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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Behind the CBI 'boom'

By Royston Bull

THE GOVERNMENT and the CBI are deliberately boosting the inflationary boom to prepare conditions for a possible General Election in the summer or autumn. As in the pre-election boom of 1963, the inflationary taps are being turned on without any regard to the runaway balance-of-payments deficit.

Because of the vastly altered circumstances since then, this boom will have even more catastrophic consequences. But with the crisis of capitalism rapidly worsening, the Tories have to clear a path for the extreme measures that will be necessary in the all-out trade war that is developing.

This means smashing the wages movement that will break out in the autumn as a result of the ceaseless rise in prices.

But standing in their way is the organized strength of the trade union movement. The frontal assault through the National Industrial Relations Court has failed. The introduction of corporatist wage controls with the treacherous connivance of the TUC leaders is not getting them very far and has stirred some dangerous signs of revolt.

The Tories are therefore preparing the ground for getting a new mandate and installing a hard-line government of a kind not seen before in modern times in this country. They are utilizing the inflationary boom and the talks with the trade union leaders for creating an atmosphere to disarm the working class.

This temporary boom is being created entirely by an arbitrary expansion of the money and credit supply. This has no foundation in real economic developments within the capitalist system which are all, in fact, pointing in the direction of deflation and trade recession.

But ever since the last war, the capitalist class has been haunted by fears of a return to the slump of the 1930s. In the conditions of the enormous gains made by the international labour movement after World War II, the capitalist governments adopted the Bretton Woods system with its built-in tendency to inflation.

Led by seemingly endless US economic expansion, capitalism reasserted itself over the western world and Japan. Now the price has to be paid in terms of uncontrollable inflation.

Since the American government officially in August 1971 welched on its huge dollar debts, which had fuelled the post-war boom, any semblance of order has gone out of the international monetary set-up.

Faced with the consequences of this in terms of sharpening trade war, currency and gold speculation, competitive devaluations or floating currencies, the Tories have conjured up the 'boom' by resorting to the money printing presses.

With other capitalist governments doing the same thing and adding to the already long-standing US dollar expansion, it has meant a still further huge growth to world money supply and as a result uncontrollable world-wide inflation.

Because of the critical condition of the international economy, the Tories' artificial boom has had the inevitable result of record balance-of-payments deficits, i.e. Britain is becoming bankrupt in its accounts with overseas countries.

The last time the capitalist class did this on such a scale was in 1963, again under a Tory government, which was also the last time that the CBI's trends survey was so ebullient. It was also the year before the General Election.

The consequences then were the most severe economic crisis for the incoming Labour government leading eventually to devaluation and years of deflation-

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TORIES PREPARE GENERAL ELECTION



BAC workers at the factory entrance 'under workers' control'.

Weybridge aircraft men sit-in

ABOUT 200 aircraft workers have been occupying the main entrance of the British Aircraft Corporation plant at Weybridge, Surrey.

The main cause of the dispute is the suspension of a worker who refused to do blacked work. Manual workers at Weybridge banned overtime last Thursday (April 26) over fringe benefits.

On Wednesday, May 2, a man refused to do an overtime job and—after being given half an hour to 'reconsider'—was suspended.

The whole machine shop walked out, to be followed later by three other shops. All the workers were then suspended.

The manual workers are demanding the reinstatement of

them all and payment for the days they have lost.

A second dispute is about two-days lay-off pay caused when the factory closed due to a water shortage two weeks ago.

The workers want not only fall-back pay, but the average bonus for the two days which amounts to £2.40.

• Other sit-ins see p.11.

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

WE very much need a substantial donation to boost our fund towards completion of its first £50,000 by May 31.

Our branches fight well. Yesterday we received:

	£
Reading	8
Leicester	18
Barnstaple	5
East London	5
Southall	5
Todmorden	4.11
Jarrow	3
Harrow	12.50
Swindon	3.23

Our total is now £10,821.37. Post all donations to:

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

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This is not the time for 'pleasantries'

'SOCIALIST WORKER', the weekly paper of the International Socialism group, has offered space to Mick Costello, industrial correspondent of the Communist Party's 'Morning Star'.

It wants Costello to put his views on the recent conference of the Stalinist-dominated Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions where International Socialist members were physically assaulted and denounced as 'splitters' and 'wreckers'.

In return IS asked for equivalent space to put their views in the 'Morning Star'. Needless to say, the revisionists have been turned down flat by the Stalinists. 'Socialist Worker' says:

'Sadly, the "Star" has turned its back on a discussion that would have proved of considerable value to the many militants in industry concerned about building a fighting organization to defeat Tory policies.'

The revisionists, having supported the Stalinists in the Liaison Committee since its inception and having blamed the dockers, the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders' workers and then the miners for the sell-outs of the Stalinists and the trade union leaders, now find it 'sad' that the Stalinists refuse to settle the whole matter in a friendly interchange of views!

This is not naïvety but a wrong political assessment of the whole of Stalinism.

Why is the 'Socialist Worker' 'soft' on Stalinism?

Stalinism is a counter-revolutionary force on a world scale. The British Communist Party acts not in the interests of the working class, but in the interests of the Soviet bureaucracy, which was a product of the pressure of world imperialism on an isolated, economically-backward Soviet Union.

The 'state-capitalist' International Socialism group writes off all the economic and social gains of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

The same issue of the IS paper carries an editorial statement 'Unity in Action' which says that it is 'unfortunate' that such unity cannot be established between the 'Morning Star' and 'Socialist Worker'.

'Socialist Worker' tells its readers that even though the Stalinists at the National Union of Teachers' conference joined with the right wing and supported a pay deal within the Tory state pay laws, nevertheless 'the "Morning Star" has correctly called for out-and-out opposition to Phase Two.'

The truth is the exact opposite. As we

showed yesterday, far from calling for any kind of fight against the pay laws, the 'Morning Star' repeatedly lied about the role of the trade union leaders, especially the lefts, and sowed illusions that the TUC would not co-operate with the Tories.

The Stalinists voted at last September's Trades Union Congress for a resolution which provided the cover for the TUC leaders' collaboration with Heath and the CBI.

The 'Morning Star' has systematically maintained that cover ever since and, in particular, has opposed all calls for a General Strike to bring down the Tory government.

The IS group similarly evades the issue of bringing down the Tory government.

Having collaborated with the Stalinists in the Liaison Committee, the IS group announced it would form an alternative after it had been silenced at the conference.

But it is clear that this organization, if it ever gets under way, will pursue the

same opportunist course as that charted by the IS inside the Liaison Committee.

Its purpose will be to fight against the formation of a new revolutionary leadership in the unions behind the coat-tails of spontaneity.

After listing the iniquities of the Tory state pay laws (which it calls an 'incomes policy') 'Socialist Worker' says: 'It is going to be a hard struggle to get these truths accepted by our leaderships. The longer it takes, the more working people are going to have to pay.'

Thus the 'Socialist Worker' centrists are soft on both the Stalinists and the trade union bureaucracy. They have no confidence in the working class whatever. The independent role of the class is totally rejected. All workers can do is suffer until the centrists have explained the 'truth' to the existing leadership.

The trade union bureaucracy already knows the truth and is deliberately working to assist the employers and their government to solve their crisis at the expense of the working class.

The Stalinists likewise, operating on the theory of peaceful co-existence, work to deceive the working class and lead them to defeat.

To exchange 'pleasantries' with these gentlemen increases the danger of confusion. The task is to raise the political understanding of the working class by fighting to expose Stalinism.

Noose tightening on Nixon

THE TWO TOP White House aides who resigned at the beginning of the week have given evidence to the Watergate Grand Jury which apparently implicates their boss, President Nixon, in the criminal bugging plot.

John Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman both spent two hours talking to a prosecution team in a room at the Federal Grand Jury building in Washington.

Afterwards Ehrlichman spent six hours being grilled by prosecution lawyers in front of the 23-man jury.

According to leaks from the secret hearing, the Ehrlichman evidence 'tends to point even higher' than the two ex-presidential aides.

Haldeman and Ehrlichman were second only to President Nixon in the White House hierarchy.

At one point in the hearing, when the question of executive privilege came up, 'a serious disturbance'

broke out in the jury-room.

Executive privilege is the right of White House staff members to refuse to reveal their conversations or communications with the President.

According to TV correspondents outside the jury-room the two White House aides raised even wider questions than their own involvement in the bugging affair and the subsequent cover-up.

Washington sources say the exact role which Nixon really played in the scandal will soon be out in the open.

Already, without any concrete evidence except the President's own attempts to evade responsibility, 50 per cent of respondents in a Gallup poll say they believe Nixon took part in a cover-up for Watergate and 40 per cent that he knew about the burglary and bugging in advance.

Nixon insisted on the

resignation of Haldeman and Ehrlichman in a last desperate effort to clear himself of the taint of scandal.

Now not only does he face the consequence of his former aides' testimony, but also the even greater threat posed by John Dean, the White House counsel he unceremoniously sacked at the beginning of the week.

Dean has offered to turn state's evidence and reveal everything he knows in return for total immunity from prosecution.

The offer is still being discussed. Dean has refused to say what he knows until he gets a guarantee of immunity.

Nixon has hidden himself away at the summer White House in San Clemente, California, for the weekend and is reported to be brooding on the appointment of a 'strongman' to take charge of his shattered administration.



KGB's cat and mouse game

WHILE President Nixon's special envoy, Dr Henry Kissinger visits Moscow to work out the next stage of a deal with the Soviet bureaucracy, the KGB claims to have virtually wiped out an important section of the opposition.

The connection is not fortuitous. The Nixon administration fears revolution, or even its premonitory rumblings, anywhere in eastern Europe or the Soviet Union as much as the bureaucracy.

Although the dissidents around the underground journal 'Chronicle of Current Events' had no revolutionary perspectives, its very existence was regarded by the bureaucracy as a danger.

Orders were given to the KGB at the end of 1971 to smash this wing of the opposition.

This now seems to have been done fairly completely. The journal has not appeared since last October.

The KGB has effectively terrorized those concerned with its production with threats of confinement in psychiatric wards, imprisonment or exile.

A number of arrests have been made, including that of Pyotr Yakir.

Yakir has been forced to sign letters to other oppositionists calling on them to give up their struggle using the argument that their activities were being exploited by anti-Soviet forces abroad.

Yakir has been held by the KGB since last June and has been worked over by the subtle methods of psychological and physical torture which it used in preparing the Moscow Trials of the 1930s.



Nixon's aides (l to r) Haldeman, Ehrlichman and Dean have been forced to resign. Their evidence to the Grand Jury more and more implicates the President, now weekending in Florida.

Lebanon: 'Ceasefire agreement' is worthless

PALESTINIAN regular troops and guerrillas clashed with the Lebanese army in south-east Lebanon early yesterday, according to local sources.

The clashes came only hours after the announcement of a ceasefire between the army and the commandos after two days of battles in and around Beirut.

The sources said units of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) — the Palestinian regular forces — had crossed into Lebanon from

Syria and occupied several points. There were scattered clashes with the Lebanese Army.

Sources said the PLA would withdraw to Syria under the terms of a ceasefire agreement reached between the Lebanese government and Al Fatah leader Yassir Arafat.

The agreement provides for complete ceasefire in all areas, return of all forces to their previous positions and the 'elimination of causes of tension'.

This agreement is just as worthless as the deals signed between the guerrilla leadership and King Hussein of Jordan

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

during the period before September 1970 when Hussein massacred many guerrilla fighters and forced many others to flee to Syria and Lebanon.

The Lebanese 'democrat' Suleiman Franjeh is proving every inch as big a butcher as the Jordanian despot Hussein.

His army stood idly by while the Israel murder squads went into action in central Beirut three weeks ago.

There were protests in the United Nations, but the Lebanese leaders made no attempt to hit back against Israel.

And on the flimsy pretext that two of their soldiers had been kidnapped, they ranged tanks, artillery and mortars against the Palestinian fighters.

As in the past, Yassir Arafat will undoubtedly appeal to the good offices of other bourgeois Arab leaders like Egypt's President Sadat.

For a time, perhaps, the situation will be stabilized, leaving the Palestinian commandos in a weakened position.

Then pressure from Israel will once again mount for the Lebanese regime to deal further blows to the liberation move-

ment.

All the bombastic talk from the Arab capitalists about the struggle against Zionism and imperialism has proved to be a fraud.

They have become the accomplices of the Israeli reactionaries in the systematic destruction of the Palestinian fighters.

They bear the primary responsibility for the defeats of 1948, 1956, and 1967.

They acknowledge in words the national rights of the Palestinian people but try in deeds to come to terms with the Zionists.

Will union chiefs back all-out Ford strike?

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of all 15 Ford unions are being asked to call an all-out official strike to push up the company's £2.40, Phase Two pay offer.

Moss Evans, union-side chairman of the Ford national joint negotiating committee, said after meeting senior shop stewards and convenors:

'It was apparent from what they told us that the decisions at mass meetings rejecting the company's offer had not been reversed.'

Therefore it had been decided to refer the matter to union executives with a view to calling an official dispute. By this, he said, was meant 'a full strike against the company's proposals'.

This news came on a day when 550 press-shop operators at Dagenham—from all three shifts—together decided to stay out until Monday over the stopping of a man's pay for working-to-rule.

No cars were produced in the complex yesterday and 6,000 workers remained laid off.

The company has now agreed to pay three hours' pay for the time in dispute, but says it has not accepted demands that in future no one is put off pay without shop stewards being consulted.

After Thursday's meeting with the convenors, Moss Evans said: 'The convenors asked us for leadership and this is what we have given them.'

But it must be doubted whether next Tuesday's half-strength meeting of the engineers' union executive, which is likely to be first to consider the call, will commit itself to a stand-up confrontation with Ford's and the government.

And Evans' own Transport and General Workers' Union can also be expected to hedge its bets.

The convenors have here adopted a rather different procedure from that of previous Ford strikes.

In 1971 they called workers out against the company offer, then sought official backing. This time they want each individual union to pledge its support for industrial action which is as yet not taking place.

There is a strong suspicion among some Ford workers that, despite the continued and successful militancy of the shop floor, as demonstrated at Dagenham, Evans and the convenors may be seeking an excuse to wash their hands of the pay struggle.



Dr Mitsuru Suzuki (right) with his lawyer

ALEX MITCHELL'S

Far-East Diary

Productivity explosion

'Mainichi Daily News', Tokyo, February 5: 'A man working in a manhole in Osaka City was thrown some seven metres by a deafening explosion Monday morning and penetrated the roof of a two-storey house.' A nearby householder, hearing the crash, rushed to the room where his two small children were sleeping and was shocked to find the worker's bleeding body dangling from the rafters.

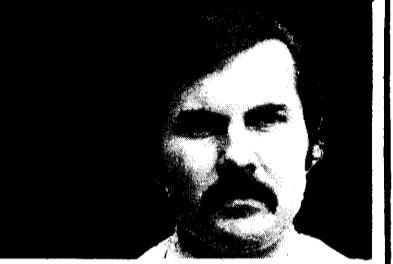
'Mainichi Daily News', Tokyo, February 10: 'A labourer working at a manhole in Kyoto City late Thursday night was killed instantly when it exploded and rocketed him some 30 metres over a warehouse onto the roof of a house.' A nearby householder, hearing the crash, rushed

to the room where his two small children were sleeping and was shocked to find the worker's bleeding body dangling from the rafters.

Strange coincidence? Not really. There will be more than 6,000 industrial workers killed in Japan this year and about 2 million injured.

They are all largely preventable. They're not prevented because the Japanese capitalist class is among the most profit-motivated in the world.

Last weekend the Japanese Productivity Centre revealed that during 1972 productivity rose 11.1 per cent in the manufacturing sector compared with 4.4 per cent in 1971. At the same time production rose 7.4 per cent while employment dropped 3.4 per cent.



Suzuki's human guinea pigs

A CONSIDERABLE amount of bad feeling has erupted following the acquittal of a doctor alleged to have deliberately given typhoid and dysentery to 64 people.

The Chiba District Court in Kyodo recently acquitted the doctor thus ending a seven-year legal wrangle in the criminal courts.

Dr Mitsuru Suzuki (40), a resident doctor at Chiba University Hospital was arrested on April 7, 1966. In the first instance he confessed to having given the men and women food which was infected with the diseases. Later he withdrew the confession and said it had been obtained by force.

The prosecution said that Suzuki had come into contact with all of the patients. The patients included 17 workers from Kawasaki Street Corporation, 13 doctors and nurses at the Chiba University Hospital, 12 nurses and out-patients at Mishima Hospital and 22 persons related to Suzuki.

In the case of the Chiba University employees, Suzuki gave them bananas, mandarin oranges, sponge cake and baked clams contaminated with typhoid.

The prosecution said that Suzuki was attempting to test tolerance against drugs in human experiments. Suzuki was arrested by police, who quickly discovered a pattern to the typhoid and dysentery outbreaks: several of the victims were colleagues in the same hospital while 22 were either neighbours or members of his family. The families had been sent presents of fruit from the doctor.

Suzuki's defence, however, turned out to be remarkably high-powered. The police case was blasted apart by the expert testimony of top academics

who had connections with the government.

Dr Hikoo Shirakabe, professor at Chiba University at the time of the outbreak, said there were about 100 patients suspected of having contracted the disease. This lent credence to the theory that both infections were 'rampant' at the hospital and need not have been caused directly by Suzuki.

Then Dr Rintaro Nakaya, director of the microbiology department of the National Institute of Health, testified that the victims could not have been infected in the manner

as described in Suzuki's confession.

The case wound on for seven years until last week's verdict. The judge found that Suzuki's confession 'could not be trusted'. And he accepted the expert reports that the method allegedly used by Suzuki could not cause a person to contract typhoid and dysentery.

Standing under falling petals of cherry blossom, Suzuki told reporters: 'I am happy. I didn't do such a thing.' Before the trial he said that only a fair hearing would save him. He said he intended going back to practice as a doctor.

Honour prevails—through all the chanting

VISITING Japan at present is a Chinese goodwill mission here at the invitation of the Japan-China Friendship Association.

The first session of the convention produced a communiqué which would 'open a new page of friendship between Japan and China'.

Liao Chen-chih, president of the association, presented a Chinese flag with the words: 'Long live the friendship between the peoples of China and Japan.'

Throughout this ritual of bowing and handshaking could be heard sounds of discord. The Okinawa delegates were outside the conference chanting slogans after they had been barred by police and officials. The Okinawan delegation firmly believes that Japan has territorial rights over the Senkaku (Tiaoyu) Islands. But the mainland Chinese say the islands belong to them.

Needless to say, honour prevailed—and the incident was not reported in the major newspapers.

FOOTNOTE: During the tour Liao has also extended the hand of friendship to the right-wing regime of Chiang Kai-shek on Taiwan (Formosa). He said that his 'fellow countrymen in Taiwan' would be welcome if they wanted to join hands with the mainland Chinese. Liao declared that 'patriotism' does not distinguish between early comers and late-comers so long as they love their country. (1)

'Late-comers are welcome and my fellow countrymen in Taiwan are included in this group of latecomers,' he added.

Rubery Owen strike wives back husbands

WIVES of Rubery Owen strikers have come out solidly in support of their husbands, now in the fifth week of their struggle against Measured-Day Work at the Darlston, Staffs, factory.

Two weeks ago the Wolverhampton 'Express and Star' came out with the hackneyed anti-strike headline 'Rubery Owen strike wives put their foot down'.

The paper claimed on April 21 that within a few days an action committee would be formed to try to get the men back to work.

It added in a sinister and melodramatic paragraph: 'The organizers of the end-the-strike call do not wish to reveal their identity because they fear reprisals.'

Two weeks later, there is still no sign of the legendary committee—presumably the creation of an over-active imagination on the 'Express and Star'.

But the paper's attack has had the opposite effect among the strikers' wives, a number of whom are openly supporting their husbands' action.

Mrs Lil Downing, mother of four children, whose husband is a Transport and General Work-

ers' Union shop steward at Rubery Owen told Workers Press:

'I think they should stick it out. If they go back, they will have lost all they have been fighting for. I know the management offered them a lump sum to give up piecework, but how long will that last. In the long run we face a wage-cut.'

'We can't stand that because every time you go into the shops the prices have gone up. With this Tory lot in, it's getting impossible to live. It's ridiculous. There doesn't seem to be any value in the money these days.'

'Food is creeping up to Common Market prices. At one time you got cheap ends of meat, but not any more. And it's not just food prices—kiddies' clothes and shoes have gone up and they cost as much to feed as the adults.'

'Gas and electricity has also gone up, and now there's a £6 increase on the rates.'



Mrs Lil Downing . . . won't stand for wage-cut

'I think all the women must stand behind their husbands, because in the long run it's them who will lose out. It's the woman who does the budgeting and we need a wage increase.'

Mrs Renee Garbett said: 'I support this strike because if my

husband gets a cut in wages, then it's obvious that I will get a cut in housekeeping. I need a rise not a cut.'

'If the new scheme comes in, my husband faces a £2-a-week drop. Is that any way to treat a man who has worked at Rubery for 25 years? We have two children and the way the cost of living is going up, we can't afford to lose this strike.'

'It's no good me telling the shopkeepers my husband has just taken a £2 drop in wages, you must do the same and drop your prices—they won't do that.'

'If Rubery Owen wants showing that the wives support the strike, then I would go as far as saying if a demonstration in support of the strike is needed then us wives must do that. I know we could do it because I have had a lot of wives tell me they are 100 per cent in support of this strike.'

'I think the Tory government has made such a mess of things that the sooner we get them out the better. The Tories will do

nothing for the working class because they have their own class to look after and that's what they are doing.

'That's why Rubery Owen is taking us on, so we have got to defeat him and the Tories.'

Another Bentley housewife, who herself has worked at Rubery's for 15 years, said:

'I would like to see a demonstration by housewives in support of the action their men are taking. Price rises are upsetting us women enough without having to face wage cuts as well.'

'If you complain in the shops about price rises they take the Mickey out of you and try to make you look a fool by telling you to get Ted Heath to come and check their prices.'

'It's no good just complaining. My intention is that us women must get together and meet John Owen face to face and tell him that we have had enough of his trying to talk money out of our men's pockets. Our wages are low enough now, so we support our men's actions.'

These interviews show clearly the mood of the Darlston people in their fight with Rubery Owen—and the Tories—they are not prepared on any account to take a cut in their standard of living.



Left: Rolls-Royce workers leaving the factory. Inset: Christopher Chataway, who was faced with the problem of the Rolls directors' contracts.

CHATAWAY AND THE RR DIRECTORS

Christopher Chataway, the Tories' smooth-talking Minister for Industrial Development, had an embarrassing moment during last Monday's talks with local authority representatives, union men and MPs on Rolls-Royce Motors.

In the middle of a session with the clerical workers' union APEX, he was suddenly confronted with the knotty

problem of the Rolls directors' contracts.

It seems that under contracts signed in March, but dated from January, four directors are granted up to seven years' employment or salary in lieu plus a share of the profits for a similar period.

Were the four to be sacked immediately by the company whose purchase of Rolls Motors was expected to be announced yesterday, APEX calculates they could still draw close on £300,000 between them.

This is not only in striking

contrast with the uncertain fate of the car firm's 8,000 staff and manual workers, it is, on the face of it, a clear breach of the Tories' own pay laws.

Chataway didn't exactly blush. But he had to promise to have the matter quickly looked into by 'the appropriate body'.

This led to some undignified buck-passing as the Department of Trade and Industry tried to dump the problem on the Department of Employment and the D of E attempted to suggest it was the Pay Board's pigeon.

The matter arose in this way.

APEX organizes about 1,000 workers in Rolls-Royce Motors and as a staff union is worried that its members are particularly vulnerable if the company is taken over by a concern which could absorb administrative work inside its own organization.

The union's delegation — Denis Howell MP (president), Roy Grantham (general secretary), Keith Standring (executive secretary) and Shirley Williams (union - sponsored MP) — therefore raised three points with Chataway.

First they urged that Rolls remain in public ownership, then they pointed to the job-security provisions of the directors' contracts and finally they asked for changes in company law to provide similar protection for ordinary employees of bankrupt companies.

Chataway stonewalled on the first point—setting up a meeting between them and the Official Receiver for last Wednesday.

But it was during discussion of the second point that one of the APEX men suddenly remembered about the pay laws.

How on earth, he asked, could an arrangement like this be in line with the government's own provisions? January, after all, was supposed to be a month of total pay 'freeze'.

Signed on March 21, but effective from January 1, the contracts cover managing director David Plastow, Thomas Barlow (diesel division managing director), Leonard Harrison (commercial director) and Thomas Neville (financial director).

Plastow (40), who reached the board of Rolls on March 4, 1971, just before its collapse, was appointed managing director when the government took over on April 1, 1972. He takes the lion's share under the contracts.

Plastow's contract guarantees his employment for a minimum of seven years from January 1, 1973, at an annual salary of £15,000 plus any increase the directors may determine.

On top of this he is promised 0.2554 per cent per year of the group net profits in excess of £2m.

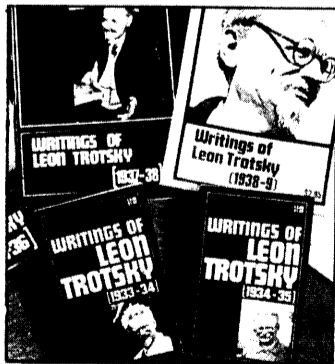
Barlow, head of the diesel division, is guaranteed five years at £11,000 a year plus 0.1846 per cent of net profits over £2m.

Harrison gets five years at £8,500 (plus 0.1301 per cent) and Neville £9,500 plus 0.1383 per cent.

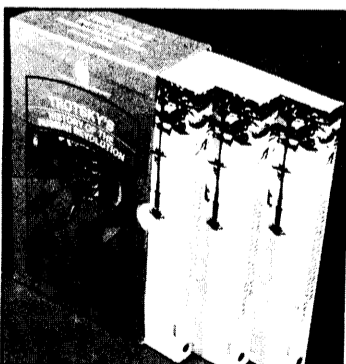
In salaries alone—assuming no increases at all over the next seven years—the agreements are worth £250,000.

And APEX calculates on the basis of this year's expected profit that the profits share-out will be worth £14,000 a year. Rolls is expected to make £4.5m this year.

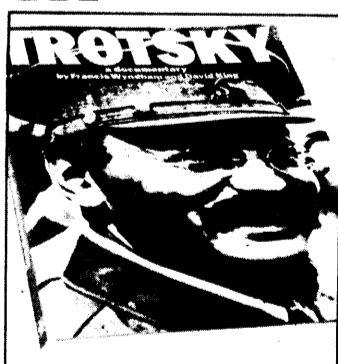
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EVICTED!

The judge sympathized with the worker who appeared before him, and listened politely to the worker's mates who had come along to help plead his case.

But in the High Court last Wednesday Mr Justice Bean still granted Erpingham Rural District Council an order which will allow it to evict welder Eric Amies (35), and his family for £3.25 rent arrears.

What is more, he ordered Amies to pay the council's costs of £100 on top of the £70 he already has to pay as a result of an eviction hearing in a local court.

Factory shop stewards who have been carrying out a 24-hour guard at Amies' house went to the High Court to plead with the judge to allow him to stay.

Bean said he sympathized with Amies, whose family circumstances had led him to be in arrears with the rent. But he said he had no alternative but to grant possession of the house in Park View, Suffield, Norfolk, to Erpingham Rural District Council.

Eric Amies said after the 25-minute hearing in chambers that the judge suggested that the council should reconsider

his case with a view to granting him a new tenancy.

Chief shop steward Charles Amis, accompanied by three other members of the shop stewards' committee at Crane Freuhauf Containers Ltd, of North Walsham, said: 'The only crime Eric has committed is that he was too proud to ask for help when he was in trouble.'

He had occupied the three-bedroom council house since 1961 and paid his rent. Then in 1969 his daughter got diabetes and he was involved in extra expenses to be paid from his £18-a-week wage.

His daughter died last year. He has three other children—Kevin (8), Gary (11) and a two-month old baby.

He had stayed away from work while his wife was in hospital and debts had mounted. He himself had also broken a bone in his foot.

Eric Amies said he had only owed £3.25 arrears in rent and that had been paid off, but the council went ahead and obtained an eviction order.

He had re-entered the house to make an inventory of furniture and his mates had enabled him to stay in the house and prevent bailiffs from evicting him. Fifteen shop stewards had worked in teams so that someone was always with him at the house.

Turkey

13 ON TRIAL FOR TEACHING HEBREW AND JEWISH HISTORY

Among the many trials that have been taking place in Turkey, with trade unionists, students, members of the Turkish Workers' Party and writers being jailed, one little case may have escaped much notice.

A group of 13 Jewish teachers, among them two rabbis and six women, have been brought to court charged with the offence of teaching the Hebrew language and Jewish history.

The case has been going on since last October.

The other week, an 11-year-old boy appeared as a witness to testify that lessons given at the Knesset Israel synagogue were only in how to pray (Jewish prayers are normally said in Hebrew) and that no separate Hebrew language classes were held.

The defence claims that the Hebrew language was only taught as part of religious instruction.

Minority

The reason it is necessary for them to prove this would seem to lie in the generally repressive Turkish policy on the national question. The Kurdish language, for instance, is banned and the Kurdish minority in eastern Turkey is subjected to severe repression.

One of the charges brought against left-wing political prisoners, in fact, was that they supported the national rights of the Kurds. So the Turkish regime is being consistent by repressive measures against the Jews.

Religious indoctrination is all right, say the authorities, but teaching language or history is definitely out!

From a regime which jailed Turkey's leading novelist, the internationally-known Yashar Kemal, for translating Marxist writings into Turkish, such repressive measures should not be all that surprising.

What might surprise many people, however, is that this case is taking place with so little publicity.

No protests

Where are the noisy Zionist demonstrators who normally turn out to protest on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union?

Where are the people who harass Soviet tourists and call for the Soviet ballet tours to be stopped?

Don't they care about Jews in Turkey?

The case of the 'Istanbul 13' has hardly been rated a headline in the Jewish Press, let alone aroused any militant demonstrations.

We might also note that the Turkish regime has been raised by Sir Alec Douglas Home on behalf of the Tories and maintains good relations with the state of Israel.

And that explains the difference between a Jew in the Soviet Union and one on trial in Turkey.



Warsaw pact

OUT FOR A DEAL WITH THE WEST

All the diplomatic efforts of the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies are being concentrated on the aim of winning the consent of the European capitalist countries for a security conference to be held in Helsinki in June or July.

The bureaucracy hopes to follow this up with a grand summit meeting before the end of the year to consecrate the existing division of Europe and prepare for balanced force reductions.

It is this perspective which governs the rightward shift of Communist Party policy in Britain and the other European countries. The bureaucracy will support any government which goes along with the European Security Conference plan.

It is already sure of the support of Willy Brandt's government in West Germany. It is equally sure of the support of the Pompidou regime in France. Witness the evident satisfaction with which it

greeted the re-election of the coalition in West Germany and of the Gaullists in the French elections.

At the moment the plans for the Helsinki conference are running behind schedule. One reason is the lukewarm attitude of the Tories in Britain. Hence the Stalinists are now making a special effort to win over the British ruling class by offers of trade concessions in the Soviet Union and by a tacit undertaking to hold back the working class in Britain through its influence in the trade union movement.

Soviet diplomats are confident that once they can bring their capitalist opposite numbers to the conference table a deal can be worked out to their mutual advantage. They are prepared to make concessions to imperialism which would have been inconceivable only a few years ago.

The growing economic crisis in the Soviet Union caused by its own mismanagement and negligence is making it amenable to almost any suggestion from the capitalist side. In particular it is giving increasing practical guarantees

that it is positively opposed to revolution in Europe.

Commenting on the present stage of negotiations the journal 'Za Rubezhom' writes:

'There has been enough time to set out positions, areas of agreement to be noted and unavoidable disagreements to be determined. The main thing is that a balance of interests has been found on a whole range of important points.'

Meanwhile the talks which began in Vienna on mutual and balanced reduction of forces on January 31 has not made a formal start owing to procedural difficulties. Great flexibility can be expected from the Soviet side to push ahead with the proposed Helsinki meeting.

The Helsinki meeting is seen by the bureaucracy as the culmination of efforts to reach an understanding with the capitalist ruling class over a long period which have been presented under the propaganda heading of 'peaceful co-existence'.

For many western diplomats the Soviet Union is still seen as the projection of the

Above left: Brezhnev who is visiting a number of foreign capitals. Right: Brandt (top) and Pompidou who support the conference.

October Revolution and they remain suspicious of the bureaucracy's intentions, despite all its protestations. Soviet Communist Party secretary Leonid Brezhnev has a number of visits to foreign capitals scheduled in the next few months in which he will aim to smooth away these fears.

This he will do by offering further economic concessions and by giving confidential political guarantees. At the same time he will try to win agreement that recognition of existing frontiers must come before concrete steps on arms reduction.

Brezhnev will be seeking US endorsement for this line when he visits Washington in June. The big concessions made to American business groups for the development of Soviet natural resources are intended to prepare the way for a political and military deal. So are the assurances regarding the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

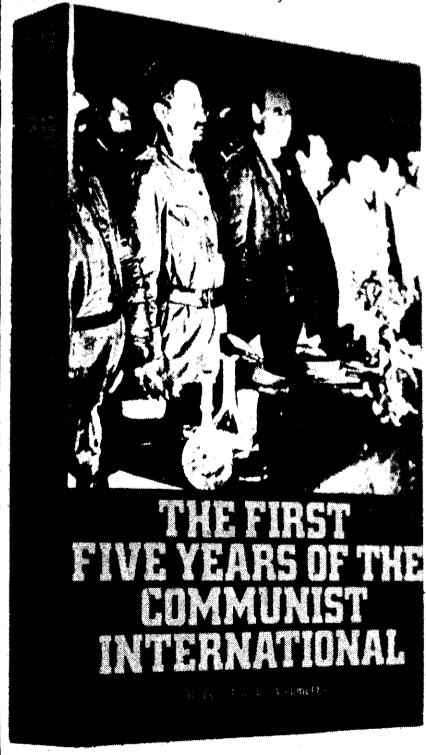
If the bureaucracy can convince the capitalist powers of its counter-revolutionary intentions, it hopes to be able to tackle its own economic problems and hold down the restive working class in eastern Europe and the USSR.

It would like to make greater use of technological know-how from the US, Europe and Japan and be able to shop around for capital equipment to make good industrial deficiencies. It will welcome foreign capital investment in developing resources which will provide the means to pay for bigger imports.

It hopes to be able to reduce the enormous burden of armaments production which lays like a dead weight on the Soviet economy and increase the output of consumer goods to meet the working-class demands for improved standards of living.

Illusory as these prospects may be, the bureaucracy clings to them as the only way it can see out of its difficulties. Its policies expose the workers' states to the gravest dangers from capitalist penetration.

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WHY DID THE CLYDEBANK RENTS FIGHT COLLAPSE?

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

In June many thousands of council house tenants in Scotland will be asked to withhold rent increases forced on the working class by the Tory government through the Housing Finance Act.

This second attempt at rebellion comes after the collapse of 30 Labour councils which once stood united with the trade union movement in their determination not to surrender to the Tory bid to destroy public housing. But resistance will certainly be unsuccessful if the lessons of the last betrayal are not understood. The experience at Clydebank is especially important. This was the town that stood virtually alone against fines that threatened to bankrupt the council and the borough. Clydebank's crime was that it refused to implement the Act or be intimidated by Tory threats. But in the end even Clydebank gave in.

On March 6 Bailie Betty Brown announcement on behalf of the 13 rebels—the majority of the council:

"Tonight Clydebank stands alone," she said. "We don't want to put any further burden on the trade unions. They have their own battles to fight and they have already taken honourable and resolute action to back the stand we have taken. It would be asking the whole labour movement to come out on a local situation. This would be too much when they already have so much on their plate. We are responsible people. That is why we are voting for implementation."

In an earlier council meeting Betty Brown had struck a more defiant note. At one she lashed the Labour right-wing when they first broke away and demanded the council back down.

"Having campaigned for a whole year I will never agree to work this tax. This Act is another nail in the coffin of democracy in this country," she said.

But on the night of surrender not a voice was raised in opposition. Counted among Betty Brown's responsible people were three Communist Party councillors and two representatives of the Scottish Nationalist Party.

What had changed since the great days when Clydebank led the rent rebellion in Scotland? Those who defend the policy of the Communist Party and the Labour rebels say three things.

FIRST: The Tories used the subtle and damaging tactic of refusing to choose individual councillors as their victims. Instead they confiscated through the court the money that fed all Clydebank's public services. After the first £5,000 fine, others would have followed. Soon the council would have been bankrupt and their workers laid-off.

The CP and the Labour Party argue that the people of Clydebank would not have

supported a stand that led to bankruptcy. **SECONDLY:** They say that support from the trade union movement was not forthcoming. The local leadership in Clydebank and Glasgow offered money but not strike action. This was supplemented by the collapse of big councils like Glasgow over the Act.

The 'rebels' argued that to reveal this state of affairs by remaining defiant would have exposed a 'weakness' in the ranks of the labour movement. **THIRDLY:** The Communist Party in particular argued that further resistance would have split the 'unity' of progressive forces that had been achieved with the bulk of the Labour Party and the Nationalists. Therefore when it came to implementation it was all or nothing. These arguments assume importance far beyond Clydebank. People in the labour movement, tenants and Communist Party members all over the country, used similar ideas to justify, or at least explain, a collapse of opposition to the rent Act.

Ironically the same points in essence were used by the right-wingers in the Labour Party when they became the first to abandon the brave promise of resistance to the Housing Finance Act made at the 1971 Party conference. This happened at Clydebank.

When he led the minority out of the rent fight, the Provost of Clydebank, Robert Fleming, said that the situation had changed radically because the vast majority of Labour councils had voted to implement the Act. He added: "We have never had a massive turn-out from our tenants indicating yes or no or whether they are willing to fight this or back the town council."

But at this stage he was opposed vehemently by CP members.

CP councillor Arnold Henderson told the council: "I stand today because I feel ten feet tall. I have never felt prouder. Clydebank has been associated with the spirit of the feeling of the people all over the country."

"I will stand up to this right to the end. There are more folk than Clydebank watching us tonight. They will judge us by what we say by what support they can have."

CP councillor Jimmy Reid said: "Millions of people are looking for one local authority to give the lead and not be intimidated. The UCS fight did not have mass support at the beginning. Too many people look at the practicalities and cannot see the wood for the trees. Lower the flag if you will. Do that and it will have done incalculable damage to the fight of the people of Scotland against the Tory policies."

CP councillor Jock Smith said: "Somewhere, someone and somehow somebody has got to stand against the attack being made against the working class."

After the imposition of the £5,000 fine by an Edinburgh

court in February Cllr Smith was even more bitter in his attack on the Labour right. He accused one councillor of 'ratting' on the Clydebank people.

"After this week," he continued, "we will have the massive support from the Scottish working class if any action is taken against us. I never thought animals like this would represent us after the years of sacrifice by our forefathers."

Strong words. But it was the CP councillors too who eventually voted for implementation and it was Labour councillor Malcolm Turner who rubbed salt in the wound by telling the rebels that when they decided to be 'responsible people' they were only using arguments that the eight original implementers used six weeks previously. Turner, of course, was correct.

EXPOSING THE WEAKNESS

The left and the Communist Party had found themselves trapped in the very same reformist politics of protest that had paved the way for the original retreat by Glasgow and the other councils which implemented before the fight had even begun.

The arguments they used to justify the position need careful examination.

First, the danger of 'exposing the weakness' in the labour movement.

The Labour and trade union leaders on the rents issue, or any other resistance to Tory policies, confine their activity to warlike words and the most feeble protest.

This is a question of politics. Reformists do not want to remove the government by mobilizing the working class. They prefer to observe Tory law because of their ingrained respect for British capitalism and its legal system.

This is indeed a weakness and it is the duty of socialists to expose it to the workers to break them from reformism and develop a revolutionary socialist consciousness in the working class.

No struggle on rents can be successful unless this is done.

The Labour and trade union leaders betrayed over the first round of increases. They will betray over the second round. Workers in council houses must be told this.

Secondly the desire not to upset 'left unity' with the 'progressive forces'.

This was a major factor in dictating Communist Party tactics at Clydebank, despite some voices in the Party who argued that their group on the council should not have voted to implement.

It is significant that in the same week that the final collapse occurred the Communist Party announced it would not stand candidates against two of the leading Labour rebels, William Neville and Betty Brown, in the local election.



Bailie Betty Brown, James Reid, J. Malcolm, A. Henderson, J. Bauld and Police Judge—all Clydebank councillors. Above: Reid and Brown on the Clydebank rents march in February.

This was 'left unity' in action. Unfortunately the Labour Party did not return the favour. The CP was hoping for a clear run in Faifley ward (which already has two CP councillors), but its candidate, Finlay Hart, faced Labour opposition.

'Left unity' inevitably becomes right unity. It happened at Clydebank on March 6 when the CP faction backed the shaky Labour rebels who, in essence, used the same right-wing arguments for im-

THE RIGHT TO DECENT HOMES

Some CP members feel now they are hopelessly compromised. For example, how can Jock Smith go round his own ward urging tenants not to pay the 75p increase in June when

he raised his hand for the initial increase in the council chamber?

Finally there is the most important argument: that the working class of Clydebank and elsewhere would not have backed the council faced with bankruptcy by the Tory government.

This is a crucial issue since it raises the question: 'How are socialists to raise the consciousness of the working class so they will mobilize in a political struggle to defend their

basic rights—one of those rights being the right to decent homes?'

No one knows whether the people of Clydebank would have rallied to their council facing bankruptcy. No one knows because there was no attempt to call an emergency town meeting to test out opinion. The about-face by the 13 rebels was taken in private.

It is certainly true, however, that the days of protest politics are over. Workers in the factories have little patience

left for the one-day strike, the demonstration and the meeting where leaders breathe hell fire at Heath and the Cabinet only to announce their willingness days later to go and talk some more with the government.

A call for strike action over rents (there were very few made anyway, despite promises) may well have met with a poor response in the factories, mines and shipyards of Scotland.

It is no longer possible to

mobilize large sections of workers on single issue protests which have as their perspective some change or defeat of government policy.

Yet this is the policy of the Communist Party and was the policy of its members at Clydebank. Under the banner of 'left unity' they were getting from the union leaders (local and national), the great challenge made by Labour councils all over Scotland etc. etc., knowing that such 'resistance' is based on sand.

PARTNERS TO THE RETREAT

The CP does not act as a force developing revolutionary consciousness within the working class but as an adjunct to the reformist bureaucracy which wants peace with the Heath government.

At places like Clydebank, where the members of the significant CP faction on the council could have played an extremely important role in exposing the reformists, both of the left and right variety, they are partners to a miserable retreat. Instead of showing the working class the only way forward they cover up because they are afraid to reveal the 'weakness' of the labour movement.

Now Scotland is on the brink of a second round of rents struggles.

So far the literature is careful not to charge the Labour councils with their betrayal. Clydebank may call another meeting of councils over the second increase in October.

Tenants and their leaders must ask—are they prepared to see the farce played out once more, or are any lessons to be learned from the first fight?

One conclusion must surely be drawn. The rents fight cannot be coloured with reformist politics and kept as an isolated tenants' movement. Clydebank proves this.

All workers are under attack from this government, as tenants, housewives and wage earners. The fight must be unified at local level. But it must be a unity of the working class.

Locally the fight must be led by organizations that bring together people in struggle. This means tenants' committees joining or even constructing Councils of Action which have representatives of all the working-class and political organizations.

The local union branches should be there, factories should send delegates, tenants' leaders and members of all political tendencies in the labour movement should serve on these committees.

The aim should be to mobilize the whole working class in defence of basic rights.

Those in the tenants' movement who seriously want to develop a revolutionary consciousness in the working class face a choice.

Either they go on under the domination of reformism, and retreat with the excuse that resistance would mean 'disrupting unity' or that workers will not respond to a lead. Or they must face all the difficulties, go out to the working class and tell them they must break with reformism and take up the political cudgels to bring this government down.

COMMENTS ON THE COUNCIL'S DECISION

Nessie Lindsay, chairwoman of the Faifley tenants action committee and Communist Party member.

"I feel that a great factor in the outcome at Clydebank was the reluctance of the official trade union movement to come out and support the councils which were fighting. The TUC and the STUC all promised verbal support. Clydebank was the first to call the Tories' bluff and they were found wanting. This was after the collapse of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Midlothian.

"After the first fine the council was faced with a situation of more fines for contempt of court. Within weeks it was clear that the borough would have been bankrupt. We repeated our approach to the trade union movement after the fine. Yarrow's shipyard gave £200, Singer's gave £700 and there were other donations. UCS indicated they would back us in a big way. But of course money was not the issue. We wanted strike action and this did not materialize.

"Mick McGahey of the Scottish miners wrote to us regretting that he just could not guarantee that the miners would come out over the rents issue. Alex Ferry, the AUEW district secretary, also said that he thought industrial action was unlikely.

"The lessons from Clydebank are that on the question of rents 13 councillors were able to overcome difficulties in other fields—we had Labour Party councillors, Scottish Nationalists and Communist Party representatives among the majority. They felt that they had taken the decision to make a stand unanimously and that if there was going to be any change, that unity should not be destroyed. That is why the decision to implement was unanimous.

"The lessons as far as the tenants are concerned are that I do not feel sufficient people

know of the real implication of this Act. There is still a lot of confusion spread by the Tory Press about rebates and so on. We must go out and explain what this means.

"On the collapse of Labour all over Scotland, I think we were simply witnessing the traditional role of social democracy—on the rents issues as on every issue. The bulk of the Labour leaders do not want to get rid of capitalism—they want to work within it. This leads to the betrayal. There is an awful lot of opportunism, even among the left—all the social democrats are not interested in defeating capitalism only in getting reforms."

Mrs Gerraldine Blair, Faifley tenants' action committee:

"One of the difficulties was that the borough tenants thought that the council was fighting on their behalf so they are now unprepared for fighting the increase. The fact that tenants in the Scottish Special Housing Association (a government-controlled body) got their increase put on also had a bad effect. About 500 of them were refusing to pay, but that has collapsed completely since the council decision.

"We thought they would go for individual councillors, but they didn't. Instead they took the action that would have bankrupted the town.

"You have to be realistic. I think that if there had been a chance of genuine support from the tenants, the council could have held out. But in the circumstances they had no alternative."

Mr Jimmy Blair:

"I think the council could have put the issue to a town meeting. But they didn't even do this. They were aware of what could happen to them. They never said 'We will fight only if the government take a certain course.' They told the people they would fight and they should have stuck to it."



TODAY'S RETAIL GROUPS

A series by B. Franks
Part Five

Some of the largest retailers in Britain today are:



SAINSBURYS: 201 stores, 31,612 employees (14,014 part-time), profits 1971-1972 £8.2m (30 per cent increase on the previous year).

According to the annual report and accounts, the company owned 69 supermarkets in 1968 and 125 in 1972. However, counter-service stores have been cut from 140 (1968) to 41 (1972). The company then, owns three times more supermarkets than counter service stores, but the sales turnover from the supermarkets (£221m) is more than ten times that of the counter service (£18m).

The firm is controlled by the Sainsbury family.

John Sainsbury was a dairyman who started in Drury Lane, London, in 1869. Today, the family still owns 97 per cent of the business and there are only four non-family members on the Board of 11.

The company's report for 1972 notes an increase in productivity per man-hour in supermarkets '... the greatest advance we have ever obtained'.

Methods used to achieve this included the installation of improved display equipment,

use of packing, weighing and pricing equipment, and 'a more effective control over the use of labour'.

The Sainsburys are keeping up a constant campaign for the relaxation of control on building land which restricts the construction of edge-of-town superstores.

No wonder, when at their new supermarket at Bretton, Peterborough, opened in April last year, 10,000 cars made use of the car park in the first week of trading.



TESCO: 861 stores and supermarkets, 32,000 employees, profit before tax for year to February 1972: £16,542,000—(20 per cent increase over previous year). Shareholders 85,519.

Tesco was founded by John Cohen. He began by selling army surplus foods and dented tinned foods in Wells Street market, Hackney, in London in 1919. The name 'Tesco' comes from the combined initials of his own name and those of a former tea supplier, T. E. Stockwell.

Tesco led the main retailers in the attack on resale price maintenance (RPM), a system which many small traders saw as a protection against the multiples.

Cohen worked to support Edward Heath who, at the time—1964—was president of

the Board of Trade and a leading advocate of RPM abolition.

In 1971-1972 the company opened 32 supermarkets, six Home 'n' Wear stores and three furniture stores. Nine shops were enlarged and 36 smaller properties closed down.

The company is in process of appeals to the Minister for the Environment to get planning permission for the proposed edge-of-town superstores.

Cohen is life president of Tesco and his son-in-law, Hyman Kreitman, is chairman.

Subsidiaries owned by the company include Cadena Cafes Ltd., and Anthony Jackson's Food Fare Ltd. Takeover approaches are being made to several European grocery chains.



FINE FARE: 1,081 stores (including 503 supermarkets), 25,000 employees. Profit before tax to March 1972 was £4.78m.

The Fine Fare group of 14 companies is a subsidiary of the giant Associated British Foods Group (ABF), which owns the Allied Bakeries Group of 48 companies, including 2,388 shops and restaurants as well as Sunblest and the Aerated Bread Company (ABC).

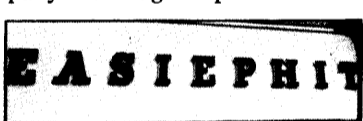
ABF also owns the Allied Mills Group of 22 companies (including Vitbe, Rankin Flour Mills and Sugdens), the Twinning-Cosfield group of seven companies and the Weston Foods Group of six companies.

In the annual report of 1971-1972, 16 other companies in Britain are listed, including Ryvita, and control of 29 companies in Australia, 23 in South Africa and one in New Zealand.

ABF is controlled by Withington Investments Ltd., which in turn is controlled by the powerful Weston family.

Profits for the entire ABF group for 1971-1972 were £27m. The total labour force is 76,000.

In 1970 Fine Fare opened its first superstore at the Bridge of Dee, Aberdeen. It is ten times the size of the company's average supermarket.



GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES: 49,000 employees, profits 1971-1972 £60.68m, (15 per cent increase on the previous year). Chairman, Sir Isaac Wolfson.

Subsidiaries include Art Wallpaper Ltd., Houndsditch Warehouse Co., John Noble (mail order), Whitney Blanket (mail order), The British Mail Order Corporation, Lybro, Hector Powe, The Scotch House, Times Furniture Co., Willerby's, Global Travel and the Easyfit Footwear chain.

Last year the group bought control of a 39-shop menswear chain in France and began the process of acquiring control of a chain of 90 furniture shops in Australia.

Wolfson commented in the annual report: '... it is in everybody's interest to control inflationary pressures wherever they may occur, but in the event of voluntary efforts not succeeding, then the government has to protect the community by introducing a suitable policy for prices and incomes.'

GUS was Britain's 23rd largest company in 1972.



BOOTS: 1,398 chemist shops, 58,772 employees, profits for 1971-1972 £34.2m (an increase of 37 per cent over the previous year).

Jesse Boot was the son of a

Nottingham herbalist. He went into partnership with his mother, under-cutting local chemists and relying on selling larger packs to bring in the profits. He founded Boot & Co. Drug Stores in 1883 and Boots Pure Drug Co. in 1888.

By 1903, the shop chain had 189 branches.

The 1972 report and accounts takes a side-swipe at workers' wages: '... naturally we have anxiety over the persistent national wage claims and subsequent settlements, which are often ahead of any likely increase in productivity as such demands can only result in a further erosion in the value of money and be against the interests of everybody.'

Today, the company also owns Timothy Whites. The takeover of the latter was referred to the Monopolies Commission, but was passed as being in order.

Dividends paid to shareholders were announced as 22 per cent, an increase of 15 per cent over the previous year.

The shareholders' contribution to 'increase in productivity' is not recorded.



W. H. SMITH: 314 shops, 152 stalls, 113 wholesale depots, 18,658 staff. Profits £6½m (increase of 40 per cent over previous year).

The firm was started as a single shop in the Strand, London, in the early 1800s. It was built up into a major retailing chain by the son of the founder. He was a prominent Tory, occupying a series of positions including First Lord of the Admiralty and Secretary of State for War. Smiths was already one of the largest chains in Britain by the year 1900.

CONTINUED ON MONDAY

500 YEARS SINCE COPERNICUS

Art review by a guest reviewer

The astronomer Copernicus was born 500 years ago and a small, insignificant exhibition at the British Museum endeavours unsuccessfully to celebrate this fact.

Copernicus is presented as a genius who came along at the right time to challenge the existing ideas about the structure of the universe. The exhibition lacks any understanding of the dynamics of Copernican thought and its part in the break-up of feudalism as reflected in the Renaissance and the Reformation.

Because bourgeois historians and critics look at history as static things that happen and they fragment and isolate human cultural achievements, they cannot understand the true nature of the Copernican revolution.

Copernicus was not just another astronomer. He was the first to challenge the ideas of Aristotle and Ptolemy which had prevailed for 1,400 years, and brought about the first real break between natural science and theology. His importance is paramount to an understanding of the Renaissance and the development of scientific and philosophical thought.

Copernicus was born into the Europe of the Renaissance, a period of great changes, at a time when the feudal system was breaking up and the new bourgeoisie were coming into struggle with the aristocracy and the Catholic church. Copernicus was a reflection and a part of this change.

His theories replaced the earth, as the centre of the universe, with the sun, around which the earth and other planets revolved.

What were the implications of his new ideas in philosophical thought and in science? We are not told. There is no historical analysis of the revolutionary nature of his theory.

The Heliocentre view of the universe did in fact challenge the whole basis of the conception of man being at the centre of all things, bringing about a new philosophical outlook. It also shattered Aristotle's theory that the universe was self contained with the stars pinned at the furthest point with nothing beyond, divinely created and maintained in motion.

The old methods of thought and science were proving inadequate for an age where new continents were being discovered and the whole social system was being challenged by the new merchant classes. Science was a necessity for the

new needs of the bourgeoisie, for trading and warfare.

But this aspect of Copernicus' times and preoccupations is not even suggested in the exhibition. His achievement becomes a thing in itself. There is not one mention of the Renaissance—a period when the whole of human scientific and cultural achievement was re-examined and the revival in the arts and sciences was enormous.

Copernicus is seen in static terms as an interesting personality, and so the real understanding of change in that period is seen merely as the refutation of one set of ideas for another.

The revolutionary nature of Copernicus was not appreciated by Luther, who saw his displacement of the earth as the centre of the universe as a stand against God. Luther wished in his struggles against Catholicism to smash the church in order to bring man closer to God. But Copernicus' ideas even brought the existence of that God into question.

The Catholic church initially did not really understand the full implications of his ideas, but when the counter-Reformation got into full swing they banned his theoretical treatise 'De Revolutionibus'.

When Galileo (1564-1642) started to develop Copernicus' ideas, he was prohibited by the church from carrying out any further scientific work. They



Above: Copernicus. Left: A page from his work 'De Revolutionibus' which presented a whole new conception of the universe.

attacked him on the basis that his ideas were heresy.

The extremely reactionary nature of the counter-Reformation, which fought to support the feudal order against the newly-emerging bourgeois forces, brought Galileo before the Inquisition in its role of stemming the tide of scientific and social inquiry.

Though Galileo recanted, his work had spread throughout Europe and the Copernican system had its adherents in all major educated and scientific circles.

Presenting an exhibition that describes the origins of capitalism in a way that is presentable to the general public is a difficult task for the academic exhibition organizers of the British Museum.

A 'real' exhibition would bring into question the nature

of development, but to portray the dynamic nature of this development would mean to contravene the fashionable 'environmentalist' views prevalent in academic circles which deride the concept of scientific progress.

The British Museum is seen by these people as a residue of man's cultural heritage, departmentalized in order to limit and fragment one's understanding of such things as the revolutionary nature of scientific development.

Copernicus is therefore presented as a character, a cameo picked from history because of his recent birthday. One can presume from the manner of this exhibition that if Copernicus were alive today he would be interesting, but just another guest on the David Frost show.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

MAY DAY INCIDENT

Interesting incident from last Tuesday's May Day Committee demonstration through London.

At about 2.10 p.m., just as the leading sections of the march were crossing Shaftesbury Avenue into St Giles' High Street, a police transit van drew up on the opposite side of the traffic island.

A group of about six police jumped out and grabbed two dockers out of the Royal



George Martin

Group contingent. They were quickly bundled into the van.

Other dockers surrounded the van in a bid to prevent it moving off, and were joined by marchers from other contingents who had observed the arbitrary arrests.

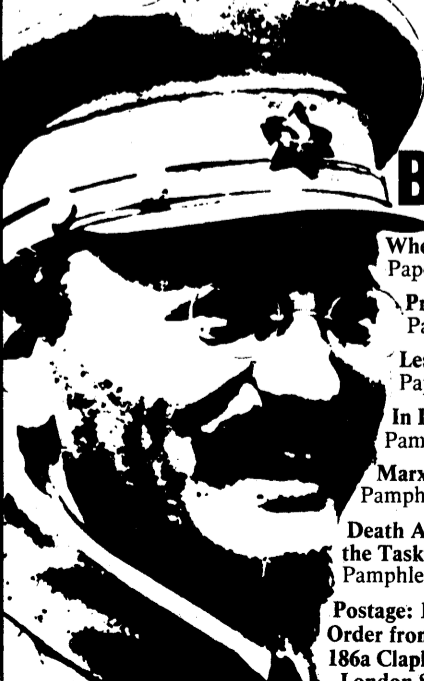
Among those who moved towards the scuffles which

then broke out was George Martin, described as a teacher at the Stanislavsky Institute in London, who stood in the middle of the traffic island waving his arm towards the police van and shouting at the demonstration 'Come on! Come on!'

Martin, who is a frequent attender at a wide range of political meetings, did not get closely involved in the affray himself, but stayed on the fringes encouraging other participants.

But his apparent hostility to the police underwent a noteworthy change when one of the constables at the centre of the scuffles lost his helmet. Martin picked up the helmet, crossed the traffic island in the other direction and handed it carefully to a police sergeant who was looking on.

Martin is co-author of a book produced by the Stanislavsky Institute entitled 'Discipline or Corruption?'



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SATURDAY TV

BBC 1

8.40 Repondez s'il vous plait. 9.10 Camberwick green. 9.25 Gold on crew mountain. 9.50 Motor mouse. 10.10 Laurel and Hardy. 11.15 Cup final grandstand. Leeds United v Sunderland. 11.15 Cup final morning. 11.45 Fight of the week. 11.55 Wembley jubilee. 12.15 Cup final managers. 12.25 Cup final knock-out. 1.15 Goal of the season. 1.20 Olga Korbut at Wembley. 1.40 Inside Wembley. 2.05 Cup final athletics. 2.25 Cup final teams. 2.40 Frankie Vaughan sings Abide with Me. 2.50 Presentation of the teams. 3.00 FA Cup final. 5.05 Final score. 5.15 Pink Panther show. 5.35 News. Weather. 5.50 Dr Who.

6.15 **CLUNK-CLICK.**
7.00 **FILM: 'Flaming Star.'** Elvis Presley. A half breed is accepted by neither white nor Indian communities.
8.30 **DICK EMERY SHOW.**
9.00 **MAN CALLED IRONSIDE.** No Motive for Murder.
9.50 **NEWS.** Weather.
10.05 **CUP FINAL MATCH OF THE DAY.**
11.05 **P R E S E N T I N G** LENA MARTELL. Guests Alex Welsh Jazz Band, The Fortunes.
11.35 **SERGEANT BILKO.** Platoon Saloon.
12.00 **Weather.**

ITV

9.05 Time off. Farmhouse kitchen. 9.35 Exploring mind. 9.55 Partridge family. 10.25 News. 10.30 World of sport. 10.35 The finalists. 10.45 Cup final comment. 10.55 Cup final news. 11.00 Wrestling. 12.05 Wembley star-spot. 12.10 It's goals that count. 12.25 Who do you do? 12.45 Australian pools service. 12.55 Cup final competition. 1.00 The contestants. 1.15 My man's at Wembley. 1.20, 2.00 Racing from Newmarket. 1.40 Wembley star-spot. 1.45 Final comment. 2.25 Cup final athletics. 2.30 The Wembley picture. 2.50 Presentation of the teams. 3.00 Kick off. 3.45 Half time. 4.40 Final whistle. 4.55 The teams talk. 5.05 Final round-up. 5.10 News. 5.20 Doctor in charge. 5.50 Mike and Bernie show.

6.50 **FILM: 'Escape From Fort Bravo.'** William Holden, Eleanor Parker, John Forsythe, Polly Bergen. Four Southern prisoners escape from a Union garrison during the Civil War.
8.25 **THE COMEDIANS.**
9.00 **THRILLER: 'An Echo of Theresa.'** Paul Burke, Polly Bergen.
10.15 **NEWS FROM ITN.**
10.25 **UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS.**
11.25 **AQUARIUS.** Pinter in Aquarius.
12.10 **EPILOGUE.**
12.15 **JIMMY STEWART SHOW.** The Father and Son Game.



Adrienne Corri and Leo McKern as Dana and Leo Brent in David Mercer's play 'An Afternoon at the Festival' on Independent channels on Sunday.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.25 London. 5.20 Persuaders. 6.15 Film: 'Imitation General'. 8.00 Mike and Bernie show. 9.00 London. 10.25 Scientists. 11.10 Spyforce. 12.00 Weather.
WESTWARD: 9.05 Take better photographs. 9.30 Exploring mind. 9.55 Survival. 10.20 Gus Honeybun. 10.25 London. 12.00 Faith for life.
SOUTHERN: 9.05 Exploring mind. 9.30 Take better photographs. 10.00 At your service. 10.25 London. 5.15 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.50 Film: 'Sebastian'. 8.30 On the buses. 9.00 London. 11.25 News. 11.30 Man in a suitcase. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.
HARLECH: 9.00 London. 9.55 Osmonds. 10.25 London. 5.20 It takes a thief. 6.15 Film: 'One of our Aircraft is Missing'. 8.00 Mike and Bernie show. 9.00 London. 10.25 Scientists. 11.00 Film: 'Love Hates Love'. 12.30 Weather.
HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 5.20 Merrie melodies. 5.45-6.15 Sion a sian.
ATV MIDLANDS: 9.05 Exploring minds. 9.30 Take better photographs. 10.00 Skippy. 10.25 London. 5.20 Bonanza. 6.20 Film: 'The Helicopter Spies'. 8.00 Mike and Bernie show. 9.00 London. 10.30 Scientists. 11.10 Epilogue. 11.15 Name of the game. Weather.
YORKSHIRE: 9.10 Take better photographs. 9.35 Exploring mind. 10.00 Bewitched. 10.25 London. 5.20 Persuaders. 6.15 Film: 'Tarzan and the

BBC 2

8.55-1.30 Open University. 3.00 Film: 'Unconquered'. Gary Cooper. American French and Indian war.
6.50 **WESTMINSTER.**
7.15 **NEWS AND SPORT.** Weather.
7.30 **RUGBY SPECIAL.** Middlesex Sevens.
8.15 **CHERI.**
9.00 **THE ASCENT OF MAN.** Lower than the Angels. First part of a personal view by J. Bronowski.
Great River. 8.00 Mike and Bernie show. 9.00 London. 10.25 Scientists. 11.10 Name of the game. 12.35 Weather.
GRANADA: 9.05 Exploring mind. 9.30 Take better photographs. 9.55 Play the game. 10.25 London. 5.20 Protectors. 5.45 Mike and Bernie show. 6.45 Film: 'Gun Glory'. 8.30 Who do you do? 9.00 London. 10.25 Scientists. 11.10 Film: 'The Falcon's Alibi'. 12.25 Seaway.
TYNE TEES: 9.05 Wild life theatre. 9.30 London. 10.00 Tomfoolery. 10.25 London. 5.20 Persuaders. 6.15 Film: 'Tarzan and the Great River'. 8.00 Mike and Bernie show. 9.00 London. 10.25 Scientists. 11.10 Name of the game. 12.35 Lectern.
SCOTTISH: 9.05 Exploring mind. 9.30 Take better photographs. 10.00 Curly and Coconut around the world. 10.05

9.50 **OOH LA LA!** Keep an Eye on Amelie. Patrick Cargill in a new series.
10.50 **ONE IN TEN.** London Wainwright III sings.
11.00 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.
11.05 **FILM: 'Where the Sidewalk Ends.'** Dana Andrews. A policeman with a reputation for brutality accidentally kills a suspect.

Pebbles and Bamm Bamm. 10.25 London. 10.35 Black Beauty. 10.55 Osmonds. 11.20 Dick Van Dyke. 11.45 Cavalcade. 12.15 Bonanza. 1.00 Scotsport. Scottish cup preview. 1.20 Racing from Newmarket. 1.40 Golf. 2.00 Skiing from America. 2.05 London. 3.35 Shooting. 3.50 Half time. 3.55 Professional wrestling. 4.40 Final whistle. 5.10 London. 5.15 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.50 Film: 'Abandon Ship'. 8.30 On the buses. 9.00 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 Scientists. 11.25 Name of the game.

GRAMPIAN: 10.25 London. 10.30 HR Pufnstuf. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.50 Ron and friends. 12.35 Chasing game. 1.25 Racing from Newmarket. 3.35 Film: 'The Great Sioux Massacre'. 5.10 London. 5.15 Who do you do? 5.45 Sky's the limit. 6.15 Film: 'Man Hunt'. 8.00 Mike and Bernie show. 9.00 London. 10.25 Scientists. 11.10 Untouchables.

SUNDAY TV

BBC 1

9.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 9.30 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.30 Morning service. 11.35 Don't just sit there. 12.00 Training for work. 12.25 Picture making. 12.50 Farming. 1.15 Made in Britain. 1.30 Parents and children. 1.55 News. Weather. 2.00 Along the seashore. 2.15 French way. 2.45 Lancer. 3.30 Cartoon. 3.40 Film: 'A Certain Smile.' Rossano Brazzi. 5.20 Wives and Daughters.
6.05 **NEWS.** Weather.
6.15 **A PLACE CALLED LOPPIANO.**
6.50 **GLORY, GLORY.**
7.25 **OWEN, MD.** Father of the Man.
8.15 **FILM: 'The Birds.'** Rod Taylor, Jessica Tandy, Suzanne Pleshette. Hitchcock's spine-chilling tale.
10.10 **NEWS.** Weather.
10.20 **THAT'S MY LITTLE MASTERPIECE.** Omnibus film about the Royal Academy.
11.00 **IRELAND.** Some Episodes From Her Past. Remember 1690.
11.50 **Weather.**

BBC 2

8.55-1.30 Open University. 1.50 Cricket. The John Player League. Kent v Middlesex.
7.00 **NEWS REVIEW.**
7.25 **THE WORLD ABOUT US.** Death of a Legend.
8.15 **SEVEN OF ONE.** Ronnie Barker.
8.45 **'AMADEUS.'** A tribute to celebrate the 25th anniversary of

a partnership which was to transform the musical public's attitude to chamber music.
9.50 **AWAY FROM IT ALL.** The Summer House. With Constance Cummings.
10.40 **JOHN DENVER SHOW.** Guest Hurricane Smith.
11.25 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.
11.30 **UP SUNDAY.**

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.30-1.00 London. 2.13 Weather. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'The Shark Fighters'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Riot in Cell Block 11'. 9.30 London. 11.15 Dangerman. 12.10 Epilogue. Weather.
WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 London. 10.30 Sesame street. 1.00 Talking hands. 1.10 Chess. 1.25 At your service. 1.55 Acres for profit. 12.10 Faith for life.
SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 10.30 Farming. 10.55 Weather. 11.00 World War I. 11.30 London. 1.00 Grasshopper island. 1.20 Survival. 1.50 Jimmy Stewart show. 2.15 London. 3.15 University challenge. 3.45 Cartoon. 3.50 Golden shot. 4.45 Scientists. 5.30 News. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Once Before I Die'. 9.30 London. 12.00 Weather. Guideline.
HARLECH: 9.30 London. 10.35 Farming. 11.00 Angland. 11.30 London. 1.00 University challenge. 1.30 In tune. 2.00 Bugs Bunny. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'A Lion is in the Streets'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Naked Runner'. 10.00 London. 12.30 Weather.
HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 6.15 No small change. 6.40 7.00 Lusern. 11.15 Charlton brothers. 12.00 Weather.
ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 10.30 Camping and caravanning. 11.00 Citizens' rights. 11.30 London. 1.00 Randall and Hopkirk. 2.00 Soccer. 3.00 Film: 'Cowboy'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'From Here to Eternity'. 10.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.20 Chess. 9.30 London. 10.30 Pipet and his friends. 10.35 Untamed world. 11.00 Odd couple. 11.30 London. 1.00 Farming. 1.25 Calendar. 1.55 Soccer. 2.50 Film: 'The Wrong Box'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Seven Women'. 9.30 London. 12.00 Shirley's world. 12.30 Weather.
GRANADA: 9.30-10.30 London. 10.35 Farmhouse kitchen. 11.00 Adams family. 11.30 London. 12.55 Saint. 1.55 On the line. 2.25 How the cup was won. 3.20 Film: 'Meet Mr Lucifer'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Sylvester. 8.00 Film: 'Say Goodbye, Maggie Cole'. 9.30 London.
TYNE TEES: 9.20 Chess. 9.30 London. 10.30 Jobs around the house. 11.00 Sandy Duncan. 11.30 London. 1.00 Farming. 1.25 World War I. 1.50 Where the jobs are. 1.55 Soccer. 2.55 Film: 'The Wrong Box'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Gunn'. 9.30 London. 11.15 Operation Barbarossa. 12.05 Dr Simon Locke. 12.35 Lectern.
SCOTTISH: 10.05 World War I. 10.35 Women. 11.05 Clapper board. 11.30 London. 1.00 Champions. 2.00 Sport. 3.30 Film: 'Crossroad to Crime'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Oscar'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Late call. 11.20 Mannix.
GRAMPIAN 11.00 Farm progress. 11.30 London. 1.00 Exploring mind. 1.30 Take better photographs. 2.00 Sport. 3.30 Film: 'The Forty Ninth man'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Helicopter Spies'. 9.30 London.

ITV

9.30 Morning service. 10.35 UFO. 11.30 Weekend world. 1.00 Thunderbirds. 1.50 Training the family dog. 2.15 How the cup was won . . . or drawn. 3.15 O'Hara US Treasury. 4.15 Junior police five. 4.25 Golden shot. 5.20 Scientists.
6.05 **NEWS.** 6.15 **ARGUMENT.**
7.00 **STARS ON SUNDAY.**
7.25 **ON THE BUSES.**
7.55 **McCLOUD.** Million Dollar Round Up.
9.30 **OUR KID.** Turn of the Worm.
10.00 **NEWS FROM ITN.**
10.15 **PLAY: 'An Afternoon at the Festival.'** Leo McKern, Adrienne Corri, Ronald Pickering, Rosalind Ayres.
11.15 **F O R E I G N E Y E .** 12.05 **EPILOGUE.**
12.10 **THE ODD COUPLE.** They Use Horse Radish, Don't They?

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Wave of occupations throughout country

Andover action halts spares

BACKING for the sit-in strike against closure at Norton-Villiers' Andover factory has started to flow in from Ford workers and dockers in Southampton, refinery workers at Fawley and engineers in Swindon.

These results of the first week's campaigning for financial support among wider sections of the working class will be reported to a meeting of all 54 strikers this morning, and early next week strike leaders will decide their next steps in consultation with full-time union officials.

So far the company has refused to meet the strikers while their occupation of the factory continues.

But the strikers are confident that their action, which started last Friday, will soon begin to bite. They are occupying the key spares department of the motorcycle firm's European sales division, and will release no components at all until the company agrees to come to terms.

Tony Fordham, spokesman for the strikers, said yesterday: 'Dennis Poore (company chairman) says he won't negotiate under duress.'

'But if we just resume work all our powers of negotiation are gone.'

'There's considerable support for our stand everywhere we've been so far. Just on the industrial estate round here every trade unionist knows he could be the next to lose his job.'

'At Norton-Villiers in Wolverhampton, where the company has said it wants to transfer our work, all sections are blacking any transfer of production.'

Bailiffs ready to move in

Sit-in strikers on guard in Stockport

THIRTY Stockport engineering workers were on guard yesterday against bailiffs who are trying to break their factory occupation.

The men, employed by Bason Engineering, who make equipment for the brick industry, have been under threat of forcible eviction for three days.

Their occupation began three weeks ago in defence of trade union rights.

The firm, which has recently been taken over by an American company, Forest Taschal of Carolina, has demanded the dis-

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

missal of 11 men. Among those to be axed are two shop stewards, the convenor and other strong union men—all AUEW members.

Convenor Monty Hulse explained: 'We offered the firm a work-sharing scheme which would have cost them nothing, but they still refused to lift the redundancies. We also offered to get volunteers from the whole labour force, but they still insisted that the original 11 should go.'

'We feel the firm wants to destroy trade union organization in the plant and we will not let them.'

Mr Hulse said that strong sup-

port had been offered by workers in firms in the area if a move to evict the men physically was made.

Meanwhile the 30 take turns in manning the factory premises round the clock.

The AUEW has made the dispute official and has taken the issue up with the firm and the Engineering Employers' Federation at north-west district level, but without success.

The eviction order came after Bason's took the matter of occupation up at a Manchester court.

Stockport was the home of the famous Roberts Arundel dispute in the middle-1960s when workers in the town launched a mini-General Strike against another American employer who refused to recognize the union.

Aberdare Cables men maintain their occupation

THE occupation of the cable factory, Aberdare, Glamorgan, by 180 production workers continues, despite conciliation attempts by the government and a G&MWU secret ballot.

The ballot is believed to have gone almost 100 per cent in favour of continuing the occupation, which began unofficially and is against closure. A Department of Employment official has been trying to get negotiations started about redundancies.

occupation

Workers had some trouble getting their side of the case reported in the local newspaper, the 'Aberdare Leader', part of the Thomson group, which published a management statement on the front page last week.

The paper refused to publish an answering letter from three shop stewards on the grounds

that parts of it were libellous.

By coincidence, the managing director of Aberdare Cables, James Robertson, has a brother on the board of directors of Thomson Regional Newspapers.

The occupation is getting increasing support from other unions in the area and a large delegation of cable men led the Cardiff May Day march. Another delegation travelled to Merthyr Tydfil for the SLL's May Day march and meeting.

Long Kesh letter: A comment

WE WERE pleased to receive the letter from a Long Kesh prisoner which we published yesterday. (The writer attached his name, hut and cage number, but we withheld these for obvious reasons.)

It is encouraging to know that Workers Press is being read with such interest by the victims of British imperialism. Our correspondent is absolutely right to stress the unity of interest between British and Irish workers.

If the Irish workers are left isolated then, indeed, the streets will run with workers' blood not only in Ireland, but in England, Scotland and Wales as well.

Workers Press has often stressed the point made by our correspondent that the British generals regard the army's brutality against the working class

of Ireland as valuable practice for future struggles here, just as the role of the British army in places like Aden developed the techniques that are now being used in Ireland.

However, we would not like the Long Kesh internees to think—because they may not have received Workers Press regularly—that we have not realized the importance of the fight against British imperialism, its Irish supporters and its repressive emergency powers.

From the very beginning we opposed the sending of British troops into Northern Ireland in 1969—unlike the British Communist Party and the International Socialism group who applauded Wilson's action and said the British army had a 'peace-keeping role'!

We have regularly covered the struggle of the Irish workers ever since and recently published a detailed report of the courts set up by the British ruling class to 'review' the cases of the Long Kesh political prisoners.

Yesterday we carried a centre-spread on the Emergency Powers planned before we received the letter from Long Kesh.

Immediately the Diplock Commission's recommendations were published, we said: 'Martial law proposed for Ulster' and stressed that the judicial procedures proposed were similar to those established by the Greek colonels after their military coup of 1967.

Our correspondent stresses the torture methods employed in Northern Ireland. He is abso-

lutely right and we published a pamphlet (still available) 'Ulster Dossier: a Torture Casebook' by Stephen Johns in October 1971.

We gave extensive coverage to the events of Bloody Sunday in Derry on January 30, 1972.

We have also published, over the last three years, regular series of articles in the entire history of the Irish struggle.

We welcome the letter from this political prisoner of British imperialism and we assure him that there will be no let up by Workers Press of the fight against the Tories in Britain, and in Northern and Southern Ireland.

Our task is the construction of the revolutionary party in Britain and in Ireland as sections of the Fourth International.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

Merthyr Tydfil

Given by Gerry Healy, National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League

Wednesday May 9
The materialist conception of History

Wednesday May 16
Dialectical Materialism—a Marxist theory of knowledge

Wednesday May 23
Theory and Practise of Marxism

Wednesday May 30
Role of the revolutionary Party

at
St David's Church Hall,
Church Street, Merthyr
7.30 p.m.

After May Day—What Next?

Liverpool

SUNDAY MAY 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
Speakers: Gerry Healy
National Secretary
Socialist Labour League
Stuart Hood
(ACTT in a personal capacity)

CIRCULATION

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

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.'

DAGENHAM: Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Marxism and the trade unions.'

TOTTENHAM: Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, High Road, near White Hart Lane. 'Force the Tories to resign.'

WYTHENSHAW (Manchester): Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. 'Cock o'th'North', Portway. 'Report back from May Day.'

KINGSTON: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Norbiton Hotel, Clifton Road. 'Forward from May Day—to remove the Tories.'

WILLESDEN: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Brent Labour and Trades Hall, Willesden High Road,

NW10. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

DARLASTON: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. 'The Nag's Head'. 'Fight the State Pay Laws and Measured-Day Work.'

EAST LONDON: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, E3.

WANDSWORTH: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Kings Arms, High Street, SW18.

WATFORD: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall, near Watford Junction Station. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

PADDINGTON: Tuesday May 15, 8 p.m. 'Prince of Wales', Harrow Road, corner Gt Western Road. 'Marxism and the Trade Unions.'

TOOTING: Tuesday May 15, 8 p.m. Tooting Baths, Tooting Broadway, SW17. 'Build the Revolutionary Party.'

SLOUGH: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

SOUTHALL: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley

Park Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

WALTHAMSTOW: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. 'The Crooked Billet', North Circular Road. 'Force the Tories to resign.'

WEMBLEY: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Copland School, High Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

WOOLWICH: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. The Castle, Powis Street, SE18. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

SWANSEA: Thursday May 17, 7.30 p.m. YMCA. 'Defend workers' basic rights. General Strike to Force the Tories to resign.'

BASILDON: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Barnstaple Community Centre. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

CROYDON: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

FELTHAM: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. 'Three Horse Shoes', Feltham High Street. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

All Trades Unions Alliance Public Meetings

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

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

BARNSELY: 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).

Stalinists help defeat General Strike call

COMMUNIST Party members and their supporters abstained yesterday in a crucial vote on a call for a General Strike to bring down the Tory government made at the electricians' and plumbers' conference.

Some delegates claimed that the resolution could have been passed had the Stalinists voted for it.

There was a cue to abstain was given by executive member W. Brecknell who intervened in the debate to ask Southampton branch if their resolution could be taken to imply a General Strike.

Mover Mr A. Pearse replied: 'I must say in all truthfulness and as a matter of principle that in my view this Tory government cannot be brought down without a General Strike.'

After the Executive intervention only a handful of delegates voted for the resolution, and Stalinists and

FROM IAN YEATS IN DOUGLAS, Isle of Man

their supporters conspicuously abstained.

Earlier Mr Pearse told conference: 'This motion is totally opposed to any form of state control of wages and to the continuous barrage of attacks by the Tory government on rights won through hundreds of years of working class struggle.'

'It would be an act of cowardice if we did not fight to reverse these attacks.'

'I say the lack of leadership in this fight is a conscious act of betrayal by the TUC and it will go down in the annals of working class history as such.'

He went on: 'We must bring this government down and return a Labour government pledged to repeal all anti-trade union and working-class acts and dedicate themselves to a positive socialist policy.'

In near doubling delegates' fees from £5 to £9 Mr Pearse said the conference had agreed to an

80 per cent rise for themselves in breach of the Tory pay laws.

They now had no choice but to take on the government.

The delegates' refusal to vote for the General Strike motion reflected the reformist and centrist tone of the week-long conference.

Yesterday a motion from Pcole condemning the Tory pay laws, but insisting that a Labour government introduce an incomes policy which applied to prices and dividends as well as wages was passed overwhelmingly.

The resolution was backed enthusiastically by the right-wing executive, still smarting from Thursday's defeat of their policies of balloting members about registration under the Industrial Relations Act.

They asked delegates to vote against a resolution calling for opposition to prices and incomes policies from any government.

Some of conference's most rapturous applause

was reserved for Labour Shadow Chancellor Denis Healey.

Healey said the last Labour government had made a terrible mistake in allowing a rift to develop between the political and trade union leadership of the movement.

When the next Labour government started to put right the economic and social havoc of five years of Toryism, it would be sure to carry the trade union movement with it, he said.

He went on: 'It is a waste of time denying that over the last three years unions were demanding more in wages than they were producing.'

'But,' he added, 'the problem was not high wages, so much as the refusal of British capitalists to invest their profits and stimulate growth.'

A Labour government would aim at a growth rate of 5 per cent but workers must realize that all of the extra wealth would of necessity go to plant and exports and not higher wages.

Post, eggs, fares to go up

BY WORKERS PRESS REPORTERS

THE ROAD Haulage Association is likely to apply soon to the Prices Commission for increases in rate of at least 5 per cent. The Association's commercial committee, representing 17,000 members, is to discuss the situation on May 15.

About 85 per cent of all goods is carried by road, so such an increase would have wide-ranging effects on the cost of living.

British Rail, which has already applied for an increase of 5 per cent in passenger fares in the summer, is seeking permission to raise freight charges by a similar amount.

Breakfast is also going to cost more. Rising prices in London's wholesale market this week will mean 2p per lb more on imported bacon in the shops next week and the more expensive cuts will cost up to 4p more per lb.

And Mr Bernard Matthews, chief executive of the Eggs Authority, has announced that egg prices are likely to rise soon to above their pre-Easter level.

The Post Office is expected to apply soon to increase its mail rates, putting 1/2p on first and second class post. This is a 20 per cent rise.

KENT officials of the engineers' union yesterday demanded management action against seven non-unionists who broke the May Day strike at a Rochester airport equipment factory.

The strikebreakers, who defied pickets and reported for work on Monday night, were at home on full pay as union-management talks took place.

All 350 workers at the factory, Elliott Automation, struck for two full days from Tuesday night shift demanding that the seven be dealt with.

A DISPUTE at CAV's Acton factory over an engineering worker who crossed the picket line in the May Day strike has led to a stoppage in the cutter grinding section and could lead to more trouble.

The shop stewards are demanding that the man be removed from the site. The switchgear factory also stopped work over white-collar workers who scabbed.

NIESEWAND ARRIVES IN BRITAIN

JOURNALIST Peter Niesewand, released from detention in Rhodesia on Thursday, arrived at Heathrow airport yesterday. Mr Niesewand (28) this week won his appeal against a two-year jail sentence for alleged contravention of the Rhodesian Official Secrets Act.

He is still subject to the detention order under which he was first imprisoned in February, but was allowed to leave Rhodesia on condition that he did not disclose information on any Rhodesian military matter nor say anything about his trial other than things he would have been able to say in Rhodesia.

In prison he was kept in solitary confinement, all conversations with his wife were in front of prison guards, his newspapers were 'cut to shreds' and he was not allowed a radio that could pick up anything further afield than the Rhodesian Broadcasting Network.

On his arrival at Heathrow, Mr Niesewand said that he hoped to see his wife and child again in about a fortnight.



Rubery Owen men to return

A MASS MEETING of 1,200 Rubery Owen workers at Darlaston yesterday voted to return to work on Monday with about 20 votes against.

Terms of return are: wage increases of between 50p and £4 with negotiations to begin immediately on a revised wages structure.

When Fred Griffiths, Wolverhampton AUEW district secretary, addressed the meeting he said it was complete victory.

But when he read out the terms of the settlement section two contained the sting in the tail.

One clause of this section said negotiations on a revised wages structure should begin immediately and a further clause said these discussions were to be completed by October 1973.

What this settlement means is the acceptance of the principle of a change in the wages structure from piecework to high-base rate or Measured-Day Work.

Doug Peech, T&GWU convenor at the factory, told the meeting: 'This is going to be a wage structure that we can be proud of.'

But a high-paid pieceworker said: 'We have been against this scheme for the last five years. What I don't like about the settlement is that they have got the right to implement high-base rate in October.'

'We have previously increased our wages by £15 a week in that period and that's what Rubery Owen is against.'

● See wives' backing p. 3.

BRIEFLY

LIGHTNING strike by about 150 drivers at Heathrow airport yesterday stopped coaches taking passengers to and from London, delayed crews getting to airliners and disorganized baggage and freight movements. The dispute was over two supervisors driving vehicles to Gatwick.

COMMUNIST Party members voted with the Tories this week when a motion to support a Council of Action was narrowly defeated at an open meeting of the Cambridge University Students' Union.

TORIES PREPARE A GENERAL ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

ary restraint and a political crisis with the trade union movement.

This time, the outcome will be even more calamitous because of the unprecedented deterioration in the international economic situation with not a stable trading currency in the whole world and rampant inflation everywhere.

Already the Tories are resorting to remarkable tricks to patch the situation together, such as the encouragement to local authorities and bodies like the Electricity Council to raise foreign loans merely to provide some exchange cover for the huge balance of payments deficits.

These funds are mainly from the huge pool of surplus dollars in Japan and Europe. Even the 'Financial Times' argued yesterday:

'The extent to which dollar pollution of the international monetary atmosphere is capable of acting as a spur to official spending excesses of all kinds becomes painfully clear.'

'Those who argue that the inflation America is exporting will finally undermine the economic and financial health of the rest of the world are well worth listening to.'

'The Times' admitted that the situation is distorted, that the recovery is uneven and the eco-

nomy ill-balanced. Then 'The Times' added:

'They [the government] will now wish to continue with the expansion in order to achieve the negotiations on Phase Three and the encouragement of investment. They will finance this process by foreign borrowings.'

'Then they will still have to decelerate, more sharply, a little later on'—a situation, 'The Times' describes as 'dangerous'.

It is more than dangerous. It is a desperate gamble which is a cover for their preparations for the most vicious onslaught on basic democratic rights and the standards of living of the working class since the 1930s.

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