

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY JUNE 29, 1973 ● No 1111 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## NO TALKS WITH HEATH MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN

### Statement by the SLL Political Committee

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Reflected in the decisions of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and now of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, is a mighty movement of the working class against the state pay laws, against the rocketing cost of living and against speed-up in the factories.

This movement is proof that the pay laws can be smashed and the Tory government brought down. Look at the events of the past few weeks:

● THE CHRYSLER workers fought a management bid to lay them off at will, and won despite a vicious campaign of smears by the capitalist mass media, picket-line snooping and, finally, open strike-busting.

● AT PETERBOROUGH, the Perkins workers remain determined to defeat an arrogant and provocative attempt to force them to work overtime and accept agricultural wages.

● IN SHREWSBURY and Mold, building pickets singled out for attack, under cover of an ancient statute, have declared their defiance and their determination to defend democratic rights.

● THROUGH the AUEW and CSEU conferences, a powerful section of the working class has taken a big step towards preventing their leaders' collaboration with the Tory government.

At the same time, this mass movement is forcing the Tories

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### £100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

THE battle goes on. Yesterday we received £20.33. Outer London £10; Willesden £3; Castleford £3; Todmorden £2.13; Glasgow South £2.20. The fund now stands at £51,817.49. It shouldn't be difficult to make £52,000 by the end of this month. This would then leave us with £48,000 to raise by October 31.

Post all donations to:  
Party Building Fund  
186a Clapham High Street  
London SW4 7UG

Socialist Labour League and  
International Marxist Group

JOINT MEETING

**Defend Basic  
Democratic Rights  
Support  
Shrewsbury 24**

FRIDAY JULY 6, 8 p.m.

Acton Town Hall  
High Street, Acton

Collection will be made for  
Shrewsbury 24

Speakers:

DAVE JACKSON (Chairman  
Shrewsbury Defence Committee)  
BOB PENNINGTON (IMG)  
GERRY HEALY (SLL)



WOMEN on a Manchester picket line are claiming that strike-breaking drivers are endangering their lives.

A chair used by pickets has been wrecked under the wheels of one lorry. And in another incident a woman had to jump out of the way of a van which sped through the picket line at Salford Electrical Instruments, a Manchester-based subsidiary of the GEC combine.

Mrs Chris Noone—one of the strikers demanding equal pay for staff—spoke about the incident.

She said a van owned by an outside transport firm drove up to the picket line. Girls had to jump out of the way and Mrs Freda Wright had her arm brushed by the lorry as it rushed past the picket line.

A chair normally used by pickets was smashed under its wheels.

Police say they can do nothing about the incidents but the union's solicitor is investigating.

### All Trades Unions Alliance Conference

THE BIGGEST and most open discussion ever organized in defence of basic democratic rights will be held at Belle Vue, Manchester, on Sunday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Shop stewards committees all over the country have been electing delegations to go from their factories, docks, shipyards, mines, and other places of work, in response to the invitation from the ATUA.

Two special trains are going from London direct to Belle Vue station, and another from Southampton and the West Country. Coaches will be travelling from other towns throughout Britain. Trade unionists making their own way to the rally will be welcome.

To facilitate discussion, special sound equipment has been installed in the arena, with 15 different speaking points.

Every section of the auditorium will have its own microphone.

As a curtain raiser, a film will be shown in colour of the great Pageant of labour history performed by hundreds of workers and professional actors at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 11. Some highly sophisticated machinery will enable the film to be projected simultaneously on two screens so as to overcome the problems of viewing in a circular arena.

After several hours discussion, the rally will end with a specially written satirical cabaret performed by Tom Kempinski, Corin Redgrave, Kika Markham, Matthew Robertson, Mike Cronin, Vanessa Redgrave, Tom Marshall, and Victor Brox of Music Force, who wrote and played much of the music for the Pageant.

The cabaret, written and pro-

duced by Roger Smith, Tom Kempinski, and the rest of the company, will take a humorous look at some of the difficulties the Tory government and the ruling class have been running into recently.

Belle Vue will mark a decisive stage in the campaign to transform the Socialist Labour League into the Revolutionary Party through building a new leadership in the labour and trade union movement, to put an end to the abject surrenders to the vicious acts of a weak Tory government, and instead bring forward socialist policies as the only solution to the capitalist crisis.

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## Belated admission of legalized murder

# The 'needless slaughter' at Attica

**POLICE and troops needlessly slaughtered inmates and hostages during the Attica prison riot in New York State in September 1971 says a Congressional committee.**

The committee also said that after the riot ended, officers beat prisoners and the wounded went without emergency care. There were 43 dead and 80 wounded after the riot had been put down.

The report blames the police for using buckshot rounds in their 12-gauge shotguns. 'Shotguns loaded with double-0' ammunition were, of course, incredibly inaccurate weapons for such a situation.

'Their use led to the wounding and killing of hostages and inmates who

were not acting in a hostile manner,' the report says.

It says the police decided to intensify their firepower for the assault after the prisoners had paraded eight blindfold hostages in sight of the authorities with knives at their throats.

It says: 'In fact only four hostages were wounded by inmates who inflicted knife wounds upon them when the assault began—none of these four hostages died from the knife wounds.'

The police fired more than 2,000 rounds into the

prison, but 'emergency medical services were not available until some four hours after the shooting stopped.

'The unnecessary agony of the wounded did not complete Attica's human suffering, however, for inmates were subjected to widespread beatings.

'Doctors who made an inventory of inmate injuries eight days after the assault reported that 45 per cent of D Yard inmates had broken bones, cuts, abrasions or other injuries.

'In spite of these findings,

and in face of eye-witness testimony, most persons in authority at Attica . . . refuse to acknowledge that reprisals had taken place,' the report said.

It also said officials refused to discredit stories of atrocities by prisoners on hostages, even though such allegations 'had been thoroughly discredited by physicians who had performed autopsies'.

It added that officials 'seemed to be almost paralysed and inhumanly bureaucratic' in waiting for days to notify the families of dead prisoners.



Left: Guns ready. Right: A medic after treating inmates.



## Gaullists ban the Ligue Communiste

**THE FRENCH government yesterday banned the Pabloite Ligue Communiste whose premises were raided last week after its members clashed with the neo-fascist organization Ordre Nouveau.**

During the police raid, books and pamphlets were thrown about and printing equipment damaged. They found two rifles on the premises which the Ligue's secretary Alain Krivine said had been brought there a week before by an unknown man.

He said that disciplinary measures had been taken against those leaders who had known about the arms and not taken immediate steps to get rid of them.

Yesterday's cabinet meeting, chaired by president Pompidou, also banned Ordre Nouveau whose meeting last Friday was held under police protection and was directed against immigrants in France. The Communist Party did nothing to support the Ligue's counter-demonstration.

Yet a call from the Communist Party and the CGT would have been sufficient to bring tens of thousands of workers onto the streets and make the holding of a pro-Nazi racist meeting in Paris impossible.

A couple of days before they had held a demonstration 'in defence of democratic liberties' from which left-wing groups were banned.

The government move now opens the way for the banning of all left-wing groups as happened after the May-June events of 1968. No one will be deceived by its 'impartiality' in also banning Ordre Nouveau, which evidently enjoys support in the police and in some Gaullist circles.

Despite the great political differences which we have with the Ligue Communiste we call on all working-class organizations to demand the immediate withdrawal of this infamous ban.

URUGUAY'S military regime has closed down the country's municipal councils after imposing a Press censorship and curbing civil rights. President Bordaberry announced that new local bodies would be set up by the government. With parliament also dissolved, the country once held up as a model democracy has become a complete dictatorship.

# Nixon vetoes bombing ban

**PRESIDENT Nixon's decision to use his powers of veto and overrule the Congress on the bombing of Cambodia, is a direct constitutional challenge to the legislature.**

The veto enables the administration to go on bombing in Indo-China despite the majority vote of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

An amendment barring further bombing had been tacked onto a bill authorizing \$3,300m in supplementary appropriations for various government agencies.

Democrats' leader Senator Mike Mansfield said the Congress would continue to attach the amendment to other Bills until the bombing ban was passed.

The Senate has now attached the anti-bombing amendment to a bill extending the Federal government's debt limit of \$465,000m for five months.

Unless the Bill passes Congress and is signed into law by midnight on Saturday the statutory debt ceiling becomes \$400,000m while the actual debt is \$455,000m.

Nixon claimed that departments and agencies would run out of money to pay their staff and benefit payments to old and disabled people would dry up if the Bill was not passed promptly without the offending amendment.

In an arrogant message to Congress he said a halt to

## Presidential coup d'etat over continuing war in Cambodia

Cambodian bombing would 'gravely jeopardize the ability' of the Lon Nol government to prevent a communist victory and the 'installation of a Hanoi-controlled government in Phnom Penh'.

This would threaten the 'fragile balance of negotiated agreements . . . on which my assessment of the Vietnam agreements was based', Nixon added.

Ending the bombing would strike 'a serious blow to America's international credibility . . . a blow that would be felt far beyond Indo-China,' he said.

Whatever it does to American prestige, an end to the bombing will certainly help neither Nixon nor Lon Nol.

Nixon has pinned a good deal

of his own future on a Vietnam agreement which will certainly collapse once Lon Nol is driven out of the Cambodian capital.

Under the US constitution, Congress alone has the power to declare war. It has never exercised that power in relation to Indo-China, where US imperialism has waged a full-scale war for at least nine years without a formal declaration.

The escalation of the Vietnam war was made possible by the Tonkin Gulf resolution of 1964 which was passed through Congress in an atmosphere of hysteria and on the basis of deception and trickery.

But there has been no similar Congressional consent to the war against Cambodia. And Congress has explicitly come

out against the bombing there since the Vietnam agreements were signed.

The use of the veto against the anti-bombing amendment effectively reverses the constitutional status of the Congress.

Instead of being the only body that can declare war, it is now in a position where the President can do what he likes about war and peace unless Congress can muster a two-thirds majority.

Congress is faced with what amounts to a presidential coup d'etat at a time when the Watergate scandal is eating into Nixon's last reserves of public support.

Nixon is backed by powerful sections of the military and the arms manufacturers who stand to profit from the continued slaughter in Indo-China.

But his blatant and cynical defiance of Congress, combined with his contemptuous refusal to submit to cross-examination about the Watergate scandal, must increase the growing lobby for his impeachment.

## Santiago under military rule

President Salvador Allende yesterday placed the province of Santiago under military rule following an alleged assassination attempt against the army chief General Carlos Prats.

The general drew his revolver and shot the tyres of a car which blocked his way at a Santiago street corner. Later he drove to the presiden-

tial palace in a taxi and offered his resignation, which Allende refused.

The regime is now in such a deep crisis that it depends increasingly upon military men like Prats for its survival.

The copper-mining O'Higgins province has been under military rule since early this year following the miners' strike in support of a wage claim.

Allende, backed by the Stalinists, has sent in strike-breakers and police against the miners.

Clashes between supporters and opponents of the Popular Unity government are everyday occurrences and the threat of a right-wing take-over comes closer as a result of the betrayals of Allende and his Stalinist backers.

## Five unions unite in liaison committee

# Nottm newspaper chiefs

# sack 300 workers

THE DIRECTORS of Nottingham's two strike-bound papers yesterday went ahead and fired 300 printers and journalists. Earlier this week the board warned that if the strikers failed to show up, they would be dismissed.

A company statement said that the lengthy meeting with the five unions had been deadlocked over one item—a no-victimization clause.

T. Bailey Forman is in the process of converting to web-offset printing. Its papers are still being printed by conventional rotary press until the new web is installed later this year.

During the interim period, the company decided to make the plates for the press using an American machine, the Grace Letter Flex process.

On Monday, June 18, SLADE members on the morning newspaper, the 'Guardian Journal', were told the firm was converting to Letter Flex that night.

The SLADE men said that as the manning of the process had to be decided by a joint meeting with the NGA taking place on June 25 they could not operate the machinery.

Three members of the process department agreed to operate it and so the 'Guardian Journal' of June 19 was produced this way.

On June 19 the 'Evening Post' SLADE members again refused to operate the units.

There were local negotiations, but these failed to produce any agreement and the SLADE members were sent home.

The firm claimed that because of a shortage of chemicals and materials used in the old process, it couldn't switch back pending the joint talks.

That day the National Union of Journalists' (NUJ) chapel met and told the management they would not contribute to a paper produced by a blacked method. The management would not convert back so the NUJ members stopped work on producing the next day's 'Guardian'.

A point that incensed the NUJ members was a request from the editor earlier in the day to photograph the SLADE pickets—clearly not a news picture.

That night the NUJ staff also came out.

The following day, June 20, the NUJ held a mandatory chapel meeting which repeated

### FROM A NOTTINGHAM CORRESPONDENT

their offer to work if the firm kept to its present agreements. But this was rejected and the dispute was made official.

Meanwhile there was a general meeting of SLADE, NUJ and NGA who were joined later in the day by NATSOPA and SOGAT paper-workers.

This meeting therefore included all the production staff except overseers, supervisors, editorial department heads and a number of editorial blacklegs.

The firm decided not to publish the 'Guardian Journal' from Wednesday June 20, and it has not been published since. They managed to produce an emergency edition of the 'Evening Post' which has been cut from its normal 32 pages to 16, from 160,000 copies to 50,000.

The five unions set up a joint liaison committee to run the dispute and together have organized a 24 hour-picket, publicity, catering service, links with other unions and

general meetings involving all those in the dispute twice a day.

An NUJ spokesman told Workers Press that it is probably the first time in the newspaper industry that such joint action between all the newspaper unions has taken place.

This is because all the union members are claiming the management has been trying to force through its policies without consultation. They also complain of an anti-trade union attitude shown by managing director Mr Christopher Bole-Carew, an ex-navy lieutenant commander.

The chairman of the company which owns Nottingham's newspaper monopoly is Colonel T. E. Forman Hardy, a former Master of the South Nottinghamshire Hunt. He also owns a large share in a local brewery and has just bought a large area of farmland in South Africa.

The assistant general manager (who just happens to be Bole-Carew's brother-in-law) is an ex-RAF wing commander called Theo Kearton. His main duty appears to be to pilot the chair-

man's private aeroplane which is run by a subsidiary company, TBF (Aviation) Limited, and take photographs which are used in the company's newspapers.

As well as receiving full support from the Nottinghamshire branch of the National Union of Mineworkers, support for the strikers has come from a number of sources including Nottingham Trades Council, the Raleigh shop stewards, the Plessey shop stewards and a formal resolution moved by the Mayor of Mansfield at a borough council meeting earlier this week.

Senior Labour councillors on Nottingham City Council have agreed not to supply information to the blackleg paper during the dispute and the Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society has withdrawn its advertising from the paper.

On Monday this week agreement was reached between SLADE and NGA. On Tuesday the unions drew up their terms for a settlement for a return to work. These terms are at present being discussed by the board of directors.



## Soton construction firm picketed over lock-out

ABOUT 200 members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers at Dibben Structural Engineers, Southampton, have been on official strike for three weeks over a lock-out dispute.

The strike followed a breakdown of pay negotiations for the office staff. Seven of the office staff are members of the technical and supervisory section (TASS) of the AUEW.

Shop steward of the construction workers (CEU), Mr John Harris, told Workers Press he saw management three weeks ago about the wage issue. Management refused to negotiate saying that the AUEW had no negotiating rights for the office staff.

TASS then called an official strike and the construction

workers decided to ban overtime in support.

Management stepped into the fight by telling the construction men not to go into work that day and refused to pay for the time lost. This arbitrary decision provoked the CEU men into taking strike action.

Non union office staff have continued to go into work, but the pickets have had considerable success in turning back lorries.

Dibben Structural Engineers are part of the huge conglomerate, United Builders Merchants (UBM). Dibben Builders Merchants is also part of the UBM group. At a mass meeting this week strikers decided to picket DBM to step up their pressure on management.

## British-Leyland truck workers reject pay offer

A MASS meeting of over 5,000 British-Leyland workers at Leyland, Lancs, voted overwhelmingly yesterday to reject management's latest pay offer.

British-Leyland has formally dropped its call for industrial engineers to be present on the shop floor, but refuses to negotiate any claim above the government's norm of £1 plus 4 per cent.

Earlier the meeting voted by 3,000 votes to 2,000 against all-out strike action against management proposals.

British-Leyland, wants a firm commitment that there will be no further negotiations for the lower paid, that the existing system of mutuality on new piecework jobs should end and that the factory average should be frozen.

Len Brindle, AUEW convenor, told Workers Press: 'The main reason for the vote against a strike was that it was just before the holiday. A



general can't pick his battle ground.'

The policy of the shop stewards in their drawn-out battle with the employers has been a series of guerrilla strikes over management's refusal to negotiate separate shop agreements.

Management has told the stewards that if this action continues men will be laid off.

Mr Brindle interpreted the vote 'as putting the management in an even greater dilem-

ma. We shall continue as we are under the present set up. If they refuse us the right to negotiate on behalf of our members, they had better watch out.

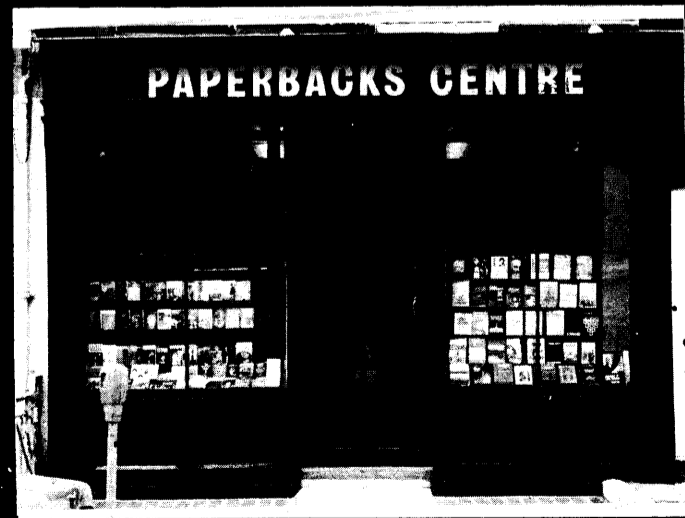
'We will have to withdraw guerrilla tactics after this vote. We still want a claim for a substantial increase across the board with no strings, but we will not tolerate factory engineers on the shop floor nor lay-offs. We have a policy of work-sharing and no redundancies.'

Over the AUEW decision to end the talks with the Tories, Mr Brindle said:

'It was the right decision. Our union is giving the only lead. At present there is a lull up and down the country of militancy. The most effective way of implementing the policy of our union is not to talk to the Tory government and then justify it to our members.

'Now the battle will be on, as the Tory Press shows. The question is, what will happen at the T&GWU conference in two weeks' time?'

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# WE'RE COMING TO BELLE VUE

**A discussion around the policies which will be debated at the All Trades Unions Alliance conference at Belle Vue, Manchester, Sunday July 1st—3 p.m.**

**THE NATIONAL** Committee of the All Trades Unions Alliance has called a national rally of trade unionists at Belle Vue, Manchester, for July 1, as a further step in the preparations for building the Revolutionary Party.

This follows on the very successful ATUA conference of 2,200 workers at Birmingham on October 22, 1972, which launched the campaign.

The founding conference of the Party will be held in London at the end of October 1973. The basis of the draft perspectives and programme for the Party, which are currently being discussed in the pages of the Workers Press, was the ATUA National Committee's statement adopted at Birmingham last year.

In a statement adopted on May 13 by the ATUA in preparation for the July 1 conference, the National Committee declared:

« The further turn in the grave economic crisis caused by the political and economic effects of the Nixon scandal will have a profound influence on the inflationary boom in Britain and the policies of the Tory and Labour leaders.

The Tories have laid plans for a corporate state, but the sharpening class struggle resulting from the intensification of the crisis

will more and more disrupt these plans and expose Phase Three of the state pay laws.

It is this massive class basis for the launching of struggle which forms the Revolutionary Party.

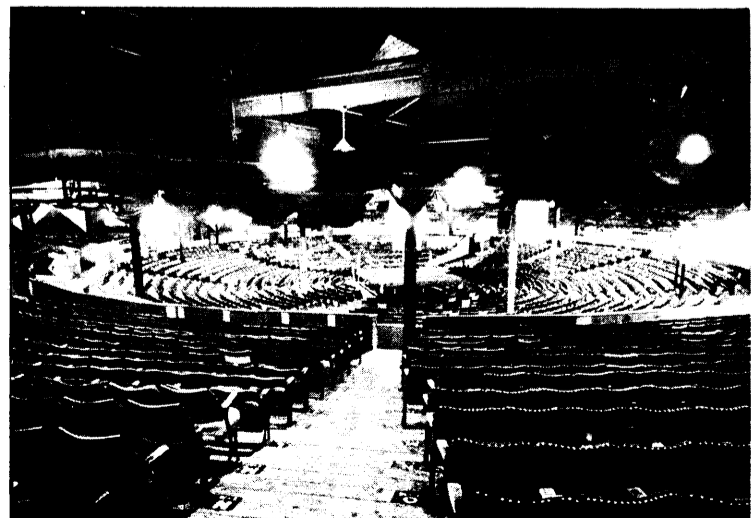
Therefore it is vitally urgent that these new developments, which greatly assist the launching of the Revolutionary Party, should be discussed by the largest possible number of delegates and visitors to the July 1 conference.

Arrangements are in hand to provide appropriate facilities for such a discussion at the Belle Vue, Manchester, one of the largest assembly halls in the north of England. Invitations to delegations have already gone out.

The ATUA calls upon all those workers, who want to end the state pay laws and restore free negotiations for wages between trade unions and employers, to join the demand for breaking off all talks with the government on Phase Three.

The fight for the defence of basic democratic rights is now inseparable from the struggle to build the Revolutionary Party.

We believe that the July 1 rally can be an important landmark in the struggle to unite the working class on the basis of socialist policies to create the necessary industrial and political conditions for forcing the Tory government to resign. »



## 'Withdrawing from the talks will show we don't want their policies'

Mick Stapleton (23) is a T&GWU fork lift steward at Chrysler's Ryton works.

### Do you think it is possible to get rid of the state pay laws without getting rid of the Tory government?

No. That's the first step towards getting rid of all these wage controls. You've got to get rid of them before you can do anything. The Tory government are the big firms. They always have been.

In the papers this morning the Price Commission has given the go-head for price increases on children's clothes and even food stuffs. Jack Jones is crying out that this is all wrong. Yet Jones is still there talking to the Tory government.

All they are doing there is talking about ways and means of keeping our wages down. Jones is shouting about price rises, but he's not fighting them to stop the whole lot, to get these people out.

### What do you think of the role of leaders like Jones and Scanlon collaborating with the Tories over the pay laws and Phase Three?

If they talk to them, it's like saying that the trade union movement agrees with anything that comes out of it. But we're not. No trade union can agree on wage restraint when they are letting prices go up and up.

The price increases announced this morning—that's your £1 plus 4 per cent gone right away—on necessities. It's not luxuries, but necessities that are going up. If they are going to restrict us to £1 plus 4 per cent, we're going to end up on the streets with nothing.

Until we get rid of this Tory government you won't change that. We've got to have a Labour government as a start so that we can rebuild what the Tories are knocking down.

### Do you think that the present Labour and trade union leaders want to get rid of the Tories?

They're not pushing anything. The trade union leaders are collaborating all the time, so while they are doing that they can't be fighting to get rid of them can they?

If they withdraw from the talks altogether now, it will show the Tories we don't want their policies and that we don't want them in. That's the place to start.

### Are you in favour of the Belle Vue rally to launch the campaign in the unions for a new leadership?

I'm going to Belle Vue to see what policies can be drawn up to force the downfall of this Tory government. If we reinstate a Labour government, it might be with the policies agreed to, say, at Manchester.

I'm not going because I'm a member of any particular party. I'm going to see if that conference has got anything to offer me.

I'm looking in the 'Daily Mirror' to see what they've got to say about workers' participation. I know the SLL disagrees with workers' participation, but everything has got to be looked at. Workers have got to find out where they've got to go.



Mick Stapleton: 'You've only got to look at the strike-busting techniques they used to see the lengths employers will go to keep workers down.'

With the dispute we've just had at Chrysler and the crisis we've got too, it must have made a lot of them sit up and say 'We've got to do something now. We can't keep letting this happen with the employers putting us out when they feel like it, prices going up and our wages going down. We've got to do something.'

Only by going to places like Belle Vue, reading what the 'Mirror' says about participation and all the other things—and working it out in your own mind which is best—can we get anywhere. The one that comes out with the strongest policies is going to win.

If this happens at Belle Vue, they will be the people who will win in the end. You've got to go to these things to find out for yourself what policies can be adopted. If you have strong policies adopted at Belle Vue, we'll go forward and fight on those policies.

We'll possibly make the Labour government fight on those policies—obviously they will be socialist policies.

This conference is the right thing. We've got to get something. The crisis in the car industry at the moment is coming to boiling point. You can see it. The disputes are springing up all over the place with workers trying to fight the employer and the Tory government. One supports the other.

You've got to have something or somebody to fight back and if we don't do it now, it's going to be too late. The working man will be downtrodden and he'll be made to stay there. We've got to formulate some kind of policy now.

### The basic democratic rights of the working class are under attack. How can the working class be united to defend these rights?

#### Are protests and one-day strikes enough?

Personally I can't see that one-day strikes prove anything. Lads come up to me and say 'With a one-day strike all we're going to do is lose money.'

#### What experiences have you had which make you believe that getting

### rid of the Tory government is an urgent task?

I'm a single man and it might be better to have the views of a married man, but I represent a lot of them. Some are having to pay £60 a month mortgage. Why, the rate of interest on the mortgage is going up and up and up under a Tory government. Where will it end?

The only person who is getting richer is not the working man, it's the mortgage companies and the house-builders and people like that.

I've got a car which I'm buying on HP. I've got to find the payments every month, petrol keeps going up and the insurance is colossal.

While they are keeping my wages down, the Tories are going to force me off the road. It all boils down to 'This is the Tory government affecting me'.

My mother finds it more and more difficult every week to buy the groceries. Eventually she's going to come to me and say she wants some more money.

This morning they've agreed to price increases in clothes.

I'm not able to go to work and get more money because I'm restrained by the government. It all boils down to keeping the working man down and the sooner he fights his way back up to the top the better. If we don't we'll be in a hell of a mess.

To go back to Chrysler. You've only got to look at the strike-busting techniques they used to see the lengths the employers will go to keep the working man down.

The working man has got to unite and bring in strong enough policies to counteract what they are doing.

Look at Perkins, where they've got a complete lock-out. If anything should be against the law, it's a person being locked-out of his employment when he wants to go in.

Just because men ban overtime isn't a reason. Overtime does people out of work anyway. Nobody should have to rely on that. To lock men out for refusing to work overtime—no firm should have the right to do that.

Then there's these builders. They have charged them with conspiracy to trespass. We just can't go on like this.

## 'The present leadership doesn't represent the workers'

Mick Day (23) is a surface worker at Frickley Colliery, South Elmsall, Yorkshire.

**Do you think it is possible to get rid of the state pay laws without getting rid of the Tory government?**

It isn't possible to get rid of the state pay laws without getting rid of the Tories. They imposed the laws for a specific reason — they wanted the unions and every working man in the country really trapped.

I don't think any pressure will make the Tories give way on the laws. They are laws for the capitalist class. Every law a Tory government passes will be in the interests of the capitalist class. There's no chance of getting rid of such laws without getting rid of the Tories. They are alien to the working class.

**Do you think the Labour and trade union leaders want to force the Tories to resign?**

No, the Labour leaders want to work within capitalism. A Labour government wouldn't abolish the Tory laws, though they might change them slightly.

The present leaders of the working class prefer to let the Tories go on, rather than mobilize the working class behind them. They could have mobilized the working class before now if they'd had any intention of getting rid of the Tories.

**What experiences have you had that make you believe getting rid of the Tory government is an urgent task?**

Wages for a start. The state pay laws gave us about £2.29, when we'd wanted £5 to £6. The union leadership just took the best they could get under the laws.

Then there are increases in prices which hit everybody. As a single man, I'm better off than some. Most men have to work overtime. A married man on my job won't take home more than about £20 on a five-day week. He'd have to work most weekends and overtime. That's not much of a life.

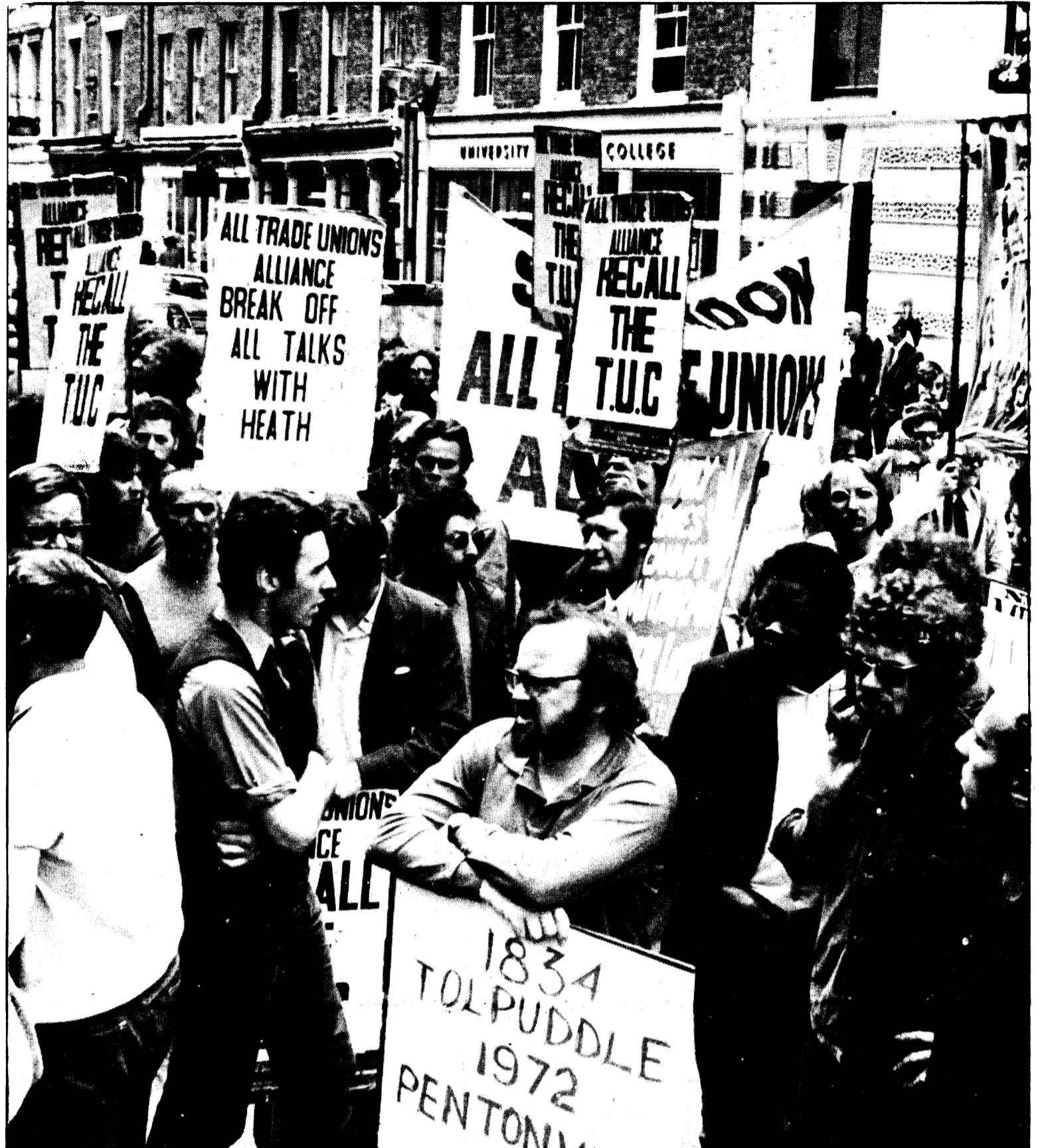
You can't stay a few hours over on my job. To work over, you have to do a double shift — 16 hours a day. Some men are doing three or four double shifts a week, just to make ends meet. I work with about 30 men and only about four of them are not working double shifts.

I was picketing at Thorpe Marsh power station during last year's miners' strike.

It made all the miners more aware of what could be done, but we were betrayed in the end. We could have stuck out. It would have been possible to bring the Tories down.

**What do you think of the TUC's collaboration with the Tories over the pay laws and Phase Three?**

It's totally wrong that the trade union leaders should have these talks. The Tories are an opposing body. The union leaders tend to come to an agreement with the Tories instead of standing out, which shows this weakness. They think it's better to come to some sort of agreement instead of opposing the Tories. They're frightened in the pre-



sent conditions of what would follow from not coming to an agreement.

I read in Workers Press about the union leaders secret talks with Heath — they had told us they had broken them off and they were continuing them all the time.

Socialist Labour League members had told me this would happen and I hadn't believed them at first, but they were right. Workers Press puts you right on a lot of things.

**What do you think of the role of the leaders like Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon in this collaboration?**

Such leaders as Jones and Scanlon only talk left wing. They speak the way they think people want them to speak, but they don't really act in that way.

Members of their union have put a lot of faith in these men, because they thought they would fight for a better deal, but they haven't practised what they've preached.

Now the AUEW have stopped Scanlon going to these talks, perhaps they've seen through him now.

The Communist Party supports Scanlon and Jones because they've got similar ideas to the Communist Party. But the idea that people will come to communism in their own time is silly.

The Socialist Labour League goes to the working class and tries to make them see what's wrong with capitalism. The Communist Party just waits for people to drift in.



Picketing at a power station during the miners' strike. 'It made all the miners more aware of what could be done, but we were betrayed in the end . . .' Above: ATUA members lobby the trade union leaders during the dock strike. Central to their demands on the TUC was for them to break off all talks with Heath.

**The basic democratic rights of the working class are under attack. What can be done to unify people in defence of these rights? Are protest and one-day strikes enough?**

One-day strikes have no effect at all. The only thing they

show is the strength of the working class if they went on a General Strike. A General Strike could bring down the Tory government and that's the main reason the TUC doesn't call one.

The Communist Party said a one-day strike was the beginning of the mobilization of the working class, but it wasn't. It was an alternative to that. May 1 was deliberately

organized to have the least effect possible. Some unions even told the men to please themselves whether to strike or not.

**What do you think can be done to build a new leadership?**

You've got to get a new leadership. You've got to replace the old leaders with a trained leadership, which understands it's got to fight for the working class.

The trade unions have done a lot for the working class, but now, by talking to the Tories, they have shown their weakness.

The All Trades Unions Alliance campaign to take the working class to power is the most constructive way forward.

The present leadership doesn't represent the workers. We've got to get new leaders from the working class itself — leaders who do what they say they'll do.

**Are you in favour of a mass rally of trade unionists to build this leadership?**

This will have the most effect. I didn't go to the Wembley Pageant of Labour because I didn't know about it. Workers Press and 'Keep Left' had only just come to our area then, though some people went.

A man at work whose son went to the Pageant told me about it and I was really upset that I hadn't been myself.

But I'm definitely going to Belle Vue. There are 15 going from Hemsworth so far, but there should be more by the weekend.



# THE TORIES' WAR ON COUNCIL HOUSING

BY PHILIP WADE

**Millions of workers who look hopefully towards being rehoused have had their hopes smashed by the Tory government.**

The new White Paper, cynically entitled 'Better Homes—the Next Priorities' declares war not on slum landlords but on the idea of council housing.

The decaying, twilight areas of Britain's major cities are in fact to remain intact, apart from a little tarring up.

Taking a leaf out of the Labour leadership's book, the Tories, led by ex-building boss Geoffrey Rippon, plan to hand over huge sums of money to the landlords and developers.

Hailed as the new dawn by fawning commentators in the Tory Press, the White Paper is no more than a reaffirmation—if one was needed—that municipal housing is a non-starter under this government.

One family in six lives in a

dwelling which either lacks amenities like a bathroom or an inside toilet or which is actually unfit for human habitation, to use the official phrase.

Over 2.5 million dwellings are involved, most of them owned by private landlords.

These conditions are to be found covering whole areas of the big cities. They have been and remain a veritable breeding-ground for Rachmanism and harassment of all kinds.

It is not just the small landlord who is involved here. In many cases the freehold is owned by a big company or developer.

On no occasion in the past have these people ever attempted to do anything with their properties other than collect the rent and harass their tenants.

The Tories in parliament who represent the landlord class, among others, begin with a ruthless determination to destroy municipal housing.

In this way, they hope to force business towards their

friends in the private sector, while at the same time driving down the conditions of the working class.

This is the philosophy lying behind the hated 'fair rents' Act—which aims to double council rents—and the fact that last year fewer municipal dwellings were built than in any year since 1962.

On the twilight housing areas, the White Paper makes it clear what is not going to take place:

'In the majority of cases, it is no longer preferable to attempt to solve the problems arising from bad housing by schemes of widespread, comprehensive redevelopment,' it says.

This is a declaration of war on workers living in the worst housing. In a sentence, the way out through rehousing is blocked. As far as the Tories are concerned, that basic right, established largely since 1945, is to end.

The Tories try to justify this statement in the White Paper with a declaration

which carries the art of deception to new heights.

Local people, it declares, have 'an understandable preference for the familiar, and in many ways, more convenient environment in which they have lived for many years'.

So Tory 'investigators' have found that workers living in the worst areas of Notting Hill do not want to be disturbed, least of all rehoused!

It reminds you of those newspaper picture 'probes' where the first ten Tories a reporter can lay his hand on are asked what they think of strikes.

What the Tories mean is that public housing costs too much and workers will have to stick with what they have got.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the Tory White Paper actually proposes to give landlords bigger improvement grants.

And local councils are to be given the splendid opportunity of buying up newly-converted flats.

Developers selling five flats in one house at £16,000 a flat do not mind who they sell to.

What will happen in these cases is that the local rate-payers will provide his profit by paying the money for buying up the property.

And while the landlords and developers get on with the business of smashing old properties and turning them into luxury flats, local councils will be obliged, under the proposals, to take in all the tenants dispossessed, either temporarily or permanently.

So, the friends of the Tories get it all ways. From now on they won't even have to worry about providing alternative accommodation for former tenants.

Paul Channon, Minister of Housing and Construction, had this to say at the Press conference to launch the White Paper:

'It doesn't seem such a bad deal for landlords. If I was a private landlord I'd be perfectly happy to stay one.' Say no more.

Al  
ma  
ha



Above and left: Albert Family Dwellings, privately owned housing in Stepney, East London. The tenants protested at the appalling conditions maintained by a landlord who has never been seen on the premises. Now the White Paper blocks any chance of rehousing. The Tories say people have 'an understandable preference for the familiar, in many ways more convenient, environment in which they have lived for many years'.





# REVOLUTION OR REFORM

## Part two: Lenin saw the mould on Ramelson

BY ROYSTON BULL

**In his whole piece discussing the current political situation, Communist Party industrial organizer Bert Ramelson does not utter one word about the world economic crisis, which is the starting point for any analysis.**

Instead of determining the character of the period we are living in and making an assessment of the necessary tasks facing the working class, Ramelson produces useless subjective impressions of what he thinks workers are ready for.

In 'What is to be Done?' Lenin attacked the 'Rabocheye Dyelo' tendency, which supported spontaneity, in the following way:

'We need only point out that the "Rabocheye Dyelo" considered that it was impossible to set the overthrow of the autocracy as the FIRST task of the mass working-class movement, and degraded this task to that of a struggle for immediate political demands.' (Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow 1950, pp. 76-77.)

Describing another mistake, Lenin wrote: 'The "stages theory", or the theory of "timid zig-zags" in the political struggle is expressed in the following way: "Political demands, which in their character are common to the whole of Russia, should however at first correspond to the experience gained by the given stratum of workers in the economic struggle. Only on the basis of this experience can and should political agitation be taken up".' (Ibid p.77.)

Lenin categorized these confusions as 'the programme of a whole trend, expressed in the words: That struggle is desirable which is possible, and the struggle which is possible is the one that is going on at the given moment. This is precisely the trend of unbounded opportunism, which passively adapts itself to spontaneity.' (Ibid pp. 79-80.)

### Not ready for General Strike

Lenin writes of the very earliest activities of Marxists in Russia that although they zealously carried out economic agitation, 'they did not regard this as their sole task. Right

from the very beginning they advanced the widest historical tasks of Russian Social-Democracy (the revolutionary movement) in general, and the task of overthrowing the autocracy in particular'. (Ibid pp. 52-53.)

Can Ramelson explain what Lenin was doing 'imposing tasks beyond the level of political achievement' more than 20 years before the October Revolution and at a time when only the tiniest minority of workers supported Marxist 'political objectives'; which are the two crimes he accuses the SLL of?

Ramelson implies that conditions are not ready for a General Strike in Britain.

Lenin wrote of the Ramelsons of his day: 'The Economists want to shift the blame entirely upon the "absent conditions", upon the influences of material environment that determine the road from which it will be impossible for any ideologist to divert the movement.'

'What is this but slavish cringing before spontaneity, but the infatuation of the "ideologists" with their own shortcomings?' (Ibid. p.55.)

Addressing those who claimed, like Ramelson, that 'the mass of workers themselves



**Ramelson. Above: Jones in discussion with his delegation after the March 5 Special Congress had thrown out the General Council's do-nothing strategy, originally accepted by Jones and Scanlon: The emergency motion the two leaders later put up for a 'day of protest and stoppage' was to head off calls for a General Strike.**

have not yet advanced the broad and militant political tasks that the revolutionaries are attempting to "impose" upon them', (Ibid. p.169) Lenin wrote:

'Plekhanov was a thousand times right when he not only pointed to this revolutionary class, not only proved that its spontaneous awakening was inevitable and unavoidable, but also when he set even "workers' circles" a great and lofty political task. But you refer to the mass movement that has sprung up since that time in order to degrade this task, in order to narrow down the

energy and scope of activity of the "workers' circles".'

'If you are not amateurs enamoured of your primitive methods, what are you then? You boast that you are practical, but you fail to see what every Russian practical worker knows, namely, the miracles that the energy not only of circles but even of individual persons is able to perform in the revolutionary cause.'

'Or do you think that our movement cannot produce heroes like those of the 'seventies'? But why? Because we lack training? But we are training ourselves, will go on

# Workers Notebook

training and acquire the training.

'Unfortunately it is true that mould has formed on the surface of the stagnant waters of the "economic struggle against the employers and the government"; people have appeared among us who kneel in prayer to spontaneity, gazing with awe (as Plekhanov expresses it) upon the "posteriors" of the Russian proletariat.

'But we will get rid of this mould. The time has come when Russian revolutionaries, guided by a genuinely revolutionary theory, relying upon the genuine revolutionary and spontaneously awakening class, can at last rise to full stature in all their giant strength.

'All that is required is that the masses of our practical workers, and the still larger masses of those who long for practical work even while still at school, shall meet with scorn and ridicule any suggestion that may be made to degrade our political tasks and to restrict the scope of our organizational work.' (Ibid. pp.173-174.)

The Socialist Labour League is dedicated to breaking workers from their trade-unionist way of thinking and from all the individual influences of the bourgeoisie, whether reformist, revisionist or Stalinist.

## Keep workers at present level

Ramelson, the reformist, does not want workers to go beyond their present level of development.

This is nowhere better illustrated than in his praise for the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, 'the most significant achievement of any rank-and-file movement in nearly half a century'.

And what has the LCDTU done? 'Since it came into existence seven years ago, it has succeeded in winning the organized trade union movement for the major plank of its policy: that only on the basis of militant action involving the organized movement will it be possible to frustrate the ruling-class attempts to deprive the unions of their right to use industrial action', Ramelson writes.

In other words, more militancy and protest strikes but nothing else. No suggestion of a qualitatively new struggle on a political level to defeat the Tory laws.

And what is Ramelson boasting of anyway? The Tory pay laws have taken away the right to use industrial action on the most fundamental question of all, wages.

This Tory attack is unprecedented in over 100 years history of trade unionism in Britain. It accurately reflects the unparalleled political and economic crisis the capitalist class are facing. Yet here is Ramelson blindly wittering on about the 'achievement' of the LCDTU.

The total inadequacy of pure 'militancy' on its own could not be better exposed.

And what in fact was the LCDTU doing while the basic right to strike for wages was being abolished in Britain?

It was, in true Stalinist fashion, calling conferences (attended by ever-dwindling numbers) at which no real discussion was allowed, resulting last time in a 20-minute brawl between Stalinists and revisionists at the Friends Meeting House, London.

Ramelson claims that as a result of LCDTU pressure, Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon, leaders of the Transport and Engineering Unions, have pushed the trade union movement to the left by getting the TUC Special Congress to call a national day of protest and stoppage on May 1.

Another curious 'achievement' to claim credit for. Jones and Scanlon put up their protest proposal at the

Special Congress on March 5 precisely to head off any call for a General Strike after the shock defeat of the TUC General Council's policy (originally backed by Jones and Scanlon) of no action at all.

After the protest, it was their intention to get back to friendly negotiations with Heath, and that is exactly what they have done.

But Ramelson is insistent: 'The decision would never have been taken at all if the main enemy had been seen as the lefts within the trade union movement rather than the ruling class.'

Leaving aside for one moment the demagogic slander at the end of that sentence, Ramelson must again be corrected.

Jones and Scanlon did nothing to help the mass campaign in the trade union movement defeat the General Council's members of the TUC's leading committees which drew up that policy, by their silence they in fact condoned it.

That the AUEW and T&GWU delegations to that Congress voted against the General Council was due to the political campaigning carried out elsewhere and despite the personal roles of Jones and Scanlon.

But why doesn't Ramelson deal with the much more important issue of what Jones and Scanlon did in practice to carry out the decisions of that Congress?

On the May 1 stoppage, Jones failed to instruct his union, the biggest in Britain, to come out on strike. This alone could have made an enormous difference to the effect of that protest.

On the even more crucial question of united TUC industrial action in support of the hospital workers, which was the other decision of Congress, the Jones-Scanlon record is not just deplorable, but raises fundamental political questions that must be answered.

At meeting after meeting called by the TUC just to discuss aid to the hospital workers, not one proposal of solidarity strike action was ever made by Jones, Scanlon, or anybody else. The Special Congress policy was treated with contemptuous disregard within weeks of its passing.

Not once did the Communist Party take up this question with the two men most responsible, Jones and Scanlon. And Ramelson is silent about it now.

## Defending the labour 'lefts'

And when the Special Congress was finally completely betrayed by the TUC pleading with the government for special treatment for hospital workers on a promise that no one else would get TUC support to defeat Phase Two, the Stalinists remained totally silent once again.

By their actions, the 'lefts' opened the door for the Tory government and drove the hospital workers to the Pay Board.

But Ramelson goes out of his way to defend Scanlon and Jones for 'pushing the labour movement to the left'.

'Of course, from time to time, they will pursue policies which may be justifiably criticized. But the hallmark of genuine revolutionaries is to distinguish between allies who commit errors of judgement from enemies of the working class,' he adds.

Ramelson's amazing claim to be a 'genuine revolutionary' could not more effectively be ridiculed than by the rest of the sentence.

Jones and Scanlon have never made a secret of their total hostility to revolution. Their whole aim in life is to steer the trade union movement away from revolution.

**CONTINUED TOMORROW**

## IT'S A JOLLY SUPER OUTING

Should be an absolutely super speech day at Bishop's Stortford on July 14. Will you be there this year?

The host is Sir Kingsley Collett, chairman of the school's governing council. There have been Colletts at Bishop's Stortford, except for a short spell, since 1905. That comes to tens of thousands of pounds in private school fees.

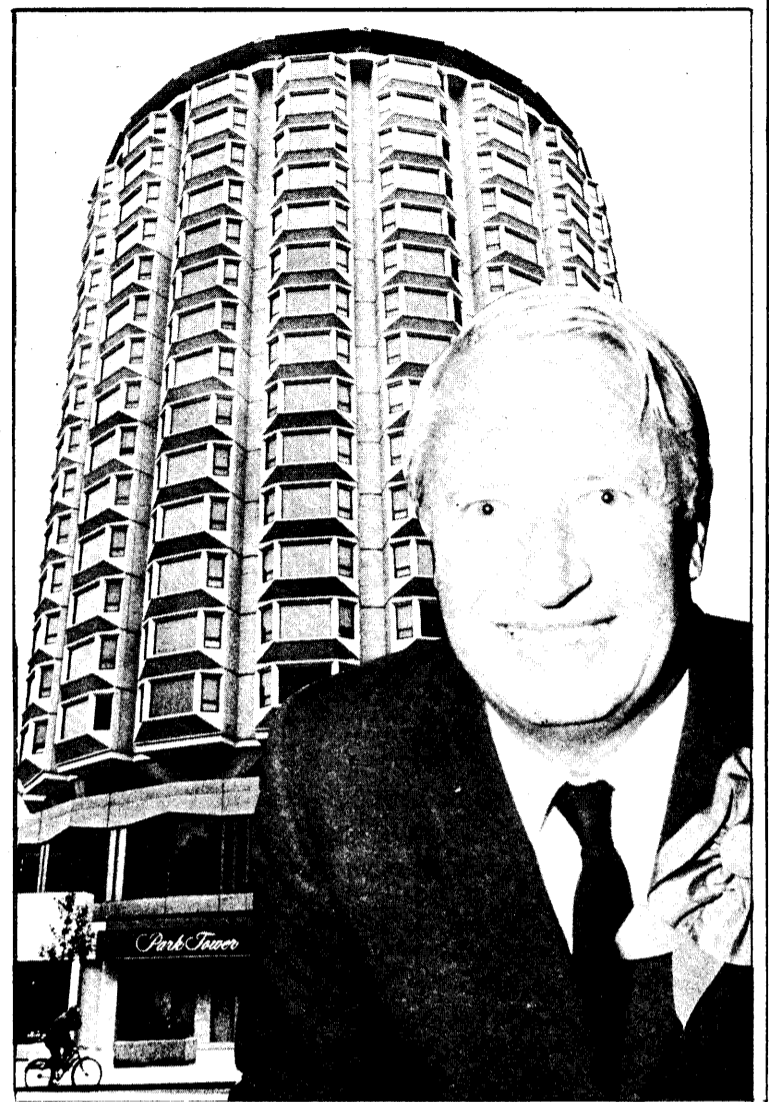
Each year the speech day is distinguished by an 'outstanding' guest speaker. They have included Sir Norman Kipling, leading figure in the old Federation of British Industry (now the CBI) and director of Joseph Lucas Industries, Pilkington's; Major General Sir George Burns, the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, the former ADC to the Viceroy of India; Lord Soper, the evangelical Labourite who speaks at Hyde Park Corner; and Sir Dick White, the former chief of MI6, who came in to clear up the discredited security service after Philby and Blake's defection.

Who can match this illustrious assortment? Collett has invited Mr Paul Dixey, the chairman of Lloyd's, the biggest broking house in the world.

Perhaps he can tell the young Nigels and Ruperts about the 'ugly face of capitalism' and the recent exploits of his friend Sir Denys Lawson who has been involved in a £6.5m share coup.

## A FAIR COP

On the day two New York cops were indicted for murders while on duty—one victim was a Negro boy, aged 10—the police commissioner announced he had a list of 150 officers considered by their superiors to be 'violence-prone, excitable or unstable'. They should extend the survey to the White House . . .



## HEATH AND HIS FRIENDS

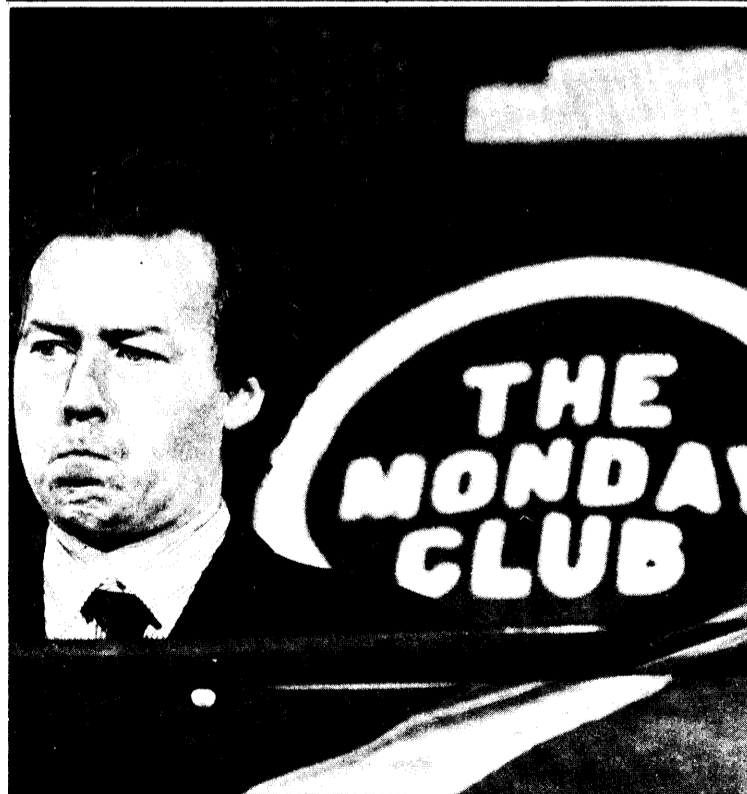
Three months ago there were angry scenes in the Commons. Indignant MPs from all sides of the House were shouting indignantly about the fact that Heath's photograph had been used to advertise a new hotel.

At question time he explained that he was 'surprised' by the advertisement and went on to express his displeasure. David Frost, the businessman, was so incensed that he took the whole business to court. Injunctions, the lot.

Surprise, surprise to learn that Heath went to another new hotel, the £7,250,000 Skyline Park Tower in Knightsbridge, and opened it himself. The picture will no doubt be widely circularized for advertising purposes.

Isn't there a double standard here?

The point about the Skyline and why Heath was so glad to open it is that the chairman of the developers is Sir Richard Thompson, Tory MP for Croydon South. It was just a favour for an old friend . . .



## A NAME LIKE GUINNESS'S

The last issue of 'Monday News', the publication of the right-wing Monday Club, carries a front-page article on Enoch Powell's extraordinary 'vote Labour' speech at Stockport. It appeared under the headline: 'Powell at Stockport—By the Rt Hon Jonathan Guinness.'

The title 'Rt Hon' is only used by Privy Councillors. News that Guinness had been

elevated to this office no doubt caused alarm throughout the land—particularly as Guinness is on record that he is in favour of capital punishment even to the extent of taking an axe and cutting off people's heads. The Monday Club assures, however, that the use of the 'Rt Hon' title was a misprint. Sighs of relief from nicks all over Britain.

## FORD SCORES

Things can't be too desperate for the Ford Motor Company. Through agents Jones Lang Wootton they have obtained new 'London executive headquarters'. The new office is in Mayfair and involves about 15,000 square feet of floor space. Rent is estimated at around £100,000 a year.

## BIG JOHN



John Wayne is running out of friends. His spirited defence of Nixon a couple of weeks ago has made him a laughing stock. Now a group called the Advocacy of Survival of American Indians has hit out: 'With overt racialism towards the native American, Wayne is the nation's number one Indian killer.'



# Unstable exchange rates worry OECD

IN A confidential working paper which came to light earlier this week the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development warns that the spread of trade and market controls will soon begin to have a serious effect on world trade.

The OECD staff, to judge from the paper, are worried chiefly about the lack of stability in exchange rates (most of which are floating) and about what will result from further falls in the dollar parity.

They hope that the US currency will become stabilized at a particular parity until markets and businessmen are convinced that the US deficit on international trade and payments will be turned round.

Many economists are convinced that this has already taken place, but there is no sign of any halt in the dollar's slide against other currencies, the OECD says.

In fact the US currency must

BY JOHN SPENCER

continue to decline so long as the dollar remains inconvertible with gold at the 'official' price (\$42 an ounce) and the free market gold price keeps on rising.

According to the OECD paper, however, the main dangers were:

● **UNCERTAINTIES** may push exchange rates so far out of line as to touch off 'a self-renewing process of over-correction of rates', and this over-correction, resulting from so-called market forces could lead to further contradictory effects, which in turn would give rise to further over-correction. The operation of this contradiction could, according to the OECD theorists, reduce the dollar's value to zero.

● **IF RATES** are pushed too far away from what the country considers appropriate, there could be an excessive use of controls either through restrictions on acquisition of foreign exchange or by protectionist trade measures which would inhibit the flow of capital, goods and even people between countries once they began to spread.

● **CURRENCIES** that have been 'type-cast' on the basis of past

experience as 'devaluation prone' (such as sterling) or 'revaluation prone' (such as the German mark) will be pushed too far simply because past experience and memories will continue to influence markets and businessmen.

There are already signs that this is happening, according to the OECD. For instance, West Germany's tight restrictions on money supply to create deflation at home have been responsible to some extent for the slump in the parity of the dollar over recent weeks.

The OECD paper, in this connection, says: 'uncertainty about governments' ability to bring inflation and the present boom under control could interact and be compounded by uncertainty about governments' ability to maintain an orderly and rational pattern [sic] of exchange rates and avoid a self-defeating escalation of controls'.

Self-defeating this may be, but incanting about it won't stop it happening.

As the paper rightly says, it has already started, giving the OECD report the unmistakable air of drawing attention to the open door of the stable after the horse has bolted.

## Butter poverty

## labels

THE **TORIES'** new butter tokens to be issued to people on supplementary benefit would serve as public labels advertising family poverty, a Labour MP said in the House of Commons.

The government is introducing regulations which will allow certain people to buy 1lb of butter a month at 5p a half pound below the normal price.

Rotherham Labour MP, Mr Brian O'Malley said: 'MPs should ask themselves how

they would feel if their wives had to do the shopping in these circumstances.

'To have issued the token to all pensioners would be one thing. The badge would have been the badge of age. But this is restricted to recipients of means-tested supplementary benefits.'

## Soya bean export embargo means dearer food

THE UNITED STATES government has placed a two-month ban on all exports of soya beans in a move which is certain to push world food prices to new record levels.

Cotton seed and related products used throughout the world to feed livestock were included in the embargo and there were immediate fears that the export restrictions would be extended to cover maize.

The US is the biggest producer of soya beans in the capitalist world. There was immediate reaction to the ban from Japanese officials, who said it would have grave effects.

Emergency measures might have to be introduced and all possible alternative sources of supply were being tapped, Tokyo said.

Soya beans have been in short supply for some time and a world-wide protein shortage, poor spring-planting weather and the decline of the dollar have produced record US prices.

There has been frenetic speculation on the Chicago commodity exchange in soya bean futures and the price has risen by leaps and bounds.

On April 24, the Department of Agriculture reported that stocks of soya beans were abnormally low.

There was an immediate rush to buy options on the remaining stocks for future delivery. The price for delivery in July, which was about \$6.20 a bushel on April 23, leapt \$12.90 by June 5.

The trading was so frenzied that the Chicago Board of Trade stepped in to raise the margin requirement (the amount of deposit required to be placed on purchases) and finally to limit trading in future for delivery in the next three months.

The ban on soya bean exports is a further blow against the underdeveloped countries by US imperialism.

It must drive up the price of food which is already in short supply as a result of drought and poor harvests in much of Africa and Asia.

# Labour's fake policy on nationalization

BY ROYSTON BULL

THE **LABOUR PARTY'S** proposals for nationalizing the shipbuilding industry solve nothing.

As well as the failure to demand a take-over without compensation and under workers' control, the reformist nature of the plan is shown in the enormous concession made to Marathon, the oil-rig building Texas-based company which took over the old Clydebank yard from the bankrupt UCS.

A National Shipbuilding Corporation would 'acquire, by use of powers of compulsory acquisition, control of all significant companies in the shipbuilding, ship-repair, and marine engineering industries—control normally to mean 100 per cent ownership of equity.

'All the shipyards—except Marathon'



What does the Communist Party think of the special treatment for Marathon, as suggested by Anthony Wedgwood Benn (left)? James Reid (above left), Communist Party executive committee member and Clyde shop steward, was in on the deal with the bollermakers' Dan McGarvey (above right), who is seated next to Marathon chief Wayne Harbin.

But despite Benn's denials, the position remains a farcical one. Firstly, it is unrealistic to imagine that the Clydebank workers will be willing to remain working for a speculative capitalist, who has driven some very hard bargains at Marathon in taking advantage of the bankruptcy situation, when the rest of the industry is taken over for public ownership.

Secondly, the powerful British capitalist groups like Swan Hunter would treat with contempt nationalization proposals which left out one section of the industry just because the absentee American owner was likely to kick up a fuss.

The fatuous concession to the union leaders' 'sensitiveness' over the agreements they signed with Harbin show that the reformists have failed to grasp anything of the crisis.

The argument for nationalization will arise out of the actual failure of capitalist industry to do little more than stagger uncertainly on, surrounded by bankruptcies, unemployment and

recession, when the inflationary crisis finally slumps into hard deflation.

It will not be a question of improving the 'technical, financial, and marketing performance' of private shipbuilding which is 'insufficient to meet the demands of a highly volatile international market', as the document puts it, but a question of rescuing the whole productive forces of mankind from the degeneration the capitalist crisis will inflict.

The fight, which is already developing, will be on the very broadest class basis.

Which way forward? To continue the stagnation and sickness of declining capitalism, or to wipe out the whole private ownership system in finance and major industries and plan the economy on socialist lines?

The special considerations of the Harbins and the McGarveys will be of little consequence in the solution of the principle conflict.

Granting them now shows that Benn and the 'left' Labourites haven't begun to face up to

the essence of the question of nationalization, which is the struggle for political power.

And where do the Stalinists stand on this all-important question?

They too were party to the settlement with Harbin through their control of the local shop stewards under Reid and Airlie and their influence on the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The 'Morning Star' reported the special case treatment for Marathon without comment.

Workers Press would be glad to publish a statement from the Communist Party on their intentions towards Harbin's business.

Are they in favour of nationalizing Marathon without compensation?

Workers everywhere, and particularly on the Clyde, will demand to know whether Reid's involvement with Harbin means that the Communist Party, on whose executive Reid sits, is also prepared to make Marathon a 'special case'.



'Marathon would be seen as a special case to be discussed and dealt with separately.'

Anthony Wedgwood Benn, presenting the NEC proposals on Wednesday, claimed that the workers at Clydebank had participated directly in the negotiations for the Marathon takeover and this clause merely recognized a historical fact.

He denied that 'separately' meant Marathon would not be nationalized, denied that the clause was a sop to Dan McGarvey who had touted for the Houston financial operator Wayne Harbin to take over the yard, and claimed the Clydebank men had backed what their union leaders had done.

## SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

### Barnsley

Given by Gerry Healy  
National Secretary

of the

Socialist Labour League

Sunday July 8

Theory and Practice of  
Marxism

Sunday July 15

Role of the  
Revolutionary Party

at

The Red Lion  
Worsborough

Near Barnsley

7.30 p.m.

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# Dollar slumps to new low

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE DOLLAR plunged to its lowest-ever rate in terms of West German marks yesterday, amid very active trading on the Frankfurt exchange.

There were rumours that the mark might be revalued once again in relation to other currencies, but these were denied by the West German government.

Since early May, the dollar has lost 12 per cent of its value against the West German currency and for the first time its parity is below 2.50 marks to the dollar.

Since August 1971, when Nixon ceased selling gold from US reserves, the dollar has fallen 43 per cent against the mark, 44 per cent against the Swiss franc and 6.5 per cent even against sterling.

There is no sign of any halt in the decline.

In fact, the latest dollar devaluation is creating a short-term increase in the US trade deficit and forcing the dollar down still further.

The Common Market joint float arrangements are under great strain as a result of the demand for the mark.

Authorities had to support the parity limits of the joint float yesterday by buying French and Belgian francs and Dutch guilders.

As a consequence of recent support operations, the West German reserves have increased by nearly 1,000m marks.

Yesterday the Bundesbank bought 65 million French francs, 117 million Belgian francs and 17.5 million guilders.

The demand for marks is high but the West German authorities are unable to supply the sums needed to meet the demand without creating runaway inflation at home.

The mark cannot act as a substitute currency for the crisis-ridden dollar and become the main vehicle of international trade.

Yet without such a vehicle the prospect of a disastrous situation developing on the Euro-currency market, which is the world's biggest pool of inflationary credit, cannot be averted.

# Massey Ferguson to lay-off 2,500 Coventry workers

MASSEY FERGUSON, the worldwide tractor-making combine, will lay off 2,500 assembly workers at its Coventry plant on Monday. The large-scale lay offs are a direct result of the lock-out at the diesel plant at Perkins, Peterborough.

Management is saying the lay offs will only be in force on Monday and Tuesday during the annual stock taking.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT,

But there has been no firm guarantee that all 2,500 men will be recalled on Wednesday.

Stocktaking normally takes place on the weekend, but Massey's 80 storemen are currently in dispute with management over piecework and have an overtime ban in force.

For this reason, the company says, no stock taking could take place this weekend.

Up to yesterday the company

had laid off 750 day and night shift workers because of the work slack caused by the Perkins dispute.

Perkins Diesels, a part of the Massey Ferguson empire, locked out 5,700 workers just over three weeks ago after they demanded parity with Coventry men.

But Perkins, which is paying its work force some £20 less than the parent company, has refused to give an undertaking towards parity.

Throughout yesterday meetings were being held in the factory and the Coventry district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers was kept informed of developments.

The attitude of the company is completely in line with the no-holds-barred attack on workers which the Chrysler company launched last week.

The men at Perkins are showing complete determination to maintain their fight for parity.

Pickets have been mounted on the four factory gates in Peterborough and pressure for a settlement from the national AUEW leadership has been rejected out of hand.

Wednesday's abortive talks are to be resumed next Monday.

## Youth win basic trade union rights

THIRTY WORKERS from Spongs in Basildon, Essex, returned to work yesterday after a three-day strike against the sacking and victimization of their newly-elected shop steward and another union member.

Unionization of these workers, mainly youth, has only recently been achieved after many previous unsuccessful attempts had led to sackings.

Pickets carrying banners declaring 'Defend Trade Union Rights' were recommended to return to work by the local organizer of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Mr Alf Woodcraft.

The return-to-work recommendation included the reinstatement of both workers and £5 compensation for every striker. But the victimized shop steward would only receive credentials after six months with the firm.

Woodcraft threatened that the union could only make the strike official next week and then only for a month.

SIX HUNDRED workers at a piston and piston ring manufacturing company in Hampshire today enter the 10th day of their strike.

The men want an increase of £1 plus 4 per cent—the Tory ceiling under the state pay laws—with no strings attached.

But the management of Wellworthy Limited wants to introduce multi-manning in the foundry section. This would mean one man to two machines instead of one man to one machine as at present.

dry section. This would mean one man to two machines instead of one man to one machine as at present.

Strikers are angry that since mid-April there has been an increase in productivity of 5 per cent which would mean an extra £1 a week. But not a penny has been paid to them by the company due to the intervention of the Pay Board.

## Police gun-up for Heath's civil war

THE POLICE are to be equipped with new army rifles fitted with telescopic sights. The first issue of 600 are being produced at the Royal Small Arms factory in Enfield in London.

The decision to equip the police with high-powered rifles is in line with the sudden policy of the police to bring its weaponry up to para-military strength.

In March a Home Office working party on firearms recommended a full-scale re-arming of the police.

One weapon suggested in the report was the British army's 7.66mm Belgian FN rifle fitted with telescopic sights.

But the government has opted for the Model L39A1 which fires 7.62 millimetre bullets. It will replace the handful of obsolete .303s now in use.

An arms expert told Workers Press the L39A1 has a much greater penetrating power than the Armalite.

While the rifles are coming into service, 67 police forces throughout the country are taking delivery of 'some of the most up-to-date and powerful weapons in the world'.

The British-made Webley pistol is being phased out and replaced by two imported handguns:

● The US-made Smith and Wesson Model 10. It is a .38 calibre six-shot revolver; and

● The German-made Walther Polizei Pistole, a 9mm seven-shot automatic.

The Home Office were impressed by these guns for their 'man stopping' effectiveness. Both have greater hitting power and penetration than anything currently in use.

An unnamed member of the working party told the 'Guardian' earlier this year: 'The basic consideration was to find a cheap, sturdy, reliable modern handgun which was readily available and would give Rover-car dependability in standing up to repeated handling by different officers. It also had to meet the primary objective of being able to stop and kill a man in the open with accuracy at 50 yards.'

Geoffrey Boothroyd, an authority on guns and author of the authoritative book, 'The Handgun', said:

'Both the Smith and Wesson and the Walther are about in the same league. The revolver is slightly heavier at 34oz than the 27½oz Webley. What the police would be getting here would be a definite man-stopper.'

Why is all this lethal firepower being put into the hands of the police?

The Tories cannot justify it by saying it is because of armed criminals. Official figures show that last year the police were faced with guns, real or imitation, on only 20 occasions.

Yet secret plans have been approved by the Tory Cabinet for new handguns and sniper's rifles. At the same time the Ministry of Defence has announced that CR gas, the 'fire gas' produced at the Chemical and Biological Warfare Establishment at Nancecuke in Cornwall, is being manufactured 'for use in the United Kingdom'.

These desperate preparations by the ruling class can mean only one thing—they anticipate a showdown with the working class in what premier Heath told the UN in 1970 was a period of civil war.

The ruling class will introduce its Ulster terror apparatus to the mainland to save its profits and privileges.

It is this impending attack on the working class that makes the class-collaboration of the Labour leaders and the TUC chiefs so treacherous.

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**JUNE FUND  
NEEDS £283.14  
ONLY TWO  
DAYS MORE**

WE ARE almost there! Yesterday's post brought £255.60 making our total up to £1,466.86. Keep it up dear readers. One last spurt and we know you will do it.

The beginning of the breakdown of talks between TUC and the Tories over Phase Three is a reflection of the enormous movement growing inside the working class against this government.

Workers Press was the first to demand that these talks be broken off. Now we must use our paper to mobilize thousands of workers everywhere to force the Tory government to resign.

So let's press ahead in every way possible. Raise extra amounts for an all-out, last-minute battle for our June Fund. Make sure we complete our £1,750 target and perhaps—go over the top! Rush every donation immediately to:

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

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## NO TALKS WITH HEATH—MAKE THE TORIES RESIGN

FROM PAGE ONE

to make some desperate political choices.

Capitalism's world economic crisis, through a growing lack of confidence in credit, threatens to strangle all trade right in the middle of an ever-intensifying trade war.

Heath must press forward with his strategy to make the working class pay for the crisis. The option of retreat is no longer open to him. That is why the Socialist Labour League once again insists: **this government must be forced to resign.**

Reg Birch, the AUEW executive councilman who moved Wednesday's 'no talks' motion at the CSEU, said in replying to the debate: 'The question facing the workers' movement is do we continue our existing strategy—having defeated them on the Industrial Relations Act do we garner all our strength and defeat them on the Counter-Inflation Act?'

This is a dangerous and fundamental error. Birch was right to insist earlier in the debate that trade unionists must have 'no truck whatsoever' with the Tories. But the SLL warns: **this government is going to fight back—it has to.**

Since the breakdown of the previous round of talks with the TUC, last November, the

Tories have been preparing for a 'dirty' snap election, in which they would use the mass media to witch-hunt and smear all opposition to their wage-cutting policies.

On December 23 we disclosed that the highest Tory circles had already prepared a contingency plan, involving a red scare against the SLL and other left-wing groups, if they were forced to go to the country. No Tory has ever been able to deny these disclosures.

The situation in which Heath may be forced to play his 'last card' may be closer than it appears.

His only other apparent alternative is to return to the policies of confrontation which so signally failed against the miners in 1972 and which took his government to the brink of being forced out of office.

But it was precisely from these policies that the Tories retreated into the current talks. To return to them now, when the engineers' union votes show the enormous confidence and militancy of the working class would betray hopeless desperation.

The SLL would be a premier target in a 'scare' election not only because we are the only organization which has continually insisted on the need to force the Tories to resign, but because of our constant ex-

posure of the Labour and trade union leaders.

Despite the succession of scandals which have rocked the Heath government—despite Poulson, Lorrho and Lambton-Jellicoe—the Labour leaders remain paralysed.

All they can produce in answer to the manifest corruption revealed by the crisis are bits and pieces of plans for 'an extension of public ownership'.

These plans solve none of the problems of the working class, while leaving the ruling class completely free to pursue its repressive aims of smashing the labour movement and encouraging the forces of the corporate state and dictatorship.

If the working class is to win the coming, decisive struggles it must unite on the basis of socialist policies.

The lynch-pin of such policies must be nationalization of all basic industries without compensation and under workers' control. The Labour leaders must be told: implement these policies or get out and make way for those who will.

The central question in the present situation is the building of alternative, revolutionary leadership—the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party.

Following last month's highly successful pre-conference, we

have now set the date for the founding conference of the party. It will take place on Sunday, November 4. Note the date.

And in preparation of the November 4 conference, next Sunday, July 1, will see the most important rally of trade unionists since the Tory government came to power.

There, at Belle Vue, Manchester, we have created the conditions for the biggest and most extensive discussion of all the problems facing the working-class movement in this most decisive period.

This discussion will bring together the men and women—many of whom are coming into politics for the first time—who will bear the chief responsibility of leadership in the crucial months and years ahead.

**We call on all members of the All Trades Unions Alliance, the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League to fight as never before, following the engineering unions' decisions, to bring the largest possible numbers of trade unionists to the Belle Vue rally.**

No one can now doubt that the working class is on the move.

Now it is up to the revolutionary forces to provide decisive leadership, break the stranglehold of capitalism and establish socialism.