAS'

A NUMBER of Latin American countries are expected to back a bid by Peru to readmit Cuba to the Organization of American States, from which it was expelled in 1962.

Castro's regime has won respectability in the eyes of an increasing number of governments in the area who are no longer operating the diplomatic and economic boycott imposed on Cuba under United States pressure in 1964.

The Argentine President-elect Hector Campora, is pledged to re-establish relations with Cuba in the wake of Peru, Mexico,

Chile and the West Indian countries.

The OAS General Assembly is meeting in Washington and US influence will be used to maintain the boycott.

A number of governments are restive at US dominance, but can do little more than utter a few verbal protests.

They depend upon Washington for arms and military support against social revolution and are no more than the guarantors for the predatory activities of the big US corporations which control the economic life of Latin America.

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SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETINGS

### Liverpool

Transform the SLL into the Revolutionary Party

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

8.30 p.m.

Mona Hotel  
James Street  
Liverpool 1

Lecture: The economic crisis of world capitalism

### Manchester

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

8 p.m.

Angel pub, Chapel Street.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETING

### Merthyr Tydfil

Build the revolutionary party

Join the Socialist Labour League

Defend basic democratic rights

Make the Tories resign

TUESDAY APRIL 10  
7.30 p.m.

Caedraw School  
Caedraw  
Merthyr Tydfil

Speaker: G. Healy  
(SLL national secretary)

SLL LECTURE SERIES

The revolutionary party and the history of the British working class

### Merthyr Tydfil

Caedraw School  
Merthyr Tydfil  
7 p.m.

Sundays April 8 and 22

Lectures given by Peter Jeffries

The Unions and the working class in Britain.

The Revolutionary Past of the British working class—and its future.

The Transformation of the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.

READING

Trotsky, Where is Britain Going? Problems of the British Revolution.

Perspectives for Transforming the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.

Marxist Analysis of the Crisis.

SLL LECTURE SERIES

The Socialist Revolution in Britain

### Middleton (nr Manchester)

Hollins Social Centre  
Tintern Road, Hollins Estate  
7.30 p.m.

Monday April 9 and 16

Lectures given by Cliff Slaughter  
(SLL Central Committee)

The Socialist Revolution in Britain:

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.

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IT IS beginning to grow. Let's see if we can push our figure up by Saturday, which marks the end of our first week. Keep up a steady pace and we could raise a record amount.

As the reformist and so-called 'left' trade union leaders buckle under the Tories' offensive and prepare to accept Phases Two and Three, it is vital that an alternative revolutionary leadership is built.

Workers Press, alone, struggles to provide this leadership every day. As hospital workers, miners, gasmen, teachers face even greater attacks on their living standards, more and more they feel the inadequacies of their union leadership for this fight.

Our paper is therefore decisive today to show the way forward. Don't sit back in any way therefore for our monthly Fund. Let's forge ahead as never before. Post all your donations to:

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## Post Office engineers back LP

THE POST OFFICE Engineering Union has agreed to take one hour off in the TUC's May Day protest.

The union's national executive has instructed its 285 branches to take part in a one-hour stoppage and has asked branches to make their own arrangements for implementing this decision.

A spokesman said the union had also agreed to make a donation of £5,000 to Labour Party funds.

'It believes that in the long term the best way to change the present unfair economic policies is to work for the return of a Labour government,' the spokesman said.

The union has 120,000 members, mostly employed on maintaining and installing the telephone network.

## Workers continue to reject offer

# Fate of Ford pay strike decided today

BY DAVID MAUDE

UNION LEADERS will today decide the fate of the Ford pay struggle after a series of mass meetings. Though reflecting all the confusion created by the union chiefs and their 'left' and Stalinist hangers-on, these have overwhelmingly rejected the company's £2.40 offer.

Last night it was the turn of the Halewood, Liverpool, assembly and transmission plants to make up their minds about Ford's latest version of the Tories' Phase Two formula.

On Wednesday, Halewood's body stamping plant voted at a chaotic mass meeting to accept the offer. But workers stressed yesterday that the real issue at the meeting was disillusionment with the kind of leadership they have been getting so far.

In Dagenham, body-plant workers backed up the decision of Tuesday's 20,000-strong, whole-site meeting to reject the offer by voting two to one to reject.

Most departments are calling for a work to rule and overtime ban to be maintained and moves for a secret ballot, massively boosted by the capitalist Press, are said to be 'encouraged by the management'.

## Leyland trucks back

WORKERS at British-Leyland's truck and bus factories in Lancashire decided yesterday to return to work on Monday. Men at five factories in Leyland and Chorley have been on strike since Tuesday morning.

After a 50-50 vote on a show of hands at a mass meeting, works convenor Mr Len Brindle exercised his vote in favour of the return.

But the meeting was unanimously in favour of postponing the return until Monday—as a protest.

The men were told that the Leyland management had 'dug their heels in' and were insisting that all the 8,500 men should return, including engine assembly workers involved in a sectional wages claim.

Mr Brindle said negotiations would continue and he stipulated a time limit of two weeks for them to reach common ground on a new wage deal.

When challenged about a secret-ballot petition they were organizing, a group of engine-plant workers claimed to have management permission.

Slogans calling for a secret ballot are said to have been written on a wall by a supervisor.

One engine-test worker calling for a secret ballot, Peter Bradley, has been given big publicity by the media.

But his claim that 2,000 to 3,000 men could not get in to Tuesday's meeting, which incidentally was conducted under the aegis of the Ford management, are described as 'utter rubbish' by eye-witnesses.

Calls were expected to be made at last night's Halewood meetings for the union leaders to stop playing with the Ford workers' claim and lead a real fight against the Tory pay laws.

## Industrial Society gets the right royal assent

John Garnett (left) of the Industrial Society looks on proudly as his grandchildren (right) wave Union Jacks at the Queen Mother.



CORPORATISM received the Royal Assent yesterday when the Queen Mother opened the new headquarters of the Industrial Society, off Pall Mall.

The Queen Mother unveiled a glass plaque at the Peter Runge House and said that if men and women could be more personally involved in what they are doing, more efficient and profitable

companies would result as well as greater satisfaction from a job well done.

More than 100 guests waited in little rooms above the building for up to two hours for Her Royal Highness to walk past them and nod.

They included Derek Gladwin of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

The church was also on hand and the Reverend Simon Phipps, Bishop of Horsham, blessed the building and the work that the Industrial Society does 'in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.'

With God, the royal family, and the G&MWU on their side, the Industrial Society can't go far wrong.

# Student leaders want to take the TUC road to Heath

FROM IAN YEATS IN EXETER

ment' to reverse its decisions. The tone of the campaign was set by the remark that it would prove impossible 'to get round the Tory government by mousing revolutionary slogans'.

Stalinist speakers pushed the line that students must unite to force the Tory government to expand education and concentrated all their fire on the technical inadequacies of the system.

The near-apolitical mood generated by these tactics went so far that a floor speaker who called for a ban on politics and politicians received the loudest applause of the day.

The hallmark of the campaign on the White Paper, on union autonomy and on grants emerged unmistakably yesterday as negotiation.

The Stalinists and their supporters plainly intend to try to solve student problems by talks with local authorities and the government.

An amendment narrowly approved on Wednesday night giving the executive power to negotiate with the Tories without prior conference approval was a significant reversal of previous policy.

Of equal significance, an emergency executive resolution calling for the grants protest to be stepped up stipulated that while rents strikes should continue, they should not do so if there was the prospect of legal action being taken by university or college authorities.

Since several colleges have already initiated legal action, to recover rent arrears and others

are expected to follow suit, if it is approved, the executive's call would amount to calling off that aspect of the campaign.

In the resolution and throughout yesterday's debate new emphasis was laid on action by individual unions to win their claims.

The perspective of indefinite simultaneous union-wide action against the Tories to win better education, free student unions and higher grants by forcing them out of office was ignored.

**CORRECTION:** In Thursday's Workers Press it was stated that an IS amendment condemning the executive for their handling of the autonomy campaign was carried. In fact, it was narrowly defeated by 313,639 votes to 259,431. Proposer IS member Mike Hill did, however, win election as a member of the executive committee.

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

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