

'MORE TALKS WITH THE TORIES'

SCANLON SAYS IT AGAIN

From Stephen Johns in Torquay

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A resolution passed by Coventry 49 branch calls on the union 'to reaffirm its total opposition to the Industrial Relations Act and the state laws on wages and to force the resignation of the Tory government and the election of a Labour government which must repeal all the anti-union legislation'.



Hugh Scanlon.

... and the Stalinists support him

'STALINISTS support Scanlon' was the heading of our front-page lead article in Workers Press on March 31. Now it is being proved correct in practice.

Rank-and-file members of the Communist Party are justifiably confused by the latest outburst by Hugh Scanlon, president of the engineers, in which he wants talks with the Heath government 'the sooner the better'.

They are confused because they have been lied to by the 'Morning Star' and their party leaders.

On Thursday, March 29, Scanlon made his notorious speech to the Parliamentary Press Gallery in which he offered a deal with Heath: he was willing to discuss amendments to the Industrial Relations Act, collapse the union's opposition to the Common Market and start further talks on Phase Three of the state pay laws.

The following day Workers Press, in a front-page article, demanded that trade unionists should call on Scanlon to retract his abject capitulation to the hated Heath government.

On the other hand, the 'Morning Star' carried an editorial which stated that Scanlon had been misunderstood and misquoted.

The paper said: 'Some of these scribes have seized on Hugh Scanlon's remarks about amendments to the Industrial Relations Act, which he made in reply to a question at a Parliamentary Press Gallery lunch, to continue their campaign for the unions to do a deal with the government. Mr Scanlon has denied that he was proposing a deal...'

The editorial was a complete cover-up for Scanlon. It was designed to preserve the rank and file's illusions in Scanlon as a 'left' and in the Stalinists' treacherous policy of 'left unity'.

Behind the cover-up the real betrayal of the CP's rank and file was taking place.

In reality the CP top leaders have no disagreement with Scanlon. They too want to see the mass movement of the working class against the Tories and their pay laws headed off.

This policy of class collaboration is dictated by Moscow. Its theory of peaceful co-existence is a product of Stalin's 'socialism in a single country'.

In times of crisis, like the present, it always lead to betrayal.

Serious communists who want to take up a principled fight against the Tories and their parasitic system of wage slavery must now seize this opportunity to cross-examine the meaning of Stalinism.

Series of pay strikes in Darlaston area—See page 11



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● See Rubery Owen picture and story page 11.

workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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What we think

THE LAW AND PICKETS

THE REAL face of Toryism was revealed in the courts on Tuesday when Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery, ruled that pickets or trade union officials who stand in front of a vehicle to persuade its driver not to enter strike-bound premises were breaking the law, even if no force at all was used.

All that was permitted under the law, said the judge, was 'the use of the voice or the exhibition of placards'. No physical effort could be used to stop scabs or lorries entering a site. In other words, effective picketing is outlawed.

As a recent article in the 'Industrial Law Journal' pointed out, 'the existence of a mass picket is almost entirely by courtesy of the police'. To bring the article up to date the word 'almost' should be removed!

Justices Widgery, Ashworth and Bridge allowed the appeal of the police prosecutor against the Stockport justices' dismissal of a case against John Edward Broome, a UCATT official, for wilful obstruction during last September's building strike.

Lord Widgery said that Mr Broome, holding a placard, stood in the roadway in front of a lorry driver trying to persuade him not to deliver his load to a site. There were no angry words or violent actions; it was a peaceful picket. The incident lasted for about nine minutes.

The Stockport justices had been of the opinion that nine minutes, interspersed with manoeuvring the lorry and intervention by the police, was not unreasonably long for the defendant to spend in exercising his statutory right peacefully to seek to persuade a person not to work and that his statutory right was meaningless unless the picket placed himself in such a position that the person to be persuaded was obliged to stop and listen for a reasonable length of time.

This, continued Lord Widgery, was 'applying the wrong principles'. Specifically it was ruled that Mr Broome had no protection under Section 134 of the Industrial Relations Act. It provides that 'attendance' for the purpose of peaceful picketing does not itself constitute an offence under Section 7 of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act of 1875.

But the court's interpretation now means that attendance is all that is permitted. No serious attempt to form a picket line to prevent people entering a workplace is now protected in law.

Although the case was remitted with an instruction to convict under the Highways Act of 1959, the judgement leaves pickets and union officials open to prosecution under the 1875 law. It was under this Act that 24 building workers were charged in Shrewsbury last month.

Some protection against the 1875 Act was afforded by the 1906 Trades Disputes Act, which was passed by the newly-elected Liberal government of that year. In 1906, Labour candidates stood for the first time in any numbers completely independent of the capitalist parties and 50 were elected.

It was their presence which brought about the changes in industrial law. This followed the decision of the unions to form a Labour Party after the 1901 Taff Vale case, in which the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants was forced to pay enormous damages to a railway company arising from a strike.

The Trades Disputes Act was thus a direct outcome of the recognition by the working class that it needed a separate party to protect the unions against the state.

The Widgery judgement now exposes workers to legal actions which date back to before the formation of the Labour Party and before the Taff Vale judgement. This is what the Tories want to see.

While general secretary Victor Feather and the rest of the TUC chiefs obediently trooped to Downing Street in answer to Heath's every call, this is what the ruling class were really planning.

These reformist leaders, backed up by the Stalinists, have isolated all those workers who sought to fight the state pay laws and restricted the struggle to piece-meal battles and inadequate one-day strikes.

Encouraged by this, the Tories intensify their offensive against workers' rights and living standards. And engineers' president Hugh Scanlon seeks to weaken the fight even more by publicly conceding 'victory' to the government on Phase Two.

The building of a revolutionary leadership in the working class and the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party are now among the most urgent tasks facing the working class.

Terror raid based on impeccable information

Insiders aid Israeli

Murder Inc

BY JOHN SPENCER

LEBANESE premier Saeb Salam has resigned following the savage murder of three Palestinian leaders in the heart of Beirut by Israeli commandos.

His resignation is an admission of responsibility for the lack of protection afforded to the Palestinian leaders by the Lebanese authorities.

It is clear that the carefully-planned Israeli raid was based on absolutely impeccable information which could only have been supplied as a result of inside informers.

The commandos knew exactly where to find their victims: they were able to hire cars from a Lebanese firm, land without resistance in the suburbs of the capital and proceed direct to their targets.

This gives the lie to the myth that the assassinations were 'retaliation' for the unsuccessful attempt to kill the Israeli ambassador in Cyprus earlier the same day.

Many questions remain unanswered about the Israeli action:

- Who told them where to find the Palestinian leaders?
- How did they know there would be no resistance?
- Why was the coast unguarded?
- Why was the alarm only raised too late?

It is inconceivable that such an operation could be successful in reverse—

against, say, prominent Israelis in Tel Aviv. But there was no protection for the Palestinian leaders in the Lebanon.

This is by no means the first such attack from Israel. On December 28, 1968, Israeli troops landed by helicopter at Beirut Airport, took it over at gunpoint and blew up 13 planes belonging to Middle East airlines.

There have been numerous incursions since. Less than two months ago, on February 22, Israeli commandos landed in the north of Lebanon and attacked refugee camps, killing guerrilla guards and blowing up the offices of resistance groups.

The latest attack was not unforeseen. According to the Beirut paper 'Al Jarida': 'The Soviet and American ambassadors had warned the presidential palace and the foreign ministry that Israel had aggressive intentions. Defensive measures were immediately taken.'

What measures were immediately taken? The same paper reports that the Lebanese army clashed with the invaders at only one point—a village outside Beirut where the Israelis destroyed a concrete storehouse.

The Lebanese authorities bear the prime responsibility for the lack of preparations to meet the Israeli assault. It was they who disarmed the Palestinian fighters in the wake of the last series of Israeli attacks on refugee camps.

At that time the Lebanese parliament passed a series of laws which made the Israeli assassins' job all too easy. Palestinians were debarred from bearing arms in Beirut and the guerrilla weapons in the camps were placed under strict Lebanese surveillance.

The Israelis, who are now full of boasts about their own 'heroism' in carrying out these cowardly murders, knew from the outset that the Palestinians were without the means to defend themselves properly.

Instead of preparing to fight back, the Lebanese government responded to the ravaging of their country by Israeli invaders with concessions which placed the Palestinian fighters in the gravest danger.

Every bloodstained chapter in the history of the struggle against Israel tells the same story.

The Arab bourgeoisie is absolutely incapable of waging any consistent struggle against imperialism and its agencies, still less of mobilizing the exploited masses, Arab and Jewish, to put an end to Zionism and the Israeli state.

Not content with murdering the Palestinian leaders, the Israeli black propagandists are spreading lying stories about their heading some sinister back-stage terrorist organization.

Their aim is to blacken the name of all the Palestinian organizations, to spread the idea that all Palestinians are terrorists and to create a situation where any Palestinian can be hunted down and shot out of hand with impunity.

Kamal Nasser, Yussef Najjar and Kamal Adwan were the chosen representatives of the Palestinian people—men who had dedicated their lives to the struggle against Zionism and imperialism.

Their murder is part of the attempt by imperialism to destroy the leadership of the Palestinian revolution and make the Middle East safe for the oil barons and the monopolists of the US and Britain.

No wonder the pious Zionist vampire Mrs Golda Meir was in ecstasy.

She said after the murders that they were 'very marvellous' and added: 'Shining pages will be written about this.'

Her chief of staff, general David Elazar, was even more explicit:

'I am not sure we shall not be forced to continue this way of operations, and that because of one reason—which is that Lebanon is the centre of terrorist organizations.'

In other words, the Israeli imperialists, having driven the Palestinian people from their homeland and subjected them to unparalleled humiliations, plan to extirpate systematically all those leaders who fight back.

Their job is made all too easy by the supine and reactionary Arab bourgeois governments and leaders who have themselves for years been draining the lifeblood from the oppressed Arab masses.

The three leaders who died



Yussef Najjar, whose family fled from Jaffa in the Israeli terror of 1948, threw up a successful business career in 1967 after the six-day war to become one of the Palestinian movement's most skilful diplomats.



Kamal Nasser, the official spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was a talented poet and a former Ba'athist who joined the liberation organization after the 1967 June war.



Kamal Adwan, the 37-year-old spokesman of Fatah, is said to have been further to the right than the other leaders of Al Fatah. He was a former member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Tightening the oily grip

PRIME MINISTER Abbas Hoveida of Iran has been in London for the past three days for talks which the Tory government regards as extremely important.

This is because the Iranian regime has been given the task of watchdog over British oil interests in the Gulf.

One of the main purposes of Hoveida's visit is to discuss the extremely tense situation at the head of the Gulf, which has erupted in armed confrontation between Iraq and Kuwait.

Kuwait is backed against Iraq by the Shah's government in Iran.

Hoveida has claimed that Iraq has 'adopted an attitude that can only be described

in international parlance as hostile'.

This is to reverse the reality. Iraq is justifiably concerned at the immense build-up of Iranian military might on its frontiers.

The Iranians have already grabbed two islands in the Gulf which were once in Arab hands and are trying to corner as much as they can of the oil-bearing con-

AMERICAN steelworkers are up in arms against the no-strike pledge given by union boss I. W. Abel in an agreement with the steel companies.

This is a move towards full collaboration with the employers and the Nixon administration in advance of the negotiations for a new 'labour contract in the industry.

tinental shelf in the area.

Iranian troops are fighting against the liberation movement in the sheikhdoms on the other side of the Gulf.

The only purpose of Hoveida's visit is to plan out how to tighten the imperialist grip on the Middle East.

This is why the Tory government takes it so seriously.

Abel's sell-out means that steelworkers will have to accept binding arbitration of a contract to remain in force until 1977.

The agreement he has made with the steel companies gives a 3 per cent annual wage increase plus a \$150 bonus which adds about another 1 per cent. This covers no more than three months' inflation at the present rate.

Cambodian airlift

U.S. planes yesterday began airlifting supplies into the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh and the families of foreign diplomats have been evacuated.

It is not known whether the Soviet and Czech ambassadors have sent their families out of the country.

Despite appeals from Prince Sihanouk, the Soviet bureaucracy remains on good terms with the regime of Lon Nol.

The attempt to supply the city with food and other essentials by ship up the Mekong river proved a failure. Two ships were sunk and only eight small vessels pierced the blockade.

'Left' Press tail-end dock leaders' retreat

THE COLLAPSE of reformist and revisionist policy on the docks was completely echoed by the coverage which their Press gave to last week's strike in the Port of London.

'Tribune' declared that the recommended acceptance of the Phase Two pay offer was 'one of the subtlest moves yet by workers in the fight against Tory wage policies'.

By accepting the state control of wages, but then withdrawing from the flexible manning arrangements in force since 1970, the unions were making it 'difficult [for the authorities] to take action against the dockers under the new legislation,' 'Tribune' wrote.

'This provides for sanctions against strikers attempting to breach the £1 plus 4 per cent pay ceiling, but technically the dock-

ers are not seeking to breach the ceiling,' it went on.

In the first place, of course, this simply is not true. If the Pay Board chose to prosecute on the grounds that the withdrawal of co-operation was an indirect attempt to induce a breach of the Phase Two pay laws, their prosecution would almost certainly have succeeded.

The way to defeat the pay laws does not lie in being cleverer than the courts.

But, these speculations aside, what does 'Tribune' say about the main issue: that the docks leaders advocated acceptance of the Tory pay ceiling? It approves.

What is more, it then seeks to cover up for the right-wing and Stalinist London docks leadership by dressing up their capitulation as a 'subtle move'.

But it collapsed after just five days.

The whole policy of accepting the offer but then withdrawing from manning arrangements adopted in 1970 was a farce from

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

start to finish. It was nothing but the most pathetic cover-up for the spineless lack of leadership on the question of the pay laws.

'SUBTLE'

When the entirely bogus 'fight back' was revealed in practice for what it was, the dockers voted to return to work, which was regrettable but not surprising in the circumstances.

Their return to work, however, in no way implies satisfaction with the pay settlement or any willingness on their part to tolerate having the Tory government decide their wages.

On the contrary, the fact that they came out on strike in the first place, and that they were very hesitant about going back, shows that their fighting potential is still at a high peak.

What is totally lacking, however, is any confidence that the

fight they are being drawn into is being conducted on sound lines or being led by men who know what they are doing.

The same is true throughout industry, including the miners, gasworkers, hospital workers, Ford workers, and others.

'Tribune' adds to this confusion by its own completely unprincipled tail-ending of the dock leaders' line.

The International Socialists took exactly the same opportunist line.

REPUDIATED

They supported the docks leaders' action and were still approving it at the mass meeting five days later when the men repudiated it and voted to return to work.

Their paper, 'Socialist Worker' reported that the employers were considering making concessions on the 18-man committee's manning demands. This was totally misleading.

Then the IS permitted themselves a tiny doubt.

'The tactics of the negotiating committee in fighting the freeze under the guise of demanding higher manning levels are dubious.'

In other words, the IS tendency is not prepared to say whether the tactics were wrong or right. In other words, they are simply tail-ending the existing leadership.

And the IS supporters were still saying the officials' policies were correct when the mass meeting was held which called off the strike.

The Communist Party's 'Morning Star' completely failed to report the back-to-work mass meeting, which was one of the largest mass meetings seen on the docks for some time and one where dockers were clearly thinking deeply about the leadership they have been given.

The Stalinists fear such a reckoning, and would rather not report it.

Why the dockers ended their strike

BY IAN YEATS

WHY DID London's 8,000 dockers vote by two-to-one to call off their week-old strike on April 7? The men were publicly divided. Some resignedly raised their hands to go back. Others stood sullenly with their hands in their pockets.

What happened at that historic meeting remains the subject of heated discussions at home, in quayside sheds and throughout dockland.

But the insistence by union officials that the fight only involved London and that it was not in any sense political has spread confusion and led to a situation in which for the time being everybody is blaming everybody else.

One docker told me yesterday: 'The trouble was that the riverside men would not support us.'

Another added: 'They didn't want to come out at Tilbury. They are on £80 a week down there and they were afraid of losing money.'

'The Royals have always been the most militant,' said another, 'but they have been run down and down until everyone thinks they are finished.'

This mood of mutual recrimination and self-denigration flows directly from the failure of union leaders and the 18-man shop stewards' committee to unite dock workers with a common perspective.

Without it the different attitudes which go with the pay differentials existing between container berth crews and conventional cargo handlers have been allowed to develop.

Yet changes in the upper enclosed docks with the phasing out of conventional berths are one aspect of a modernization and efficiency process which will ultimately affect all London's dockers.

That the port employers and the PLA set a stony face against any attempt by dockers to boycott Clause 12 of the 'Green Book' covering labour flexibility is a sign of the times.

Heavily in debt and in danger of being priced out of the market, ports in the National Dock Labour Scheme have no choice under capitalism but to forge

ahead ruthlessly with the modernization and efficiency formula set out by Lord Devlin in his middle-1960s report.

Not only will the labour rundown at conventional berths continue, but it cannot be long before an all-out attack is mounted on the size of container gangs kept high until now by union pressure.

The London dockers' leaders climbed down on a pay fight with the Tory government by accepting the PLA's offer of £2.60 plus 4 per cent on differential payments in line with Phase Two.

Then they led their men into a hopeless fight on Clause 12—the very core of the port employers' plans to increase returns.

Many dockers now realize the extent of the betrayal perpetrated in the Jones-Aldington deal which ended last summer's dock strike against these proposals.

But lack of leadership has driven them temporarily back on themselves and, as one docker from the Royals put it: 'We've got resigned to what's happening.'

All the dockers we spoke to agreed that the responsibility for disunity between groups of port workers and between the ports themselves rested with local and national leadership.

'There should have been a national campaign on pay,' said one. 'Instead of that we've got one rate, Liverpool accepted another and Hull, I think, is different again.'

The crucial thing missing from all their comments was why transport union secretary Jack Jones, the national shop stewards or the 18-man committee



adopted the policies they did.

Many dockers know they were wrong and a number told me that nothing short of joint action by all the ports could lead to higher pay or a halt to Devlin.

The question they cannot, as yet, answer is how to get it.

They agreed, too, that without nationalization of all ports, private docks, like Felixstowe, would be used directly against them to intimidate militants.

Because of the policies of the leadership, only a few see that questions of pay, modernization and manning can only be resolved by a fight to mobilize the whole working class to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies including the nationalization of all ports.

As a docker from the Royals said: 'What can we do? We're on our own. Look what's happening to the hospital workers. It's up to the union leaders. They've got to act.'

Pickets at TV centre in pay protest

BBC maintenance engineers mounted pickets outside the Television Centre at Ealing and at Lime Grove, London, yesterday during a 48-hour protest strike.

About 200 engineers, members of the Association of Broadcasting Staffs, are striking over a regrading scheme which has

been in dispute for more than two years.

While they co-operated with a new flexibility of labour scheme, management refused to upgrade them as promised and have now broken off talks.

Pickets told Workers Press the strike had been supported 100 per cent.

Phase Two 'bonus' for those who worked

DOCKERS who broke last week's strike in London's enclosed docks are to receive not only their full pay from the employers—but the £2.60 pay increase which other men will only draw this week.

This emerged at a meeting between union officials and the port employers on Tuesday and

appears to have been let pass without a trace of embarrassment by the union men.

Proposals for a new pay structure in London's enclosed docks, based on the consolidation of bonuses for skilled men and extra payments for experience, are to be discussed by employers

and unions early next month.

The proposals first tabled by the employers last September, were revived just before the enclosed docks strike by Joe Payne of the ocean trades employers and trotted out again during the strike by John Lurch, of the Port of London Authority.

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TRADE WAR WILL TAKE ITS TOLL

BY IAN YEATS

American big business is getting the jitters about the future effect of the Common Market on trade, according to an article in the latest CBI Review.

Griffin Burnett claims that the recent enlargement of the community is almost certain to affect US agriculture adversely.

US exports to the UK are expected to go down as British farmers step up production in response to the higher prices agreed under the Common Agricultural Policy.

Common Market farmers will also now have a preferred position in relation to the UK.

Burnett adds that US sales of tobacco, fruit and vegetables are likely to be threatened by these preferential arrangements.

Not only will American farmers be hit in these ways, but Commonwealth countries denied special access to UK markets will now step up competition in third markets.

Anxiety

Burnett notes that industrial exports to the EEC will be more and more affected as the Market's three new members are incorporated within the customs union.

He says that gradual elimination of tariffs between the Six and the Three will increase intra-community trade at the expense of non-member suppliers.

Preferential agreements are for the time being the major source of anxiety for American

big business.

Preferences to Mediterranean countries have already put Florida citrus growers at a disadvantage.

And special arrangements for tropical producers in Africa and elsewhere in the British Commonwealth put south American firms at a disadvantage, thereby reducing their capacity to buy from the US.

Reverse preferences, whereby developing countries grant preferences to EEC manufactured goods, was a major element in the deterioration of the US trade deficit.

Worsened

The deficit worsened by \$1.7 billion *vis-a-vis* the developing countries.

Says Burnett: 'American business thus has strong reason to be concerned about the reverse preferences which threaten to weaken its ability to sell competitively in important parts of the developing world.'

Burnett warns that the enlarged Market also threatens the ability of American firms to compete in the communist countries of eastern Europe.

He says: 'If the EEC governments co-ordinate their efforts to expand exports to eastern Europe, American exporters will have great difficulty selling there without assistance from the US government.'

He concludes: 'An inward-looking EEC would not only adversely affect American business interests, it would pose a major obstacle to the maintenance of a viable world trading system.'



WHO'S THE 'SOCIALIST' ON THE PAY BOARD?

There are some glaring omissions in the official biographies put out by the government on the recently-named members of the Pay Board.

Take Derek Robinson. There is a 12-line paragraph on his background and the jobs he's held.

It tells us, for example, that he won a TUC scholarship to Ruskin College, Oxford, and that since 1961 he has been senior research officer at the Oxford University Institute of Economics and Statistics.

He was also an economic adviser to the Labour govern-

ment's Prices and Incomes Board until its collapse.

Nothing is stated, however, about the fact that he is a member of the Labour Party and is 'a convinced socialist'. (!)

Writing in the 'Scotsman' Michael Fry says Robinson accepted the job of deputy chairman of the Pay Board 'to make the Conservative incomes policy work'.

At 41, Robinson has been given an important post in Heath's corporate state plans.

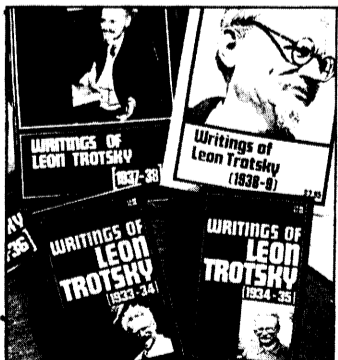
The person generally reckoned to have 'discovered' Robinson is none other than

Above: Derek Robinson (left) with the Pay Board chairman, Sir Frank Figgures. Robinson, a member of the Labour Party, was chosen for the job on the Pay Board by Frank Chapple.

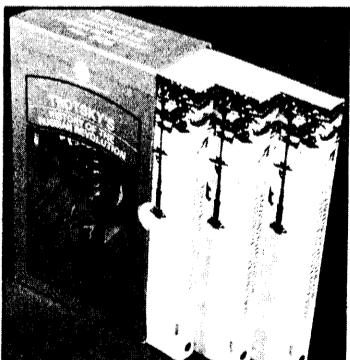
Barbara Castle, the Labour 'left'. Robinson's connections with the Labour and trade union bureaucrats are strong. In 1971 he presented the power workers' case to the first Wilberforce inquiry.

He was chosen for the job by Frank Chapple, the electricians' leader and the most right-wing member of the TUC General Council.

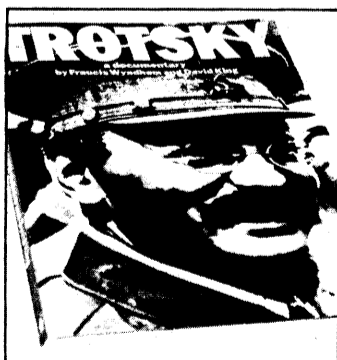
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TORIES SANCTION INCREASE IN PORT CHARGES

British port charges will go up on April 29. In the Port of Liverpool the increases in vessel berth charges will be 10 per cent.

The rise in port charges have been sanctioned by the Tory government despite the fact that the Phase Two laws are supposed to outlaw such increases.

The increases will be passed directly on to the consumers.

Dues on foreign imports and exports passing through Liverpool will rise by 20 per cent generally.

Conservancy charges, which have to be levied for the maintenance and dredging of the approaches to all ports on the Mersey, are to go up by an average of 17 per cent.



A spokesman for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company said: 'We have discussed the new charges with the shipowners' special working party on port charges.'

'We would like to have given customers longer notice, although increases were forecast earlier this year.'

'Unfortunately, due to the company's financial situation and the fact that the increases have already been frozen for some four months, urgent implementation is necessary.'

STALIN'S ATTACK ON FINLAND

The war between the Soviet Union and Finland in the winter of 1939-1940 need never have been fought according to a remark made by Finnish President, Urho Kekkonen, during Nikolai Podgorny's recent visit to Helsinki.

He suggested that a bilateral agreement could have been worked out making the war unnecessary. The Soviet Union did, indeed, offer Finland a defence pact in April 1938 and Stalin renewed the offer in October 1939.

By that time Stalin had entered into the notorious pact of August 1939 with Hitler Germany and had joined in the partition of Poland.

What Stalin wanted from the Finns in 1939 was the cession of a number of islands in the Gulf of Finland and the right to lease territory, including Petsamo, Finland's only ice free port in the Baltic, and the Hango peninsula.

Stalin feared an enemy attack on Leningrad through the Baltic and from Finnish territory. He posed the question of the defence of the Soviet Union in purely military terms. He sought by diplomatic means, backed up by the threat of force, to impose a cession of territory upon the Finns which aroused intense national feelings.

Stalin was unable to appeal to the working class to defend the Soviet Union by revolutionary means. His methods alienated millions of workers, beginning with those in Finland itself who might otherwise have defended the Soviet Union in the best possible way — by overthrowing their own reactionary rulers.

After weeks of negotiations the Finns refused to accept Stalin's conditions in their entirety, the Hango peninsula being the main stumbling block.

Stalin ordered the Red Army to invade Finland without warning on November 30, 1939, only a few days after the Finnish delegation had left Moscow to Stalin's 'Best of luck' and Molotov's 'Till we meet again'.

The attack proved to be a disastrous adventure. The Red Army had been deprived of its best leaders by Stalin's bloody purges in 1938 and was still demoralized. Proper preparations had not been made for a winter campaign. The puppet 'Finnish Democratic Government' set up on occupied territory won little support inside Finland.

As Trotsky put it: 'The Soviet-Finnish War revealed graphically and completely that within gunshot of Leningrad, the cradle of the October Revolution, the present regime of the USSR is incapable of exercising an attractive force.'

By March, 1940 Finland could fight on no longer and Stalin brought the war to an end.

Coming immediately after the switch from the policy of 'collective security' to a pact with Hitler and the partition of Poland, the invasion of Finland confused the working class in Europe and played into the hands of reaction. It demonstrated that the bureaucracy 'defends itself at the expense of the USSR and at the expense of the world proletariat', as Trotsky said.

That remains the chief lesson of Stalin's attack on Finland in 1939.

BY JOHN SPENCER

President Nixon has sent his aide General Alexander Haig to Indo-China with instructions to try and save the shaky Cambodian dictatorship of General Lon Nol.

Haig arrived in the Far East amid speculation that the United States would have to mount a big airlift of supplies to Lon Nol's capital, Phnom Penh.

Phnom Penh has been cut off from the outside world, apart from the battered remnants of a river convoy which was ambushed on its way up the Mekong.

Petrol is rationed, basic staple foodstuffs are running out and the government has declared a state of national danger which allows the army to order the summary execution of opponents.

But nobody in Phnom Penh is convinced that these measures will save the president. Even his court astrologer is in prison because, like every other astrologer in the capital, he predicted Lon Nol's downfall.

US Defence Secretary Elliot Richardson and Admiral Thomas Moorer, head of the joint chiefs of staff, say they foresee no immediate military defeat of the Phnom Penh government.

But at the same time their subordinates in the Pentagon privately describe the situation in Cambodia as 'deteriorating' and are considering desperate measures.

Cambodia is not covered by the Vietnam ceasefire treaty and though there are no American ground troops — apart from the inevitable battalions of 'advisers' — the US Air Force is very active there.

Officially, the air force operations are secret, because, according to Richardson, the information might give 'possible advantage . . . to the other side'.

Pentagon officials have said off the record that about 60 B52 bombers and 150 tactical fighter-bombers are operating over Cambodia every day. This is a considerable increase on the previous level of air strikes.

The same bombers were once used primarily to attack North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front supply lines along the Ho Chi Minh trail in north-east Cambodia.

But increasingly the bom-

LON NOL'S REGIME IS BEING ROUTED



bers have been diverted to undertake saturation bombing of camps and troop concentrations of the supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the liberation armies.

Sihanouk, a former god-king who resigned his throne and his divine status to become prime minister, was deposed in 1970 by Nol and Sirik Matak, both American agents.

Sihanouk's overthrow, carried out with funds supplied by the Central Intelligence Agency, was the prelude to the devastating—and unsuccessful — invasion of Cambodia in September 1970.

Not only did this invasion fail to destroy the bases in Cambodia used by the Vietnamese National Liberation Front, it also united the entire Cambodian peasantry against the US-backed regime.

Sihanouk's peasant armies are strangling Lon Nol by severing his supply lines and cutting off the capital. The Sihanoukists say they could have taken the city at any time in the past 12 months had they not feared the heavy air bombardment which would certainly have followed.

Now all seven roads as well as the Mekong River water route leading to Phnom Penh

Lon Nol, the CIA's man in Cambodia. He was installed in power by a coup which ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the present liberation armies.

are cut and the regime is taking desperate measures to defend itself. In a statement issued last week the Cambodian liberation forces said they had launched their final offensive.

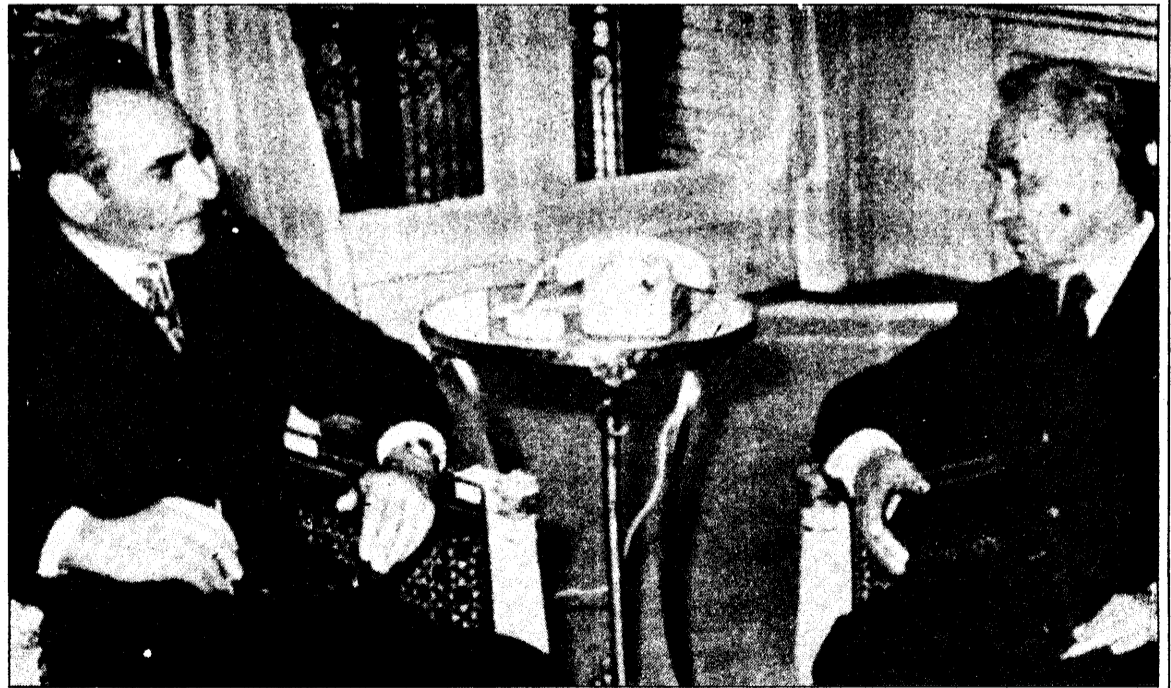
'The arch-rotten Lon Nol regime is being routed,' said Chau Seng, a spokesman for Prince Sihanouk. 'Our forces have launched the decisive and ultimate offensive which will lead to a complete and early victory.'

KREMLIN BOASTS GOOD FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SHAH

The Soviet bureaucracy is not ashamed of its ties with the Shah of Iran and his blood-thirsty regime.

On the contrary, the bureaucrats boast about it. Their propaganda hand-out 'Soviet News' carried the headline 'Alexei Kosygin Pays Friendly Visit To Iran' a couple of weeks ago.

It quoted the communiqué issued at the end of this visit, during which Kosygin opened the Isfahan steelworks, built with generous Soviet aid.



The Shah of Iran with Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin on Kosygin's visit to Iran a couple of weeks ago, where he declared 'friendship and good relations' with the Shah's blood-thirsty regime.

'Friendship and good-neighbourly relations constitute a permanent policy in Soviet-Iranian relations; they are fully in the interests of the peoples of both countries and serve the cause of peace and international security,' the communiqué said.

It expressed satisfaction that

the positions of the Soviet Union and Iran are close or coincide on many international problems, noting in particular that both believe the time is ripe for a world disarmament conference.

The Shah, who has just ordered \$2,000m-worth of arms from the United States

and plans to buy other weapons from Britain and West Germany, must have signed this phrase with tongue in cheek.

But perhaps he's only buying all those weapons in order to secure a grandstand seat at the world disarmament conference!



COUNCIL ELECTIONS: THROW THE TORIES OUT!

BY JACK GALE

Rents, rates, mortgages and soaring prices are the issues behind today's elections for the new county councils in England and Wales.

The second stage of the Tory rent Act comes into effect this month, putting many council house rents up by a further 50p. Rate revaluations will mean higher payments of 50p a week for some householders.

Food costs have gone up by £2 a week for the average working-class family since the middle of January and are continuing to rise. Mortgage interest rates are up to 9.5 per cent and will rise still more in July. Many people struggling to buy their house already have to pay £88

a month, with more to come. The average existing house in London and the south-east now costs £12,000 — exactly double the existing price in June 1970, when the Tory government took office.

Nobody earning less than £70 a week and without a substantial deposit in addition could possibly buy a house in that area at today's prices. Those forced to rent private accommodation frequently have to endure overcrowding, lack of basic amenities and exorbitant rents.

In areas of acute housing shortage, people on the lowest wages are paying the highest rents for the worst accommodation. Hardship, insecurity and poverty are growing in working-class areas. In January a Medical Research report revealed that 500,000 old people

were living in rooms so cold, their lives were in danger. In February, 233 out of 569 children examined in Birmingham showed signs of rickets — the traditional disease of poverty and under-nourishment.

Last year the official figure of statutory homeless in the Greater London area was 2,978 families — 12,888 persons. And this accounts only for those in official council 'temporary accommodation'. Those turned away are not included.

The latest figures, for 1971, show that 9,794 families applied for such accommodation and only 3,194 families were admitted. So the actual figures for homeless families in the Greater London area today is in the region of 10,000 families — some 36,000 people.

But the recently-published census report revealed that in the Greater London area alone there are 100,000 dwellings standing empty.

A Labour-controlled Greater London Council could therefore solve the problem of homelessness immediately by requisitioning every one of these empty dwellings and putting the homeless in them.

(A similar situation exists outside London. The only figure available is that of people in temporary council accommodation. In county councils and county boroughs outside London there are 2,297 families — 12,034 persons — in such institutions.)

This worsening of working-class conditions is the result of deliberate government policy, backed up by state control of wages.

In today's county council elections, the Tories must be decisively rejected in every area. Leaving out Aldermanic positions, Labour needs to win 49 of the new Greater London Council's 92 seats to gain control of the 632 square mile area, which covers one-sixth of the British electorate

and has an annual budget of £750m.

The Tories have controlled the old GLC for six years.

Outside London, Labour already controls 62 out of 83 county boroughs.

Now, the reshaped county councils will 'shadow' existing authorities until April 1974, when they will assume full powers.

There will be six huge metropolitan county councils, and 47 non-metropolitan county councils.

Areas which Labour could win include the Tyne and Wear Metropolitan County; the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland and Cumbria; South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Humberside; the West Midlands, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire; and Greater Manchester, the second largest area after London, taking in 33 parliamentary constituencies.

But since the last Labour government, by its total lack of socialist policies, opened the door to the Tories, section after section of the working class has gone into battle against the Heath government



Soaring food prices, rent increases, housing conditions—issues behind local elections.

to see its struggles headed off by the leadership. Rents are going up today because thousands of council tenants who were prepared to defy the rent Act were abandoned by the Labour Party as first the national leadership disowned them and then one Labour Council after another capitulated.

When the Labour Party's Greater London Council manifesto was launched earlier this year, the Labour Group leader, Sir Reginald Goodwin, insisted that a Labour Council would implement the Tory rent laws. He, along with others, threatened to resign if opposition to the law was not dropped from the manifesto.

Yet without a fight against the Tory government on the basis of socialist policies, the working class would gain nothing whatever from returning Labour candidates.

Labour voters must demand that Labour councils immediately expropriate all empty houses and office blocks.

Labour councillors must be elected and then forced to end all co-operation with Tory policies. Labour councils should cease to implement the

Tory rent Act and Tory rate increases on householders. All rented property should be taken over by Labour councils, as well as speculative property developments. The profiteers should be exposed and driven out.

Labour councils should demonstrate how cheap and efficient services could be provided. For example, since London Transport was nationalized in 1948, over £80m profit over working expenses has been recorded.

Yet the service is inefficient, constantly in debt to the tune of millions of pounds, wages and conditions for those employed in it are poor, and the roads remain jammed. This is due to capital charges, interest charges and other burdens foisted on the industry for the benefit of private enterprise.

An exposure of Tory profiteering at the expense of the working class would intensify anger at the Heath government over wages, jobs, housing and prices. And a resounding defeat for the Tories today would also be a warning to the Labour leaders.

The return of Labour to power in the county councils mandated to end homelessness, high rents and high rates on householders, is linked to the fight to bring down the Tory government and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Such policies must include the nationalization of the land, the building industry, the banks and the finance houses without compensation and under workers' control.

Labour MPs and councillors who refuse to fight for such policies and who insist on implementing Tory policies against the working class must be driven out of the Labour Party.

- Vote Labour today!
- Defeat the Tories!
- Drive out the profiteers and speculators!
- Solve the housing problem by compulsorily requisitioning empty dwellings and offices!
- Lift the rents and rates burden!
- Fight for a socialist policy to bring down the Tory government!



CHEAP LABOUR, PROFITS — ECONOMICS OF APARTHEID

BY TOM KEMP

International capitalism, and Britain in particular, have always had a particular interest in the development of the South African economy as a source of gold, the basis of its monetary system, and of super-profits derived from the exploitation of unlimited supplies of African labour.

South African economic development began with the mineral discoveries of the 1870s and 1880s. From then until the present day it has been indissociably linked to the mining of gold, diamonds and other minerals which brings together the richest and most advanced organs of finance capital with the most exploited labour force in the world.

The South African mining industry has always depended upon a supply of cheap African labour recruited on a temporary basis from the tribal areas in the country as well as from neighbouring countries. The workers have been forced into the mines by the poverty of the land left them by the white settlers and by the need to find money to pay the poll tax and meet other payments.

There are now nearly 500,000 African mineworkers, paid the lowest possible wages, herded into compounds and working underground for 60 hours a week under conditions of enormous danger and hardship. The exploitation of these workers has been the basis of the wealth of the big mining companies. After a spell in the mines of perhaps 18 months the Africans return to the reserves and their places are constantly being taken by new layers of young men.

To discipline this huge labour force, to harness it to the needs of capital on the most advantageous terms and to provide permanency in the operation of the mines, the mineowners also hire white workers, about 50,000 strong. These workers are highly paid and there is a rigid division between the white workers and the black, even though they may be doing similar work.

Wages and working conditions for the mineworkers were laid down by the powerful Chamber of Mines on a uniform basis—the minimum outlay necessary to produce the effort required. Movement of all African workers is controlled by Pass Laws, first introduced in the mining areas in 1857. They became a systematic means not only for controlling movement, but also for keeping down wages.

By a combination of measures of this kind the African tribesman was proletarianized in the most barbarous way to suit the insatiable needs of finance capital for profit.

As an official report put it in 1903: 'The only pressing needs of a savage are those of food and sex, and the conditions of native life in Africa are such that these are, as a rule, easily supplied.' It was therefore necessary to ensure that even these basic needs could not be satisfied unless the Black African was forced to work for the mine-owners.

Another official commission in 1941 said:

'The goldmining industry of the Witwatersrand has indeed been fortunate in having secured, for its unskilled labour, native peasants who have been prepared to come to the Witwatersrand for periods of labour at comparatively low rates of pay. But for this fortunate circumstance, the industry could never have

reached its present stage of development. . . .

It was indeed 'fortunate' that the white ruling class had a large supply of cheap African labour at its disposal, but it was a result of conscious design, not of chance. Only by forcing Africans into 'reserves' where the land was poor, preventing them from acquiring land in white areas and forcing them to pay money taxes were these 'fortunate circumstances' created.

The big employers and the labour aristocracy of white workers found a common interest in maintaining a colour bar which was the forerunner of apartheid. Low wages suited the mine-owners and they were willing to return part of the surplus value extracted from the black workers to the whites in return for their support in maintaining the system of cheap African labour.

£25 A YEAR WORKER

African young men were forced into the mines to earn money to keep their people from starvation. While they worked for a pittance the capitalists in the gold-mining industry made enormous profits. From 1911 to 1940 profits from gold mining in the money of the time amounted to £538m. The African worker averaged about £25 a year.

In the 1930s, when the rest of the capitalist world was depressed South Africa underwent a boom fuelled by the high price of gold.

Gold-mining is once again booming with the rise in the price of gold. Pre-tax profits of the big gold-mining companies amounted to nearly £300m last year.

Those millions made from gold-mining flowed and still flow into the coffers of a few

giant concerns such as the Anglo-American Corporation, Rand Mines or Consolidated Goldfields which have close and intimate ties with the City of London and international finance.

The wages of African miners have virtually stood still for decades and in real terms they receive no more than their great grandfathers in the 1880s. Almost 20,000 have perished in mine accidents. Countless thousands have returned to the reserves to die slowly from silicosis. One of the advantages of migratory labour is that the mining companies have been able to avoid obligation to Africans whose lives have been ruined by work underground.

As Adam Raphael put it in 'The Guardian' (April 5):

'It is, after all, a remarkable achievement even by South African standards in an industry making enormous profits and employing more than 500,000 workers, to prevent any real wage increases for 80 years.'

Some of the gold-mining magnates, notably Harry Oppenheimer of the £1,000m Anglo-American Corporation, now favour a more stable work force of married Africans who can acquire higher skills. This was rejected by Dr Verwoerd in 1952 on the grounds that the result would be the establishment of what he called 'a series of native towns' contrary to the apartheid policy.

There has been no change in official policy on this score. Oppenheimer and others like him oppose the rigid apartheid policy because they view it as a barrier to the formation of a modern type of industrial proletariat equipped with higher skills and thus capable of producing more surplus value.

The Afrikaaner Nationalists who legislated the full apartheid programme of racial segregation did so because they fear that greater equality and opportunity for the black workers would raise wages on the farms, which depend on cheap labour, and threaten the position of the privileged white minority. Their racialism, al-

Above: Squalid living conditions for black workers are part and parcel of the rule of apartheid upon which all economic relationships in South Africa depend.

though imbued with a particular ideological fervour, has economic roots.

Gold-mining still plays a crucial role in the South African economy which supplies about 80 per cent of the newly-mined gold in the capitalist world. In recent decades, however, there has been considerable industrial development based on the creation of a black industrial proletariat at wage levels not very different to those paid in the mines.

In the wake of gold-mining came the development of transport and the expansion of the home market for manufactured goods. Gold and diamond-mining directly encouraged the foundation of industries producing explosives (South Africa has one of the largest explosive factories in the world, partly owned by ICI), mining equipment, cables, protective clothing and footwear.

Mining of other minerals was also encouraged, not only diamonds and platinum, but also industrial minerals such as iron-ore and coal. South Africa is now a big coal-producer and, moreover, thanks to cheap labour, is beginning to compete on the international market. A contract has recently been won to supply South African coal for a Hamburg power station starting in 1975.

However, the development of manufacturing industry in South Africa has lagged behind gold-mining and it has always owed a good deal to government initiative. The home market was and remains restricted by the low purchasing power of the mass of the African inhabitants. The higher incomes of the whites in the period before the last war tended to be spent on imported manufactured goods.

The state was anxious to develop manufacturing industry for a number of reasons. In the 1920s there was a

serious 'poor white' problem of jobless people from the veldt farms for whom only employment in industry seemed to offer a way of escape.

South African governments were also concerned about what might happen if the supplies of gold and diamonds gave out or became too costly to extract at world prices. This also made industrial diversification desirable. The curtailment of imports during World War II gave a fillip to local industry. A period of rapid industrial growth began which is still going on. The 'poor white problem' has practically disappeared.

The Nationalist regime which came into power in 1948, backed by the Afrikaansers, has been particularly concerned with developing industry while raising the barriers between black and white still higher. This has led to a series of contradictions aggravating those to be expected under capitalism and only kept in check by the continued expansion of the economy as a whole—which was kept going by the expanding world demand for gold, diamonds and other primary products which South Africa produces.

Among the economic consequences of apartheid—which supplies cheap labour to the mines—is a limitation of the home market which is bound to hold back capitalist industrialization. Another is that it excludes Africans from doing certain kinds of jobs and, more particularly, segregates non-whites in Bantustans and other areas designated for them.

The participation of the state in industrial development in the past 25 years has been crucial. The iron and steel industry, with an output of about 5 million tons per year, is state run. A number of other important concerns are wholly or partly state-owned. The Industrial Development Corporation, a state body, has holdings in a number of major capitalist undertakings.

If state undertakings, like roads, railways, harbours, airways, power generation and so on are included, the total state sector must be responsible for about 40 per cent of gross capital formation in industry.

South African capitalism has always had close international connections, particularly with Britain. British capital is represented heavily in mining of all kinds and the close connections between the London and Johannesburg Stock Exchanges have survived South Africa's departure from the Commonwealth in 1961. British capitalism remains, as it always has been, a main beneficiary of the apartheid economy.

To keep growth going, to overcome the serious contradictions produced by apartheid, the South African government has had to attract further draughts of outside capital, technology and know-how. It has done so by offering foreign businesses wishing to set up plants in South Africa many advantages in the way of investment allowances, grants and tariff protection.

PROSPECTS OF PROFITS

Without these attractions, offered by the Industrial Development Corporation, and the prospect of cheap labour, it is doubtful whether many of the multi-national firms, British and American, would have thought it worthwhile to establish branch plants in South Africa in view of the small home market and the political risks involved.

To stave off economic collapse, the apartheid regime of the Nationalist Party has been forced to press ahead with its industrialization programme. This is the only way in which prospects of profits can be opened up for white capitalists and keep their support for



'Europeans Only' — a scene in South Africa that speaks for itself. Above: African miners, leaving the pit-head. Mining has always depended on a supply of cheap African labour recruited from tribal country areas.

racial segregation while creating highly-paid jobs (mainly executive and white collar) for the white workers and middle class.

Foreign firms attracted in by the IDC have been directed mainly to 'border' areas where they can employ the cheap labour from the reserves. But industrialization cannot take place without the creation of a proletariat—increasingly composed of black workers.

Unlike the mines, modern industry cannot operate with a transitory labour force. It must have a committed proletariat, equipped with certain levels of education and skill. Apartheid denies the right of Africans to acquire these skills, or at least to receive the same wage as white workers even if they have them.

Hence industrial development exposes new contradictions. Black workers in industry and in construction are being paid wages completely out of line with the cost of providing themselves and their families with a decent level of living.

The revolt of the black

working class is a new phenomenon in South Africa because never before has this class been so large or so concentrated in big enterprises and construction sites. It is a challenge to the whole apartheid concept of segregated blacks living in their own 'homelands' on some sort of economically self-supporting basis.

It prepares for the growth of a political consciousness which goes way beyond the limits of the old black nationalism inspired and led mainly by the small black middle class.

The apartheid regime itself has been forced to accept the existence of a black proletariat living in or near big urban centres in 'white' areas.

These black workers, after the pattern established in the mining industry, still earn only a fifth or a sixth of those of white workers. At the same time, growing scarcity of labour has meant that more black workers have been doing semi-skilled or skilled work. It would suit the interests of some employers to widen the jobs available to blacks and to pay a higher wage to attract

them and create a more stable and contented labour force.

The granting of wage increases, modest as yet, to black workers under the pressure of strikes, and the raising of the question of the payment of wages at starvation rates by British companies operating in South Africa in the Press has thrown light on the contradictory and explosive character of South African economic development.

What cannot be tolerated by the regime, or by the capitalist interests in mining and industry which support it, is the end of white supremacy upon which all the economic relationships in the Union depend. It is liberal hypocrisy to call for the granting of a few crumbs to the black workers: the return to them, in effect, of only a tiny part of the value which they create with their labour power.

The ending of white hegemony and apartheid requires the taking of power by the working class. It cannot take place in any way other than revolution in which the black workers must play the leading role.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

BROKEN OATH

Roman Catholicism has an answer for every situation. The scene is Jacksonville in Florida. A young man with a gun entered a religious bookshop. He asked the attendant to hand over the money and then said: 'Swear by the Blessed Virgin Mary that you won't tell on me.'

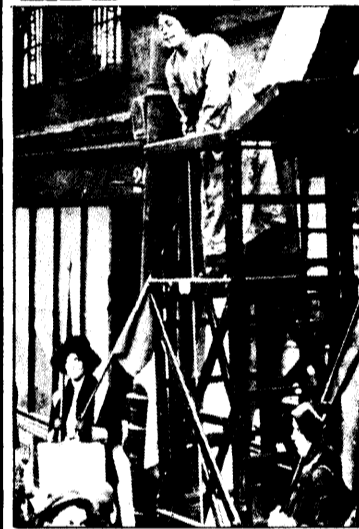
The lady behind the counter handed him \$70 and solemnly swore her oath. But the moment the youth left, Margaret Davis (67) raced to the priest and told him what had happened. She then raced to the confessional to explain why she had broken her oath.

She explained: 'I decided to back out of my promise not to tell on him because I felt it might help him if he was arrested.'

OF INTEREST

'Sir, Having spent some 18 years in Parliament it has never crossed my mind that my views on any given subject were of any interest to anyone.' Sir Henry d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, Conservative MP for Walsall South, in a letter to 'The Times'.

'LIBERATION'



Sylvia Pankhurst, jailed by Tories.

May Hobbes has given vent to her political views in the ultra-Tory 'Yorkshire Evening Post'. The main topic of a 'Post' interview with her was women's lib, of which she is an enthusiast, and 'the left'.

Women's lib, she said, 'is not like some political groups I could mention who came and tried to boss us around and tell us how to run our own affairs'.

One group Mrs Hobbes does not mind however, is the Communist Party, which she joined last year after a rather erratic association with 'other groups'.

Later in the interview she does give a clue as to why she should feel at home with the Stalinists and the reformist protestors.

'My kind of liberation is perfectly possible under capitalism,' she admitted. 'All this talk of bloody revolution is just a load of nonsense. It won't happen. I think there is room for all political groups within the movement, but that it should be non-sectarian.'

'If Tory ladies want to join us, let them, as long as they are prepared to work and not just sit around being patronizing.'

Sylvia Pankhurst and some of the outstanding leaders of the suffragette movement would not, we are sure, agree with Mrs Hobbes. The ruling class, Tory ladies and all, jailed them for fighting to expropriate capitalism, the system that reduces all workers, male and female, to dependence of wage slavery.

All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

KINGSTON: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. The Norbiton Hotel, Clifton Road (off Kingston Hill). 'Make Scanlon retract! No collaboration with the Tory government!'

CROYDON: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. 'The fight against Stalinism'.

BERMONDSEY: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. 'Havelock Arms', Balaclava Street, off Southwark Park Road. 'Build Councils of Action. Make the Tories Resign'.

WILLESDEN: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. Labour and Trades Hall, High Road, NW10. 'Tory Law and Order' — Preparation for dictatorship'.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party'.

CROYDON: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'The fight against Stalinism'.

EAST LONDON: Monday April 16, 8 p.m. Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, E.3. 'Fight rising rents and prices. Build Councils of Action'.

WATFORD: Monday April 16, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall, Woodford Road. 'Build the revolutionary party'.

TOTTENHAM: Tuesday April 17, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', High Road, near White Hart Lane. 'Make Scanlon retract'.

CRAWLEY: Tuesday April 17, 8 p.m. AEU Hall, Robinson Road. 'Make Scanlon Retract'.

ACTON: Tuesday April 17, 8 p.m. Six Bells, High Street, W.3. 'Make Scanlon retract'.

PADDINGTON: Tuesday April 17, 8 p.m. 'Prince of Wales', corner of Harrow Road and Western Road. 'Make Scanlon withdraw his proposals. No collaboration with the Tories'.

WOOLWICH: Wednesday April 18, 8 p.m. 'Castle', Powis Street, E.18. 'No collaboration with the Pay Board'.

WALTHAMSTOW: Wednesday April 18, 8 p.m. 'The Bell', Hoe Street. 'TUC must call a General Strike'.

FULHAM: Thursday April 19, 8 p.m. 'The Swan', Fulham Broadway, S.W.6. 'No collaboration with the Pay Board'.

TODAY'S TV



BBC 1

12.25 Disc a dawn. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Mr. Benn. 1.45 Fanny and Johnnie Craddock invite . . . 2.05 And Teddy came too. 2.35 Collector's pieces. 2.50 Cinema now. 3.15 Parents and children. 3.40 Herdwick. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Brady kids. 5.40 Sir Prancelot. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.45 TOP OF THE POPS.
7.15 Z CARS. Bowman.
8.00 CHAPLIN SUPERCLOWN: 'The Bank'. New versions re-assembled from vaults in Europe and America of Chaplin's outstanding comedies.
8.30 THE BURKE SPECIAL.
9.00 NEWS. Weather.
9.25 MENACE. 'The Sitting Target'. With Hilda Barry, Eric Lander.
10.40 ELECTION 73. Battle for London and the New Counties.
1.00 Weather.

ITV

9.30 A season of Gilbert and Sullivan. 10.20 Cartoon. 10.30 At your service. 11.00 Wild life theatre. 11.25 Galloping gourmet. 11.50 Cartoon. 12.05 Hickory house. 12.25 Magic fountain. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Indoor league. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 2.50 Racing from Newmarket. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 The Barkleys. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.30 CROSSROADS.
6.55 FILM: 'Johnny Reno'. Dana Andrews, Jane Russell, Lyle Bettger. Western.
8.30 THIS WEEK.
9.00 DOCUMENTARY: 'Olga'. Olga Korbut, Russian gymnast.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 A EUROPEAN JOURNEY. From the Baltic to the Adriatic.
11.00 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.
11.15 LONDON VOTES. GLC 73.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

6.40 WORKING WITH YOUTH.
7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.
7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.
7.35 THEIR WORLD. Elephant Seals.
8.00 EUROPA. Yanks Go Home! American soldiers in West Germany.
8.30 BEL-AMI. Suzanne.
9.15 BELOW STAIRS. Times Remembered. Ruth Bailey, housekeeper to psychologist C. J. Jung.
9.25 HORIZON. Red Sea Coral and the Crown of Thorns.
10.15 STEELEYE SPAN. In concert.
10.45 SWAMP MUSIC. By Snoo Wilson.
11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.
11.45 REAL TIME.



Chaplin Super Clown stars in 'The Bank' on BBC1 at 8 p.m. On independent channels at 9 p.m. Granada cameras follow a day in the life of Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Serenade. 3.50 London. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.55 Tomfoolery show. 5.20 Doctor in charge. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Scotland Yard mysteries. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Man in the Attic'. 8.30 London. 10.33 Scales of justice. 11.00 European journey. 11.30 Towards the year 2000. 12.00 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 10.15 Vision USA. 10.40 Danger man. 11.35 Dr Simon Locke. 12.05 London. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 Diary. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 11.30 Report. 11.55 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.55 Paulus. 10.10 Yoga. 10.35 Film: 'Who's Minding the Store?' 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 2.50 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Doctor in charge. 7.05 Film: 'Sea Wife'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Theatre of stars. 12.00 News. 12.15 Election results. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 10.00 Sesame street. 11.00 Sara and Hoppity. 11.10 Fittipaldi file. 11.35 Jake's scene. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 2.50 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.05 Film: 'Man-fish'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Spyforce.

11.30 Election special. 12.30 Weather. HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35 Cantamil. 4.50-5.20 Rovers. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 11.30 Elections. 12.00 Etholiadau lleol 1973. 12.30 Weather. HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Sport West.

ANGLIA: 9.30 Oil. 9.50 Cartoons. 10.00 Paulus. 10.10 Edgar Wallace. 11.05 Galloping gourmet. 11.35 Jake's scene. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 2.50 London. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 Merrie melodies. 5.20 Lucy. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Last Child'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Bygones. 11.05 European journey. 11.35 Baron. 12.30 Living word.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 Film: 'Emergency'. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 2.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 Cool million. 8.30 London. 11.00 Angling. 11.30 Elections. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.35 Jake's scene. 12.05 London. 1.29 News. 1.30 London. 2.00 Women. 2.30 Romper room. 2.50 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 Primus. 4.50 Joe 90. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Finders Keepers'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Book of Kells. 11.25 Avengers.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 Ed Allen time. 9.55 Play better tennis. 10.20 Whicker. 11.00 Cartoon. 11.15 We need each other. 12.05 London. 4.25 Houndcats. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 Doris Day. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Family Secret'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Sport. 11.35 Election special. 12.15 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 Enchanted house. 9.40 Wildlife theatre. 10.05 Film: 'Tarzan and the jungle boy'. 11.40 Pete Smith. 11.50 Hammy Hamster. 12.05 London. 4.25 Thunderbirds. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.30 Partridge family. 7.00 Film: 'The Warriors'. 8.30 London. 11.00 What the papers say. 11.20 FBI. 12.05 Election results.

SCOTTISH: 9.55 Seven seas. 10.45 Primus. 11.10 Fittipaldi file. 11.35 Jake's scene. 12.05 London. 2.30 Date-line. 2.50 London. 4.15 Jolificu inn. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 Film: 'The Family Secret'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Angling. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Edgar Wallace.

GRAMPIAN: 11.15 Strange report. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Skippy. 2.30 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Mystery Street'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Police news. 11.05 Name of the game. 12.30 Meditation.

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Delivery stewards paid for talks

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THE TWO-DAY strike by 65 car delivery drivers from Silcock and Collings, Coventry, has had a successful outcome.

The strike broke out when the company declared it would not pay wages to stewards when they were in negotiations with management.

The drivers went back to work on Tuesday pending an inquiry between top-level management and the Transport and General Workers' Union officials and stewards.

One of the stewards, Mr G.

Weston, who the company refused to pay for three days during depot negotiations, told Workers Press:

'The result of the inquiry is that the firm has now agreed to pay all the money owing to the shop stewards. In future all negotiations will be paid in the normal manner.'

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

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'Blackboard Jungle' from Black Paper man

A FRESH Tory onslaught on 'liberals' and 'progressives' in education was launched yesterday by Dr Rhodes Boyson, a Tory candidate and a headmaster at Highbury Grove Comprehensive in North London.

In a series of articles on 'Discipline in Schools', Boyson called on education authorities to back teachers in dealing with the minority of 'wreckers' in the

classroom. 'England is not as far from America's Blackboard Jungle as some people would like to think, and the doubt whether local education authorities will support firm action to restrain wreckers, brings it nearer daily.'

Boyson, a contributor to the notorious Black Papers on education, said: 'I have seen children terrified by schoolboy muggings

and a whole class with razor blade cuts on their hands to show they have paid their weekly protection money.'

No mention appears in his articles of the Tory policies towards education: cutting the school-building programme which keeps class numbers high, increases the price of school meals and ending free milk for children over seven.



BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 3,000 workers in the small Black Country town of Darlaston are locked in struggle against their employers — Rubery Owen, Guest, Keen Nettlefold (GKN) and Wilkins and Mitchell.

The decision by these powerful groups to launch an attack on Darlaston workers is undoubtedly linked with the introduction of Heath's state pay laws and the retreat by the trade union leaders.

At Rubery Owen's Seven-Acre site, 2,500 workers are out on strike with 200 more at the nearby King's Hill factory.

The strike, now in its second week, is, according to Doug Peech, Transport and General Workers' Union convenor, 'over the right to maintain free collective bargaining'.

The strike began on Monday, April 2, when the management attempted to by-pass established negotiating procedures in an effort to end piecework and substitute a new Measured-Day Work-type of payments system.

Had the attempt been suc-

cessful, it would have meant wage reductions of between £6 and £9 a week for many pieceworkers.

It appears that management decided to prolong the negotiations on the present wage claim—which has taken the form of a claim for £2.52 for all workers—until the Tory pay laws became operative.

Then they sent each worker a letter advising them that from April 2 they would be on the new wage structure arrangements. In that letter Rubery Owen director Mr John Owens said:

'The present payment system cannot continue. I feel our proposals are fair.'

Pickets outside Rubery Owen's Booth Street gate, Darlaston.

Union rights fight at Rubery Owen

(As 'fair' as the document preceding the Industrial Relations Act called 'A Fair Deal at Work' and the slogan preceding the Housing Finance Act calling for 'fair rents'.)

Before circulating the company letter he told the 'Wolverhampton Express and Star' (March 30):

'Some people have got to realize that they are not going to get as much in the future as they have in the past.

'It's about time we sorted out the bloody mess the wages structure in this company has got into.'

In the two-weeks of the strike, the company position has not changed. Mr F. Shaw, another director, told the same newspaper on April 10:

'We have serious anom-

lies in our pay structure. There would be no useful purpose in having a meeting unless there is an understanding from the union's negotiating committee that any agreement we reached should have as its prime objective the putting right of these anomalies.'

In pursuit of its wage-cutting objective, Rubery Owen has caused massive disruption to the Midlands car industry: there are already lay-offs at Rover's, Solihull; Jaguar and Massey Ferguson in Coventry, and it also threatens production at the Austin Morris plant at Longbridge, Birmingham. A continued stoppage would also halt production at Ford and Chrysler plants.

Despite prevarications by local union officials, the Rubery workers know they are in a struggle which has enormous implications for the future of their living standards.

They are mounting pickets at all gates on the Seven Acre site.

One picket at the Booth Street gate told Workers Press:

'We are not just simply fighting on an economic issue. It's a fight for basic trade union principles. It's a fight for free negotiations.'

'What happens here will have its effect throughout industry in this area.'

Lunching with corporatists... again

VICTOR FEATHER will be lunching sumptuously with the bourgeoisie again today at the Piccadilly Hotel when he addresses another corporatist outfit, the Industrial Participation Association.

The Association has as its motto: 'Towards a common purpose at work.' It used to be called the Industrial Co-Partnership Association.

Its president is Jack Callard, chairman of ICI, one of the world's largest monopolist corporations. Its chairman is Nigel Vinson, right-wing lawyer and supporter of the anti-communist Alms of Industry organization.

These men have absolutely nothing in common with working-class interests. They are bitterly hostile to socialism.

But Feather will be laughing and joking with them over the wine, food and cigars.

Feather's speech will be about 'Trade Unions and Industrial Democracy'.

Weekend meetings planned on Vauxhall claim

VAUXHALL workers will meet this weekend following their union negotiators' rejection of a £2.40, government-controlled pay offer.

Shop stewards will call for endorsement of the negotiators' attitude.

But as a spokesman for the Ellesmere Port stewards said yesterday: 'The big question is whether we're going to take the government on.'

Vauxhall's offer is £2.40 plus improvements in lay-off pay to cover two periods of ten days and one period of five days laid off each year.

At a previous meeting with the unions, on March 23, the company insisted that the £2.40 should be subject to productivity concessions.

But at Tuesday's meeting a formula was agreed that if the offer was accepted it would be on the basis of the present productivity deal, which ran out on Monday, continuing to apply.

This is not expected to be well received by the mass meeting.

The union negotiators told the company they could not accept its offer because government policy had ruled out free negotiations.

The company countered with the argument that it would have been difficult for it to come up with a better offer, even if there was no government limit.

It cited its 'recent trading

results and the general trading position'. The company lost £4.1m in 1972.

Engineers' union members from the Ellesmere Port factory, usually considered the most militant of Vauxhall's 27,000 workers, are to meet in Liverpool Boxing Stadium on Sunday morning to decide their attitude to the offer.

Separate meetings were being arranged yesterday for members of the Transport and General Workers' Union and electricians' union.

Luton Vauxhall workers are also expected to meet at the weekend.

Phase Two pay cut dilemma at Massey

WORKERS at Massey Ferguson, the Coventry manufacturing company, will soon learn the outcome of yesterday's wage claim meeting.

Officials and shop stewards have found themselves with an insoluble problem due to the Tory government's pay laws.

Having rejected company

Measured-Day Work proposals, stewards insisted the officials had to negotiate the wage claim and nothing else.

As a result of this decision the company has offered the Phase Two maximum.

The offer is worth £2.86, which includes the cost of two days' additional holiday.

The dilemma facing the stewards is that 31 section claims were submitted during the course of last year's agreement. Some of them exhausted procedure.

To offer these sections of workers additional money would reduce the £2.86 to £1.50 across the board.

Double-talk claim on tool room pay rate

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

TOOLMAKERS on strike at the Coventry GEC Stoke and Helen Street plants over the way the company intends to pay its wage offer of £2.88 a week are now meeting what appears to be double talk by the Department of Employment.

The men went on strike two weeks ago when the firm refused to pay the £2.88 a week on a graduated scale of monthly increments.

The men wanted stepped-up monthly changes in the rate, which would have increased their wage in the first month by 48p a week and increased it £5.76 a week by the end of the 12 months.

(This was a similar scheme to the old District Toolroom Rate which gave monthly increments based on the average earnings of skilled pieceworkers.)

The firm turned the toolmakers' demand down claiming at the time that it 'would distort the company's overall wage structure'.

Now they say it is 'inflationary'.

The firm claims that a DEP official 'made it absolutely clear that the proposal was contrary to the White Paper covering Phase Two' of the Tory state control of wages.

'The official expressed the very strong opinion that if the company paid the increase in the manner required by the toolmakers the Pay Board would have no alternative but to issue an order prohibiting the company from paying the increase, thus making a settlement illegal.'

But senior stewards

who met the same official claim that after much 'beating about the bush', he stated that to spread the raise of £2.88 a week over a year by increments was not illegal.

The GEC toolmakers, whose strike has been endorsed by the AUEW district committee, have now come up against both the intransigence of the GEC and 'interpretations' of the Tory government's Phase Two paper and even anticipation of a tougher Phase Three stage.

In a statement AUEW district secretary Andrew Boyle said:

'The DEP official made it clear to our senior stewards that there was nothing illegal about their proposals except to say it might lead to difficulty under Phase Three.'

'It is also his job to state the law, not to express opinions about what the Pay Board might do.'

The facts are that DEP officials are creatures of the Tory government and will 'interpret' the law to suit Tory strategy in its vicious drive to push down all workers' living standards.

Skilled toolmakers are no exception in the Tory strategy.

GEC toolmakers must see that their strike cannot be separated from the fight of millions of others against the Tory government.'

SLL LECTURE SERIES

The revolutionary party and the history of the British working class

Merthyr Tydfil

Caedraw School
Merthyr Tydfil
7 p.m.

Sunday April 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 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.

Iranian students harassed

IRANIAN students demonstrating outside 10 Downing Street yesterday against the visit of Abass Amir Hoveida were subjected to unprecedented harassment by the police.

The students, who could face long prison terms in their own country for taking part in the demonstration, were refused permission to wear masks.

Police also tried to take the names and addresses of all the protesters, but backed off when they threatened to call a solicitor.

Later the police even demanded that the demonstrators clear up their cigarette butts or face prosecution under the litter laws.

Ahmad Ghotbi, the demonstrators' spokesman, said the police had told him: 'We don't know you. You could be just runaways from prison. We will not allow you to wear masks.'

Agents from the Iranian embassy were spotted among the onlookers as the demonstration took its course.



No co-operation with Heath's trickery—union

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

A UNION leader yesterday bluntly told Premier Heath he could expect no co-operation from his union with the state pay laws.

He then went on to accuse Heath of tricking the country into electing them on false promises.

Ernest Lorenz, president of the 37,000-strong National Union of Insurance Workers, was speaking on the opening day of the union's annual conference at Eastbourne.

He said the sort of co-operation the Tory government could expect from the union was 'a firm and unequivocal "none"'.
He added: 'I have nothing but contempt for men who tricked the country into electing them on promises which they had no intention of attempting to fulfil.'

After unsuccessfully asking for the co-operation and sacrifice of the unions to help them out of the mess their own policies had created, they blame the unions 'for the sort of corporate state legislation which Mussolini would have been proud of.'

Lorenz then listed restrictions including the power to imprison strikers, the limit on wage increases by the 'sinister' Pay Board—'All this from the man who would cut the rise in prices "at a stroke".'

He told delegates: 'We must, in our small way, fight these measures with every legal means at our disposal.'

KINGSTON No 12 branch of the union says Scanlon should either retract his statement or be expelled from the union.

The branch, which carried this resolution in view of the union's policy of non-co-operation with the Act, is making its views known to the district committee and the national executive.

Its resolution condemned the fact that Scanlon had seen fit to suggest to the Press that the Act could be in an amended form acceptable to the AUEW.

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

A CHEQUE for £20 from Comrade Verity of south west London brings the total to £1,287.90.

It is still slow in coming in and we have a challenge to meet on Tuesday April 17.

If we have reached £2,000



A PANEL beater on strike for union recognition at a south London garage was yesterday remanded until May 3 on a charge of obstruction.

With 25 other workers at Lankesters, the main British-Leyland distributors in Kingston on Thames, Phil Penn has been out since Monday of last week demanding union recognition in negotiations for a new pay structure.

Last Friday he was arrested on picket duty while talking to a customer entering the depot.

The charge then was wilful obstruction of the footway under section 72 of the Highways Act 1835. Yesterday this was changed to wilful obstruction of the highway under section 121 of the 1959 Act.

No reason was given for the charge.

Police were again in evidence yesterday afternoon as the strikers—many of them young apprentices who were being paid 24p an hour before the strike—picketed the garage (above).

Ford production halts

ALL FORD car production at Halewood, Liverpool, came to a standstill yesterday after 100 assembly-plant workers walked out against the suspension of an operator for alleged 'bad workmanship'.

Following the walk-out the company laid off 3,000 workers in the body stamping and assembly plants.

The company lost production of about 350 vehicles on the day shift. Only the transmission

plant was not affected.

Meanwhile at Dagenham, Essex, all workers in the body plant were warned of possible reductions in their working week and disciplinary action in the press shop because of the continuing press shop work-to-rule against the company's £2.40 pay offer.

The company says it is losing two-thirds of its production of body panels because of the work-to-rule.

THE STRIKE of 100 machinists at the Jaguar Daimler engine plant at Radford, Coventry, will last at least until next week. Car production at the Brown's Lane assembly plant is at a complete standstill as a result and 2,000 workers are laid off. A striker told Workers Press: 'The firm announced that it intends abolishing piecework and then refused to pay some money due to a gang of 20 workers. In effect, the company is preparing for Measured-Day Work in August.'

SCANLON SAYS IT AGAIN

FROM PAGE 1

the Tories to manoeuvre the unions into a bad position.

He said only mass industrial action affected the government: 'This can defeat the government, this is what they are afraid of.'

The controversy of the pay laws centred on a composite resolution drawn up by the Standing Orders Committee.

It bears a close resemblance to the TUC policy adopted last September, which verbally opposed wage restraint, but opened the door for the tripartite talks between the TUC, the government and the CBI.

At yesterday's session Communist Party members repeated the same role they played at Brighton in September: they made no clear call for the union to break off relations with the Tory government.

In this way they also paved

the way for the Tory scheme to press their corporatist plans against the working class.

Scanlon revealed yesterday how far the unions had gone to placate the Tories. He said the unions had offered the government 12 months of wage control in which pay increases would be kept within a £3.50 norm in exchange for concessions on rents, pensions and land speculation and statutory control over prices.

'Who is going to say in this conference we were wrong to attend or wrong in putting forward a programme for the period indicated?' Scanlon asked.

Again no one accepted his challenge.

He said the price of defying government over its laws was more than the trade union movement had been prepared to face 'in the name of humanity'.

This was why, said Scanlon,

engineers have been allowed to cross hospital picket lines—to prevent death in the case of emergencies.

Executive councilman, Bob Wright, also played along with Scanlon's line of continuing talks with the Tories.

Wright, who was a delegate to the recent Stalinist-organized Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, said the union should meet the government to challenge its policies and not adopt a 'puritanical approach' by remaining aloof.

During the final voting the main composite was weakened still further when a demand for the recall of the TUC and consultation with the membership before any agreement with the government was reached, were deleted.

Communist Party member Sid Harray agreed to drop motions which outlawed more talks in the light of the passing of the composite.

This latest outburst from Scanlon has thrown complete confusion among some Communist Party and left delegates.

In the name of 'left unity', the CP faction has subordinated the clear call to outlaw all talks for a policy, which commits the union to nothing but verbal protest.

When Scanlon laid down his challenge on this issue yesterday, they did nothing because their main role is to protect his image as a 'left'.

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

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