

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY MAY 2, 1973 ● No 1061 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS JOIN MAY DAY STRIKE

MASSIVE STATE PAY LAW PROTEST

BY WORKERS PRESS REPORTERS

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The industry-by-industry picture was:

CARS: One of the largest responses was in the Midlands where more than 100,000 car workers stopped work. The 64,000 workers in British-Leyland's Austin Morris factories in Birmingham, Oxford, Swindon and Llanelli were on strike.

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The Wilmot Breeden car components firm in Birmingham had 3,000 absentees.

At Oxford, where all five car plants stopped work, picketing car workers paralysed the City of Oxford Motor Services where busmen had reported for work. Only five buses took to the roads.

Nearly 40,000 Ford workers were out. The giant plant at Dagenham was at a standstill as was Halewood, Liverpool. At the remainder of Ford's 22 plants, the company claimed that half the men turned up for work.

All three Vauxhall plants—Ellesmere Port, Luton and Dunstable—were halted as 26,000 more carworkers joined the strike.

In Scotland the Chrysler and Albion car plants stopped work.

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Some 30,000 workers stayed away from Lucas, Girling and CAV factories in London, the Midlands and Lancashire.

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Arrests hold up London demo

BY DAVID MAUDE

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'There was no provocation whatsoever. The men were simply yanked from the column. One of them in particular was

arrested while he was just peacefully walking along.'

After considerable argument the march continued from Shaftesbury Avenue where the arrests took place.

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Despite their union's equivocal attitude to the strike, railwaymen were strongly represented and there were a number of NUR banners.

UPW members were also prominent on the march, despite their union leaders' instructions not to join the strike.

There were big contingents of immigrant workers.

But there was a noticeable

lack of British trade union leaders. Among those who did march were Lawrence Daly of the miners, Alan Fisher of NUPE, Joan Maynard of the agricultural workers, Ken Brett and Les Dixon of the engineers and Richard Briginshaw of NATSOPA.

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Said another: 'Where Have All Our Wages Gone? On Higher Prices Every One'.

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SEALED bids for Rolls-Royce Motors will be opened today in the City offices of merchant bankers Rothschilds.

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Chataway, Industrial Development Minister, on Monday to 'keep Rolls British'.

A delegation from the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union, which also saw Chataway, proposed that the firm should stay in public ownership.

**£100,000
PARTY
BUILDING
FUND**

WE FINISHED April with £10,027. This means that we have approximately £40,000 to raise during May. This is going to be the toughest battle yet.

Socialist Labour League branches Lancaster £5; Birkenhead £10; Slough £2; Swansea £1; Basingstoke £10; Paddington £1; Wandsworth £55; Lewisham £6.65; Basildon £1; Jarrow £10; Southall £30; Camden £60; Southampton £13; Edinburgh £15; Aberdeen £16.50; Dundee £1.50; Willesden £20; Tottenham £7; Brixton £5.95.

Post all donations to:
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workers press

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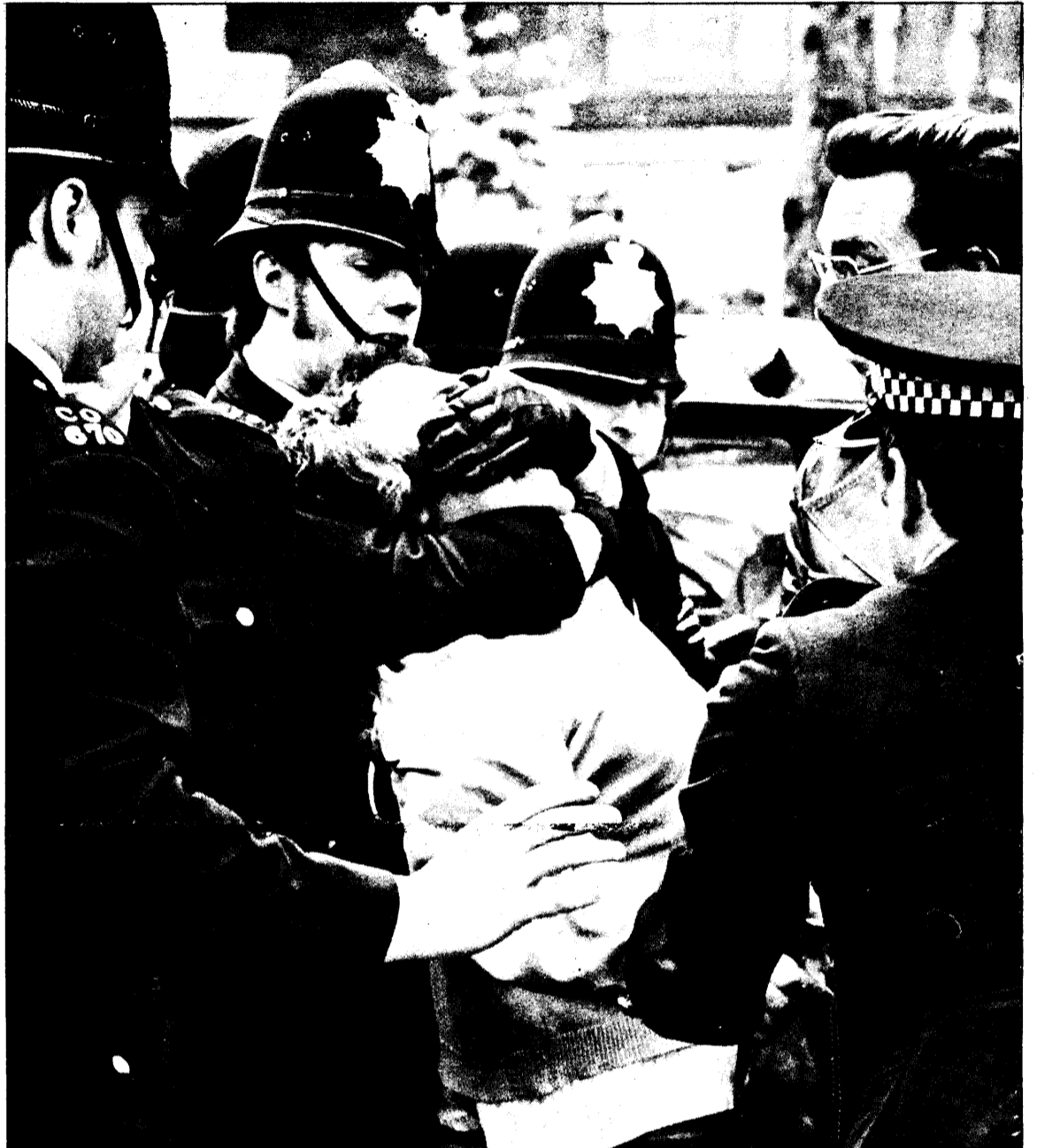
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TURN TO BACK PAGE

The scandals still waiting behind the sluicagate

SOME of the stories Nixon 'forgot' to mention in his speech are filling the front pages of the US Press, revealing Watergate as the biggest scandal ever to hit the United States.

A whole series of revelations have blossomed from the original break-in at the Watergate Hotel, which is now known to have been organized by the aptly named CREEP (Committee to Re-elect the President). Among some of the latest stories:

- Attorney-General Klienendienst and his assistant Henry Petersen eight weeks ago turned down a request by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to continue electronic surveillance which had begun to reveal connections between the Mafia and the Teamsters (Drivers) Union leadership.

Wire-tapping had begun to reveal the diversion of millions of dollars from the union's welfare fund to the Mafia, and would have compromised Frank Fitzsimmonds, the union boss who was one of Nixon's staunchest allies in the labour leadership.



Defendants Howard Hunt

- CREEP accepted an illegal secret donation of \$200,000 from financial operator Robert L. Vesco who was then under investigation for his part in the alleged 'looting' of \$224m from the firm of Investors Overseas Services (IOS).

Nixon's aide John Ehrlichman met several of Vesco's assistants at the White House in December, according to the 'Los Angeles Times', and promised to ring the US embassy in Beirut to help boost Vesco's scheme to take over the Lebanese Intra Bank.

Ehrlichman admits having met Vesco in December, but denies having used his influ-

ence to promote Vesco's Intra Bank scheme. Nixon is personally involved in this scandal through his nephew Donald, a Vesco employee.

- Convicted Watergate burglars Gordon Liddy and Howard Hunt broke into a psychiatrist's office last year and stole papers relating to Daniel Ellsberg, chief defendant in the Pentagon Papers trial.

The judge in the case has admitted that he met Ehrlichman at the White House on two occasions in the course of the trial. He also fleetingly met President Nixon.

Ellsberg's lawyer has demanded a halt to the trial and has named H. R. Haldeman, Ehrlichman and John Dean, Patrick Gray, former head of the FBI, former attorney-general John Mitchell, his replacement Klienendienst (who has also resigned) and four other Justice Department officials as men who should be called to testify about how evidence against Ellsberg was obtained.

- CREEP was revealed as having sent phoney telegrams to President Nixon congratulating him on the mining of Haiphong last year. The Committee also organized to flood a television station with pro-Nixon letters and ensure his victory in a public opinion poll.

'Work ground to a halt in the press office while everyone filled out 15 postcards,' said one CREEP functionary. 'Ten people worked for several days buying different kinds of stamps and postcards and getting different handwriting to fake the responses.'

- Herbert Kalmbach, Nixon's personal attorney, is being investigated by the Grand Jury for having obstructed justice by providing the funds used to 'buy the silence' of the original seven Watergate defendants.

Sources within CREEP have said that between \$500,000 and \$1m left over from the 1968 campaign fund laid the basis for Kalmbach's secret



... and Gordon Liddy.

fund. It is claimed that up to \$350,000 was spent in a futile effort to keep the seven convicted burglars quiet.

- Acting chief of the FBI Patrick Gray (who has now resigned) admits having destroyed two files given him by John Dean. The files apparently contained forged diplomatic cables smearing President Kennedy.

The files are said to have been put together at a time when Edward Kennedy was being spoken of as a possible presidential candidate for the Democratic party.

Tricky Dicky tear-jerker

BY JOHN SPENCER

A GRIM-FACED President Nixon, reading slowly from a sheaf of papers, went on American television on Monday night to try and dodge the blame for the Watergate affair.

His television appearance has already aroused unfavourable comment, even within his own party, and it is clear that Nixon will not be allowed to escape as easily as he had hoped.

Before he went on television the White House announced the resignations of his two closest aides, John Ehrlichman and H.R. (Bob) Haldeman and of the attorney-general Richard Klienendienst.

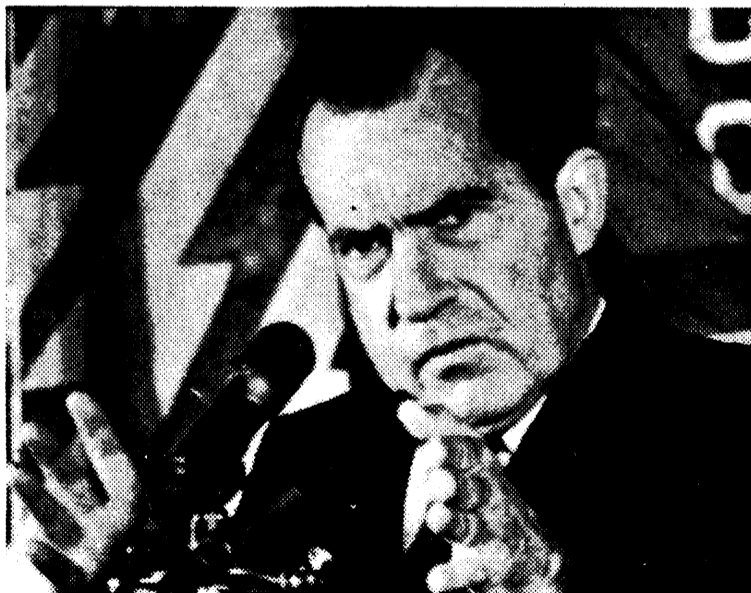
It also announced that presidential counsel John Dean had been forced to resign.

For weeks the newspapers have been full of stories implicating these men in the scandal, together with others who are hanging on to office by their fingertips. But the biggest question-mark of all hangs over the President himself.

Monday night's performance has done nothing to dispel it. The President now has his back to the wall and his enemies are closing in for the kill.

He claimed total ignorance of the bugging of the Democratic headquarters last June and did not know about any possibility of a cover-up of White House involvement until he was given new facts in March.

Discussing the responsibility for the plot to spy on the Democrats during the election campaign, Nixon said: 'I will not



Nixon (top) with his aides Bob Haldeman, John Ehrlichman and John Dean.

place the blame on subordinates —on people whose zeal exceeded their judgement, and who may have done wrong in a cause they deeply believed to be right.'

In the climax of his 25-minute speech, he went on: 'In any organization, the man at the top must bear the responsibility. That responsibility belongs here in this office. I accept it.'

He said he would do 'everything in my power to ensure that

the guilty are brought to justice and that such abuses are purged from our political processes in years to come'.

He lavished praise on his two chief aides, who resigned some hours before the speech while maintaining their innocence and denying they knew in advance about the bugging or tried to conceal White House involvement.

Nixon described them as 'two

of the finest public servants it has been my privilege to know'. He said: 'I want to make it clear in accepting these resignations (of Ehrlichman and Haldeman) I mean to leave no implication whatever of personal wrongdoing on their part.'

He pointedly did not include in this eulogy the White House counsel John Dean, who was also forced to resign on Monday. Dean is reported to be preparing to tell the Watergate Grand Jury that Haldeman and others were involved in a cover-up.

In a peroration intended to jerk tears from the viewers Nixon read them his Christmas Eve wishes for America 'written during my terrible personal ordeal of the renewed bombing of North Vietnam'. He expressed the hope that the remaining 1,361 days of his presidential term should be 'the best days in America's history, because I love America'.

Nixon said the Watergate case had 'claimed far too much of my own time and attention' since March. 'I must now turn my full attention once again to the larger duties of this office,' he said.

But if he thinks this will be enough to put the presidency above the scandal, Nixon has another think coming. So many questions were left unanswered by his television speech that it is hard to know where to begin.

There is talk in the Congress of invoking the drastic procedure of impeachment to remove a man who has become irrevocably stained with the Watergate scandal. The great advocate of 'law and order' is surrounded by criminals, shady financiers and Mafia men.

The Nixon regime is the symbol of the death agony of bourgeois democracy in the United States and everyone can now see

the office of the presidency for what it really is: a licence to become the biggest criminal of all.

Nixon deserves no mercy from the American working class. He is a union-hating, anti-communist butcher whose planes are even now devastating Cambodian villages and raining destruction on the workers and peasants of Laos.

This man rode to power on the coat-tails of Senator Joseph McCarthy and the China lobby of extreme right-wing senators and big businessmen.

The ruling class in the United States fears to press the demand for his impeachment. There is confusion and fear about what will emerge next from this scandal-ridden administration.

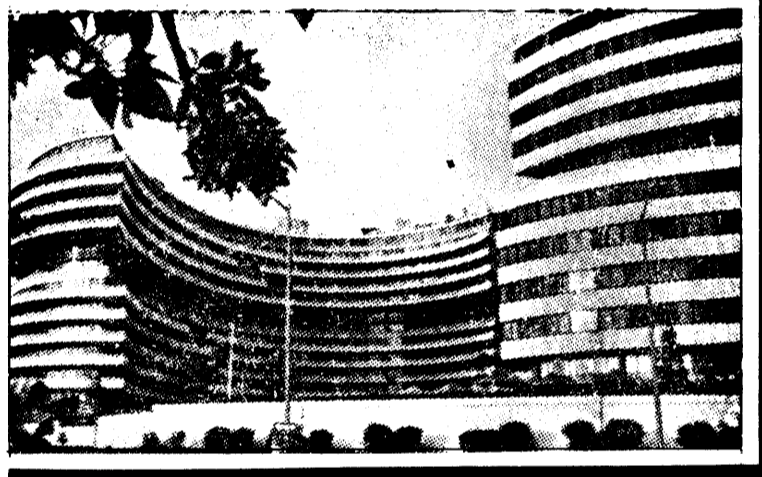
But the President is so deeply involved in the affair that no cover-up can absolve him. Nobody believes 'Tricky Dicky' any more. His credibility is exhausted.

Significantly, his best friends are coming to his assistance. A hasty trip to Moscow has been rigged up for Dr Henry Kissinger, the only member of the inner White House circle who is so far untouched by the scandal.

Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, who went out of his way last week to assure visiting Congressmen of his high regard for Nixon, can be relied on to provide as big a diversion from the Watergate scandal as he can muster.

One thing is certain. Nixon can never wash himself clean of the Watergate affair no matter how many tearful speeches he may make.

With the Grand Jury inquest only just getting under way and with a Senate investigation and a series of trials to come, the way of law and order Nixon-style promises to be very stony, indeed.



But Watergate waterworks won't wash

Return talks at print sit-in

BRANCH officials will be meeting men sitting-in at Tillotson's print factory, Liverpool, today in a bid to hammer out a formula which could lead to a return to work.

About 400 workers took control of the plant on March 23 after four chapel officers had been sacked for calling a work-to-rule in protest against 26 redundancies.

The union, SOGAT, has accepted a two-point peace plan drawn up by management.

This calls for a return to normal working which, it is understood, includes the reinstatement of the sacked chapel officials, in exchange for talks on re-classifying inkroom staff.

But SOGAT Father of the Chapel, Mr Tommy Chute, told me they want 'normal working' spelled out in full before they call off their occupation.

Underlying the printworkers resistance to the peace formula is the fear that the American owned company

may not stop at redundancies but could be planning to close the works completely.

Tillotson's is owned by the Saint Regis Paper Company and chapel officials say rumours are circulating that they intend to open a brand new works at nearby Netherton employing about a third of the present labour force.

At least since 1967 there have been systematic yearly sackings from the factory, whittling the work force from 700. Last September Tillotson's said a further 103 workers would have to go.

In February they sacked 26 women and it was over their dismissal that the chapel called the work-to-rule.

Now all the girls have agreed to redundancy after average offers of £500 each from the management.

In addition to their own reinstatement the chapel officials are holding out for guarantees of no further sackings.

Said Mr Chute: 'We are trying to negotiate with the company to try to offset redundancy, but it is like talking to a brick wall.'



FoC Tommy Chute (nearest camera) along with (l to r) Anne Shane (McC), Eric Bradley (deputy FoC) and Terry Flanagan (representative) with the banner designed by Terry which was carried on yesterday's May Day demonstration in Liverpool.

Brewery men settle strike

STRIKERS at Watney Mann's Whitechapel brewery return to work today—ending a strike of several weeks involving both the company and the Tories' new Pay Board.

Craft union members at Mortlake and Isleworth breweries, who had been out in sympathy with engineers and production workers at Whitechapel, went back yesterday.

At the height of the strike 800 workers were involved at the three breweries. They were fighting Watney's refusal, in line with the pay control laws, to implement a £2.40 settlement due on April 1 under an agreement signed last June.

Strike leaders demanded first the withdrawal of 'strings' for which the £2.40 was supposed to be payment, then five hours' guaranteed overtime each week for all those in dispute.

Mass meetings on Monday accepted

a six-point agreement with the company arrived at in negotiations involving union officials. This went some way to meeting the strikers' reserve demand for withdrawal or suspension of the 'strings'.

Until June 30, workers are to be allowed the same shift overlaps as applied before June 1972, shift workers' contractual overtime is to remain until new negotiations and there is to be no change in shift patterns during the life of the present agreement.

There are also to be consultations in the strikers' overtime demand. The company has agreed that there will be no victimization of the 800, while the strikers have agreed to forgo their holiday pay for Good Friday and Easter Monday.

● The Whitechapel strikers remained out for May Day yesterday. At Mortlake and Isleworth there were one-hour token strikes and overtime was banned for the day.

Belfast yard plan rejected

BOILERMAKERS' leader Danny McGarvey has failed in a bid to end the 11-week work-to-rule by his members at the Harland and Wolff shipyard.

The union president flew specially to Belfast on Monday to convey instructions to return to work from himself and his executive. But the boilermakers stood firm.

As a result, the yard management is threatening to lay off all 10,000 shipyard workers. Already it has sent home 1,000 of the 2,500 boilermakers and given notice of lay-off to the rest.

The dispute is over a bonus for increases in productivity.

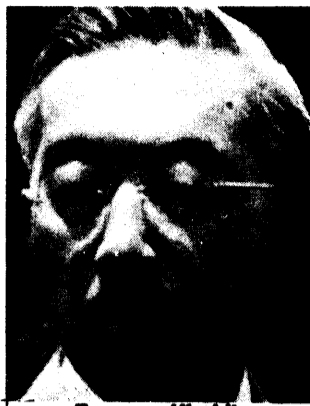
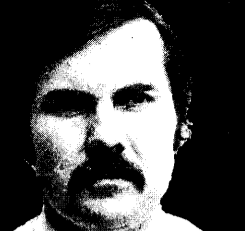
Leyland pay stays out

A NEW WAGES structure which would undermine piecework at the Leyland bus and truck factories in Lancashire has been rejected by the workers.

But a mass meeting on Monday was told by convener Len Brindle that a £2.49 all-round wages increase would be permissible under Phase Two of the Tory pay laws. The meeting decided to submit a claim for this amount.

Meanwhile, 1,250 workers are now laid off following the refusal of 58 engine assemblers to return to work. Because of deadlock over the pay structure, the assemblers have put forward a separate allowance claim, which has been refused by management.

ALEX MITCHELL'S Far-East Diary



Emperor Hirohito

Pollution and the Emperor

THERE is great alarm in the Japanese capitalist Press about the Emperor's fish.

Old Hirohito, you see, has a 460,000 square metre, mile-long moat around his palace in the centre of Tokyo.

An estimated 100,000 fish live in it. He has goldfish, roach and carp.

Since the beginning of this month the moat has been dotted with bloated dead fish. On one day, April 13, a total of 300 died.

The shores of the Imperial moat now stink with dead fish.

All the experts have been rushed in. Their extraordinarily unscientific diagnosis is that they have died from 'the mysterious fish disease'.

A later report said the deaths were caused by 'fish congestion'; the poor creatures aren't getting enough oxygen.

But while all this alarm is being cast around, a less-publicized report appeared from the Maritime Safety Agency. It stated that cases of marine pollution in and around Japan numbered 2,283 last year, or more than five times the corresponding number two years earlier.

It can confidently be predicted that in dealing with marine pollution, the Emperor's moat will receive attention way in advance of the oil slick, the garbage and the chemical filth which has plundered large sections of the Japanese coastline.

The 'shame of surrender' lives on

'The right wing is associated with divine inspiration and with Japan as the divine land. This leads to militarism.' — Yoshio Kodama, the leading right-wing ideologue in Japan and close adviser to Prime Minister Tanaka's ruling party.

WHEN Sgt Shoichi Yokoi walked out of the jungles of Guam last year, his story was treated abroad as bizarre and picturesque. Not so in Japan.

Yokoi returned home after 28 years of hiding to a rousing welcome, particularly from the right-wing military circles and the pro-government Press. To these reactionary groups he was not so much a human interest story, as a symbol of bygone Imperial days.

Yokoi's own exposition of the divinity of the Fatherland was powerful stuff. He told the Press on landing in Tokyo:

ASHAMED

'I come home alive, of which I feel very much ashamed.'

What had kept him going was the spiritual strength of the Emperor. He had remained silent and alone in the jungle for such a long time because of 'the shame of surrender'.

His statements have been seized by the right-wing groups—there literally dozens of them—to whip up feelings of militarism and nationalism.

These groups have gained some pre-eminence in military circles since the government's decision officially to recognize China, pull out of Taiwan and set up an embassy in Peking.

The rightists say the 'nation' has been 'sold out' and the country made to 'surrender' to communism.

In the days of Tojo, sur-

render to the enemy was the most shameful and unforgivable act of all—shame to family, society and the nation. Only death could negate the dishonour.

There are many instances of fanatical army officers committing hara kiri in front of their captors during the closing stages of the Pacific war. In some cases Allied officers actually returned ceremonial swords to the Japanese to allow them the 'privilege' of committing suicide by slicing their stomachs open.

FEUDAL

Sergeant Yokoi had become the vehicle for a fresh invocation of these feudal traditions.

'His mind was what we have long forgotten, but should not have forgotten,' a middle-aged company executive told a Tokyo newspaper.

'We must bring ourselves back to the old days when we had a sacred Emperor and a code of life which, indeed, were the symbol and basis of our nation.'

Now the Japanese right has seized on another wartime fugitive—Lt Hiroo Onoda, who is hiding on Lubang Island, 75 miles south of Manila.

He has been on a 28-year vigil for the return of the Japanese Imperial Army and the continuation of World War II.

In mid-October last year Onoda's companion, Cpl Kozuka, was shot dead. This prompted 100 newsmen to descend on the remote island to hunt down the lieutenant.

In a final bid to make him give up, one newspaper chartered a plane to drop photographs of atom-bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Whether the pictures found him isn't known. He still hasn't shown up—much to the delight of the rightists who have turned him into a Pimpernel-like cult figure.



Colour television sets ready for the European invasion?

The rising sun in Europe in full glorious colour

JAPANESE manufacturers are planning a big export drive in colour television sets to the United Kingdom.

They hope to export 350,000 sets this year, or more than double last year's number.

A ministry survey has revealed that only 18 out of every 100 families in Britain own a colour TV as compared with 60 per cent in the United States and 75 per cent in Japan.

'The popularity of colour TV has increased remarkably since last year,' a spokesman said. 'Demand

this year is expected to be from 800,000 to 1.2 million sets more than last year.'

While the men from Sony and Toshiba prepare to crash the British TV market, there is a salutary story from the Common Market headquarters in Brussels.

The EEC Commission has just authorized Italy to curb imports of Japanese tape recorders. The strict quota has been imposed to protect Italy's domestic industry.

The reason is simple: Japan's share of the Italian market has leaped by a massive 69 per cent a year between 1969 and 1972 from 99,000 units to 478,000.

Negotiations are also underway between the Benelux countries—Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg—aimed at blocking the sale to the three.

This week Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira arrives in Brussels for talks with EEC officials.

THE BIG BUSINESS OF PACKAGING

The development of the so-called 'consumer society' has led over the past period to enormous changes in the method of food and commodity selling.

Day after day we are bombarded with advertisements on television, radio, in newspapers and wherever we travel boosting the advantages of one product or another.

The vast majority of these products are marketed by one or other of the major monopolies who do not rely on any price or quality differential to sell their goods—the advertising campaigns alone create the basis of the market.

For so much of this market the impact of a particular commodity also depends to a large extent on its particular wrappings.

A report out last week, 'Packaging in Britain', examines the wrappings scene—'Packaging', it says, 'has become "big business".'

This report—from the Friends of the Earth—notes some of the less attractive features of what it calls 'an important social phenomenon of fairly recent vintage'. One in particular is the cost to the consumer.

If packaging were not a costly business, it could not support an industry whose finances are measured in thousands of millions of pounds, whose yearly returns continue to climb . . . The

costs of packaging begin with the costs of the materials and energy used, and do not end until the cast-off packaging is no longer a liability either to the community or to its environment . . .

'Furthermore, the unquantifiable costs of packaging in particular are almost invariably borne by the community as a whole, and by its environment . . .'

AEROSOLS

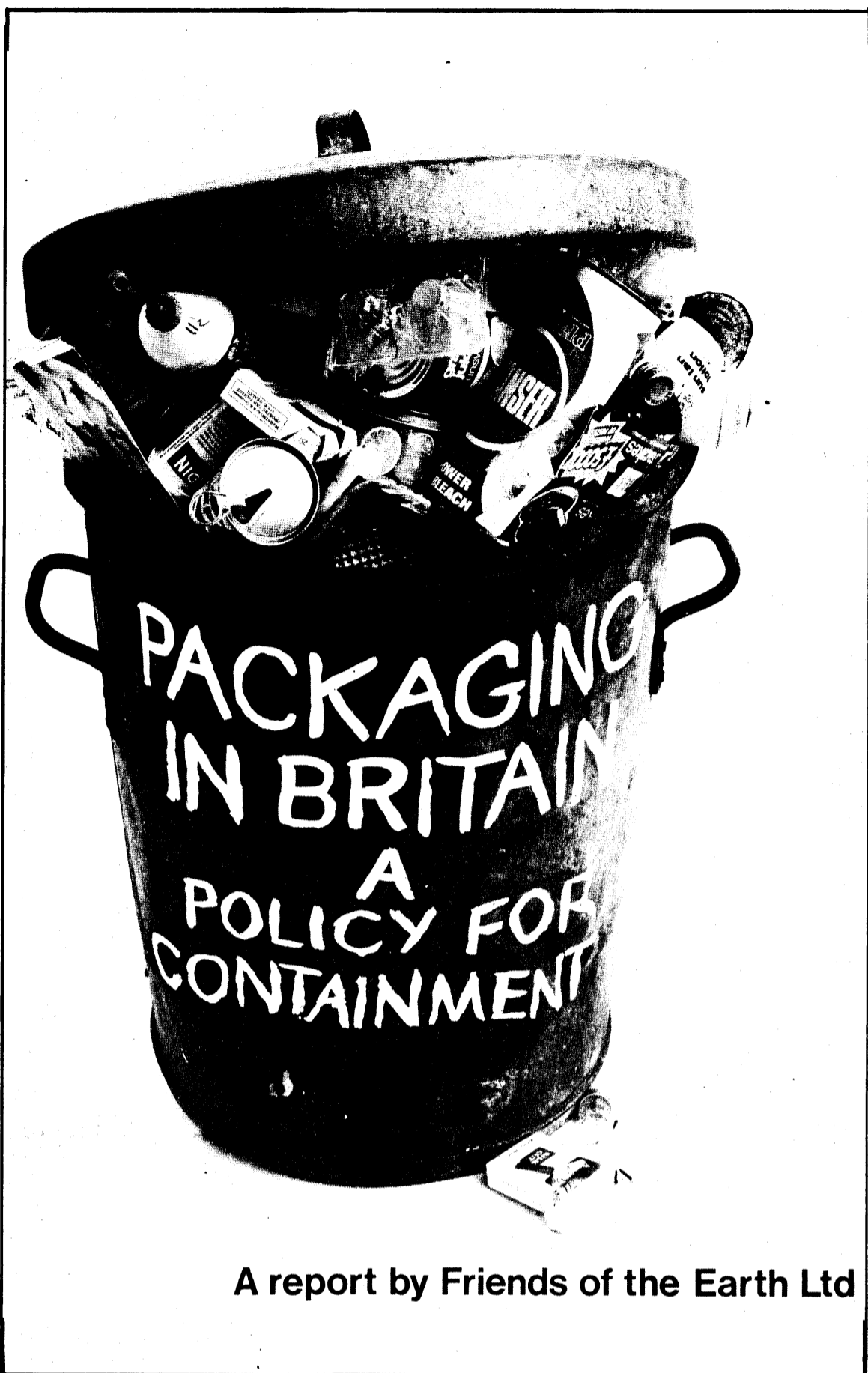
The report notes the present widespread use of aerosol packaging is in general unnecessary. Its only advantage is to the producer, who charges an average price of 10p per aerosol container on top of the cost of the commodity he is selling.

The market value of packaging materials alone last year—exclusive of machinery or costs of conversion into particular packages or wrappings—for the first time ever topped £1,000m.

The report goes on to detail the vast increase in expenditure on men, resources and money in packaging.

The total packaging 'market' is now estimated at £1,035m an increase of £100m over 1971. Within this market the newer forms of packaging material—plastics and metals—are gaining on the more traditional paper and paper board.

The total consumption of plastics for packaging, for example, increased from 404,000



A report by Friends of the Earth Ltd

tons in 1971 to 455,000 tons in 1972.

Another major development has been the rise of the aerosol container. In 1965 160.75 million aerosol units were manufactured. By 1970 the

figure had almost doubled to 304 million.

The report points out that the rise in this type of packaging has meant the decline of the returnable container and the corresponding increases in costs to the shopper and the menace of waste.

Beer and soft drinks provide a typical case history. In 1966 495 million units were canned, but in 1970 the figure had risen to 950 million units.

The report gets only half way towards conclusion. For example it notes:

'Packaging as a vehicle for advertising, for overstimulation of consumption and for the sterile vicious circle of competition between products differing only in their packaging offers little discernible advantage to the commodity as a whole, and is in some instances simply parasitic on the economics of society.'

LIBERAL

But the 'Friends of the Earth' formula is that of the well-meaning liberal.

They call for a government 'working party' into packaging and demand that packaging should be for use only.

Fine aims, except that they are not attainable within the monopoly capitalism we live under today.

The primary aim of packaging is not functional, but simply to sell. As such, the industry is closely linked to advertising and the immense wealth expended on persuad-

ing people they need product X instead of the nearly identical product Y.

The implication behind the liberal cry of reform is that capitalists or capitalist government will put right irrationality and waste once exposed.

This is a fundamental misconception. A necessary feature of monopoly capitalism is the eradication of price competition. Coupled with this is the drive for total monopoly of a market.

These two economic instincts combine to produce the vast packaging - advertising industry.

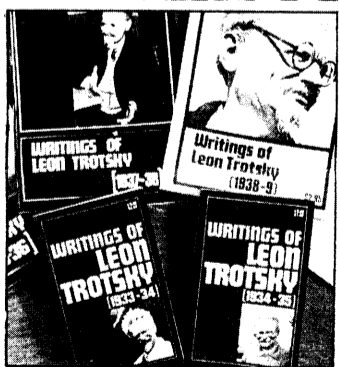
On the one hand each giant must match blanket promotion, packaging and advertising, with its own blanket promotion, packaging and advertising, or be destroyed.

On the other hand the desire for greater and greater monopoly can only be quenched by campaigns and packages that suggest the product is unique, exclusive, new, etc.

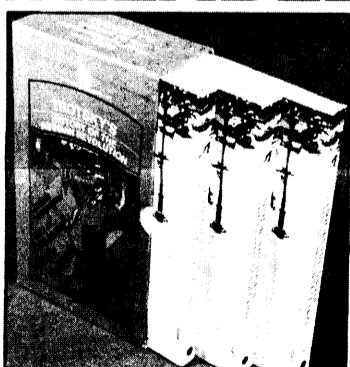
This is as necessary to capitalism as profit itself. Most top executives fully realize the idiocy of advertising and the waste of much packaging. But they observe it with a cynical smile and count the millions in sales.

The rational development of packaging for the true benefit of the common people can only develop in a socialist society where business is run on nationalized or co-operative lines. This, however, is the answer Friends of the Earth seek to avoid.

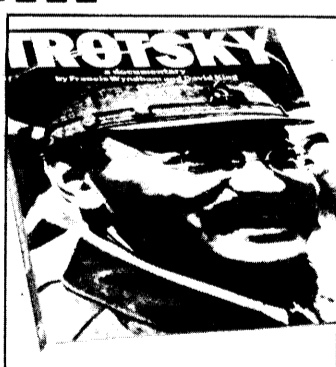
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China

THE REHABILITATION OF TENG HSIAO-PENG

The Chinese Communist Party leaders' turn towards United States imperialism has been only part of a general shift to the right.

Since the epoch of ping-pong diplomacy was ushered in by the visit of President Nixon to Peking, there have been many signs of such a shift.

One such sign is the re-appearance at state banquets of Teng Hsiao-ping, who was reviled during the cultural revolution as a 'capitalist-roader'.

Teng has appeared several times in public since his first re-entry onto the Peking diplomatic circuit at a banquet honouring exiled Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk on April 12.

'He has not just been taken

off the shelf, dusted and put back again,' one diplomat in Peking told Reuter's James Pringle.

'His well-known organizing talents are obviously needed and he is here to stay.' His return is seen as the most important comeback of a Chinese CP leader since the cultural revolution came to a close in 1969.

Teng (69), a small, intense figure in a dark Mao-style suit with white socks, seemed almost as surprised at his re-appearance as Peking's foreign residents, who saw him at the Sihanouk banquet, Pringle reported.

'It's as if he received his invitation just half an hour in advance,' one diplomat commented. A week afterwards Teng was again in evidence, this time at a banquet for

Mexican dictator Luis Echeverria.

Teng, who was once general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, was brought back as vice-premier on the basis of Mao Tse-tung's dictum that those who admit serious mistakes can be rehabilitated, Chinese officials say.

But apparently this does not imply that Liu Shao-chi, the 'number one capitalist-roader', who was the main target for the attacks on bureaucracy by the Red Guards, will return.

Chinese officials say that Liu is 'politically dead'. But of course he could, like Teng, be simply awaiting resurrection.

Next to Liu there is only one other figure of top-ranking importance to fall during the cultural revolution who is still in disgrace and likely to stay that way.

CHINESE PEASANTS CALLED TO WORK HARDER

Chinese peasants have been called upon to make an all-out effort to increase agricultural production in an article by Chiang Han. It has appeared both in 'Red Flag' and the 'People's Daily' and repeated several times over Peking radio.

It quotes Chairman Mao as saying: 'China is a big socialist country but she is still poor with a backward economy. This is a principal contradiction. Making our country prosperous will take several decades of hard struggle.'

While claiming bumper harvests for the past ten years, Chiang emphasizes that production is too low and calls for the rousing of the enthusiasm of 'the broad masses of rural cadres and commune members' to develop agriculture at a faster pace.

Saying that there are two lines in agriculture, one of which says that agriculture can grow at a rapid pace and the other which is content to go neither too fast nor too slow, he calls on the cadres to have the courage to transform nature:



'All farmland has been reclaimed by the working people. They can build a farm where none exists, expand it where it is limited, change a bad farm into a good one, and turn a low-yielding farm into the high-yielding one.'

Chiang refers also to the natural disasters which, he says, in a country so vast as China are bound to occur in one place or another. He urges the peasants to turn disasters to advantage by breaking away from conventional methods and learning how to overcome difficulties.

Maoist policy is based on the theory of 'socialism in one country', taken over from Stalin. It is the 'socialism' of penury in a backward and isolated country which, inevitably, is now drawing closer to the capitalist world in an attempt to overcome its difficulties instead of calling for the extension of the revolution.

The exhortations of the leadership are based on a recognition that Chinese agriculture depends above all on the hard labour of the masses, that industry is not able to supply

machinery or sufficient chemical fertilizers.

It means that the Chinese peasants will have to work even harder and that the masses must, if necessary, tighten their belts. The importance attached to Chiang Han's article suggests also that Chinese agriculture is facing big difficulties in meeting output targets.

There is a serious drought in a number of areas and the masses are being mobilized for water conservancy projects and other measures to fight it and reap a bumper harvest.

US FIRM IN RUMANIA

The United States computer firm Control Data Corporation and the Rumanian Ministry of Machine Tools and Electro Techniques have agreed to form a joint company to manufacture and develop computer peripherals in Rumania.

Control Data will own 45 per cent of the new company and the Rumanian Industrial Group for Electronics and Vacuum Technology (CIETV) will hold the remaining 55 per cent.

Both partners will contribute to initial investment in the company, which will be in the region of \$4m.

Based in Bucharest, the company will manufacture peripheral equipment including card readers, card punches and slow speed printers for use in computer terminals.

A new building specially designed to meet the company's manufacturing requirements is to be built and production of the first units is expected to start this year.

In addition to manufacturing, the company is likely to undertake research and development to enhance existing products and develop new ones.

Both partners will be free to sell the company's products anywhere in the world.

This means that Control Data is gaining a low-cost source of peripheral equipment for markets which could extend outside eastern Europe.

Links between eastern Europe and western computer manufacturers are nothing new, but in the past these have mainly taken the form of licensing agreements—for example, Poland and ICL, Czechoslovakia and Honeywell-Bull, and Rumania and CII.

The new agreement, however, involves direct investment by a United States manufacturer in a joint venture in an eastern European country and is likely to provide highly favourable trading conditions for the US firm within the COMECON bloc.

Commenting on the agreement, signed this month, Mr William C. Norris, chairman of Control Data, said: 'This is an historic venture. The work we will do together will build a solid bridge between our countries, our philosophies, our peoples.'

'We will prove here that we can co-operate to the benefit of each of us in the myriad ways that are necessary in this kind of enterprise.'

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TRADE WAR: IBM HITS AT JAPAN

The US-Japanese trade war is hotting up in the computer market. IBM Japan has half the Japanese computer market and is wholly-owned by the American firm International Business Machines Corporation.

The rest is owned by Japanese computer firms. Under United States pressure, Japan's

Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is on the verge of relaxing restrictions on computer imports by 1978.

Now IBM Japan has rocked the Japanese companies by cutting both its selling and rental prices by between 3 and 9 per cent. The Americans argue that the cuts result from the devaluation of the dollar.

But the Japanese claim that IBM is making excessive cuts in order to grab a larger share of the market when restrictions are lifted. The Japanese firms are protesting to MITI and urging it not to liberalize imports.

PLANNING BLUNDER IN WROCLAW

Something went wrong with city planning in the Polish town of Wroclaw. Three new blocks of flats have been completed but only two of them can be occupied by tenants.

As for the third, it will not have any electricity or water supply until the first quarter of 1974 because the electricity sub-station and water supplies will be built at the same time as a fourth block which will not be ready until then.

Tenants will also find that they will have to wait for their shopping and service centre as no provision has been made to build it in the current year's plan. Warsaw Radio deplors 'this blunder in design work' but does not explain how it occurred.

ISRAEL AND THE GREAT REPARATIONS FRAUD

The men who make the propaganda for the Zionist state of Israel have launched a new campaign theme. Like their agitation over the issue of the Jews in the Soviet Union, it goes beyond the immediate Middle-East conflict.

Like the Soviet Jewish campaign, it seeks to use an ostensibly humanitarian issue for purposes of sordid political intrigue. And like the anti-Soviet campaign, its purposes seem to be reactionary and anti-communist.

The target this time is the German Democratic Republic—East Germany.

At a time when the East German Stalinist bureaucracy is bidding for international recognition and better relations with the west, the Zionists and their friends in western Europe are putting forward the demand that, as the price for recognition, the GDR should be asked to pay 'reparations' for Nazi crimes against the Jews.

The Zionists argue that since West Germany made a Reparations Agreement with Israel some 20 years ago, it is only right that East Germany should now do the same.

Besides being raised in the Israeli Knesset (parliament), the demand for East German 'reparations' has been voiced in some western European newspapers sympathetic to Israel, and in the Dutch parliament.

It was raised in the House of Lords recently by Lord Janner, the former Labour MP, who urged the British government to put pressure on East Germany on the reparations issue in the course of negotiations taking place over the establishment of diplomatic relations.

For the Foreign Office, Baroness Tweedsmuir replied that the government was raising the issue of compensation for the victims of Nazi persecution with the GDR.

The East German authorities have so far taken the position that they will not accept Israeli claims.

The weekly paper 'Horizont', which speaks for the GDR Foreign Ministry, declared on February 20 this year that, while seeking in general to have normal diplomatic relations with other states, regardless of their economic or political set-up, the GDR did not wish to establish relations with certain states—and South Africa, Rhodesia and Israel were cited.

'Horizont' went on to say that, so far as reparations were concerned, the GDR had 'long ago fulfilled such obligations under the Potsdam Agreement'.

This Agreement, between the western Allies and the USSR, laid down that the western zones of Germany should pay reparations to western nations, while the Soviet zone had to pay them to the Soviet Union. West Germany has paid \$330m in reparations to Israel. East Germany has paid \$5,700m to the Soviet Union.

So the Israeli government's demand means, in fact, that the GDR is being asked to pay twice over—when its people have already had to carry a burden of reparations to the Soviet Union that came to more than ten times the sum paid to Israel by West Germany!

That is not all, however. The truth is that the Israeli reparations issue is a gigantic fraud.

Who is being asked to pay reparations? By what sort of justice?

The notion of 'collective guilt', according to which all Germans, by virtue of their national origin, must inherit the responsibility for Nazi atrocities, is itself a racist idea; with as much logic and justice behind it as the kind of race nonsense preached by the Nazis.

While we may be able to understand that many of the victims of the Nazi horrors, the survivors of Auschwitz and Treblinka, and the relatives of those who died, carry with them the indelible scars of hatred, this does not mean that their hatred can be acceptably taken into international politics, directed against Germans as a people.

Nor can we accept that the state of Israel has any genuine or legitimate claim to speak on behalf of the victims of Nazism.

The responsibility for the murders and tortures inflicted by the Nazis on the Jews and other victims lies with the bankers and big industrialists who financed Hitler fascism in its rise to power and helped to prepare World War II.

It lies with the generals and civil servants who loyally served the Nazi war machine and made their careers out of plunder and killing.

It lies with the capitalists who made their profits out of poison gas, who set up factories in the concentration camps to exploit slave labour, and who made soap out of the bodies of those who perished.

Not all the supporters and helpers of Nazism were Germans; and nor were all its victims Jews.

Far from being responsible for the Nazi rise to power, the German working-class opposed Hitler all the way. And had it not been for the betrayals of the social-democratic and Stalinist leaderships (which again, was not an exclusively German question) they might have stopped him.

As it was, thousands of German trade unionists, socialists and communists themselves suffered torture and death at the hands of the fascists.

ADMIRERS

On the other hand, in the occupied countries of Europe, whole sections of the ruling class, of politicians, and policemen, were found willing, and in many cases enthusiastic, to join in and assist the actions of the Nazis, including the persecution and murder of the Jews.

French capitalists, Austrian civil servants, Dutch policemen and reactionaries all over Europe, from Spain to the Ukraine, came forward to 'do their bit' for Hitler's final solution. And in Britain, too, the Nazis had their admirers, not only in the Mosley movement of the 1930s, but in the ranks of the Tory Party too.

The German Democratic Republic of today is a workers' state, however much deformed in character by the manner in which it was established. Under the regime of the Socialist Unity Party (Stalinists), however bureaucratic, a social transformation has been carried out, with the nationalization of the big estates, of the mines, and of the factories. With the breaking of the power of the old Junker families and the capitalists, the continuity with militarism

and fascism has also been broken.

We are for the political overthrow of the Stalinist bureaucracy in East Germany and the establishment of real workers' power, as it was asserted in the 1953 East Berlin uprising, to create a workers' democracy in the whole of Germany. But so long as Germany remains divided, socialists must also defend the nationalized property based state in the east against NATO and West German capitalism.

The forces which brought Hitler to power remain the ruling class in West Germany. The same bankers, the same generals, the same industrial monopolies—Krupp, I. G. Farben, Flick and the rest—are today as wealthy and powerful in the Federal Republic as they ever were.

Whether it is the ex-Nazi Kiesinger or the social-democrat Brandt who holds office in Bonn, it is the same bosses who hold power in the Ruhr and the same officers in the police and armed forces.

NATO and the European Common Market represent alliances between the militarists and capitalists of western Europe and their counterparts in West Germany.

HUMANITARIAN

The state of Israel, and the World Zionist Movement which upholds it, are politically and economically tied to imperialism and have maintained close ties, particularly with the ruling class in West Germany.

Itself carrying out a policy of aggression and racial oppression against the Palestinian Arabs, the Israeli establishment fraudulently seeks to use the name of the Jewish victims of Nazism to give itself a 'humanitarian' cover; while it is in actual fact the ally of the very forces that were responsible for the mass murder of the Jews.

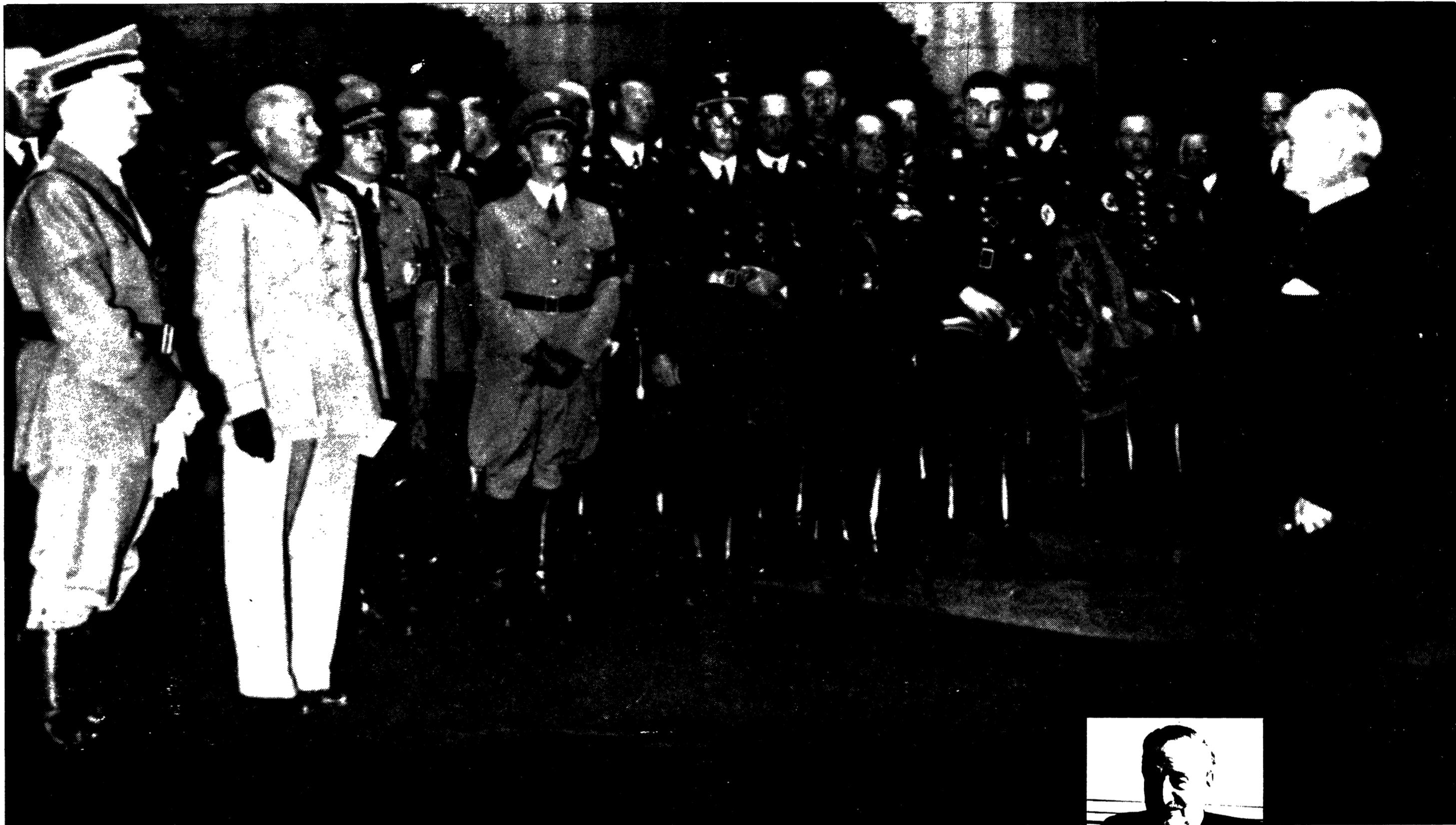
The West German Reparations Agreement was an integral part of this alliance of Zionism and imperialism.

When the western capitalist powers decided, in forming NATO, to prepare for war against the Soviet Union and further decided that West Germany should be rearmed as part of this alliance, they faced tremendous opposition. All over Europe there were campaigns and demonstrations against German rearmament. 'Remember Belsen!' and 'No Nazi Army!' were the slogans of massive public meetings, held by working class and Jewish organizations.

The Labour Party right-wing disbanded the Party's youth movement because of opposition to German rearmament. In West Germany itself there was big opposition from the labour movement to rearmament.

Something had to be done to make West Germany 'respectable', to provide a new human and liberal image for West German capitalism, to weaken and soften-up the opposition to the restoration of German militarism. Anti-communist propaganda was used, and Hollywood obliged with films portraying Wehrmacht officers in a sympathetic light. But it was not enough.

The Reparations Agreement was used to apply the make-up to the 'new Germany', to hide the mark of Cain on the face of its ruling class. It was a three-way deal between the



Zionists, the Bonn government and the NATO powers, to enable the West German rulers to ease their burden of guilt by paying out some money.

Not that it was readily accepted. Nahum Goldmann, the American Zionist leader who played a central part in setting up the negotiations, records in his memoirs that during this period he had to be given an Israeli bodyguard to protect him against threats from Jews.

Goldmann arranged for Israeli premier David Ben Gurion to meet Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in secret, outside Germany. The talks were held on December 6, 1951, at the Clarendon Hotel, London. The news had leaked out, however, and there were angry demonstrations outside the Knesset by Israelis bitterly opposed to any deal with Bonn.

Many of the survivors from the concentration camps, who had lost everything they possessed, felt they were giving up something more if they accepted 'blood money' from West Germany. Could you accept a cash payment for your parents?

Even though much-needed 'restitution' payments were accepted, they did not erase the bitterness or the memories. In 1963, Israeli textile workers at the Ata mills at Haifa came out on strike when they discovered they were making uniforms for the West German

Bundeswehr. Strikers showed reporters their arms, bearing the numbers tattooed in Hitler's camps.

The Israeli government's reparations talks were not, in any case, about restitution for individuals who had suffered. Reparations were to benefit the state of Israel itself.

On May 19, 1952, at a meeting in London between Israeli and West German representatives, Dr Hermann Abs of West Germany offered on behalf of his government that DM 100m worth of goods would be shipped to Israel each year—the amount to be doubled in the event of substantial US aid to West Germany.

This was not accepted as enough, but it shows the sort of deal that was taking shape—American backing, for West German aid, to help build up Israel.

Who, incidentally, was this Dr Abs who was negotiating the reparations? He was well-qualified in every way. As a director of the Deutsche Bank and wartime head of its foreign department, he had been directly involved in the confiscation of Jewish property under the Nazis! A report from the US Office of Military Government in November 1946 had the following to say about Hermann Abs:

'Abs was the spiritual rector of the infamous Deutsche Bank, which combined an unusual concentration of economic power with active

participation in the criminal policies of the Nazi regime. The Deutsche Bank of Herr Abs acted as a top institution of the German government and served the economic penetration of the satellite states and the occupied countries of Europe. . . . Abs exerted all his energy to extend the rule of Germany over Europe.'

A Yugoslav court after the war sentenced Abs, *in absentia*, to 15 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Meanwhile, however, in West Germany he was once more building his empire. On October 15, 1966, he was decorated with the highest West German order, the 'Great Federal Service Cross with star and shoulder ribbon'. A year previously, 'Der Spiegel' had declared:

'No ministerial post in Bonn could . . . ever create the range of power and influence which he now has. . . . his arm reaches far beyond West Germany. He who ventures a financial transaction without making use of the due aid of the Deutsche Bank feels it very soon.'

This, then, was the man with whom the Israelis were negotiating the reparations deal. The talks on May 19 did not arrive at a settlement, but a couple of days later, Goldmann received a telephone call from John J. McCoy, the US High Commissioner in Bonn, telling him that 'important news' could be expected within a few hours. The following day, the announcement was made that:

'After a successful conclusion

of the London negotiations to re-establish Germany's commercial credit, the German government would apply for a foreign loan, the full amount of which would be placed at the disposal of Israel as a payment of Germany's debt.'

As Goldmann points out, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and the US Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, also came into the act, by taking up the reparations issue during talks with Adenauer in Bonn.

One of the first outcomes was an agreement that West Germany would undertake to pay for oil shipments to Israel from British oil companies. In fact, the emphasis was particularly on strategic goods.

Goldmann recalls that when the West Germans at one point suggested a shipment of butter, the Israelis said that this was not important, and their people would have to do without it. The West Germans were very impressed by this, he recalls, and complimented the Israelis on their toughness. Perhaps they were reminded with nostalgia of one of their own leaders, who said: 'Butter makes a people fat, but iron makes them strong!'

On June 22, 1952, talks took place at the Hague to deal with legal and political aspects of the reparations pact and the effect on West German economic stability.

In the upshot, there was 'something for everyone' out of the Reparations Agreement. Israel received massive eco-

nomic aid—Nahum Goldmann writes ('Memories', p. 276): 'Railways and telephones, dock installations and irrigation plants, whole areas of industry and agriculture, would not be where they are today without the reparations from Germany.'

West German capitalism was given a guaranteed market for its products (for instance most of the Israeli merchant fleet was built in West German yards) with America in fact paying; and international recognition for its government.

The United States and Britain, having helped to secure the deal, could press ahead with the rearmament of Germany, knowing that the Israelis and the Zionists had undermined the opposition.

NOTORIOUS

An interesting sidelight on all this concerns Austria. The Austrian bourgeoisie furnished a great deal of support for fascism and Nazism, and supplied some of the most notorious Nazi criminals, such as Eichmann.

Even today, Nazi and anti-Semitic elements hold prominent jobs and are quite vociferous on occasions. Efforts by Austrian Jews to claim restitution from the Austrian authorities met with opposition and had little of the publicity that was given to the German



Gustav and Alfred Krupp with Hitler and Mussolini. Today the Krupp monopoly is as wealthy and powerful as it ever was. Dr Hermann Abs.

reparations issue. Referring to efforts to secure a reparations agreement with Austria following that with West Germany, Nahum Goldmann says:

'Israel declared, for reasons that are still unclear to me, that it had no claim against Austria; and this seriously weakened the basis of our demands.'

If the reasons are unclear to Mr Goldmann, they do suggest themselves to us. The kind of interests that were involved in the West German reparations pact did not arise in connection with Austria. Helping in the political rehabilitation of German militarism was one thing; putting an unnecessary burden on capitalist Austria was another.

The Israeli government's representations on behalf, supposedly, of Jewish victims of persecution, cease once it is no longer a matter of acting in collusion with, and as a 'human' cover for, Israel's western imperialist allies.

So if not capitalist Austria, then why the GDR? This is the question that supporters of the Israeli claims must answer!

The Israeli government today is a friend of West Germany, of British imperialism and of the United States. Its aid missions overseas serve as a cover for US designs, and its leaders have openly supported Nixon's aggression in south-east Asia.

In the Middle East, the state of Israel stands clearly exposed as the oppressor of the Palestinian people, while the Israeli economy is sustained by aid and investment from West Germany and the United States. In conflicts between the Arab peoples and imperialism, Israel has acted as the imperialists' police dog.

Does anyone seriously imagine, therefore, that East Germany can legitimately be asked to give aid in any form to Israel?

Possibly the Zionists believe that now, with the East German bureaucrats making all-out efforts to improve relations with the western powers, and the Soviet bureaucracy pressing for a European Security Pact, it is time to try a little blackmail.

Whether they actually hope to get anything directly from this, in the form of reparations payments, or are merely serving the purpose of other interests out to place an obstacle in the path of GDR diplomacy, is something we shall have to wait and see.

One thing is clear, however. The reparations demand must be opposed by socialists. It is a reactionary fraud.



Above: Shopworkers march under their union banner on a demonstration in London last year.

RATIONALIZATION OF SHOP WORK. SHOPS AND RETAIL TRADE

A series by Bernard Franks
Part Two

During the past 15 years the major retailing companies have undertaken a massive rationalization and productivity drive in stores and store work. This has been with a view to cutting back on shop jobs and increasing sales per employee.

The National Economic Development Corporation report of 1971 'Productivity in Distribution' was produced 'to help the retailer to improve labour productivity'.

It states: 'Labour, as every retailer knows all too well is becoming more and more expensive. Therefore it is increasingly essential that it should be used as efficiently as possible. Profits as well as the national interest demand it.'

The report explains: 'As labour costs form more than 60 per cent of most shops' costs, labour-saving will obviously tend to lead to better profits, all other things being equal.'

It adds that trade union high wages 'make the multiples less competitive'.

The introduction of job-evaluation and work-study are advised, with the remark: '... evidence about the existence of restrictive group "norms" as to what represents a fair day's work shows that there is room for the use of

these methods as a way of breaking away from the restrictions.'

A survey is quoted which claims to have found that nearly two-thirds of shelf fillers' working time is 'non-productive' and that there is a 12-per-cent error rate for cashiers.

In the past, time and motion stop-watch studies have been taken of both departmental store and supermarket work.

Lists of times per item or group of items handled by a check-out cashier have been drawn up.

Method-study measurements of workers' reach, hand and eye movements have been used in designing check-out points for maximum speed of operation and in designing store layout for fast shelf-filling with minimum restriction on customers' activities.

Cut down in staff

One work-study of sales assistants in a large department store using 'activity sampling' claimed total absence time (meals, rest, etc.) as 47.9 per cent, customer contact time 19.3 per cent, packing and wrapping 5 per cent, stock and other work in selling area 17.9 per cent.

Selfridges hardware department was one place where work-study experiments were conducted in the 1950s.

Woolworths and other stores with a tradition of

counter service have been able to make large staff cuts by replacement with a cash-and-wrap system.

Sales turnover per employee is reckoned to be 30 per cent more in self-service than in counter service systems. Cashiers placed at a few strategic points in the store deal with a non-stop flow of customers.

Woolworth claims a 15 per cent 'saving' in staff by this change.

The trend of the multiples has been towards more self-service, especially supermarkets, and towards larger and larger stores. In 1947 there were ten self-service stores in the country. By 1970 there were 28,000 (including 3,400 supermarkets) accounting for 20 per cent of all grocery trade sales. The turn towards larger stores is being pursued at an even fiercer pace.

Tesco, for example, with an average store size of 5,000 sq ft, announced in 1970: 'We are no longer interested in acquiring sites that give us less than 20,000 sq ft selling space.'

This company's latest plans are for stores of up to 50,000 sq ft, with parking facilities for up to 1,000 cars. Thirty-six of the company's smaller stores were closed down in 1971.

Fine Fare closed 100 stores in the year up to April 1972, but nevertheless increased its overall selling-space by 140,000 sq ft in that time.

Not only the general and grocery stores are growing in size. Newsagents and chains like W. H. Smith are introducing larger stores and closing down the small, less profitable shops and kiosks. Smiths have just relinquished their 86 London Underground station kiosks after 70 years.

In fact, since 1961, more than a quarter of all newsagents have closed down.

Most of the large companies are planning to build out-of-town superstores and hypermarkets; the massive supermarket-type stores which sell

virtually anything — food, clothes, furniture, jewellery, motor accessories, musical instruments and so on—under one roof.

Chains of these are already established in USA and Europe. France has 140, West Germany more than 350, Belgium over 30. The Carrefour store of Marseille is said to cover an area of 250,000 sq ft. There are only between five and ten such stores in Britain.

The hypermarkets have enormous opportunities to force out competition and control prices by price cutting and then, once firmly established, to raise prices.

Suburban superstores

One survey in France showed that this is what is happening there. Not only the small shopkeepers but also the ordinary supermarkets lose trade, and the customer must pay up or go without.

Many supermarket groups are lobbying local authorities for planning permission to construct these super stores along with their car parks.

Last year Sainsburys held a special meeting at Cambridge attended by more than 70 local authority planning officers. According to a 'Financial Times' report, the seminar was aimed at convincing the officials of the need for redirection of food shopping to edge-of-town sites. A documentary film was shown of the difficulties of town-centre shopping and portraying the advantages of the suburban superstore.

The recent decision by Environment Secretary Geoffrey Rippon to allow a hypermarket in a green belt area near Southampton encourages company owners to expect the go-ahead for hundreds of similar applications which have already been made for sites all over the country.

Recently, the Lewis-Selfridge department store group joined with Key Markets in

setting up a new firm called Supa Centa to establish and operate a network of superstores in prime sites in all parts of Britain.

Some advantages for the retail profit machines of edge-of-town stores are:

1. Cheaper building; and land costs are lower.
2. Higher sales per customer. Middle-class buying more and larger economy packs, stocking fridges and freezers with once-a-week shopping. Fewer poorer working class and pensioners buying one or two low-cost items.
3. Easier access by larger supply lorries. The 'Financial Times' articles say that Sainsburys can cut deliveries from 26 to 15 a week and that use of the larger vehicle could save about £15,000 a year per store.
4. Sainsburys expect a £3,000 a year saving in labour costs by having a one-level store easier to provide on an out-of-town site.
5. This style of shopping, particularly in green belt surroundings, is especially attractive for anyone with the time, money and transport to do it.
6. Sales domination of an area, the power to cut competitors' throats and control prices.

Naturally, there is still profit to be made in towns. Here the trend is also towards bigger stores, for example, by buying up next-door premises and rebuilding on the whole site, or by new-development shopping centres in which complexes of offices, shops and supermarkets are constructed in one unit—and let at inflated rents which only the chain stores can afford.

However, there is no doubt a feeling among the big retail owners that permanent hard times are at hand for the urban workers and it is best to pull out to the districts where the monied classes live.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

TV Review

Rene Cutforth's series 'Journey through Europe' reached the Hungarian capital city, Budapest, last week.

For many people it is a city whose name will bring to mind the picture of Soviet tanks gunning down workers and students in the streets during the anti-Stalinist uprising of 1956.

That was how Budapest was made safe for the bureaucracy to continue its privileged way of life under the guise of 'building socialism'.

Cutforth's film, of course, being mainly concerned with such details as historic buildings and Cutforth frying mushrooms, did not have much to say about more serious aspects of Hungarian life or history.

But he was prompted to make the remark that Budapest was one city where he never once was reminded of the word 'communism'!

We were given some indication of the sort of city Budapest is at present when Cutforth took a stroll through the local flea market, said to be a centre for black marketeering, and someone stopped him from filming.

In fact Cutforth is not the only one to find that Budapest has nothing about it to make him think of it as a communist city. Hungarian workers have been complaining recently in the newspapers of the way they are looked down upon and treated like dirt by petty officials in the 'people's' Hungary!

While the Stalinist bureaucracy has been going all out to make well-to-do bourgeois tourists feel at home, some visitors have not been all that favourably impressed.

We were recently shown a letter from a Hungarian-born couple, who, having left Hungary during the Horthy period and living in the US for a number of years, had decided to pay a visit to Hungary to meet old friends again and to see how, as they thought, a new society was being built.

They had looked forward to the trip for years.

Both life-long Stalinists, who had fully accepted while in America the official Stalin-

WHAT THE BBC DIDN'T SEE IN BUDAPEST



Hungarian workers on the streets of Budapest burn flags in protest of the Soviet invasion during the anti-Stalinist uprising of 1956.

ist version of the 1956 events, they were looking forward to being impressed.

What they actually saw was a little more like the capitalist New York they had left than the socialist city they expected.

For instance, they found that Hungary's bureaucrats had copied more than their ideology from the bureau-

crats in the Soviet Union. Their way of life includes the building of nice 'dachas' in the countryside around Budapest—with building materials illicitly diverted from public housing projects.

A more immediately striking aspect of the 'new' Budapest, however, was the prostitutes plying their trade near the hotel where the

couple stayed.

On investigation, they learned from friends with access to official information, that Budapest has some 50 pimps operating on each side of the river, with their own business 'territories' clearly marked out and jealously guarded!

The disillusioned couple were not particularly reassured

by a Party official they happened to know. When they asked this lady, at her nice respectable flat, about some of the things they had seen, she replied stolidly that such things could not happen in Budapest and, therefore, were not happening.

And certainly neither Mr Cutforth, nor the British TV viewers saw them.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

FOOD

It is not only in Britain and America that working-class people are up in arms over soaring food prices. Israeli police rushed to a supermarket in the Jerusalem suburb of Kiryat Yovel, the other week, to arrest young members of the Black Panther movement who had staged a food price protest by going around the store pasting up stickers announcing a 15 per cent price reduction. They also arrested others who were picketing the store with placards.

Meanwhile in the Knesset, during a discussion on the government's responsibility for higher food prices, the Finance Minister, Pinhas Sapir, made an unfortunate gaffe in trying to defend his policies. He said: 'No one has thrown any tomatoes at me yet!'

This brought the obvious comment in a left-wing leaflet distributed afterwards: 'Sapir has probably forgotten how much a kilogram of tomatoes costs.'

'FANTASY'

American vice-President Spiro Agnew has dismissed as 'mainly fantasies' fears expressed by many leading broadcasters that the White House is trying to control the media.

The Nixon Administration, he told the 'April Freedom Forum' at Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas, believes that 'free and unintimidated news media are essential to a free society'. What they are objecting to is that they think the TV networks have not yet 'balanced' their coverage of government affairs. What is essential, he said, is 'greater diversity of opinion'.



Spiro Agnew in front of a campaign poster of Nixon.

The lack of 'balance' complained of is the almost uniform criticism of various Administration policies, particularly the so-called 'peace

with honour' in Vietnam, and coverage of the Watergate bugging scandal.

'I can assure you that the Nixon Administration wants to be fair [to the media],' Agnew said. 'But we do not think they have yet diversified their undertaking sufficiently to fairly report the activities of government to the American people.'

It was in the interests of such 'free and unintimidated news media' that he opposed a law giving protection to newsmen who refuse to divulge the source of their stories.

SCHOOL MEALS

Manchester education authorities have discovered an interesting phenomenon. School children are leaving their meals.

At Pike Fold Primary only 66 of the 117 meals were served to children. Many pupils took a look at the roast pork, cabbage and mashed potatoes and walked out.

Explanation—it's the warm weather (what warm weather?) say the city fathers. Er, yes, but could it be the children don't like the food... 'Stand-up the boy who said that!'

PART-TIME SOLDIERS

There is one boom that is quite genuine—the growing numbers of people who love

a bit of part-time army work.

In the north west, a record 2,000 people signed on as part-time soldiers in territorial units last year and the Lancashire and Cheshire battalions are up to strength for the first time in six years.

Why do they do it?

A spokesman explained recruits are attracted from people 'searching for something stimulating and adventurous to do at the weekends'—like training to put down a future General Strike?

FONDA

The South Carolina legislature has passed unanimously a resolution asking all cinemas in the state to refuse to show any films in which Jane Fonda appears. The reactionary, racist southern Dixicrats obviously think that the film star's anti-Vietnam war stand is bound to undermine the patriotism of anyone who is able to see such hilarious comedies as 'Cat Ballou' or thrillers like 'Klute'.

BOOKS BY TROTSKY

- Where is Britain Going? Paperback 37½p
- Problems of the British Revolution Paperback 35p
- Lessons of October Paperback 60p
- In Defence of the October Revolution Pamphlet 15p
- Marxism and the Trade Unions Pamphlet 25p
- Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International Pamphlet 10p

Postage: 10p per book, 5p per pamphlet.
Order from: NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG

When the gravy train had to stop

THE POULSON scandal finally received a good airing on independent television on Monday after the authorities had originally censored the showing of the Granada documentary several weeks ago.

A strike by television technicians and journalists and growing political agitation eventually forced a showing of the film although in an edited form.

The main alteration imposed by the censors was the cutting of re-enacted court scenes with actors taking the parts of architect John Poulson and creditors' QC Muir Hunter at the bankruptcy hearing. Instead, the transcript was read by actors over stills.

'World in Action' put all of the pieces together of what is known so far—the involvement of high-ranking politicians, civil servants and local councillors in the lavish spending of Poulson's

building empire in return for advice or influence on lucrative construction projects at home and abroad.

HOLIDAYS

We heard that Andrew Cunningham of the Labour Party executive, the General and Municipal Workers' Union and north east local politics and his wife had received expensive holidays and salaries from Poulson totalling thousands of pounds. But that Cunningham had also been chairman of Felling Urban District Council, Durham County Council, Sunderland police authority, and a local river authority when lucrative building contracts involving millions of pounds were awarded to the Poulson empire.

Independent councillor Horace

K. Freeman said a £2m Felling flats contract had been awarded to Poulson without going to tender. A Felling UDC sub-committee set up last October to look into the question has failed to hold a meeting so far, the commentary added.

Independent county councillor Ken Buckingham said that valuable school building contracts had gone to Poulson, but Cunningham had not declared an interest during the discussion of them.

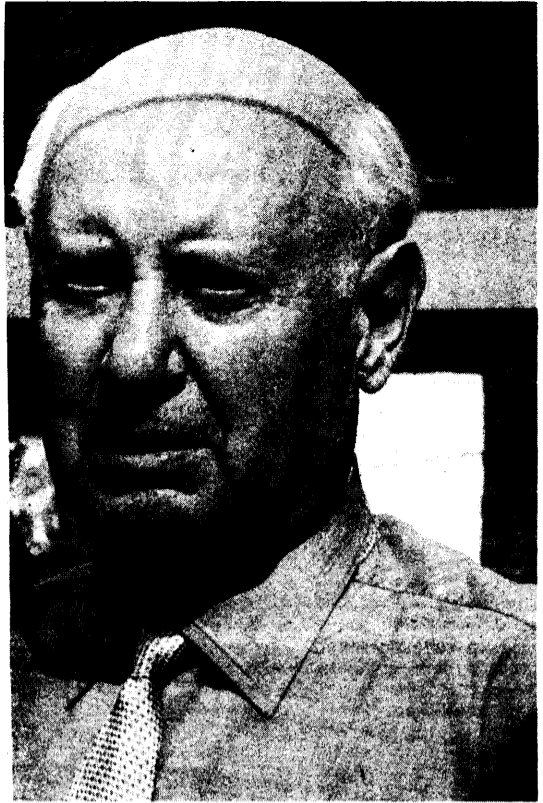
In the reconstructed court scene, Muir Hunter asked if the expensive holidays were for services rendered by Cunningham. Poulson replied: 'What services could he render? They were gifts.'

FAVOURS

Key men in the Pontefract, West Riding, Newcastle, Chester-le-Street authorities, South Yorkshire National Coal Board, Leeds Regional Hospital Board, Ministry of Health, and parliament all had huge financial favours from Poulson after having done business with him in their official capacities.

Labour MP for Normanton, Albert Roberts, who helped Poulson to a £15.5m contract in Angola, Africa, which Portugal keeps in slavery with a military dictatorship, said that he wasn't concerned about Poulson infringing the RIBA code about architects being barred from having control of construction companies.

'I wasn't concerned about that because I was really acting on behalf of Promotion Construction [in the Poulson empire]. If Mr Poulson was doing wrong, then that's Mr Poulson's affair.' He didn't think Poulson behaved differently from most architects.



Yorkshire architect John Poulson

'I know this and I think lots of other people know this. It's all right for what Muir Hunter said about on the gravy train, but where does all this stop?'

'One can be bought a whisky, one can be bought a drink and people do accept them, but it doesn't mean to an intelligent man surely . . . his head isn't turned for . . . if someone offers to buy him a drink. And I would say the techniques employed by Mr Poulson no doubt have been done by other businesses from time to time.'

ASSISTANT

Roberts received a total of £11,500 from Poulson altogether.

The most prominent assistant Poulson had among men in official positions was Reginald Maudling, MP, deputy leader of the Tory Party and one-time Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Maudling was forced to resign as Home Secretary during the

investigation into Poulson's affairs when it was decided to set a special team of fraud squad detectives onto the case to find out who had behaved illegally.

The Home Secretary is in charge of police affairs.

Tongue in cheek, the commentary asked if Maudling should not have seen the warning lights during his business association with Poulson, which involved three companies in the empire such as Poulson's illegal association as an architect with his own construction company; or the unsatisfactory way some of the company accounts were conducted; or the Inland Revenue suit for over £200,000 from Poulson; or other legal wrangles with business partners and customers.

The programme's weakness was its inability to link the dealings surrounding the Poulson empire with the capitalist system itself.

These dealings are the essence of capitalism. That is why Poulson got on so well in the capitalist system.

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TV

BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.30 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Barnaby. 1.45 Made in Britain. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Racing from Ascot. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Boss cat. 5.15 Expedition Sahara. 5.40 Hector's house. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 ASK THE FAMILY.

7.05 TOMORROW'S WORLD.

7.30 GORDON PETERS SHOW. The Prize.

8.00 COLDITZ. Spirit of Freedom.

8.50 SIX FROM COLDITZ. Jack Best talks about his escape from Colditz.

9.00 NEWS. Weather.

9.25 SPORTSNIGHT. Home International Horse Show.

10.00 LIZA WITH A Z. Liza Minnelli.

10.50 MIDWEEK. 11.35 NEWS. 11.40 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.35 Yoga (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Cuddles and Co. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Scotch corner. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 2.55 Looks familiar. 3.25 Hine. 4.20 Sooty show. 4.50 Jensen code. 5.20 University challenge. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 SHUT THAT DOOR! Larry Grayson with guest Tessie O'Shea.

8.30 THE BEST OF FATHER DEAR FATHER. Nothing But the Tooth.

9.00 SPECIAL BRANCH. Polonaise.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 A PLACE IN THE COUNTRY. Knole.

11.00 FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL. London Championship.

11.55 DOLLY. The House Opposite.

12.25 NIGHT GALLERY. 12.50 EPILOGUE.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

7.05 HOMES AND HOMELESS. 'Give me, oh give me, the pleasures of home.'

7.30 NEWS. Weather.

7.35 LOOK, STRANGER.

8.00 MAN ALIVE. The Cost of Innocence. Innocent people are often ordered by judges to pay their own legal costs.



Liza with a Z on BBC 1

9.00 FILM: 'The Family Way.' Hayley Mills, Hywel Bennett, John Mills, Marjorie Rhodes. A young couple's marriage faces disaster after disaster.

10.50 EDITION. 11.15 NEWS. Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-11.55 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Galloping gourmet. 2.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 11.00 Theatre. 11.33 Angling. 12.00 Epilogue. News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.00 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 11.30 News. 11.58 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 7.00 London. 10.30 Your man at Westminster. 11.00 Dolly. 11.30 News. 11.40 Odd couple. 12.10 Weather. Epilogue.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 2.55 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Cuckoo in the nest. 7.00 Lon-

don. 10.30 European journey. 11.00 London. 12.25 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.20-4.35 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.

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

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 8.30 Adventure. 9.00 London. 11.00 Theatre. 11.30 Spyforce. 12.25 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Citizens' rights. 11.00 London.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.45 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.30 Jobs around the house. 3.00 London. 6.00

Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 10.30 Alexander the great. 11.30 London. 12.00 You and your golf. Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 Handful of songs. 12.05 London. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.30 London. 6.00 News. What's on. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 11.30 Evil touch. Weather.

TYNE TEES: 9.20 I met them in Ghana. 9.30 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.40 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Women. 3.00 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 10.30 Protectors. 11.00 News. 11.15 Streets of San Francisco. 12.15 Lectern.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.51 News. 2.55 London. 5.15 Wildlife theatre. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Thompson at teatime. 6.35 London. 11.30 Scales of justice. 12.00 Meditation.

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Steelworkers sceptical about 'protest' platform and demo

BY IAN YEATS IN SHOTTON

ABOUT 3,000 Shotton steelworkers and their families staged one of the biggest demonstrations ever seen on Deeside last weekend.

There was a four-hour token strike at the plant, and shops in Queensferry, Shotton and Connah's Quay were shut from noon till 2 p.m.

The march, in protest against the shut-down of steel-making on Deeside, with the loss of up to 7,000 jobs, converged on Wepre Park from three separate points.

Despite the large attendance, the scepticism of many workers about the value of the march meant that the turn-out was far below the 10,000-plus expected by the organizers.

Accompanied by a dozen floats, infant Morris dancers and three brass bands, the marchers walked through packed streets chanting 'Heath Out!' At the ensuing rally, speakers from the Tory Party, Welsh Nationalist Party, Labour Party and Communist Party appeared together on the same platform.

Labour MP Mr Barry Jones and Welsh Transport and General Workers' Union general secretary Mr Tom Jones both quietened the angry steelmen when they began heckling and booing Tory MP Anthony Meyer. Three quarters of the demonstrators left the Park long before the speeches—interspersed by folk songs about the steelmen's fight—had ended.

The reason was given graphically by a young steelworker in the crowd. Bill Davies told me: 'This demonstration will do nothing. They are going to close this works and a march or a four-hour strike won't stop them. It has got to go to a national strike.'

From the galaxy of platform speakers the crowd reserved one of its heaviest cheers for young apprentice Dave Anthony. He said: 'All I want to tell you is that we've got to fight back. If it means we've got to get Heath out, then we've got to get him out!'

Dave Anthony's call to kick the Tories out to safeguard the right to work was one of the few to get past rally chairman Tom Jones, who insisted publicly that the meeting and the steelmen's campaign was 'not political'.

The most hostile reception was given to Tory MP Meyer who was shouted down when he told workers not to imagine Heath's government was 'deaf to argument'.



'Dee Day' only a moderate success



T&GWU's Tom Jones
'No politics' ruling.

From their silence, it was hard to tell how the workers responded to the Rev. H. M. Roberts, who Jones asked to bless the meeting before it opened.

Mr Jones painted a black—and now familiar—picture of the



Apprentice Dave Anthony
'Kick out the Tories'.

social consequences of axing 7,000 jobs at Shotton and he concluded:

'Our bread and butter is at stake, our standard of living is at stake, our children's future is at stake—we must show the

strongest possible protest to the government.

The [Steel] Corporation's plans have been ratified, unfortunately, by the government. If we had had this demonstration 12 months ago, we might have been able to do more.'

Flintshire Town Clerk Mr Haydn Rees said: 'We have been fighting the cause of steel for a long time. There is an urgent need for BSC to disclose facts and figures about Shotton. Then we could show them there is not as good a case for closure as they think.'

Labour spokesman Barry Jones said if it had come to the closure of steelmaking at Shotton, the government must guarantee alternative employment. He said: 'I ask you to fight on and not give way. We have a right to ask the government and the BSC to give us a fair deal.'

After being warned by Tom Jones to steer clear of party politics, Stalinist Eddie Evans praised the steelmen's campaign and the setting up of a national action committee.

Despite this barrage of empty platitudes from the entire plat-

form, the steelmen of Shotton plainly have the will to fight on.

Apart from massive unemployment for those now in jobs, the community will be broken up, small shopkeepers ruined and school-leavers thrown into a fruitless search for work.

Shotton Action Committee chairman Mr Luke McLaughlin told the cheering crowd they would not let steel be taken from Shotton. He said: 'Some of the acts we may have to take will be unconstitutional. But don't knock us. Come in and fight behind us.'

All 13,000 men at the Shotton steelworks joined yesterday's May Day strike.

'Supplementary' dockers allowed into Liverpool

ABOUT 80 Liverpool docks shop stewards voted at the weekend to allow 250 supplementary register men to work in the port.

The supplementary register is a danger to dockers' working conditions. Yet it was encouraged by Jack Jones's deal with Lord Aldington which ended last summer's dock strike and which the employers hope will undermine the National Dock Labour

Scheme.

There are about 300 men waiting for work on the docks and 250 were needed immediately by Liverpool Maritime Terminals to operate a new service.

Shop stewards took the view that their decision would not lead to an erosion of the Dock Labour Scheme. They say once the men are employed they will see to it that the jobs are made permanent.

Ford press-shop shift goes on indefinite strike

ONE OF the three shifts in the press shop at Ford's, Dagenham, has gone on indefinite strike because a man has been taken off pay for allegedly not working to company requirements.

The shift returned home last Thursday and last Friday because

the management refused to put the man back on pay.

On Monday they walked out again and asked for official backing from both the AUEW and the T&GWU. They say the management will not negotiate with the stewards, not even on their own 'blue book' on procedure.

The shift is to meet again tomorrow.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

SOUTHALL: Wednesday May 2, 8 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. 'Report back from May Day'.

WALTHAMSTOW: Wednesday May 2, 8 p.m. 'The Bell', Hoe Street. 'Report back from May Day'.

WEMBLEY: Wednesday May 2, 8 p.m. Copland School, High Road. 'Report Back from May Day'.

WOOLWICH: Wednesday May 2, 8 p.m. 'The Castle', Powis Street, S.E.18. 'Report back from May Day'.

FELTHAM: Thursday May 3, 8 p.m. 'Three Horse Shoes', Feltham High Street, Feltham, Middlesex. 'The Fight against the Tories after May Day.'

BRIXTON: Monday May 7, 8 p.m. Control Room, Brixton Training Centre. 'Report back from May Day'.

LEWISHAM: Monday May 7, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opp. New Cross Station. 'The role of the TUC in the fight against the Tories'.

BATTERSEA: Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. 'Nags Head', cnr. Wandsworth Road and North Street. 'Report back from May Day'.

All Trades Unions Alliance Public Meetings

What next after the miners' ballot? The fight against the Tory government

KNOTTINGLEY: Thursday May 3, 7.30 p.m. Railway Hotel, Hilltop. Speaker: G. Healy (National Secretary SLL).

OLLERTON: Monday May 7, 8 p.m. Blue Til. Speaker: Mike Banda (SLL Central Committee).

BARNLEY: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Masons Arms. Speaker: Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee).

CASTLEFORD: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Sagar St Rooms. Speaker: G. Healy (National Secretary SLL).

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!

Sheffield

WEDNESDAY MAY 2
7.30 p.m.

'Grapes Inn'
Trippett Lane

Speaker: Cliff Slaughter
(SLL Central Committee)

After May Day — What Next?

Liverpool

SUNDAY APRIL 6
7.30 p.m.

Mona Hotel
James Street
(Near tube station)

Central London All Trades Unions Alliance

TRADE UNIONS AND THE TORY GOVERNMENT

Sunday May 6
7.30 p.m.

Shaftesbury Hotel
Monmouth Street

Speaker: Gerry Healy
National Secretary
Socialist Labour League

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

BIRMINGHAM

THE VOICE of May Day in Birmingham was quite clear—workers wanted the Tory government kicked out of office. The feeling of most delegations was for a new leadership to take the fight forward. Joe Harrison, convenor of the Rover car factory at Solihull, said: 'The next thing is to change the leadership. There is a willingness on the shop floor to fight, because they are feeling the pinch from rising prices and the wage freeze. But there has been a deplorable lack of leadership at national level. I don't think the TUC should be talking to the Tories. The trade union movement has the power to deal with this government in its own way. Jimmy Heddon, Saitley AUEW

No 2: 'We've come out today for one single reason: to get rid of this gang of legalized crooks and robbers that they call the Tory government. The TUC leaders give no lead. We need to clear them out as well.' Norman Goodwin, shop steward from Sainsbury's Transmission: 'As far as I'm concerned, we should use this day not as a demonstration and then we all go back. We must use this as a stepping stone. We must come out again and again. A General Strike is the only answer in the last analysis.' John Byrne, Lucas, Chester Street: 'One-day demonstrations are a waste of time. We want a longer strike. The TUC should be dealt with as well. They talk with the Tories about the end of free collective bargaining, that is what these talks mean.'

ROUND THE REGIONS

GLASGOW

IN GLASGOW over 10,000 marchers ignored an agreement reached between their leaders and the city magistrates to hold the meeting in a sidestreet and thronged George Square. Shouts of 'General Strike' greeted Bill McClean, general secretary of the Scottish NUM who said: 'The British TUC should have called the unions out instead of just inviting them.'

CARDIFF

IN CARDIFF 1,000 steel workers from East Moor BSC plant, joined the 5,000-strong march which was headed by workers now in their fourth week of occupation at Aberdare Cables (Pirelli).

LIVERPOOL

IN LIVERPOOL 7,000 marchers were told by Jack Jones, general secretary of the T&GWU that 'this protest has been muted, although millions have taken part.' Jones told the dockers, carworkers, engineers, builders and other workers that the unions were demanding the right 'to negotiate freely to raise the minimum wage'.

MASSIVE STATE PAY LAW PROTEST

FROM PAGE 1

Production was also hit at the British Aircraft Corporation's military aircraft division at Warton, near Preston.

Officials of the AUEW reported that over 95 per cent of shipbuilding and engineering workers in the north west stayed away from work.

Rolls-Royce, Bristol, engine division, makers of Concorde engines, reported most of their 6,000 manual workers absent.

At Bristol, the British Aircraft Corporation and Rolls-Royce plants were seriously affected.

At the British Aircraft Corporation, Filton, over 90 per cent of engineers supported the strike.

In the north east two large electrical engineering works—Reyrolles at Hebburn and Parsons at Heaton—were stopped when their combined workforce of 11,000 stayed away.

Eight thousand engineers were among 25,000 strikers on north Humber side stopping work on aircraft, shipbuilding and construction work.

Four hundred industrial workers at the Portsmouth naval base also joined the strike.

On the Clyde, Marathon and Govan Shipbuilders—the former UCS shipbuilders—struck work. In Glasgow the engineering works of Singer's, Weirs, and Babcock and Wilcox were among the factories which were stopped.

Hawker Siddeley Aircraft factory at Brough, near Hull, stopped production and Hull factories to come out included Imperial Typewriters, Reckitts Chemical Division and Hollis Timber.

DOCKS: The total Liverpool work force of 7,500 men halted work on 50 ships, Manchester docks were also at a standstill, as were Goole and Hull—Britain's third largest port. Bristol docks were also virtually at a standstill, with 19 ships idle.

In London only 900 out of 3,429 were at work. At Tilbury and the Royal Group of docks work stopped completely.

MINES: All 50 pits in South Wales were idle as 50,000 miners struck work. About half the pits in the Yorkshire coalfield were also stopped, as were two-thirds of the pits in Scotland. Mechanics at Westoe Colliery, South Shields, joined the strike.

BUSES: Although the right wing in the trade union movement did their utmost to keep the buses going, their desperate efforts met with only partial success.

In London there were no services at all from garages at Battersea, Brixton, Chalk Farm and Hanwell. Only restricted services were available from Dalston and Upton Park.

An RAC spokesman reported 'a black picture all round—particularly in south east London'. There was a one-and-a-half mile traffic jam on the



Sidcup by-pass before 9 a.m. and Chiswick roundabout on the M4 had seized up completely.

Midland Red bus services in the Birmingham and Wolverhampton areas only at half-strength.

In Birmingham City itself, bus crews decided to work to enable strikers to travel to the mass march and rally.

No buses ran in Bristol.

TRAINS: A virtual standstill. Only a few trains were running yesterday morning—in the Eastern Region and the London Midland region—but British Rail spokesmen were unable to guarantee that any services would last the day.

There was a 40 per cent stop-

page on the London Underground.

NEWSPAPERS: All national newspapers in London and Manchester were halted. Many provincial newspapers were also hit.

STEEL: The East Moors works at Cardiff was almost completely closed, as were the Shotton works, and the North Wales, Marmag works at Port Talbot.

BUILDING: Sites were halted throughout the country and building workers were prominent in all demonstrations.

STUDENTS: The National Union of Students called on all its members to support the strike and students joined the marches in every major centre.

Sections of yesterday's demonstrations in Liverpool (above) and Birmingham (left).

May Day motion defeated at EPTU

A BID to introduce an emergency May Day resolution was narrowly defeated on day two of the electricians' biennial conference on the Isle of Man yesterday.

Left-wing Scottish delegate Charles Montgomery moved a reference back of the morning's order paper so that a resolution calling for action to mark yesterday's day of protest could be discussed.

Mr Montgomery wanted telegrams to be sent to the TUC and the Scottish TUC pledging full backing to the strike against the Tory state pay laws.

The attempt to refer back was defeated by only 282 votes to 235. Feeling was high among many of the 650 delegates that May Day should not be ignored.

Communist Party members voted for the reference back, but at no time did they sponsor a resolution of their own.

Nor did a single Stalinist speaker get up to support reference back on Monday when a Southampton delegate tried to bring forward a resolution calling for all-out campaign to force the Tories to resign.

Corporatist shopping

THE SHOPWORKERS' leadership, under a smokescreen of words about the lower paid have taken the union another step towards corporatism.

Alfred Allen, general secretary, summing up the wages and economic policy debate at the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers' Conference in Blackpool said that neither the Tories nor the union had won the battle, but the whole nation had lost.

A new social contrast to remove the anomalies in society was needed. The government had spent two years fostering hostility when there should have been an explanation of the problems and more consideration given to the unions' views, Allen added.

He indicated that his union would not refuse to go to the Pay Board if necessary.

Conference carried a resolution for a £25 minimum wage and a 35-hour week, and then adjourned half a day early to enable delegates to join in the local trades council march.

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