

YOUNG SOCIALISTS' PLEDGE ON REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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The setting was the Blackpool Winter Gardens and the occasion, the 13th annual conference of the Young Socialists—now a decade from their expulsion from the Labour Party by the right wing but still Britain's largest and fastest growing youth movement.

The spectrum among the delegates and visitors covered the whole life and struggles of the working class—hospital workers, engineering apprentices, building workers, youth from the shipyards of the Clyde, students and many others.

All pledged their determination to get rid of the Tory government and build the revolutionary party of Britain.

THEY SALUTED the role of youth in the heroic struggles of the working class in Vietnam, the Middle East, Ireland and the colonial world against the oppression of imperialism.

THEY CALLED for mass industrial and political action, including a General Strike, to force the Tory government to resign.

THEY DEMANDED that the traitors in the Labour movement who want to talk with the Tories be given their marching orders.

AND THEY discussed and passed a full socialist programme of nationalization of all the major



Conference delegates vote to support May 1 strike—for report see page 12.

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YS national committee member Maureen Bambrick opened the weekend's discussion by moving the main resolution for the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party.

She started by stating that the crisis workers faced was international.

'It is to be found in every shopping bag carried by a housewife in the streets this weekend.

'If you are a woman in Tokyo your prices will be going up because of inflation. The same would be true if you were a housewife in London, Frankfurt or Paris.'

Tory liars said this crisis was caused by wages. But the government themselves were major culprits—as Britain's balance of payments declined, the purchasing power of the pound had declined and prices had increased in proportion.

Inflation was rooted in an international monetary crisis. Paper money was declining in value because it had lost all its gold backing.

Maureen Bambrick went on to warn that this crisis meant one thing—the Tory government would deprive the working class of all their basic rights and drive down living standards to save their system.

YOUTH WILL LEAD FIGHT

They had been able to do this only because of the cowardice of the trade union and Labour leaders who based themselves on the theory that capitalism could be reformed.

'This system is beyond reform,' she said.

'The Tories have assumed virtual dictatorship over wages and living standards. The moment the working-class fights the government they enter politics.

'This is why we have always argued against those who say "no politics"—the syndicalists, who talk about the "spontaneity" of the working class.'

Comrade Bambrick said that on all the issues—housing, jobs and wages—the working class required fundamental changes that demand a transfer of power from the ruling class to the working class. All these issues were raised in the present situation.

'You cannot solve these basic questions by protesting.

'To get rid of the property

speculators you have to nationalize the land. To get rid of the building profiteers you have to nationalize the building industry.

'To get rid of the building societies you have to expropriate them. To engage in an emergency rehousing problem you have to requisition all available property for occupation.

'This is how you would solve the housing problem, and the same approach can rid the working class of all the other problems.'

The movement had now reached the most crucial stage in the campaign for the party, she went on. Large numbers of trade unionists and youth were being drawn into the discussion for the preparatory conference at the end of May.

The miners' rejection of strike action emphasized the dangers that lay ahead if this question, of constructing the revolutionary party, was not tackled.

Since last May the YS paper 'Keep Left' had been appearing as a weekly, and despite a considerable strain on its resources

had paid its way. This was a remarkable achievement and showed that when the YS set out to accomplish a political objective they had the strength and knowledge to do it.

Now these had to be utilized in building the party: turning into the trade unions and the factories, organizing the working class and progressive section of the middle class.

The issues of the hour, Comrade Bambrick stressed, were these:

● Mobilize the full forces of the working class to create the industrial and political conditions that will make the Tory government resign.

● Fight to unite the working class in struggle on the basis of socialist policies.

● Demand that the next Labour government must implement these policies. In the fight to bring down the Tory government, we simultaneously fight to expose the Labour and trade union leaders who betray.

MEETING

Against the
police raids

MONDAY APRIL 16
7.30 p.m.

Conway Hall
Red Lion Square
near Holborn Tube
London WC2

Speakers:

Tariq Ali
(International Marxist
Group)

Jim Higgins
(International Socialist)

Gerry Healy
(Socialist Labour
League)

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● MONDAY APRIL 16, 1973 ● No 1049 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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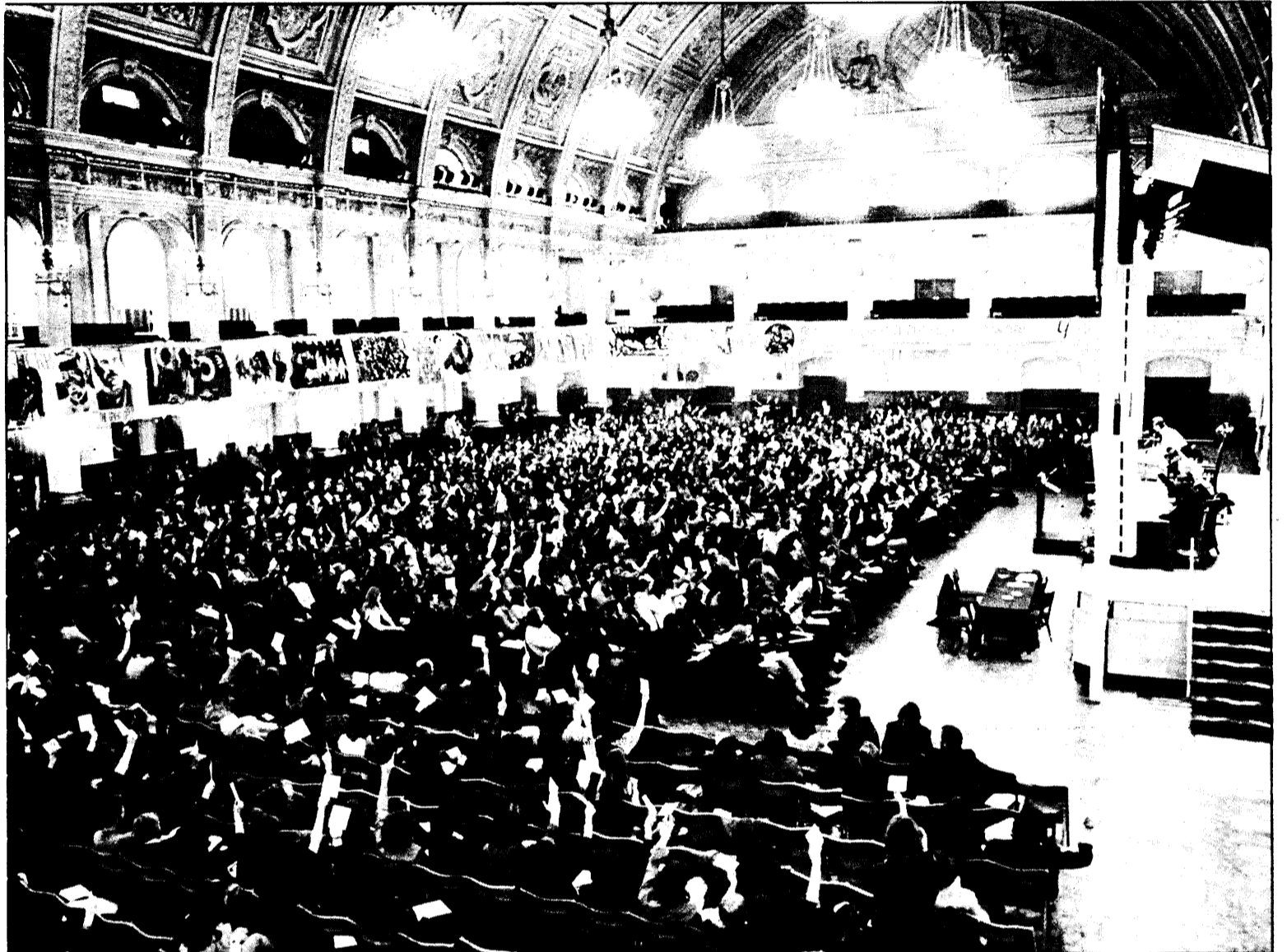
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'Pressure' won't defend steel jobs

BY IAN YEATS

NEITHER the British Steel Corporation nor the Tory government will fear the decisions taken at the first-ever national conference of steelworks action committees in Connaught Quay at the weekend.

The 85 delegates set up a national committee to fight the Tory plan to axe 50,000 jobs by 1980 and they called a one-day strike on May Day in protest against redundancy.

May 1, said Shotton action committee joint secretary John Atkinson would be 'the day the BSC ten-year disaster plan is finally and completely shattered'. In point of fact on May 2 BSC chairman Lord Melchett will go to work as usual. Only a national campaign aimed at creating the conditions in which the Tories can be made to resign can halt the closures.

But conference discussion, dominated by right-wing Labourites and Stalinists was barred from even touching on this perspective by a deep-rooted and utterly misplaced belief that the British economy is about to boom. Indeed, speaking to the policy proposals drawn up by Shotton action committee, Mr Atkinson said: 'All the signs are that we are entering a boom phase which may last two years or perhaps longer.' Delegates were told a world shortage of steel was developing and that steel demand from other Common Market countries was on the upturn. To ensure that British steel was in the best position to cash in they were urged to press for a ban on steel imports and on all exports of cheap home produced scrap.

Although the BSC has persistently and in great detail scotched the belief that raised output could mean a reprieve for

open-hearth steelworks it was principally on this that the delegates pinned their hopes for the future. Union leaders are to be prodded to pressurize the Tories to jack up production at least to 43m tons a year 'in line with the TUC's recommendation for 6 per cent annual growth'.

The concept of pressure politics dominating the conference was summed up by Shotton steelman Del Hopkins who said: 'We need to unite to save what is left of the steel industry. We need to unite to pressurize the government.' In effect the national rank-and-file committee (its members still to be elected) is to stand behind official union leaders in their discussions with the BSC to make sure none of those suspected of wanting to do so actually take a step backwards in the fight for jobs.

Stalinist speakers consciously deepened the reformism of the right-wing social democrats by collaborating openly in the illusion that boom is on the way and that responsible action can safeguard the steelmen's share in it. The only challenge to this poisonous claptrap came from supporters of Sean Matgamna's 'Workers'

Fight' group, who succeeded in posing no fight at all by restricting their contributions to angry demands for 'action' without ever qualifying what they meant.

The idea that boom is on the way and that if they behave themselves, while responsibly opposing any rundown, the steelmen may yet get to share in it, effectively barred delegates from taking any real action. Michael Anderson from the doomed Newport tube works in Monmouthshire told conference they had already lost a third of their men and had only three more months 'to live'. But the delegates refrained from committing themselves to even token action in their defence. And spokesmen from East Moors works, Cardiff, insisted on putting a resolution separate from the main one stressing that they accepted closure provided seven years' notice was given and a new 1m ton works was phased in.

Many delegates spoke in this way of the individual problems and prospects for their plants. Thus pressure politics became linked to the concept of every works for itself—up to the point where the jobs axe looked set to fall. Then steelmen are

to be asked to 'rally' to the support of the threatened 'location'.

High hopes are pinned on the first conference since the war of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (formerly BISAKTA) in London on Wednesday. But union leaders will not respond to this sort of pressure. The most they will do is to pay lip service to the steelmen's demands.

The policy of defending one works at a time can only fragment the struggle and lead to disaster. The illusion that more output can relieve the doomed works is dangerous rubbish. An output of even 43m tons could be achieved simply by adding to the number of converters at Scunthorpe or Port Talbot with very little extra labour.

The Tories and the BSC are determined to end old fashioned, labour intensive, low productivity open-hearth steelmaking in favour of the more profitable basic oxygen process at five heritage sites. Only a national campaign to force leaders of the steel unions to adopt policies aimed at forcing the Tories to resign so that a Labour government pedged to socialist policies can be returned will stop them.



Italy tense after grenade killing

BY JOHN SPENCER

TWO YOUTHS, both members of the fascist movement Avanguardia Nazionale (National Vanguard), have been arrested in Milan in connection with the murder of a policeman on Thursday.

The policeman was blown

up by a hand-grenade thrown from a crowd of fascists who were defying a ban on demonstrations and attempting to stage a rally in the centre of Milan.

Avanguardia Nazionale is one of the most extreme fascist organizations, closely linked to the Italian Social Movement, the parent fascist body which has 56 MPs. Members of Avanguardia Nazionale have been trained in

Greece and at special paramilitary camps in the Italian alps.

The murder has created a situation of extreme tension in Italy, with clashes in parliament and warnings from veteran reformists about the imminence of civil war.

The funeral of the fascists' victim was attended by some 100,000 people, with the Stalinists prominent among them. The CP deputies denounced the fascists in parliament as assassins and there were fist fights between the two sides of the chamber.

Pietro Nenni, the Socialist Party leader, warned of a resurgence of squadristo, the organized bands of thugs which brought Mussolini to power in the years after World War One.

'Enough of conventional lies,' said this man who has told far more than his share in the past, 'the power vacuum we talk about so often is not a menacing risk any more but a reality which has us in its grip.'

There is every sign that the Andreotti government will fall very shortly. It narrowly survived a confidence vote last week but was outvoted on aspects of policy for the 11th time.

There is talk of a new attempt to form a centre-left coalition of the type which preceded the present government, but it is already clear that no amount of reshuffling of the parliamentary cards can guarantee any degree of stability.

The fascists—as the Milan grenade murder shows—are ruthlessly determined to establish their dictatorship in Italy. They can be defeated only by the united force of the working class.

The biggest obstacle to the mobilization of the masses against the fascists is Stalinism, the doctrine of the Italian CP. These men are talking in terms of defending democracy when everyone can see that the Italian parliamentary system is a hollow sham.

Pay talks in the shadow of the club

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEGOTIATIONS on a return to work have opened at the Peugeot factory in Lyon, where company strong-arm men last week tried to smash a sit-in strike for higher wages.

Two 'commandos'—each of 40 men in khaki and blue uniforms with helmets, and carrying iron bars and wooden clubs—were used to clear the strikers from the factory.

They consisted of Peugeot employees from other parts of France, brought together for the sole purpose of breaking strikes and intimidating militant workers.

They smashed through the picket line at three in the morning on April 12 and drove the workers out of the factory buildings. The company admitted that they were 'guards belonging to the Peugeot firm'.

This is only the latest and most blatant use of strong-arm men at the Peugeot factory, where

there is a long history of anti-trade unionism and where the fascist-backed yellow union, the CFT, is active.

Later when the company wanted to extricate its thugs from the plant, however, they faced serious difficulties. A big force of police was required to prevent workers lynching the 'commandos'.

The use of thugs at Peugeot came directly after the strikers at the Renault plant in Paris, out for three weeks demanding wholesale revision of wage scales, were forced to end their strike.

The factory leadership, dominated by the Communist Party, reached a compromise with the state-owned firm which gave the workers small wage rises while burying their basic demand.

At the weekend there were more strikes in the Paris factory against the lay-off payments negotiated by the unions and considered by the workers to be completely insufficient.

Brandt defies 'left' wing

THE NATIONAL congress of West Germany's ruling Social Democratic Party ended on Saturday with a pledge from Chancellor Willy Brandt to continue his right-wing policies.

Brandt, who was returned as party chairman by a very large majority of the 435 congress delegates, declared his party would stick to the 1959 programme which threw out all mention of socialism.

Brandt said the SPD would remain a party of the middle.

In fact, it draws its support overwhelmingly from the ranks

of the organized workers' movement despite attempts to 'broaden the base'.

Brandt treated with contempt the 'left' noises made against him by leaders of the Jusos, the 'youth' organization comprising all party members up to age 36.

The Jusos chairman, Wolfgang Roth, described the chancellor's speech declaring he would continue the SPD's right-wing orientation as 'impressive'.

The much-vaunted opposition turned out to be mainly talk.

All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

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

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'.

LEEDS: Thursday, April 19, 8 p.m. Cobourg Tavern, Woodhouse Lane. Speakers from hospital workers and clothing industry.

WANDSWORTH: Monday April 16, 8 p.m. 'King's Arms', High Street, S.W.18. 'Build Councils of Action'.

TOOTING, Tuesday April 17, 8 p.m. Tooting Baths, Tooting Broadway, S.W.17. 'The crisis of capitalism'.

MIDDLETON, Thursday April 19, 8 p.m. 'Asheton Arms', near the Middleton Gardens.

FELTHAM: Thursday April 19, 8 p.m. 'Three Horse Shoes', High Street. 'TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

SLOUGH: Wednesday April 25, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

CROYDON: Thursday April 26, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

WILLESDEN: Thursday April 26, 8 p.m. Brent Labour and Trades Hall, Willesden High Road, N.W.10. 'Build Councils of Action'.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday April 26, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'The economic crisis and the rising cost of living'.

PIT DUST DANGER IGNORED FOR PROFITS

Another face of Toryism came to light last week with a decision taken by the National Insurance Commissioners in the case of a miner suffering from pneumoconiosis.

Mr Jimmy Dean, a pit worker since the age of 14, gave up his job at the coal face at Brodsworth colliery, Yorkshire, because of failing health.

An official of the National Union of Mineworkers said that Mr Dean would be 'dicing with his health if he returned to his old job.

For some time he has been a 'button man' and recently appealed to the local insurance tribunal for a £9.90-a-week hardship allowance.

The National Commission upheld their decision to give Mr Dean nothing and recommended that he go back to the coal face to work in the Board's dust-approved conditions.

Pneumoconiosis is a common, painful and lethal disease among miners and can only be aggravated by perpetual exposure to dust which settles on the lungs.

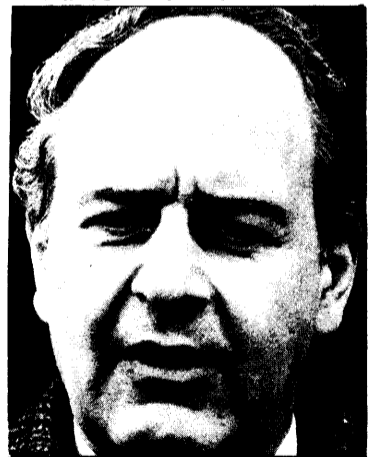
It is common knowledge in most pits that the Coal Board's drive for profitability through increased output often means that dust regulations are applied less than enthusiastically under conditions where modern machinery creates even more of the 'black death'.

Brodsworth NUM president Mr Tom Ellis has publicly alleged that the system used to measure dust in Doncaster mines is 'unreliable'.

The Commissioners admitted that 'changes in machinery, breakdowns and systems result in faces being approved at one particular period but not at another'.

But they still sent Mr Dean back to work.

On the same day, Coal Board chief Derek Ezra (below) said that output from mines in Yorkshire and the Midlands must rise.



THE BSA STORY

Manganese Bronze and BSA are still working out merger terms to save the Birmingham engineering firm from closure following the company's insolvency and the suspension of all trading in BSA shares.

Birmingham Small Arms was first registered in 1873 in order to acquire the business founded in 1861. It later re-registered in 1896 as the Birmingham Small Arms and Metal Co. Ltd. and then a year later changed its name to the Birmingham Small Arms Co. Ltd. This is now the parent company of the BSA Group.

The Group consists of 19 subsidiaries and is supported by two research centres. Most of the factories are situated in the Birmingham area. There are other units in Chesterfield, County Durham, Coventry and Redditch.

The last year has been one of unparalleled attack on the trade union movement and on trade unionists' living standards, George Elvin, president of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, said on Saturday.

Elvin, who has now retired as president, was opening the union's 40th annual conference in London.

A ruby anniversary should be an occasion for celebration and in some ways it was, he said. But generally speaking the attack which had been launched on the unions was the most severe since that on the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Said Elvin: 'Not only are we legally forbidden to do our legitimate job—if we are too difficult, jail is around the corner, as five dockers discovered.

'And meanwhile our living standards are eroded. Prices have continued to soar whilst salaries and wages have been frozen.'

Phase Two of the government's pay control policy could be even more 'one-sided' than Phase One, the ACTT president told delegates.

If it succeeded in restraining pay increases within the limits set out, it would open the way for a big boost to profits at the expense of salaries and wages.

Free collective-bargaining had been taken away, along with the right of unions to serve their members under their rules and to rectify the gross injustice which led to their creation.

Turning to the Common Market, Elvin pointed out that just two days after British entry, Dr Sicco Mansholt, outgoing president of the European Commission, had admitted failure to improve conditions for the mass of the people and the severe need for 'an injection of democracy'.

Mansholt had revealed that the disparities in living standards between different areas of the Market had become more marked rather than less.

Elvin said: 'He went on to say that it would be impossible for a future government to renegotiate Britain's membership.

'It is a treaty forever, he said, and if Mr Wilson won the next election and tried to take Britain out of the EEC, he would be taken to the European Court in Luxembourg.

'It is a pity that Dr Mansholt reserved these remarks until the end of his terms of office.

'But I am sure the British people will not accept that any government, if it is so-minded, can be dictated to by any outside authority whether it is a member of it or not.'

The Market also posed im-

TRADE UNIONISM IS IN DANGER, SAYS ELVIN



Above: Elvin speaking at the ACTT conference over the weekend.

mediate problems for trade unionists in films, television and the laboratories, the ACTT president went on.

- National aids would lose their protective benefits, Common Market films and programmes would be deemed British, the closed ranks of the British trade union membership would be at risk because of free mobility of labour.
- Hard-earned conditions of employment would be chal-

lenged from those countries whose standards were below those of Britain.

- Because of the imposition of Value-Added Tax there was, in effect, a return in the cinemas to taxation even more onerous than the entertainment tax which the film-industry, employers, supported by the unions, succeeded in having repealed some years ago.

'It will need all our ingenuity and strength to avoid the

worst consequences of those retrogressive steps', Elvin said.

On the issue of censorship, which has hit ACTT members in television particularly hard since the Tory government came into office, Elvin 'deplored' and 'deprecated' the banning of programmes.

Television, he said, must operate 'on the broadest possible canvas, even where at times it upset 'the squeamish, the cowardly and the do-gooders'.

uted the remaining 28 per cent.

BSA has a standing authorized capital of £10,703,150 and an issued capital of £9,125,086. There are about 10,000 shareholders.

The USA subsidiaries contain approximately one third of the Group's profit, but again it is mainly in the motor cycle division. It can be concluded from this information, and the previously mentioned 72 per cent turnover in motorcycles during the period 1969-1970, that BSA relies heavily on its sale of motor cycles.

However, even the most casual glance at the Group's past five years of falling sales, rates of profit and prices of shares, provides an excellent example of a deteriorating company.

The BSA Group's main production headings are motorcycles, central heating (oil-fired boilers, radiators and valves), metal components (sintering of metal powders, zircon sand and shell moulding, industrial plating and precision investment casting), and general engineering (car and commercial vehicle bodies, small arms, hydraulic transmissions and materials handling plant).

BSA also has substantial interests in machine tools, small bore circulating pumps and vending machines.

According to the Group's turnover in 1969-1970 the manufacture of motorcycles contributed 72 per cent and the production of metal components and light engineering contri-

| YEAR | SALES year ending July 31 | PROFITS BEFORE TAX |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1964 | £33.11m. | |
| 1965 | £40.34m. | |
| 1966 | £46.59m. | |
| 1967 | £35.49m. | |
| 1968 | £36.54m. | |
| 1969 | £33.85m. | £846,429 |
| 1970 | £38.30m. | £821,058 |

Well in excess of £3,000,000

POLITICAL PROFILES

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BREWERY BRINGS IN THE LABOUR RELATIONS MEN

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries are hard at work trying to turn their company into a microcosm of the corporate state.

A score of labour-relations specialists have been brought in to make sure that information flows smoothly from the top down and the bottom up.

Employees are sent letters and shop stewards are called to meetings explaining the position of the company and its needs.

The firm even pays for combine meetings of shop stewards when they gather to consider what new pay and conditions claim to submit.

Personnel director Mr Allan Blacklaws has a lot of experience in his line of work—he is a member of the National Industrial Relations Court.

Not that he believes that industrial relations can be all milk and honey.

Indeed, quite the reverse. He told an Industrial Society lunch in London last week that what was needed was 'a system whereby the parties, having failed to agree on their own, are forced to put their case to an independent body for a decision based on merit rather than power'.

He suggested that should be the purpose of the institute set up under the anti-union laws.

Earlier, commenting on the TUC's reaction to the Industrial Relations Act, he said: 'Surely as a matter of principle, it should not be possible for any section of the community to opt out of any part of the Act; the law of the land should be obeyed by all.'

Blacklaws warned that the statutory system has 'not even begun to function properly because, for the most part, employers refuse to use the provisions of the Act while the main trade unions are debarred from doing so by present TUC policy.'

He went on: 'A better



Jack Jones, T&GWU chief whose union has issued credentials to shop stewards which state: 'Shop stewards are not authorized to initiate or continue industrial action on behalf of this union.'

method of resolving disputes is not only desirable, but essential, if the country is to advance and employees at all levels are to benefit in real terms.'

In other words, as far as the bosses are concerned, nothing has been solved yet with the trade unions.

There appears to be some in the trade unions who might not object to co-operating in this attack on the rights and conditions of organized labour.

Among those listed as guests at the lunch were John Vickers, general secretary of the Civil Service Union and K. R. Peplow, general secretary of the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers.

Labour Lord Shackleton, director of Rio Tinto Zinc Development Enterprises, chaired the luncheon.

If the actual operation of the anti-union laws gave Mr Blacklaws no particular satisfaction, one aspect of trade union response did.

He told businessmen that the Transport and General Workers' Union has now issued credentials which state: 'Shop stewards are not authorized to initiate or continue industrial action on behalf of the union.'

'This authority is vested only in the General Executive Council, its Finance and General Purposes Committee and the General Secretary.'

He concluded: 'It cost £55,000* to obtain this change.'

*The NIRC fine on the T&GWU last summer.

CASE OF THE IRO ELECTRICIANS

By our industrial correspondent

There was an embarrassing incident recently during filming for a Thames TV documentary on Frank Chapple, right-wing boss of the electricians' and plumbers' union, EPTU.

When the television cameras accompanied Chapple into the St Helens branch of the EPTU in Lancashire someone got up and started asking: 'What about the IRO?'

Now the IRO—the Inland Revenue Office construction site at Bootle, not ten miles from St Helens—is something of a sore point with Chapple.

For 105 weeks, 16 of his members have been battling it out there in a bid to bring their wages and conditions in line with those of other workers employed on the site.

And though the site has at the moment been closed, John Byrne, the strikers' leader, said this week they were determined to continue the fight until their demands are met.

'The only way we can lose is if the labour movement fails to give us sufficient backing to stick it out', he said.

Despite the length of their struggle, and the widespread support they have received from EPTU branches, the IRO strikers have never had the backing of their union.

Wage demand

It was as far back as May 1970 that the EPTU's national contracting conference, meeting in Southport, called for 'negotiations to proceed at once to establish a 40-hour week by raising the basic rate to £1 an hour as a minimum skilled rate in all areas'.

The conference also called for establishment of a sick-pay scheme giving 13 weeks' full pay, for four weeks' holiday with pay in 1971 and for clauses to be inserted into the agreement providing for local negotiations to give shop stewards more rights.

The latest statement issued

by the IRO strikers comments, rather mildly, that this was 'a democratic expression of the wishes of the rank and file through their delegates' and that 'we feel it is time the union officials whose wages we pay took notice of our demands'.

Adds the statement: 'To ignore us means we have no alternative but to take matters into our own hands.'

The approved rate for electricians fixed by the Joint Industry Board, which the EPTU backs to the hilt, gives an electrician working 44½ hours £27.78 gross.

By comparison a building labourer working 44 hours can receive £48.35 gross.

Reinstated

It was in a bid to change this situation that on February 11, 1971, the IRO electricians 'took matters into their own hands' and struck.

The firms involved were James Scott, Lee Beesley and Duncan and Watson.

The electricians were demanding 25p above the JIB-approved rate, an end to blacklisting and the right for stewards to negotiate at site level.

On July 26, after 25 weeks on strike, the men returned to work on the understanding that talks would take place to resolve these claims. But seven weeks later they found themselves sacked.

Solidarity action by the other trades on the site won the electricians' reinstatement, but when they re-submitted their claim, it was again rejected and the strike resumed on October 25, 1971.

In March 1972, after a tour of union branches in London and the south-east, John Byrne was disciplined by the JIB for breaching its rules.

Present at the disciplinary committee hearing were five JIB officials, five management representatives and five union men, including Chapple and EPTU executive members Eric Hammond and William Blair.

Byrne's 'sentence' was six months' loss of benefits when

he returns to work, which means he cannot claim sick pay and his wife cannot claim death benefit if he is killed.

There is no right of appeal against this decision.

On June 30 last year, the two electricians employed by Lee Beesley returned to work after being told that the JIB



Frank Chapple, EPTU chief

had altered its structure and a test case could now be arranged.

But after five months going through procedure, the electricians, who had been laid off during the builders' strike and not allowed back to work, were told that consideration of their claim had been deferred until they could prove they were prepared to abide by JIB working rules in future.

The IRO site, established under the Labour government to house the computer system needed to operate its direct taxation plans, closed on January 19 this year.

But the strikers believe it must open again within 12 or 18 months if it is to be completed in time to fulfil its rumoured new role in the Tories' tax-credit system.

'If they ever want this building completed the only men they'll ever get back on this site are ourselves', John Byrne insists. 'No matter how long it takes, we are determined to win this one.'

WHAT THE RICH LEAVE BEHIND

The 11th Duke of Argyll, the Chief of the Clan Campbell, has died leaving a mass of titles and estates to unravel.

Among his titles were Marquis of Lorne and Kintyre; Earl of Campbell and Cowal; Viscount of Lochoy and Glenisla; Baron Inveraray, Mull, Morvern, and Tiry; Baron Campbell; Earl of Argyll; Baron Lorne; Baron Kintyre; Baron Sundridge; Baron Hamilton; and the 35th Baron and 45th Knight of Lochoy.

His Celtic title was Mac-Caillein Mor, and he was Hereditary Master of the Royal Household in Scotland, Hereditary High Sheriff of the County of Argyll, Admiral of the Western Coast and the Isles, and Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland and of the castles of Dunstaffnage, Dunoon, and Carrick and Tarbert.

He was formerly a captain

in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

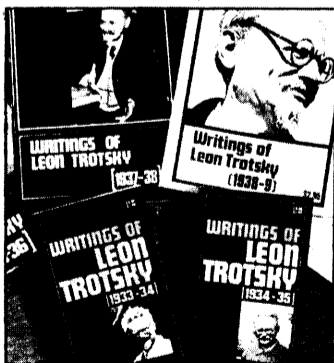
At a ceremony at Inverary Castle in 1967 the Duke received the old colours of the 8th (Argyll) Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Territorial Army). The year before the Labour government decided to disband the Argyll regulars. He criticized the decision as 'catastrophic'.

But the 'patriotic' Duke had for several years lived in Paris. The decision to move abroad was because of 'increased taxation'.

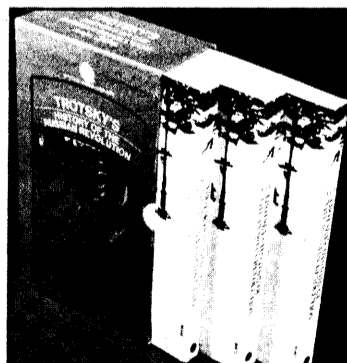
In the early 1960s he was involved in a notorious divorce petition with his third wife, the former Mrs Charles Sweeny, wife of an American financier.

The Duke's first wife, the Hon Janet Gladys Aitken, was the daughter of Lord Beaverbrook, the founder of the 'Express' group of newspapers.

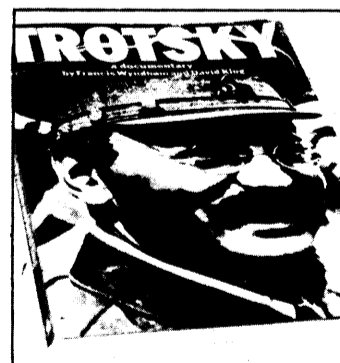
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BY JOHN SPENCER

Italy is the pool of surplus labour for the European Common Market. From all over the country, and particularly from the impoverished south, men are driven by lack of work to move to the industrial towns of Germany, France, Holland and Belgium.

Common Market statutes provide for the free movement of labour, which in practice means the enforced migration of hundreds of thousands of men and women from one country to another.

The 'free mobility of labour' is being given a sinister new twist by the French authorities, however.

Over the last few months thousands of young Italians have received the following sinister communication through the post.

Honoured sir,

Here, in a few words, is all that the Foreign Legion can offer you. If among your friends there is someone who already has some problem, I think it will be worth their while to read this letter.

At present you are certainly without personal or family worries and your job is perfectly secure. Without doubt your life is satisfying and your work interests you. But tomorrow, who can say?

What can happen in six months? In a year? Will you be facing problems then? Will you perhaps have lost your job? Or will you be unhappy in your work? Too monotonous, too dirty, too tiring? Perhaps you will have family worries . . . or problems with the law.

You can never be sure of anything, isn't that so? If you were in trouble, you would be happy to find a roof over your head, a hearth, a refuge. To find a group of friends who would look after you and help you to solve your problems.

Something which offers you an active and interesting life; which can offer you a future as a trained specialist; which will enable you to discover exotic countries you would never otherwise get to see.

And all this in an atmosphere of free comradeship, without any worries about

JOIN THE LEGION . . .



The French Foreign Legion, which is at present waging a recruiting campaign across the border in Italy.

money. The Foreign Legion can offer you all this! No, don't throw away this letter even if the name of the Foreign Legion frightens you . . . or makes you laugh.

Read it right to the end to form an opinion even if it is unfavourable. I'll take that risk. And after all, reading it doesn't commit you to anything.

The letters have been sent out only to selected young men, whose age, social class and police record makes them likely candidates for membership of the French Foreign Legion.

Naturally, the French authorities are committing a flagrant violation of Italian law, which does not permit any other country to recruit Italian nationals to its armed forces.

Opinions differ, but it may

even be in breach of French law, as well. But that does not appear to bother the authorities either side of the border.

When the matter was raised in the Rome parliament by the veteran Communist Party senator Umberto Terracini last August, he had to wait six months for a reply. Then he was told by the Interior Minister's under-secretary that the government would see it didn't happen again.

The letters are still flooding into the country, however, as Terracini pointed out in parliament on March 14. The Italian government claims to have made representations in Paris and yet the recruitment letters are still arriving complete with brochures setting out the Legion's terms and conditions of service in the most attractive light.

Any desperate young Italian—and there are many, many desperate young Italians—has only to make his way over the border into France (he can cross with his identity card) and sign up at the nearest Legion recruiting office.

The Italian government makes no effort to put an end to this infamous traffic, though it has every reason to know the real facts about service in the Legion. From the Legion's main base on Corsica, dozens of disillusioned soldiers have tried to swim to freedom and land in Sardinia.

Their efforts are often unsuccessful—some drown, some are recaptured. But the conditions of service are so appalling that they are prepared to risk it. If they are not in some Corsican barracks, the would-be legionnaires are likely to

find themselves in the hot desert of Djibouti or Chad or in the steaming forests of Madagascar.

They come back to Italy after three years or five years in the service of French imperialism trained for one purpose and one purpose only: the suppression of colonial revolt and the use of modern weaponry.

Their heads filled with the ideology of reaction inculcated by an officer corps which includes many veterans of the SS, the veteran Legionnaires will be ready recruits for the Italian fascists.

Perhaps that is why the Italian government is prepared to turn a Nelson's eye on the flagrant violation of its own constitution by a supposedly friendly power.

A FUTILE LUNCHEON DATE

It was a lavish luncheon. The guest of honour was Mrs Jean Barber, wife of the Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer. She wore a sort of feathered cap and a checked dress.

There were dozens of other Tories present too. Sir Kenneth and Lady Parkinson. He is chairman of Yorkshire Post Newspapers, who were giving the luncheon, and is also a director of the National Westminster Bank Limited.

The other main celebrity was Mikis Theodorakis, the Greek composer and erstwhile member of the Greek Communist Party.

The occasion was the 'Yorkshire Post' Book of the Year awards.

In a speech to the luncheon Theodorakis said: 'I come before you as a patriot and also as a composer. I know it is not fashionable to be a patriot, but with us Greeks it is always fashionable to be a patriot.'

Recalling World War II, he said: 'We are only a small nation of 8 million people and sacrificed 1 million for liberty. We are still ready to sacrifice another million.'

'Our nation was united. When we said Greece we meant democracy, we meant

liberty.

'You can imagine our sorrow when we talk about Greece—we find that now in Greece we have got prisons, concentration camps and a divided nation.

'I know and realize what is happening in Greece now is part of an international conspiracy.'

He added that people in the British government were also involved. Then he said: 'Forgive me for being so frank—I think that when you are among friends it is necessary to speak frankly and sincerely.'

'Perhaps this is the wrong time to talk about this—but I do know at this moment there are people in Greece who are suffering and being tortured. I would like to appeal to you here and now to play your part in stopping this fascist conspiracy.'

The report of the luncheon in the 'Yorkshire Post' does not reveal the reaction of Mrs Barber and the rest of the Tories present.

It is difficult to believe that it was taken seriously.

Theodorakis then stepped to the piano and gave a rendition of one of his songs.

When he finished the Refectory at Leeds University echoed with cheers for his speech and impromptu singing.

A guest at the luncheon was Mr Dimitrios Karas, a Leeds



Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis with Melina Mercouri.

businessman, who is honorary Consul for Greece in the city.

He was brought to the luncheon 'at the last moment' by Mrs Eunice Soul, wife of Mr David Soul, managing director of the University of Leeds Industrial Services, a consultancy company.

Karas, an honorary envoy of the colonels' regime, said he was at the literary luncheon 'as a private person'.

He said later: 'Mr Theodorakis is entitled to his views, although I do not share them. I found his speech very interesting.'

JAPANESE INFLATION

One of the biggest post-war increases in consumer prices has been reached in Tokyo, underlining its unenviable position as the world's most expensive city.

The Prime Minister's office has reported that the price index rose an incredible 2.3 per cent in March and was 9 per cent above the level of a year ago.

Both figures were the highest since the years immediately after World War II when a defeated Japan was gripped by rampant inflation.

The Prime Minister's office also reported the national consumer price index rose 0.8 per cent in February and stood at 6.7 per cent over a year ago. In the wake of this roaring inflation the Bank of Japan has decided to raise its official discount rate by 0.75 per cent to 5 per cent.

BANKRUPT

Sam Houston Johnson, younger brother of the late President Lyndon Baines Johnson, has filed a voluntary bankruptcy petition against himself.

He disclosed debts of more than £22,000, nearly two-thirds of the debts coming from medical fees.

'It demonstrates the need for a national health insurance programme like my brother favoured,' Mr Johnson said.

STALINIST COLLABORATORS BETRAY THE STRIKE MOVEMENT

BY ROYSTON BULL

The Communist Party of Great Britain subordinates itself to the foreign policy requirements of the bureaucracy which rules in the Kremlin.

Peaceful co-existence with imperialism is one of the main planks of Stalinism's revision of Marxist revolutionary theory.

It flowed out of the basic counter-revolutionary conception of 'socialism in a single country' by which Stalin adapted Soviet policy to the strength of imperialism following the failure of revolutions in Germany and elsewhere.

This reactionary theory has been used to justify every heinous capitulation to the forces of imperialism ever since. In the course of it, the revolutionary movement has been betrayed time and time again throughout the world.

There have been no more enthusiastic followers of these counter-revolutionary policies than the British Stalinists. They accepted the revisionist 'socialism in a single country' theory right from the start.

In the 1926 General Strike, they backed Moscow's line of 'all support to the General Council of the TUC' which made it certain that the revolutionary crisis would be headed off and the movement tied to the hind quarters of the reformists.

In World War II, they loyally supported the Churchill government and helped the state authorities to break strikes in various parts of the country.

After the war, the British CP adopted the 'peaceful road to socialism' programme, dictated personally by Stalin.

The 'British Road to Socialism' was the logical outcome of the policy of peaceful co-existence. Having consistently headed off revolutionary movements in practice, as in China in 1927, Spain in 1936-1937, France 1936 and throughout western Europe following World War II, it made sense to extinguish the idea of revolution altogether from party theory.

Despite all the disasters that the foreign policy requirements of the Kremlin bureaucracy have inflicted on the world revolution over the last 50 years, the King Street Stalinists are still loyally carrying them out.

The latest turn in Soviet policy is to conclude new 'disarmament' and trade and friendship treaties with the most reactionary of imperialist circles, the US, West Germany, France, and Britain.

The Kremlin leaders have welcomed Nixon's re-election because they had been able to reach an 'understanding' with him: put enormous pressure on the Vietnamese Communist Party to end the war in order that they could please

Nixon; praised the Tory government for its 'progressive' attitude in relation to trade with Russia; signed treaties with fascist Spain; established friendly relations with the Greek colonels; and welcomed the Common Market for creating the possibility of new 'understanding' in Europe.

In line with these requirements, and meeting their own reformist inclinations entirely, the British Stalinists are preparing to fall in with these new policies.

The chief need is to avoid revolutionary confrontations in the west at all costs so that charges of 'subversive influence' cannot be levelled against the Kremlin and the new 'treaties' torn up.

The British CP has the task of making sure that the strike movement against the Tory government's attempts to introduce a corporate state does not lead to a revolutionary crisis; and if such a crisis does occur, to head it off down some harmless wage demand path as the French CP did in the events of May-June 1968.

Simultaneously, the Stalinists in both countries are meant to be quietly ditching their anti-Market stances.

British CP leaders went to Moscow late last year to hear the Soviet bureaucracy's demands on these issues, and French CP secretary Georges Marchais came to Britain soon after to synchronize policies.

The work of heading off the strike movement from developing towards revolution is already well under way at King Street.

The Stalinists have covered up for transport union secretary Jack Jones and engineers' president Hugh Scanlon, while these 'lefts' have deliberately put off implementing the TUC's special Congress decision of March 5 to co-ordinate action in support of unions struggling against the pay laws.

The CP covered up for Jones and Scanlon when these 'lefts' foiled moves for a General Strike at the special Congress by proposing their 'day of national protest and stoppage' motion after the delegates had defeated the General Council's attempt to rule out resolutions from the floor altogether.

In the various wages struggles, the Stalinists have either tried to get groups of workers to accept the £1 plus 4 per cent pay norm, or else have gone along with the rejection of Phase Two offers where strong feelings have been aroused, but have then done nothing to lead a real fight on the issue.

In the docks in London and Liverpool, the Stalinists have recommended acceptance of Phase Two settlements.

Stalinists on the Union of Post Office Workers (UPW) executive have remained silent



Above: Hugh Scanlon, whose speech to the Parliamentary Press Gallery has not once been repudiated by the Stalinists. Above right: Mick Costello of the 'Morning Star'. Below: French CP secretary, Georges Marchais on his visit to Britain.



'MORNING STAR' COVERS UP FOR SCANLON

The industrial correspondent of the Communist Party's 'Morning Star', Mick Costello, is one of the main vehicles for the 'peaceful road' policy, which leads to covering up for Hugh Scanlon's overtures to the Tory government.

Reporting from the AUEW national committee meeting in Torquay immediately following still further retreats from Scanlon on the question of the next engineers' pay claim, support for the hospital workers—and conceding 'victory' to the Tories without an analysis of his own and other 'lefts' responsibility for this—Costello wrote:

'Clearly Mr Scanlon did not want to see his members embroiled in a battle for better pay and conditions against the government's incomes policy, without the full backing of the rest of the trade union movement.' (April 10, 1973.)

No mention of Scanlon's support for the begging letter to Keith Joseph on behalf of the hospital workers, which was the sum total of the Finance and General Purposes Committee's 'full backing'.

'In return, he has on numerous occasions argued within the TUC for all-out backing for other sections of workers fighting for better conditions.' Costello went on.

Again, when was this done on behalf of the hospital workers or gas workers and why has the world never heard about it?

Costello then quoted Scanlon defending 'the militant stand taken by his union

against the Industrial Relations Act.'

'Undoubtedly the refusal of the TUC General Council and Congress to accept our call for a firm stand against any co-operation with the agencies set up under the Act was a body blow at the movement.'

No mention by Costello of the complete capitulation to the National Industrial Relations Court (NIRC) when Scanlon allowed £60,000 to be exacted from the AUEW without a murmur.

Costello continued: 'Mr Scanlon spoke once again in favour of another round of talks with the government and the Confederation of British Industry provided that there was a clear indication from the government that the talks were likely to be more fruitful than last time.'

Not a word of criticism. Scanlon is proposing that the trade union movement does a deal with a Tory government that has written in letters a mile high its clear intention to wage war on the working class, crush independent trade unionism and institute corporate control over workers wages. This is complete capitulation.

The 'Morning Star' was already well advanced with this plan to sell out the strike movement at the time of the defeat of the gasmen's struggle. The Stalinists tried to persuade workers that the trick pulled by the right wing in the secret ballot was a 'victory'.

That way, they hoped to cool off other workers' struggles.

'Had the gas workers meekly given in to Heath's bluster and bullying, they would have got far less. Their industrial action has made a considerable dent in Heath's fraudulent incomes policy,' chirped the editorial on Saturday March 24.

'On Wednesday,' added Costello, 'the union leaders will pursue their demands for restructuring the whole wage structure, talks on which were offered by the employers as an inducement to end the industry's dispute.'

'Mr John Edmonds [General and Municipal Workers' Union national officer] said they will be seeking changes to alter the current situation where basic rates are too low, workers are forced to work too much overtime in order to be paid average earnings in industry as a whole, while differentials are too low, and where there are too many outside private contractors given work in the industry.'

'This last point is of crucial importance if the industry is to protect employment, on which a further concession has already been wrung from the Gas Corporation and its paymasters in the government.'

'This promised that there would be no forced redundancies before the autumn, by which time it is hoped that those threatened with loss of their present job will be re-trained for other work.'

'Mr Edmonds made it clear that these concessions had been won from the employers in the course of the six weeks of industrial action, but he added that two days of proper negotiations without government interference would have secured them without the dispute.'

This whole passage, quoted verbatim, including the passages of uncertain meaning, reeks of dressing up a miserable defeat as a victory.

The point is that the Stalinists do not want the gasworkers to learn anything from this setback. The only way to understand the ballot defeat is in terms of the confusion sown by the gas union leaders' refusal to conduct an all-out strike struggle in the first place, and the further

confusion caused by the TUC leaders' refusal to co-ordinate the strike movement of all the unions against the pay laws.

The Stalinists do not want these questions gone into because it would expose their own role in covering up for Scanlon, Jones, and the rest, while these 'lefts' were taking no action to turn the gasworkers' strike into a General Strike. Instead they allowed the right-wing gas union leaders quietly, but effectively, to wear down the gasmen's resistance to a settlement.

Therefore, they present the gasworkers' defeat as a victory.

The reality of the situation is clear. The Communist Party is in complete unity with the 'lefts' decision to consciously head off any development towards revolution in Britain. All of their policies are subordinated to this fundamental requirement. All of their policies, therefore, are consciously put together, with counter-revolution as the aim.

The trade union movement would surely stifle under such policies. A major defeat could be inflicted on the working class and a corporate state imposed if there was no alternative leadership.

However, this is not 1926 and the Stalinists no longer speak in the name of international Marxism as they claimed to do when the General Strike was sold out.

Unlike then, a powerful Trotskyist party, the Socialist Labour League, is able to expose the betrayals of Stalinism in the daily struggles of the working class, and to give leadership to the masses.

The SL and Workers Press are winning this fight. The monstrous conspiracy of the Feathers, the Scanlons, and the Stalinists to carry out the demands of capitalism to introduce a corporatist structure into Britain will be exposed and destroyed.

EVIDENCE REACHES THE OUTSIDE WORLD



Above: Con Son prison, South Vietnam. These prisoners and three others were in one cramped cell. Age is immaterial.

Despite the dangers of being rearrested, some ex-prisoners are prepared to talk of their experiences.

Nguyen Van Tho (25) was arrested four years ago along with more than 20 fellow students during an anti-American demonstration at the university of Saigon. He was tortured for a year in Chi Hoa prison, near Saigon, because he refused to confess to being a member of the National Liberation Front.

His fingers show scars where sharp wedges were driven under the fingernails up to the quick. On six occasions soapy water was forced down his nose and mouth, causing his stomach to swell, whereupon it was jumped on by his torturers.

On release, he was unable to walk for three months and any physical or mental exertion can still cause internal haemorrhages.

Since martial law was declared last year (1972), he has been in danger of immediate re-imprisonment because of his inadequate papers. His life has become a nightmare of shifting from one place to another in Saigon's many overcrowded rabbit warrens to avoid the dreaded 2 a.m. knock on the door by the police. Four months ago the police broke into his home at night and, frustrated at not finding him there, took away his 22-year-old wife and their one-year-old baby. He has heard no news of either of them since then.

Le van Phuoc leads a similar existence, having emerged a year ago from three years in the dreaded 'Tiger Cages' on Con Son Island off the south coast—an infamous prison used originally to detain anti-French nationalists.

His hair is falling out, the

skin on his desperately thin face is sallow and pasty. His eyes look at you as if he isn't really seeing you. His voice has a grate and lack of inflection which is almost frightening. He is 25 years old.

Phuoc was arrested in 1968 when the police broke up a meeting of the students' union of Saigon's Faculty of Letters, of which he was a member. The tiny, dank cage in which he spent his three years was so crowded, he claims, that it was impossible to stretch out his legs. The only form of exercise was to stand up, but even this was painful because the roof of the cage did not permit him to straighten his back.

'The air was permanently grey,' Phuoc says, 'and the stink was . . . it drove me mad, the stink. It was in my hands, in my feet, in my head, in my lungs, it was everywhere. It was a physical part of the cell and everyone who was in it and it was unbearable.'

Twice a day, a meal of rice and old vegetables would be thrown in through the roof.

'And if we ever complained,' he went on, 'the guards would throw lime on us. It did terrible things to our open sores and it drove us mad when it got into our hair.'

Several of the people in his cage had been there since Ngo Dinh Diem's presidency over ten years ago. Many of them, says Phuoc, were completely insane and could no longer speak coherently. Deaths, he claims, were frequent from diseases and malnutrition.

'An old man—he had lost all his hair and teeth—died in the night. His body was left there for a day and a night before the guards removed it.'

Nguyen Thi Mai was only 18 when she was arrested during her first year at the Buddhist University of Van Hanh in Saigon. When she re-

emerged two years later, she was so weak that she had to have emergency medical treatment to survive. Her right arm had been broken during interrogation a year before and had never been properly set. Malnutrition, physical exhaustion and a lung infection had done the rest.

'But I was one of the lucky ones,' says Mai, who is now 22. 'In that I had friends who knew a doctor who was willing to risk his own freedom in looking after me.'

'Many doctors are afraid to have anything to do with people who have been in prison.'

Four months after being released, she was back in prison again. So was her younger sister who was still at high school. First she was put by herself in a totally dark room. 'It felt like a year, but it may have been only a week. It was impossible to keep track of time.'

She was then taken out and given a list of names about whom her interrogators wanted information. 'Many of them I had never heard of,' she maintains. 'I refused and they hit me again and again and again and finally they said that if I didn't agree they would torture my little sister.'

Though free today, Mai is still haunted by nightmares of being taken back. 'But the worst thing is that I can no longer respect myself for what they made me do,' she adds.

Ba Nam is nearly 70. She lives in abject poverty in a tiny shack—about the size of a tool-shed in an English garden—made of planks and old beer cases in a slum area only a few minutes walk from the American limousines and plush hotels of downtown Saigon.

Four years ago she owned a proper house with a spare room which she rented out. One night the police took her

away and accused her of putting up a member of the NLF in her house. The penalty: three years in prison without trial, first in Chi Hoa, then in Con Son. During her interrogation, the old woman was tied down and jumped upon by her tormentors, resulting today in a stoop and racking pains in her back. Some time later, lime was thrown over her head on several occasions causing total blindness in both eyes.

Ba Nam's husband died many years ago and she lost all contact with her two children during her imprisonment. She lives alone, blind and in poverty.

Letters smuggled out of Con Son prison a few months ago told of some 1,500 people who had been rounded up in the area near Hue during the height of the offensive and dumped en masse into putrid cages, old women, pregnant women, babies and all.

The smuggled letters describe the chaos that reigned in Con Son in recent months as the fighting dragged on. The writer seems to have been some sort of official, who may have been seeking to insure himself against the possible arrival of the Viet Cong. He wrote to friends in Saigon to get them to send money and medicine and to tell certain people that their relatives were alive in Con Son.

'This afternoon I visited one of the prison wards' he said in one letter. 'I was surprised to see a good number of women and old people and over 50 children from nine years down. They're all from Hue, Phu Cam, Phu Loc, Cau Hai. Some of the women are pregnant. They don't know why they were brought here.'

And in another letter: 'The women—over 1,000 of them—are undernourished and have started to suffer from paralysis, not to mention those who

have lost their minds (from missing their children, missing home, not knowing why they were brought here), and are wandering around aimlessly in the prison camp. And the whole situation is made worse by the complete lack of medicine.'

Many of the prisoners, the letters recounted, suffer from paralysis, amnesia and insanity from diseases contracted there, and receive no medical treatment. The food ration was 600 grammes of rice per day for each adult, with no allowance for children.

'A three-year-old child with a high fever', says one letter, was frantically running around the camp like a madman until it was beaten up by the warders, many of whom are murderers and robbers expelled from the army.'

Another description of torture was supplied by women who were confined in Con Son.

'When the women cried out when they heard cries of protest coming from the men's tiger cages, Nhan and Sum, shirtless, shouted: "I give orders to throw lime on them until they die." The trustees rushed towards us, throwing bags and buckets of lime upon us which had been set on the iron bars above. Buckets of water followed. We were choked and burned by the lime mixed with the water. Many fainted, others vomited blood. One woman was seriously injured when a block of hard lime fell upon her head. At the same time they went into the dispensary and threw lime onto the patients four times until all of them collapsed. Despite that, they stuck the rest of the lime into the nose, mouth and eyes of the patients so that some were blinded, others vomited and coughed out blood. After the repression, our bodies as well as our belongings were all covered with lime. Yet they did not allow us to wash ourselves and clean the cells. So for two months, we kept lying in the lime . . .'

American 'advisers' were stationed in all prisons—particularly in Con Son (Poulo Condor) which holds 50,000 men, women and children. The notorious 'tiger cages' were discovered here in July 1970 when a delegation led by journalist Don Luce and including two United States Congressmen went through a forbidden entrance.

It was this prison which was described by Frank E. Walton, Director of the US Public Safety Programme in Vietnam as 'like a Boy Scout Recreational Camp'.

Following an international outcry, Saigon announced that the tiger cages were being abolished. But in January 1971 the US Department of the Navy placed a \$400,000 contract with Raymond, Morrison, Knudson-Brown, Root and Jones to build 384 new 'isolation cells'—and these were two square feet smaller than the cages they replaced.

The reaction to the tiger-cage horror has probably worsened the fate of many of the 100,000 - 200,000 political prisoners in South Vietnam. It is likely that Thieu will eliminate the worst cases to prevent their stories reaching the outside world.

Yet the courage of these political opponents of the US-backed dictator is a blazing symbol to the oppressed throughout the world.

Don Luce tells of an 18-year old girl factory worker whom he saw in the Con Son tiger cages. Asked by a guard: 'Will you salute the [Saigon] flag?' she replied, defiantly: 'No! I will not salute your flag which represents all the things you have done to me.'

USSR RESEARCH 'OUT OF TOUCH'



Soviet industrial research has come under heavy attack in an article in the trade union paper 'Trud' by an industrial manager in Leningrad, G. Kulagin.

The length and tone of the article suggests that it has official backing and is connected with the recently-announced reorganization of Soviet industry into large corporations, each with its own research and design sections.

Kulagin attacks the existing research institutes for being out of touch with the practical problems of the shop floor. New machines were designed without considering their expense or what economies they would provide in practice.

Some machines, developed after as much as 15 years' research and at heavy cost, turned out to be completely unsuitable. He instanced a

new turbine blade and newly-designed textile machines.

'The complaints of customers about unstandardized, expensive and unreliable new tractors and farm machinery are well known,' he added.

He suggested that the financial autonomy of research institutes should be ended. Under the existing system, he said, they were too keen to make a profit by turning out as many designs as possible, regardless of whether the equipment actually worked once it got beyond the drawing board.

He accused the institutes of aristocratic ways and scorning the actual problems involved in installing and testing new machinery in the factories.

The big industrial change now beginning is a desperate attempt to overcome the crisis in the Soviet economy which is responsible for the slowing down of growth as the current

Plan enters its decisive third year.

In vital fields of advanced technology, Soviet industry has been unable to close the gap with the capitalist countries. Enormous sums have had to be spent on imported equipment and know-how in an attempt to bridge this gap. Nevertheless the productivity of labour is admitted to be still only about 54 per cent of that achieved in the United States.

However the bureaucracy reorganizes its control of industry or technological research, it will be unable to solve the problems which result from the Stalinist policy of 'socialism in one country' and its own arbitrary rule and mismanagement of the economy.

THE OLD REVERENCE FOR STALIN REAPPEARS

Stalin is shown in a favourable light—taking decisions which had an important bearing on the Soviet Union's preparation for air war—in the autobiography of the famous plane designer A. Yakovlev.

Yakovlev says nothing about the purges which were ordered by Stalin in the 1930s. Instead he shows the bloodthirsty dictator taking a personal interest in the development of new aircraft for military purposes.

In April 1939 he was summoned to the Kremlin in connection with a twin-engined reconnaissance plane which he had helped design. Stalin was so impressed that on the spot he ordered that Yakovlev should be presented with 100,000 roubles, a new Zis car and the Order of Lenin.

Shortly afterwards he was again summoned to Stalin's presence and taken to a meeting of the presidium concerned with aviation matters. Yakovlev's design was selected as the basis for a strike bomber.

Again, according to his account, the famous wartime Yak fighter which he designed followed from a suggestion by Stalin, who was intimately concerned with questions of aircraft production.

While the new plane was being got ready, in October 1939, Yakovlev was sent, on Stalin's orders, as part of a trade delegation to Germany to study



Stalin inspecting limousines at the 'Stalin Automobile Works', in Moscow. In recent books, particularly the autobiography of A. Yakovlev, Stalin is portrayed as a wise man and great leader.

aviation engineering.

He does not mention that by then the notorious pact with Nazi Germany was in force. The trade delegation was evidently part of the implementation of this agreement.

Yakovlev's memoirs, which are permeated with all the old reverence for Stalin and contain no word of criticism nor

even a reference to the trials and purges which were then tearing Soviet society apart, obviously have a political meaning.

They suggest that Stalin was a wise man and a great leader after all and should be restored to the place which he occupied in the history books before 1956.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

suggest he rushes to Downing Street. Having been converted from all his previous policies, there's every reason to suppose that Heath is now ready to accept miracles.

READY CASH

A news item from Down Under: 'Australian banks have so much ready cash they are advertising loans. One is offering up to \$4,000 (about £2,000) without security.' All we can say is — stand back and wait for the explosion!

INTEGRITY

When the South African police were under heavy criticism recently for the brutality they used against students and other opponents of the racist regime, several ministers sprang to the defence of the police.

They were praised for their dedication, integrity and courage and a call was made to

white public to back them.

Little mention has been made, however, of another news item involving the police.

In Pretoria, 19 officers have been convicted on 64 charges of housebreaking and theft.

One of them was found guilty of stealing goods from his own police station.

SILENCE

A welcome piece of news from Shelter, the band of middle-class liberals who protest about homelessness. They have designated April 'Hush-in' month.

During this month they are sponsoring a national series of sponsored silences. The longer participants remain speechless, the more money they raise. The target is £50,000.

It is not known whether Des Wilson, the outspoken and long-winded ex-director of Shelter, is taking part.



OUT FOR FAVOURS FROM THE WEST

Before departing for a visit to the Netherlands, President Nicolai Ceausescu of Rumania was host to a gathering of top-level businessmen from the capitalist countries who held a seminar in Bucharest starting on April 4.

Representatives of more than 50 corporations and banks were present at the gathering which was organized by the Business International Corporation.

It was intended, in the words of Bucharest radio, to 'make it possible to seek and examine real possibilities of collaboration and co-operation between the firms of the Corporation and our country's enterprises, based on a better understanding of economic developments and Rumanian legislation, as well as other factors that regulate economic activity, especially foreign trade'.

Ceausescu expressed to the assembled businessmen his desire to improve relations and develop trade. He hoped

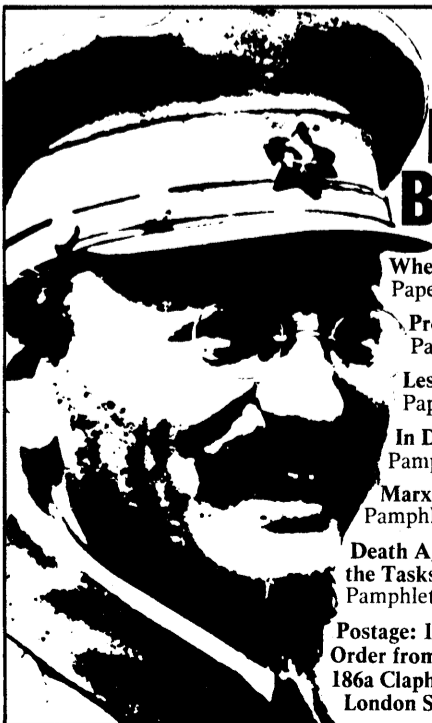
Rumania's president, Nicolai Ceausescu—expressed his desire for more trade.

that out of the meeting would come 'an expansion of concrete co-operation between Rumanian industry and your companies'.

On behalf of the assembled businessmen, Alonzo B. Knight, vice-President of the American Rockwell International Corporation, thanked Ceausescu and said that Business International was interested in expanding economic relations with Rumania.

Alonzo's company is an American multi-national giant in aerospace and motor components which is building up a huge industrial empire in western Europe. It also has important interests in South Africa.

The Rumanian bureaucracy, the first to open up friendly relations with President Nixon, are now going all out to win favours from international big business.



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SALVATION

Just the thing to help you through these troubled times. A few words from Don Stewart, known as 'the dynamic faith evangelist'.

He's appearing in the north-west at present on his 'Compassion explosion' tour. Advertisements in the local newspapers promise that Citizen Stewart can bring you 'a spiritual happening to change your life — salvation — healing — prosperity'.

With these great tidings, we

BUTTER SOLD

Detente in Europe between the capitalist countries and the Soviet bloc is at last beginning to pay off.

Common Market intervention authorities have been busy for months starving the working class but keeping prices up by buying huge quantities of butter.

More than 500,000 tons of it is accumulated in warehouses all over western Europe.

The problem was that the mountain of butter represented subsidies to EEC farmers which had to be paid for.

People in Britain are paying about 22p a pound for butter and in Europe 44p a pound.

Dumping has long been an established practice in times of trade war, but the problem in the advanced industrial world has until now been where and how to dump without one's neighbours complaining.

A solution has been found.

200,000 tons, or half the butter stockpile, have been sold to the Soviet Union for 8p a pound.

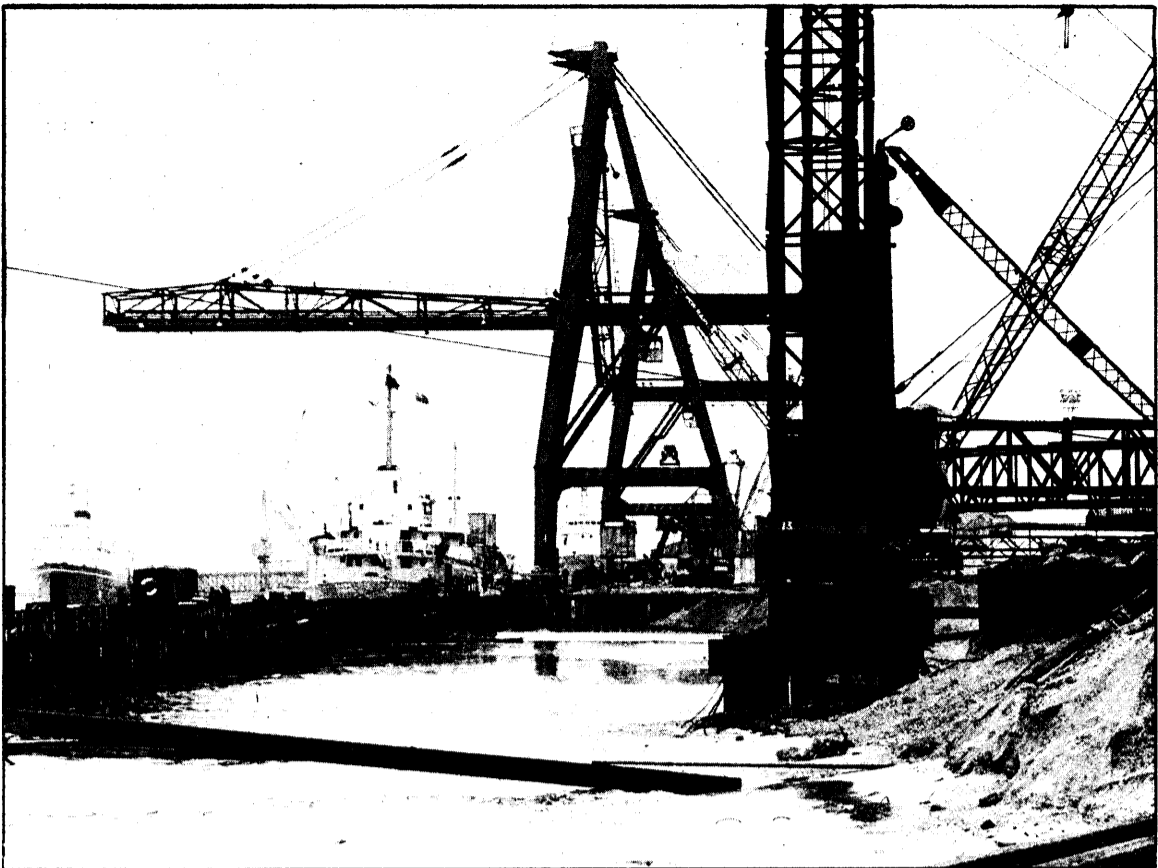
The butter is being sold at a thumping loss. The Russians are paying about £17.5 per 220lb compared with the EEC price to producers of £93 per 220lb.

But as a Commission spokesman said: 'It would cost even more to keep the butter in store or give it away in aid.'

Meanwhile, with EEC butter prices revealed to be twice as high as in Britain, the chairman of the Milk Marketing Board, Sir Richard Trehane, denied there would be a 24 per cent rise in UK prices by the end of the year.

The most that could be expected he said were rises of between 7 and 10 per cent.

Even this means that housewives are likely to pay over 2p a pound more for butter in the near future and few can doubt that the intention is to bring all European prices into line as quickly as possible.



WHY THE TORIES LOVE FELIXSTOWE

In three weeks' time Transport Minister John Peyton will open a bypass and spur road designed to help unregistered Felixstowe dock win even more trade from the struggling ports within the National Dock Labour Scheme.

Felixstowe, which by 1975 aims to have doubled its present capacity and to be handling more than 5 million tons of cargo a year, is the apple of the Tories' eye.

It pays nothing to the running of the Dock Labour Scheme, which the Tories' close friends the port employers hate.

It is not saddled with the same debt problems as many of the older ports within the Scheme. Speed-up is continuous and its dockers, unlike men registered under the Scheme, work under threat of immediate or at least rapid dismissal.

The National Ports Council survey of non-Scheme ports and wharves found that profits

for the five main unregistered ports—Felixstowe among them—showed an 11.3 per cent return on capital employed as compared with only 7.1 per cent for the Scheme ports.

This month Felixstowe, whose Port Users' Association is now more than 100 strong, extends its container services westwards into the St Lawrence and eastwards to Taiwan and Hong Kong. Its trading areas to the north and south are also growing.

More than 100,000 containers pass through the port each year by rail and road and the newly-won Canadian and Far East traffic could add at least 30,000 to that figure.

Besides boasting about its expanding trade, the top brass of the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Co are also given to the occasional quiet gloat about what they think are new successes in forcing up the rate of exploitation of their 850 dockers and staff even further.

Managing director Stanley Turner, formerly industrial



John Peyton, Transport Minister. Above: The unregistered dock, Felixstowe.

relations director of the Port of London Authority, has just put into operation a scheme for supply of labour on a contract basis from warehouse operators and other employers in the port.

'I had no mandate to insist on such an arrangement, but it cuts out both poaching of labour and leapfrogging demands,' he explained.

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UNFAIR DISMISSAL GETS £75 AT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL

A Warwickshire maintenance worker who was dismissed by the Marquess of Hertford is to appeal to the National Industrial Relations Court.

Mr Neville Figgett (26), father of three, was awarded £75 compensation for unfair dismissal at Birmingham Industrial Tribunal last month.

Mr Figgett was dismissed after 11 years' service in January this year.

His friend, Mr Philip Glasspool, a personnel manager from Redditch, who appeared for him at the tribunal, said they will appeal to the NIRC against the amount of compensation.

They will also ask for redundancy payment. But Mr Figgett's case raises a host of other questions as well.

For example, the Marquess sacked Figgett because of illness. And he learnt of his employee's sickness before Mr Figgett himself had been told.

Mr Glasspool has written to the Ministry of Health asking for

an inquiry into the fact that Figgett's doctor told the Marquess of the illness—multiple sclerosis—before he told Figgett.

During the tribunal's hearing the Marquess said he had been informed of Figgett's conditions about midsummer. Mr Figgett was not told until November.

Mr Figgett said: 'If it is true that Lord Hertford heard from the doctor that I had multiple sclerosis before I was told, then I am most upset.'

'I think an inquiry ought to be held. I was first told about my illness when I was in hospital but it seems that Lord Hertford knew about it long before then.'

The Marquess told the 'Birmingham Post' the tribunal had found him at fault for not giving Mr Figgett more warning that his employment was to cease.

'As his employer I think it was very necessary that I should know of his illness, so that I could avoid putting any pressure on him to carry out the hard work which his job usually entailed.'

Hertford is the eight Marquess of the 18th century title. He is the eldest son of the late Brig Gen Lord Henry Charles Seymour and Lady Helen Frances Grosvenor.

The 43-year-old Marquess married Comtesse Louise de Caraman Chimay in 1956. He is chairman of the Fleet public relations company, Hertford Public Relations Limited, while at the same time he maintains a keen interest in his inherited estates.

Mr Figgett worked since he left school on Lord Hertford's estate at Ragley Hall, Alcester, in Warwickshire.

ARMY RECRUITING SLOWS DOWN

Things are not going too well for the army—especially in Scotland.

With about 140,000 unemployed, sometimes over long periods and most of them crammed into Glasgow and the surrounding towns, army recruiting has until now been good.

Thousands of youth particularly responded to the lavish 'Join the Professionals' posters which dominated scores of prominent hoardings in all Scotland's most depressed areas.

In 1971 some 19,000 soldiers and 9,000 juniors flocked to get into uniform and lay hands on a reasonable pay packet.

Many of them ended up suppressing workers in Northern Ireland.

Scotland's economy is every bit as bad as it ever was, but the old lure of the army has sharply diminished.

Latest figures released by the Director of Army Recruitment show that last year only 14,500 soldiers and 1,000 juniors opted to leave civvy street.

Tories must be forced out—Sinn Feiner

THE secretary of the Luton branch of the Provisional Sinn Fein, whose home was raided by the police but who was not charged, told Workers Press:

'These raids were for the harassment and intimidation not only of Irish people but of the working class as a whole.

'Although the police did not physically harass my family the aim of these raids is to bring anyone involved in the working-class struggle into conflict with their neighbours, their workplace and their social relations.

'The Tories are pushing through laws in every way to keep down the workers, and arming the police in an effort to deny workers their basic rights.

'I endorse the call of Workers Press for the bringing down of the Tory government through a General Strike and the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies, including the withdrawal of British troops from Ulster.'

Coventry raid victims face court

BY JACK GALE

SIX MEN appear in court in Coventry today charged with conspiracy to cause an explosion.

They are Father Patrick Miles Hamilton Fell (32), assistant priest at All Souls Roman Catholic Church; Anthony Roland Lynch (46); Herbert Francis Kelly (27); Thomas Gerald Rush (26); Anthony McCormick (17); and Frank Stagg (31).

The six were arrested when over 500 police raided homes in Coventry, London, Glasgow, Manchester and Birmingham in the early hours of Friday morning.

Four men detained in London following the raids have been released pending further inquiries.

In Manchester Stanislaus Corn-

ally (39), was remanded in custody until Thursday charged with unlawful possession of a Smith and Wesson .38 revolver and 12 rounds of ammunition.

Two men were charged in Liverpool on Saturday—one of them, Edward Patrick Collins (27), under the Official Secrets Act.

Collins was charged with 'having in his possession or control a sketch or plan relating to a Ministry of Defence establishment at Catterick, Yorkshire, in a manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the state'.

Jeremiah Brendan Harte (21),

was also remanded in custody in Liverpool until Wednesday accused of stealing postal orders and two Post Office franking stamps.

During intensive security operations co-ordinated from their London headquarters by Special Branch chiefs, 40 households were raided in London, 27 in Scotland, five in Birmingham and 35 elsewhere.

As Workers Press revealed on Friday, the homes of members of the International Marxist Group were broken into, but Fleet Street editors were told to 'play the story as anti-IRA'.

Tories boost police strength

THE NUMBER of policemen in England and Wales topped the 100,000 mark for the first time last month.

Home Secretary Robert Carr told the Crime Reporters' Association yesterday that 'there is some satisfaction at the Home Office'.

This, he said, was because the police forces have increased by more than 7,000 since the Tories won the election.

The annual growth of the police strength improved from about 1,000 in 1969 to about 3,000 last year.

'We're filling up the jails,' says Whitelaw



A TOTAL of 1,009 people in Northern Ireland have been charged with 'serious crimes' since Operation Motorman last August, when the British army moved into the former 'no-go' areas.

William Whitelaw, the Tories' Ulster secretary, told northern area Young Conservatives at the weekend that March had been a record month for charges and 'April looks like being even better'.

Some 48 people had been charged in the first 11 days of the month.

Whitelaw's repressive Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill is due for its Second Reading in the Commons tomorrow. This would virtually abolish jury trial for 'terrorists'.

Meanwhile, there were 16 shootings in Northern Ireland on Saturday, and at Lisburn gunmen carrying the Union Jack and the Ulster flag fired on a children's band.

A teenage brother and sister shot by British troops in Belfast early yesterday in Andersonstown were 'probably not concerned' in a shooting incident nearby, the army has admitted.

The youth, 15, and his 19-year-old sister were both Roman Catholics. The youth has serious chest wounds and his sister injuries to her leg and side.

The officer commanding the Third Battalion of the Paratroop Regiment in Belfast, Lt-Col Gordon Lorimer has been sent home for medical treatment.

But the army has denied there is any connection between this and reports of brutality by the battalion in the Ardoyne,

-and things are getting 'better'

although it refuses to give any details of his illness.

Sean Keenan, said to be commanding officer of the Provisional IRA's 3rd Battalion in Belfast, was arrested by soldiers on Friday.

Jimmy Drumm, husband of acting Provisional Sinn Fein president Maire Drumm, has been arrested in Andersonstown.

Mr Drumm (53), has spent 13 years in prison. He was released from Long Kesh—now the Maze prison—last June.

Mrs Drumm, who took up her post in January after the jailing in Dublin of Rory O'Brady for six months, says her family is being victimized to make her 'tone down' her Republican activities.

One of her two sons, Seamus, is in jail and she has served two six-month sentences herself.

In Dublin the new Minister for Justice, Patrick Cooney, warned of a new offensive against the IRA.

The Irish government, he said, would not tolerate two armies and would use 'all the powers available to them to operate the rule of law'.

Mr Cooney declared that Eire could not be used as 'a base or haven' for those fighting the British in the north.

BBC 1

10.00 Magic roundabout. 10.05 Banana splits. 10.35 Swim with Rolf. 10.50-11.00 Captain Pugwash. 12.25 Cywain. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 Pets and vets. 2.00 Philpott file. 2.55 Collectors' pieces. 3.10 Expedition North America. 3.35 Holiday 73. 4.00 Huckleberry Hound. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Yao. 5.40 Sir Francis. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 TOP OF THE FORM. 7.10 STAR TREK. The Paradise Syndrome. 8.00 PANORAMA. 9.00 NEWS. Weather. 9.25 SEARCH FOR THE NILE. The Secret Fountains. 10.15 BEST IN THE BALLROOM. 10.50 MILO O'SHEA. 'The Bitter Pill' By Hugh Leonard. 11.20 NEWS. Weather. 11.25 MAN IN HIS PLACE. We are the masters now. What happened to the miners' dreams of the new Jerusalem. 11.50 BEYOND PERSONALITY. Making and Begetting. Extracts from talks by C. S. Lewis read by David King. 11.55 Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.00 Plus Tam. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Survival. 6.45 London. 10.33 Sound stage. 11.03 History of motor racing. 11.23 Protectors. 11.50 News. weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 London. 11.15 Cartoon. 11.35 London. 12.37 Gus Honeygun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sport. 6.35 Date with Danton. 10.30 News. 11.03 Happiness business. 11.50 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 11.10 Yoga. 11.35 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Dick Van Dyke. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.0 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Out of the red. 11.00 Theatre of stars. 11.55 News. 12.00 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 11.15 No short cut. 11.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads.

ITV

9.30 Out of school. 11.15 World War I. 11.35 North Sea oil. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Skribble. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Jokers wild. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Doing things. 3.25 Public eye. 4.25 Pardon my genie. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 And mother makes three. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR. 8.30 WORLD IN ACTION. 9.00 THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. The Mystery of the Amber Beads. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 WILD, WILD WEST. The Night of the Vipers. 11.30 DRIVE-IN. 12.00 WORLD WAR I. 12.25 Epilogue.

5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Black Torment'. 12.00 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 2.30-3.00 Hamdden. 6.01-6.22 Y dydd. 8.30-9.00 Yr wythnos.

HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 11.10 Cartoons. 11.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Russell Harty. 11.30 London. 12.00 Reading.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 11.15 Acres for profit. 11.35 London. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Romantic versus classic art. 11.00 Man in a suitcase. 12.00 Stories worth telling. Weather.

ULSTER: 9.30 London. 11.30 London. 1.30 News. 1.32 Shirley's world. 2.00 Women. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Dick Van Dyke. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday in Holy Week. 10.40 Film: 'The

TODAY'S TV

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University. 7.05 PARENTS AND CHILDREN. The trouble with reading . . . 7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather. 7.35 INSIDE MEDICINE. Love Thy Neighbour? Mentally subnormal patients in Britain. 8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. The Man who Broke the Bank at Red Gap. 8.55 CALL MY BLUFF. 9.25 THEY SOLD A MILLION. The Young Generation and Vince Hill with guests Tom Paxton, Leapy Lee and the music of Glenn Miller. 10.10 PRIZE EXHIBIT. Six museums compete for the title 'Museum of the Year'. 11.00 NEWS EXTRA. Weather. 11.30 OPEN DOOR. Black teachers criticize English education.

Hound of the Baskervilles'. YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 11.10 Mr Trimble. 11.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.45 London. 10.30 Emmerdale farm. 11.25 Outsider. 12.20 Weather. GRANADA: 9.30 London. 11.15 Chess. 11.30 London. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.00 Yoga. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'A Woman's Vengeance'. SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 11.10 World fishing. 11.30 Report. 12.00 Gustavus. 12.05 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 4.55 Superman. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoons. 6.45 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 You pays your money. 11.05 O'Hara. GRAMPIAN: 9.30 London. 11.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 1.00 Ed Allen. 1.30 Avengers. 2.30 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Strictly Scottish. 6.40 London. 10.30 Romantic versus classical art. 11.00 University challenge. 11.30 A kind of living. 11.50 How things have changed. 12.05 Meditation.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETINGS
Make Scanlon retract!
No collaboration with the Industrial Relations Act!
No acceptance of Phase Two!
Force the Tories to resign!
Build the revolutionary party!

South London
TUESDAY APRIL 24, 8 p.m.
Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4

North London
WEDNESDAY APRIL 25 8 p.m.
Woodlands Hall, Crown Street, Acton, W.3.

Liverpool
Transform the SLL into the revolutionary party
Monday April 23, 7.30 p.m.
'The Mona', James St (Entrance at back in Moor St)

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.

Cinema union rejects witch-hunt

BY ROYSTON BULL.

ATTEMPTS to introduce a McCarthyite witch-hunt against Trotskyists were decisively rejected at the annual conference of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians in London at the weekend.

The attack was launched by the right wing against members of the All Trades Union alliance and the Socialist Labour League.

But conniving in the attack were Stalinists, International Socialists and liberals, not one of whom spoke up against these reactionary moves.

Alan Sapper, ACTT general secretary and prominent 'left' on the TUC General Council, also failed to repudiate the witch-hunt. And he added fuel to the reactionary campaign by agreeing to the rotten notion behind it—that the union should be preserved from a 'political takeover'.

The attack came from a right-wing shop steward at Shepperton Studios, Jim Johnson, whose motion deplored the 'excessive' use of union funds for political purposes.

He claimed that 'political

trash' was sent to stewards in union leaflets, and then blamed 'some alliance' for running down the general secretary, trying to control the union's general council and attempting to start a UCS-style sit-in at Shepperton.

'Despite their efforts, we've kept the studios open,' Johnson said.

'But it is time the general membership woke up. If we don't do something now it is going to be too late. Members will be branched if they fall out of line with the decisions and requirements of the Trotskyists.'

'Life will be hard for some of us. Soon the union will be controlled by people who can't keep your funds in order.'

Roy Battersby, a delegate from the freelance shop and member of the general council, won the conference's approval when he replied: 'This slanderous and crude witch-hunt is unworthy of debate in this union.'

'The attack against the ATUA and the Trotskyists is worthier of Senator McCarthy. It plays into the hands of police spies and provocateurs.'

'We are living in a period where police recording a conversation in a cafe in Euston Road between Bert Ramelson and Lawrence Daly is a normal event.'

Battersby went on: 'Politics is the extension of the class struggle, which unions were built to fight in the first place.'

'The movement learned that not just trade unions but a Labour Party was needed to defend trade unionism.'

'Politics and trade unionism could not be separated in the

fight against the property speculators who wanted to make a killing out of closing down Shepperton.

'The studios only kept open because of that political fight.'

'The supporters of the ATUA and Workers Press, who helped win that fight by bringing out the issues involved, only did so on the basis of policies agreed at mass meetings of the workers at Shepperton and approved by the general council.'

Sapper's attempt at fence-sitting came at the end of the debate.

'It would be a great matter for concern if the union was to be used as an industrial arm for the political activities of any group. But this is not the case at the moment, and with the general

council acting on your behalf it will not become so.'

But the whole McCarthyite tactic was booted out lock, stock and barrel by the conference, which also rejected proposals to decide controversial issues by referendum within ACTT and to end the union's recruiting within the BBC.

Yvonne Richards, freelance shop delegate and union vice-president, warned delegates that the tactics used to fight the Shepperton closure would have to be kept ready because of grave threats to casualize 500 workers at EMI studios, and also at Pinewood.

She said Sapper was wrong to rely on the Film Producers' Association to help the union

fight these threats. It was in the FPA's interest to casualize studio workers if they could and destroy strong union shops.

Other speculators would try to make profits out of EMI, Pinewood and Twickenham by dropping all obligations to the workers there, just as Bentley of Barclay Securities had sought to do at Shepperton.

Roy Battersby again repudiated attacks on the 'vicious and terrible' people who threatened to occupy Shepperton.

The Bentley plans for land speculation and studio closure were only defeated by the threats to occupy and to black the work of British Lion directors if they did not continue to use Shepperton, Battersby said.

'Force Tories to resign'

The ACTT conference yesterday voted for TUC-organized industrial action to force the Tory government from office and replace it with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

By 149 votes to 115, conference approved an amendment moved by Roger Smith and seconded by Roy Battersby of the freelance shop which declared:

'Conference totally rejects all legislation contained in Phase Two and all subsequent phases of the Tory government's so-called "Counter

Inflation" Act, introduced as a conscious move towards the corporate state.

'This union therefore demands that the TUC organize immediately industrial action to remove this government from office and work for the return of a Labour government committed

● 'To repeal all anti-union legislation;

● 'To nationalize the basic industries including land, banks and insurance, without compensation and under workers' control;

● 'To restore all democratic rights taken away by the Tory government.'

By 182 votes to 62 conference also recommended that all members have a one-day stoppage of work on May 1' in an emergency motion moved by Roy Battersby in support of the TUC's special Congress decision.

In the election for president Sidney Cole beat Stuart Hood by 145 votes to 112.

Yvonne Richards, Roy Battersby and Stuart Hood were successful in their election for vice-presidents.

George Elvin was given honorary life membership and a standing ovation on his retirement after 40 years as president and secretary of the union which he founded (see page 3).

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

AFTER a disappointing Friday it has been a most encouraging weekend. The following SLL branches responded immediately to our appeal — Tottenham £20, Wandsworth £30, Southampton £25, Swindon £10 and Brixton £56. London readers sent £10.

The 13th annual conference of the Young Socialists collected the magnificent sum of £410 and donated it to the party building fund.

This brings our total to £1,890.89. We need £109.11 by tomorrow to qualify for the special offer of a Workers Press reader to double the sum of £2,000 if we reach this target on time.

May we hear from you at once? Post all donations to:

Party Building Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London SW4 7UG

Hospital strike is wound up

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

LEADERS of 220,000 hospital ancillary workers have decided to end their campaign of selective strikes and accept a pay offer under Tory Phase Two terms.

The NUPE executive, after an acrimonious four-hour session, also decided to take the ancillary workers' case before the Tories' Pay Board together with management.

The statement issued after the executive meeting said the decision had been made 'under duress and protest' to recommend acceptance of what they described as an 'improved' offer.

The improvement is minimal—nearly 150,000 woman workers will get a 2p an hour increase brought forward from October to April 1. This is still within the limits of Phase Two, and as NUPE leaders admitted 'paid no regard to the economic needs of ancillary workers or to the social service they provide'.

Three other unions—COHSE, G&MWU and T&GWU—are expected to follow the NUPE decision.

Actors' leaders 'ignored members'



The council of Equity, the actors' union, was accused of ignoring decisions of the membership at a 1,500-strong special meeting at London's Adelphi Theatre yesterday (above).

Moving a resolution calling on the council to resign, Tom Kempinski said: 'I believe what we are here to decide today is whether we have a union at all, what this union should be like and whether it is democratic.'

'We are facing a situation in which the decisions of the membership are held in contempt by the council of this union.'

He accused the council of ignoring crucial decisions taken at a democratic meeting on January 28 to fight the Industrial Relations Act and the Tory pay laws.

The debate continued late yesterday afternoon and a second meeting called by the council was scheduled to follow immediately after. The council were seeking to make it impossible for special general meetings to be called by anyone but themselves.

YS in May Day strike call

A CALL for full support for the May 1 strike was carried unanimously yesterday by the Young Socialists' conference.

An emergency resolution said that the May Day strike should be seen as the first step in the preparation for united action to force the government to resign.

But it pointed out that the TUC were trying to make it an 'inadequate protest' that could not defeat the common enemy.

The resolution ended: 'This conference urges an all-out campaign to make the TUC mobilize the whole working-class movement for a General Strike to force the Tory government to resign, and to return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.'

'We call on every member of this movement to go out and campaign for the biggest action possible on May Day.'

During the morning session the conference heard fraternal greetings from members of the Trotskyist movement in Germany, America, Greece and Ireland.

Special greetings came from the Union of Arab Students, the Bangla Desh Students' Association and a delegation from the Sunderland factory, Coles Cranes.

Fraternal greetings from the Socialist Labour League to the conference were brought by national secretary Gerry Healy, who said that the Trotskyist movement would defend to the death every single basic right and gain of the working class.

A campaign was going on now to defend the rights of groups within the Labour movement against police attacks and intimidation, but comrade Healy said that this appeal should not be confused with any desire for unity on an unprincipled basis with these groups.

'We will always tell the truth to the working class, no matter how unpopular this might be,' said Healy. 'The working class will never liberate itself unless it has a leadership that fights fearlessly against Stalinism and reformism to build a revolutionary party to bring socialism to Britain.'

APRIL FUND NOW £354.89

WE ARE halfway through the month. With our total now at £354.89 we need to rapidly step up our campaign for raising the April Fund. It is a long way from our £1,750 target.

At our most successful Young Socialists' conference at Blackpool over the weekend, it was clear that there is enormous feeling among young people to fight the Tory gov-

ernment. Workers Press is the paper they look to for a political lead. We must therefore do everything possible to raise our fund and keep our paper out in front in every district.

Post all your donations immediately to:

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