

U.S. feeling the pinch already

Market entry means new trade war

BRITAIN'S bid for entry into the Common Market is certain to set the stage for a major world trade war.

BY PETER JEFFRIES

This is now the opinion of leading businessmen and members of the Nixon Administration in Washington. A growing section of the Republican Party is pressing for stringent legislation to keep out Japanese and European goods from the American market.

Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and probably the most powerful man in Congress, Mr Wilbur Mills, has decided to sponsor a bill to restrict textile and footwear imports to their 1967-1969 level, which would mean a 20 per cent drop from current figures.

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Threat

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American farmers in particular will suffer large market losses if Britain gains entry to Europe, as well as increased competition for foodstuffs throughout the world.

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● PAGE FOUR COL. 7

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But the strikers have already had more than a taste of productivity dealing. In 1966 a productivity deal

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A statement from the strike committee yesterday said:

'This extra support and the fact that Vickers-Armstrong, Crayford, have ignored the Employers' Federation and the national agreement and have settled for a 50s increase without strings, strengthened our case.'

'We have a meeting with the Employers' Federation this Thursday and we hope they've realized the seriousness of the situation and will not put themselves in the position of offering another 5s.'

'They should be prepared to make a serious offer.' The new Vickers agreement puts workers there £4-55 ahead of Sovex workers.

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What we think
The news behind the news

THE WORKERS PRESS was the only newspaper yesterday to place the fall of the Italian coalition government in its real international class context.

While the capitalist press and the Stalinist 'Morning Star' treated Rumor's resignation as simply another accident on the parliamentary seasaw, the Workers Press underlined its important lessons for British workers facing the fight against Tory anti-union laws.

The instability of the Italian government is produced by the continual intensification of the class struggle in Italy—now at a most acute stage.

Over the past two years, section after section of Italian workers have come forward in continuous strike struggles: local strikes, national strikes, sectional and general strikes, factory occupations, mass demonstrations and battles with the police.

The general strike threat which ended Rumor's ramsack 100 days was part of an attempt by the union chiefs to hold back this struggle and contain it within the bounds of protest.

What broke the back of the government was the wave of working-class support for the 9,000 workers provocatively suspended by the Fiat motor company at its Rivalta plant in Turin.

Despite this provocation the treacherous union leaders—Stalinist, social-democratic and Christian alike—called off the threatened strike as soon as the government announced its resignation.

They are trying, above all, to contain the movement of the working class within the parliamentary channels laid down by Italian capitalism.

Once already this century Italian capitalism has shown its contempt for its own parliamentary framework; for 23 years it ruled through Mussolini's fascist dictatorship.

The parliamentary cretins in the Italian union leadership are preparing to send the working class along the same road.

The Italian Stalinists, who have a following of millions in the Italian working class, play a key role. But in spite of their betrayals, the Italian workers are strong and confident.

In bringing Rumor to his knees they struck a major blow at the Fiat management and the entire Italian ruling class.

With the Tories planning to introduce anti-union laws in Britain, the fall of the Rumor cabinet has important lessons for British workers.

But in order to seize the power it needs a revolutionary leadership against the treacherous Stalinist and reformist leaders.

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Loopholes

Many of these firms have taken advantage of readily available loopholes in the financial regulations of several of the smaller European states, notably Luxembourg and Holland, to reduce their tax bills to a minimum as well as to negotiate considerable interest-free loans—often running to as much as 70 per cent of the cost of new capital investment—from these governments.

Opposition to increased American economic penetration into Europe has been stimulated by the still unsolved world monetary crisis and the continuing pressure against the dollar.

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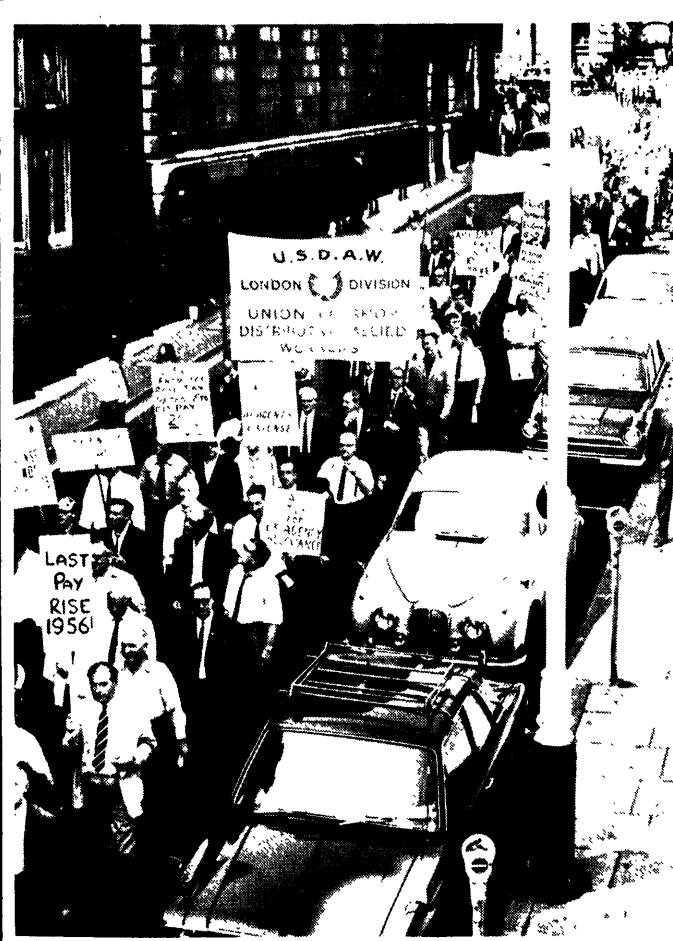
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The Israelis claim that the missiles were Russian SAM 2s, and that SAM 3s, launched by Soviet personnel, are also in operation.

The Egyptian government has denied that Russians are directly involved in the firing.

Nixon's statement of last week, stressing the danger of Soviet arms build-up in the Middle East, has encouraged the Israelis to think they will get the planes.

But many observers have commented on the apparent contradiction between Nixon's speech, as well as opinions leaked from the White House at the weekend, and the State Department 'peace plan' issued by Rogers and still under discussion.

There seems little doubt that the State Department represents the main line of US strategy for a Middle-East settlement.

This is largely dependent on the co-operation of the Soviet leaders in holding back the Arab mass movement against Zionism.

Nasser's trip to Moscow had still not ended yesterday, even though Kosygin and Gromyko had left for Bucharest.

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camp

At the camp, there will be lectures and discussion on philosophy, history and other subjects which have featured in Workers Press. If you are interested and would like to attend the Summer Camp, please complete form below:

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CRISIS IN THE



FACTORIES

BY
BERNARD FRANKS

Does MDW mean full-time working and more security of employment?

NO, THE employer will shut you out as quickly in the event of shortage of material etc. in a MDW factory, as he will under piecework, and he will put you on short time or declare a redundancy just as quickly if he can't sell his commodities.

No employer will give any guarantees of employment worth anything, he knows too much about the anarchy of his own system—the capitalist mode of production.

Under this system he does not know what he can sell from one week to the next. He accepts this as necessary if production is to continue to take place for his own private profit, planning is out of the question under this system, he just makes sure that workers suffer and not him.

In some cases, managements are introducing new work-study systems like MTM into existing piecework systems. Why is this?

IN THE early days of capitalism, piecework was a system wholly to the employers' advantage. On the one hand, the price-per-piece system forced the worker to labour at tremendous speed, driven on not by supervision, but by the need to earn enough for his very existence. competition between workers for jobs—the fact that there was always another worker waiting on the doorstep willing to accept a lower rate—ensured that the pieceworker could be kept to a minimum and revised downwards every time a new machine brought about an increase in production.

TRAP

With the growth of trade unionism and powerful factory, site and docks organization, the employer became caught in a trap of his own making.

As it was no longer an easy matter to turn one worker against another, his basis for piecework reductions was gone. But as the workers had been convinced that they were being paid according to output, they naturally expected that when production increased, then their pay would keep pace.

The growth of science and technology, a constant stream of new machinery, and methods which allowed more products to be turned out in a given time, put the onus, not so much on the worker to increase piece rates, but on the employer to try and find an alternative method of holding down payments.

Even in Marx's time this

difficulty existed for the employers. Marx explains how in certain cases they attempted to get round the problem:

... where a particular rate of piecework has for a long time been fixed by tradition, and its lowering therefore presented especial difficulties, the masters in such exceptional cases, sometimes had recourse to its compulsory transformation into time wages.

In the present time, piecework in many industries has become a powerful method of keeping up with the rising cost of living.

CAREFULLY

In very strongly-organized factories, where high wages are based on piecework earnings, the employers have to tread extremely carefully indeed when attempting to eliminate this system and replace it with one that gives them complete control.

In these cases it is no easy matter to effect its compulsory transformation into time wages.

The introduction of the new system has to be made very gradually, phased over a long period.

In this situation the first step is to break down the existing piecework system and to implement aspects of productivity bargaining step by step.

The Prices and Incomes Board has produced a special handbook on this titled 'Payment - By - Results Systems' (PBR) (report No 65, May 1968, HMSO 7s 9d) which explains the dangers to the employers of 'wage drift' and of a 'decayed' piecework system.

The report advises the 'revision' of the piecework system by the replacement of the old methods of rate fixing with work-study methods.

Later, this can lead to the introduction of pre-determined motion-time systems and 'synthetics'.

Also advised is that work standards in PBR systems should be expressed in terms of 'allowed' or 'standard times' rather than as piecework prices.

The report also notes that workers, fed up with the constant struggle needed with PBR systems to maintain price-rates, may be induced to 'trade off' this system in return for 'alternative advantages'.

Finally, an onslaught on mutuality is regarded as essential. The system by which foreman or raterfixer and worker argue out the price per piece on the shop floor on 'equal' terms and by 'mutual' agreement has, in fact, been a key to the production worker's success in maintaining real wage levels.

The worker, although he

argues individually, has behind him all the power of a united shop of workers who are not climbing at the expense of other workers, but with their direct support.

Within piecework systems it is, above all else, mutuality which the government, employers and consultants aim to destroy. They want to replace it with a system like Measured-Day Work, which seeks to dictate a speed of working that must be adhered to every minute of the day between official breaks.

How do the new work-studied incentive bonus schemes operate?

WITH THESE systems, work to be done in a fixed time is allotted by a work-study man.

The work actually done by the worker is measured against a rating performance scale on which the work allotted or 'work specification' represents a standard performance level.

Payment begins at a certain point on the scale and rises until full bonus (usually 33 1/3 per cent of the basic) is paid out at standard performance.

This system is often used where operatives cannot be watched and controlled all the time, for example, on building sites, or with much craft work, where some incentive is needed to encourage the workers to hold themselves to the levels of working demanded.

Also, it is regarded by the expert to be sufficiently close to piecework to be claimed as a 'viable alternative'.

There are a number of scales in use to measure rating and performance. These are: The 0/100 (where '0' corresponds to no activity, and '100' is the standard rate of working. This is the scale recommended by the British Standards Institute and is known as the BSI scale).

The 60/80 scale (Bedaux's original scale).

The 75/100 and the 100/133 scales.

Bonus payments started at the lower levels—60 on the 60/80, 75 on the 75/100, with the BSI scale payments often at 45 or 50.

BONUS

Standard bonus (33 1/3 per cent, etc.) is paid out at standard performance level, though payments may also be made beyond this, depending on the scheme being operated and on the policy of the consultants.

Just what the consultants mean by standard performance and standard rating can be seen from the definition of standard rating given by the British Standards Institution.

It can be seen that this entire concept is totally unscientific, resting purely on the opinion of the observer as to what is 'average rate' and what is 'appropriate relaxation' etc.:

Standard Rating is:

'The rating corresponding to the average rate at which qualified workers will naturally work at a job, provided they adhere to the specified method and provided they are motivated to apply themselves to their work. If the standard rating is maintained and the approximate relaxation is taken, a worker will achieve standard performance over the working day or shift.' (BSI emphasis.)

8

MEASURED DAY WORK and other systems of 'Productivity' payment

Often, with work-studied incentive bonus schemes, the operatives are required to make up their own record sheets, giving details of work done, delays, etc. and bonuses are worked out from this information.

Payments are made either for a group effort or on an individual basis. Group bonuses are paid to workers operating as a team. The individual bonuses are very much favoured by employers as they separate workers from each other completely in terms of pay.

The consultants' line is quite clear on this. R. M. Currie, a leading work-study expert advises in his book:

'Schemes should, wherever possible, be applied to individuals. Where this is not practicable the scheme should be confined to the smallest possible team of workers engaged on a self-contained readily definable task.' ('Financial Incentives Based on Work Measurement' page 15.)

Of course, the employers at all times wish to return to the situation where it is every man

where estimators find rating difficult or even impossible. The worker is set times for each operation and is paid for the proportion of time saved.

The essence of this particular system is that the payment curve eventually reaches a ceiling beyond which no extra money can be earned, however much the performance is increased.

ONE-THIRD

THE HALSEY SYSTEM
Based on the Rowan Plan, pays one-third of the time saved.

THE WEIR SYSTEM
Pays one-half of the time saved.

THE RUCKER PLAN SCANLON PLAN

Both American systems, these pay workers from a special bonus pool related to output and to the financial state of the firm in question.

SCALES				Walk rate M.P.H.
Bedaux 60-80	75- 100	100- 133	0-100 BSI	
0	0	0	0	0
40	50	67	50	2
60	75	100	75	3
80	100	133	100	4
120	150	167	125	5

RATING SCALES WITH THEIR WORKING RATE DESCRIPTIONS AND EQUIVALENT WALKING SPEEDS.

The rating scales depend on the opinion of the consultants as to how the descriptions given (very slow, operative half asleep, etc.) relate to walking speeds. Payments are related to these scales for bonus purposes or simply to the standard performance level for MDW.

for himself and each man is fighting his fellow-worker as well as the employer.

One question often put by workers who are told that these systems are paid according to effort is, how can this be possible when it is those who get the 'easy run of work' with no complications who finish quickly and earn bonus, while those workers with a more complicated task with many difficulties, run over the time specified and earn nothing?

The consultants' answer to this is that there are 'swings and roundabouts' with this type of working, and that losses on the 'problem' jobs will be made up on less troublesome jobs.

In fact, it is this non-allowance for complications—which must inevitably occur with every kind of work—that enables bonus payments to be held down, while enormous quantities of work are done.

There are a number of variations on the work-studied incentive bonus theme. All are aimed at stopping 'wage drift' and gradually eliminating the traditional bonus or piecework systems. They are usually named after their originators. The main systems are:

THE ROWAN PLAN

This is a premium bonus scheme aimed at holding down 'excessive earnings' especially

cies made possible by job evaluation which will prevent drift, and not just job evaluation itself.'

Each of the grades defined by job evaluation are associated with rates of pay which are then expected to be associated with MDW performance levels.

This is the policy considered most likely to contribute to the elimination of 'wage drift'.

Productivity deals sometimes have a policy allowance included. What exactly is this?

THIS IS special allowance applied in order to boost earnings.

This may be paid deliberately to ensure that an adequate sum is being earned while a scheme is going through a trial period. Or it might be the face-saving name given to an increase won by the workers over and above anything allowed by the official agreement.

POLICY

The fact that this is recognized as a standard part of productivity bargaining is seen from the fact that the policy allowance is actually given a definition by the British Standards Institution. This is as follows: (their emphasis.)

'POLICY ALLOWANCE. "An increment other than bonus increment applied to standard time (or some constituent part of it, e.g. work content) to provide a satisfactory level of earnings for a specified level of performance under exceptional circumstances.'

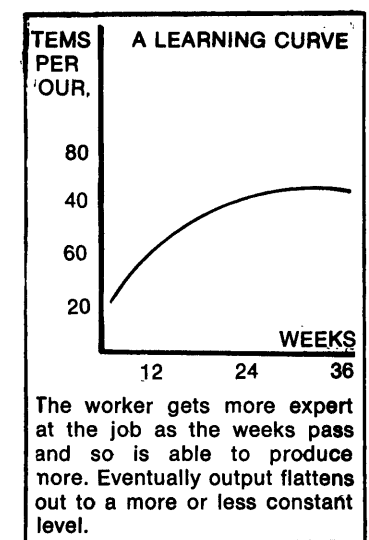
What is the 'learning curve'?

THIS IS the representation on a graph of the fact that a worker will increase production over a long period because he gradually becomes more experienced and learns many short cuts and quicker ways to get the job done.

This is said to be one of the factors contributing to wage drift because bonus targets set during the early days of a job eventually become easily attainable as the workers concerned become more efficient.

According to the 'experts'—and the PL—this must be stopped.

Instead, they state that this curve must be taken into consideration when standards are being set for new jobs or new workers, or when they



The worker gets more expert at the job as the weeks pass and so is able to produce more. Eventually output flattens out to a more or less constant level.

WEEK NUMBER	STANDARD MINUTE ALLOWANCE
1	60
2	45
3	30
4	15
5	0

A 'learning allowance', in the form of standard minute credits may be given covering the first weeks of a productivity payment system in order to ensure that wages are high in the initial stages of the scheme.

allowance, the tightness of the times is fully experienced.

(b) By starting on the basis of loose times which allow large payments to be made, then constantly retiming as the worker learns the job. For the management, this has the advantage of allowing for early high payments similar to the first system, also, it lays down the right to re-time all work from the very first day of the scheme.

Of course, the management deny this has any connection with rate-cutting. With the new 'scientific' double-talk this becomes instead:

'Period adjustment to work standards in line with the variations in the job-cycle associated with the learning curve.'

(c) By leaving 'open' or 'unfixed' a number of times so that the work has a number of 'loopholes' which enable reasonable money to be earned. Work which has not been given a final time has a temporary value assigned to it, so that earnings at this stage are not too restricted.

Gradually, as the worker learns the job, the temporary rates are all fixed at their final values.

The advantage to the employers of this system is that it can give some workers the impression that they are successfully fighting (or fiddling) the system, whereas of course the 'loopholes' in the scheme are quite deliberate and part of the system.

VARIATIONS

Variations and different combinations of these three methods can be expected. As can be seen, these systems amount to just one big confidence trick to get acceptance of some of the worst systems of exploitation ever devised.

Exactly how are wages held down by these systems?

A MDW system may be introduced along with a sizeable payment to get it accepted.

Any money paid out for this the employers get back through increased output and through reductions in the labour force.

Later, the facility of MDW for holding down payment to 'standard performance' level is expected to lower wage costs relative to rising prices of materials and new equipment.

We have already mentioned the way Measured-Day Work requires that the worker 'chase' a particular level of working simply to get his normal payment, and that manipulation of 'credits' in work-studied incentive bonus brings down payments.

Another major system, this time of actually cutting take-home pay is the elimination of overtime.

As explained previously, work-study systems can compress ten hours' work into eight hours, so cutting out overtime.

This, in effect, drastically cuts the workers' weekly take-home pay. For example, a worker getting a basic take-home pay of £16 a week of 40 hours, but earning a further £6 a week on overtime, making £22 in all, might be offered an extra £2 a week under a productivity agreement.

But the terms of this agreement might well include a proposal that all work be compressed into the 40 hours by means of modern time-and-motion systems.

This means that the worker has gained £2 but lost £6 from the loss of overtime, so taking home only £18.

Thus, he is £4 a week

work off, although he is turning out exactly the same quantity of work as previously.

Is it really worth fighting for more wages when all it does is to chase up prices?

WE SHOULD scotch this story of wages chasing prices and prices chasing wages.

The prices of commodities are in no way dependant on how much is paid in wages to those who make them. We have already explained that the value of a commodity rests on the amount of labour that has gone into its production, and this, under capitalism, always works out at a far greater amount than is paid to the worker for his labour power.

The fact that workers put in for a rise means they are simply demanding a greater share of the surplus value that the employer has taken for himself.

Karl Marx exposed the fallacy that the price of commodities is determined by the price of labour power, and gave many examples of rising wages taking place at a time of falling prices.

For example, in the period of 1849-1859, a rise of 40 per cent in the wages of agricultural workers took place.

In the same period, the price of wheat fell by 16 per cent.

In our own time, workers will know that no slow-down on rising prices has occurred at any time during the wage freeze. It is purely a one-way ticket, wages chasing prices.

Not to put in for an increase for any reason means an actual cut in real wages, relative to continuously rocketing prices.

As Marx explains in his pamphlet 'Wages, Price and Profit':

'... the very development of modern industry must progressively turn the scale in favour of the capitalist against the working man, and that consequently the general tendency of capitalist production is not to raise, but to sink the average standard of wages or to push the value of labour more or less to its minimum limit.

'Such being the tendency of things in this system, it is saying that the working class ought to renounce their resistance against the encroachments of capital, and abandon their attempts at making the best of the occasional chances for their temporary improvement? If they did, they would be degraded to one level mass of broken wretches past salvation.'

What should we do about these attacks on piecework and about the introduction of productivity payment systems?

THE METHOD by which workers have enforced reasonable payments by ensuring that they are not left behind rising prices must be completely defended.

The revision of piecework payment systems, the change-over to time study's special brand of rating—as the criterion, as opposed to mutuality, is aimed at eliminating a piecework system which workers have built into a method of producing regular increases in wages.

Piecework and its mutuality system should be defended at all times against MDW and the new systems of payment.

In the context of wage freeze and productivity deals wages become a wholly political question. It is vital now for every worker to see this and not to regard wages as simply a question of negotiation and bargaining points.

To do this leaves the worker in a position where the selling of his conditions, his protective practices and eventually, even his wages, is not a question of principle but simply of price.

WAGE CLAIM

Wholly different is the use of a wage claim in a thoroughly political way.

The demand for a fixed payment without strings and worked out in line with the past period over which prices have risen and the estimates of the rise needed to cover the future period; also taking into consideration the introduction of new machinery, automation, etc., acts as a formidable weapon whether MDW systems are being proposed or are already in operation.

Examples of this kind are seen with the Liverpool dockers' demand for £60 a week with no strings and the railmen's claim for a 25 per cent increase.

Put this way, and linked with the demand for a shorter working day, shorter working week and longer holidays, they play an important role in the political struggle against the attacks of the employers, the government, and in the fight against the systems of exploitation; in particular the productivity deal.

Continued next Wednesday.

I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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

Name

Address

NOTHING exposes idealist illusions more ruthlessly than the concrete. In the face of reality they appear like moths the fluttering of insubstantial wings in an act of faith.

A fluttering of wings

A useful demonstration of this sharp contrast can be seen at Unity Theatre in a documentary drama entitled 'South Africa '70'.

All the material in it is based on facts, events, verbatim reports, government papers, personal experiences, political statements.

As an exercise in theatrical propaganda its an interesting one, well staged, well paced, it begins as something gripping. There is something very dramatic in the pure presentation of facts.

Slides projected onto a screen announce conditions, laws, statistics etc. From the stage actors give reports of events, and act them out, particularly compelling what the laws mean to a black African, how they curtail and define his every move, how he is subjected always to police brutality and arrest, how he has no real social life, nor any life other than to fulfil the requirements of S African capitalism.

What the facts make clear is the relationship of the black worker to the state, how the entire economy is based on an unemployed labour pool, who are forbidden the right to organize, to live and move at will.

A situation exists where capitalism reduces black workers to the purest level of wage slavery. They are shunted around as a labour force. When not required or unemployed they are shunted back to the townships.

That is therefore the economic meaning of apartheid, it's real meaning. The information in the first act spells this out eloquently and harshly.

And what a contrast to the craven hotchpotch of protesters who give their voice in the second and third acts. ANC, Black Sash, white liberals, the whole circus of sad dissidents who peck pathetically at the problem like gnats.

But gnats too have a bite and behind the sorrow, the suffering, the imprisonments, the risks to life and liberty, is the sting of reformist betrayal.

And no more eloquently stated than out of the mouth of Nelson Mandela.

For all the protests about the dignity and rights of man, he states his task clearly.



SOUTH AFRICA '70
directed by PAUL TOMLINSON
designed by JERRY SPRING
until July 12 at the UNITY THEATRE
1, Cambridge St. NW1

Reviewed by BRIAN MOORE

S African workers await transportation to the mines. Identity tags on their wrists indicate the shipment of labour to which each worker is assigned. (Picture from Ernest Cole's HOUSE OF BONDAGE.)

Not the communist revolution for him, but the role of containing the rage of the masses and channelling it into reformist ventures. Democracy for all—black and white capitalists.

It is this tragic and Philistine understanding of the real economic conditions that bedevils the revolutionary movement in S Africa.

Unconsciously, against itself (for it is an unashamed mouthpiece for the ANC) the play exposes the contradictions. Merely by juxtaposing reality with illusions it helps to clarify the question.

And that question is not resolved for the S African masses by the act of faith hope and charity that concludes the piece. That battle is fought out elsewhere.

'ALL THE WAY UP' is a film version of David Turner's stage play 'Semi-detached' and the changed title gives the key to the Carry-on style double entendre that follows.

Turner's talent as a TV dramatist has always been in a minor key, but at his best he has a marvellous ear and eye for the pretensions of the lower middle class, and though some of that remains in this film, most of his sharpness for detail has been blunted by the deliberate decision to go for a broader style.

The result is a patchy comedy where bawdy farce replaces real social observation.

'All the Way Up' is a story of getting on, of petty-bourgeois

CINEMA By Brian Moore

ambition, of status, hypocrisy and double-dealing.

In this respect the content, promises something sharp and critical; in realization it becomes a family romp.

Warren Mitchell plays the part of the father who has manoeuvred himself into the position of head of the Starlight insurance branch by slandering his earlier rivals with poison pen letters.

The move into the semi-detached belt out of the two up two down of earlier origins represents only the first triumphant step up the ladder of status.

Family and social life is dominated by the desire to appear better than their next door neighbour, two silent observers next door.

One daughter has been married off to the heir of a local button factory, the other one is biding her time.

All appears promising, until the young son gets his girlfriend pregnant. He decides to get his girl married off to someone rich and together they choose the owner of the button factory, who falls for her in a big way.

The news of their forthcoming marriage upsets though the rest of the family's aspirations, for the factory owner's nephew falls out of line of inheritance if there is a child, and there threatens to be one.

The film concerns itself with the farcical manipulations of this situation, which are at times quite funny.

Mitchell's pretensions and deviousness are amusing, particularly the posh accent he adopts.

But all the time there are merely broad hints at the potential subject matter, the real tensions involved in social climbing, the aping of the middle class, the mean-minded ambition which makes all real human response subservient to its needs, the reduction of everything to a commodity.

It is a world where appearance predominates over reality.

Yet the film fails to communicate a real world. The settings are familiar enough, the family familiar enough, but they are mere caricatures, in the end just actors giving comic performances. There is no real social sharpness.

The French, the Italians and the Czechs are able to make social comedies, because they define their world with a great eye for detail and a simplicity of exposition.

The comedy derives from an understood reality, flows from the situation. All great comedy does from Shakespeare through to Chaplin.

But 'All the Way Up' leans too heavily on extraneous tricks, on gimmicks, on milk boiling over in kettles, or motor cars boiling up, or simply funny faces. It bears all the imprint of what is vulgarly considered commercial.

This is James MacTaggart's first venture into film.

He is a man responsible either directly or indirectly for real innovations in television drama.

He was the first producer of the Wednesday Play and has many distinguished credits in his record. But he is yet to make the transition into film which bears the stamp of his own creative personality.

Warren Mitchell



In this he shares the fate of many directors who are forced to fall foul of the capitalist film industry, where the pressures are enormous and talent is often stifled—the clock and the budget are always on your back.

And the pattern becomes even more ominous.

Simply, capital is being withdrawn from the film industry, studios close, men are made redundant.

Those few films that are made are placed more and more at the mercy of the requirements of profit and quick turnover.

It never was and it certainly isn't now any way to run an industry.

These tensions flash out with every cut in 'All the Way Up'.

All the way down

ALL THE WAY UP
starring WARREN MITCHELL
directed by JAMES MACTAGGART

Workers Press notebook

LAST THURSDAY'S papers carried pictures of Tory Housing Minister, Peter Walker, looking at slum houses in Brixton.

SLUM

The point of the story was transparently obvious—to underline the overcrowded conditions which many immigrant families are forced to live and so to lend support to Tory plans to restrict immigration even more than the Labour government had done.

In the course of his tour on Wednesday morning, Walker had said:

'All I can do here is to express my disgust at any human being who exploits other human beings in this dreadful way.'

There is no doubt about Walker's sincerity in relation to slum landlords. Until taking up his Ministry last week, he numbered among his many directorships the Rodwell Group, one of the biggest development companies.

Walker spent much of his time until the election being managing director of Slater Walker Securities, a £72 million investment banking group.

He was also on the boards of several unit trusts.

So we can be sure he would never exploit anybody by extorting high rents for rat-infested property.

Why should he?



Peter WALKER

CLEARANCE

The case of the Somerset spy



Head of Military Intelligence at Wiveliscombe

A RECENT broadcast from Prague certainly confirms predictions of a show trial on traditional Stalinist lines.

It consists of reminiscences by Bretislav Vejda of a Russian sent to advise the Ministry of State Control in the early 1950s.

Vejda recalls 'Comrade Zhukov, a Soviet specialist in the control sector as 'an elderly, greying man of proletarian origin'. And what a nice chap this GPU man must have been.

'He was very diligent and modest... untiringly interested in our home conditions... He even found time for lessons in Czech...'

'I never saw him give an arbitrary order or interfere. He kept turning our attention to the mistakes we made...'

Then comes the point of the exercise. 'I also watched at close quarters his behaviour at the time of the Slansky trial. I witnessed no direct or indirect inter-

ference on his part. Only documents from production sectors which were used as background papers for the trial were translated for him. He methodically commented on them from the viewpoint of an expert controller.'

So the time has returned when 'expert' work on the 1952 frame-up is respectable and praiseworthy.

Workers Press readers will remember our January report that Russian 'advisers' from the early 1950s are returning to Prague to continue this work, so rudely interrupted when Stalin died.

The crudity of the Slansky trial certainly implied that the Czech Stalinists were in need of help from their more experienced Russian colleagues.

'The idea of a conspiracy whose centre was Mr Noel Coward appeared strange even to the most devout Stalinist.'

To recall one more example. Vavro Hadju, one of Slansky's few non-Jewish co-defendants, 'confessed' to having been recruited as a spy when in Britain in 1939.

It all happened, he told the court, in Wiveliscombe. The chief of police called him to an interview and elicited information about industry in Slovakia.

Seven years later, when Hadju was a delegate to the Paris Peace Conference, Sir Gladwyn Jebb met him and at once told him that he knew all about the Wiveliscombe talk.

Patient research has revealed that Wiveliscombe is a Somerset metropolis whose population had risen by 1967 to 1,141.

In 1939, the 'chief of police' must have been in the confidence of leading circles of British Intelligence and on the look-out for all possible information about Slovakian industry, at that time under German occupation.

We can imagine Vejda's Russian mentor shaking his grey head over such a clanger, and gently chiding his Czech pupils.

No wonder the would-be trial-fixers of 1970 are grateful for the help received from Moscow, as they prepare for a new round of frame-ups.

BBC 1
10.55 a.m. Open golf championship and Gillette Cup cricket. 1.30 p.m. Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News, weather. 1.55-2.30 Ar golf news or wasgar. Industrial change and the church. 3.00 Golf and cricket. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 'The Magic Puzzle'. Film from Czechoslovakia. 5.20 Tom Tom. 5.44 Abbott and Costello. 5.50 News and weather.
6.00 LONDON.
6.20 MUSIC ON COMMAND FROM THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA.
6.45 THE DOCTORS.
7.10 LAUREL AND HARDY. 'The Midnight Patrol'.
7.30 COMEDY PLAYHOUSE. 'Mind Your Own Business'. With Hilda Fenemore, Norman Bird, Tony Selby and Derek Griffiths.
8.00 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE.
8.50 NEWS and weather.
9.10 FROST OVER AMERICA. David Frost with Sammy Davis Jr.
9.10 HE WHO DARES. 'A Place Beyond Time'. A Czech who spent nine months in solitary confinement and under constant interrogation tells his story.
10.30 24 HOURS.
11.05 THE FIFTIES. Recollections. 11.20 Weather.

REGIONAL ITV
CHANNEL: 2.00-4.05 London. 4.27 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 African patrol. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Nanny and the professor. 7.30 London. 9.00 Music hall. 10.00 London. 11.45 Epilogue, weather.
WESTWARD: As Channel except: 4.25 News. 4.27 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 11.45 Faith for life. 11.50 Weather.
HARLECH: 2.30-4.00 London. 4.25 Women today. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report. 6.10 F troop. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 9.00 Department S. 10.00 London. 11.45 Weather.
HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.23-4.25 and 6.01-6.35 Scene West.
HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 as above except: 11.45 Y dydd. 12.15 Weather.
HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 6.01 Y dydd. 6.30-6.35 Report Wales.
ANGLIA: 1.00 Royal Show. 2.00-4.05 London. 4.25 Newsroom. 4.35 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Ghost and Mrs Muir. 7.30 London. 9.00 Music Hall. 10.00 London. 11.45 Reflection.
ATV MIDLANDS: 1.00 Royal show. 2.00 London. 4.02 Women today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Tingha and Tucker. 4.55 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Branded. 7.30 London. 9.00 Music hall. 10.00 London. 11.45 Pulse, weather.
ULSTER: 2.00-4.05 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Viewfinder. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 9.00 Music hall. 10.00 London. 10.30 From glen to glen. 11.00 London.
YORKSHIRE: 1.00 Royal show. 2.00 London. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 Matinee. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 F troop. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 9.00 Music hall. 10.00 London. 11.45 Weather.
GRANADA: 1.30 Encore-university challenge. 2.00-4.00 London. 4.10 News. Short story. 4.40 Tingha and Tucker. 4.55 London. 6.00 Newsview. 6.10 Octopus. 6.30 Big valley. 7.30 London. 9.00 Music hall. 10.00 London.
TYNE TEES: 12.55-1.30 Post graduate medicine. 2.00 London. 4.10 Newsroom. 4.15 My three sons. 4.40 Tuktuk. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 9.00 Music hall. 10.00 London. 11.45 News. Midnight epilogue.
BORDER: 2.00-4.05 London. 4.13 News. 4.15 Freud on food. 4.40 Tingha and Tucker. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 9.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 9.00 Music hall. 10.00 London. 11.45 News, weather.
SCOTTISH: 1.15-1.45 Post graduate medicine. 2.00-4.00 London. 4.15 London. 6.00 Summer scene. 6.30 Raw-deal. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 9.00 Music Hall. 10.00 London. 11.00 Gateway. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Two-shot golf.
GRAMPIAN: 1.00 Royal show. 2.00-4.05 London. 4.25 Handful of songs. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Mad movies. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 Music hall. 10.00 London.

REGIONAL BBC
All regions as BBC 1 except:
Midlands and E Anglia: 6.00-6.20 Midlands today. Look East, weather. 11.22 News, weather.
North of England: 6.00-6.20 Look North, weather. 11.22 News, weather. Wales: 6.00-6.20 Spotlight South-West. 6.45-7.10 Heddiw. 8.00-8.20 Club-line. 8.20-8.50 Maes a mor. 10.00-10.30 Bric-a-brac.
Scotland: 6.00-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 11.22 News, weather.
N Ireland: 6.00-6.20 Scene around six, weather. 11.22 News, weather. South and West: 6.00-6.20 Points West. South-West: 6.00-6.20 Spotlight South-West. 6.45-7.10 Heddiw. 8.00-8.20 Club-line. 8.20-8.50 Maes a mor. 10.00-10.30 Bric-a-brac.
11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 4.20-6.30 p.m. GOLF. 7.30 NEWS and weather. 8.00 MAN ALIVE. Borstal part one. 'The Sentence'. 8.50 CANVAS. Personal reflections on paintings. 9.10 SHOW OF THE WEEK. Mantovani and his concert orchestra. 10.00 GOLF Open Championship 1970. 10.30 'THE WEST OF CHARLES RUSSELL'. Portrait of the painter. 11.20 NEWS and weather. 11.25 LINE-UP.

ITV
2.00-4.00 p.m. Racing from Newmarket. 4.17 Tingha and Tucker club. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Anything you can do. 5.20 Freewheelers. 5.50 News. 6.03 I DREAM OF JEANNIE. 6.30 THE SAINT. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 INSIDE THE MIND OF DAVE ALLEN. Dave Allen with Bob Todd, Michael Sharvell-Martin, Nicole Shelby and the Ladybirds. 9.00 TALES OF EDGAR WALLACE. 'Death Trap'. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 NEAREST AND DEAREST. 11.00 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING. From the Town Hall, Wembley. Tiber Szakacs v Albert Wall and Robby Baron v Joe Murphy. 12 midnight. Post mortem International. Godfrey Hodgson talks about the civil rights movement in the United States.

Reading from left to right

The 'Morning Star' for Tuesday, June 30 led with a story by Peter Zinkin about the Common Market Safeguards Campaign.

and Sir Gerald Nabarro. He omitted the name of Ronald Bell, who is also a supporter of the Campaign.

The wide opposition to the Market is seen in the new Tory bickers wrote Zinkin, 'who include Sir Stephen McAdden, Sir Eric Bullus, Mr Richard Body

'Mr Ronald Bell is Tory MP for South Bucks,' says Myant. 'What did he think of Powell's attacks on immigration and the Civil Service?'



'I might add that Mr Bell claims to have been one of the first to have supported legislation against the trade unions—as early as 1957; that he thinks "democracy in Britain is threatened more seriously than at any time in our history... because, as he says, "there are far too many Communists under far too many beds in this country".'

So now we know the kind of company the Stalinists are keeping these days.

Mail

FROM PAGE ONE

This kind of activity is, of course, nothing new for the British army, which has looted and burned its way across five continents in the course of its imperialist history.

The only difference between the Falls Road and the Aden Crater is that the military did not bother to set up complaints centres while they were in Aden.

The Army in N Ireland is only being the Army.

They can hardly be blamed if, being an imperialist occupying force, they act like one. If there are any illusions in the role of the British Army, the blame lies with the so-called socialists who have been assiduously sowing them since Wilson sent in the troops last August.

The International Socialism group of 'state capitalists' for example, joined with the Communist Party in proclaiming that the Army had been sent in 'to protect Catholic workers' and 'to stop bloodshed'. No doubt these anti-Marxists will now be lining up at the centres to complain that the Army has betrayed their trust.

Work-study man at the Ministry

AT LEAST 19 MPs now in parliament have been work-study or business consultants of some sort.

The man to have reached the highest position so far is Graham Page who has been made Tory Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

This appointment is 'a source of gratification to those engaged in work study', according to the current issue of the specialist magazine 'Work Study'.

It explains that Mr Page was secretary of the Institute of Work-Study Technologists from 1961 until it merged into the present Institute of Work-Study Practitioners of which he was one of the principal architects.

Result of productivity deal in Leeds

Clothing bosses sharpen axe on jobs

Special report from BARBARA SLAUGHTER

SHOCK REDUNDANCIES have been announced to cutters—members of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers—at John Collier's three Leeds clothing factories.

The men have been informed by union branch officials that the company plans to axe the number of cutters employed in the city by 50.

Rumours about impending redundancies had been circulating round the factories all week, but the scale of them burst like a bomb-shell into the meeting.

Stanley Rawson, managing director of John Collier, commented:

'We have to regard these redundancies as inevitable. The main reasons are the changing pattern of manufacture and the continuing loss of available labour in Leeds for many years. We have had to establish factories in the development areas, and have opened four in Scotland in the past two years. These have had to be self-contained with their own cutting rooms.'

When asked what he felt was the long-term future of the company in Leeds, he said: 'I do not feel that manufacturing is likely to fall below its present level in Leeds. But we have to face the fact that the housing areas round our main factory have been demolished and the available labour force in Leeds is falling slowly.'

The clothing trade is being moved out of Leeds, its traditional centre, into areas of high unemployment where labour can be obtained more cheaply.

The 'changing pattern of manufacture' Rawson speaks about means work-study, job evaluation and Measured-Day Work, measures which can be introduced more easily where there is no tradition of clothing manufacture.

The big firms are even more determined to make this move

since the magnificent clothing strike of February this year, when 30,000 workers showed that they were no longer prepared to put up with the low wages and bad conditions in the trade.

During the period of the strike the whole cutting room at the Lennox Rd factory was moved to a small factory in Lady Lane in the centre of Leeds.

The cutters were isolated from the rest of the factory and had to threaten strike action before their union representatives were given access to the factory at Lennox Rd.

The cutters now see this as a move towards the eventual closing down of their cutting room altogether. This was confirmed by the news about the proposed redundancies.

But they are determined to resist these attacks.

They told the Workers Press that the Leeds factories were being starved of work, whilst

WORKERS at Hepton's clothing factory in Leeds struck for three hours last week in defence of a steward allegedly struck by a foreman who was harassing a disabled worker.

A factory meeting insisted on the foreman's dismissal, booed down the factory manager's attempt to address them and rejected various formulas—suspension of the foreman pending

team—one man lays the cloth; one marks in (using a Lanner spray); one cuts the cloth (using an Eastman knife); one man makes up the bundles.

Each lay of cloth produces 1,760 pairs of trousers. To achieve 100 per cent production for the week the three teams have to produce 36,000 pairs. This averages out at 3,000 pairs per man per week.

At Burton's the cutter's board is 104 feet long, the cloth is 27" wide. Each lay is 23 thick. Two men working together produce approximately six lays a day. One lay produces 46 pairs of trousers. Two men therefore produce 276 pairs a day, that is 1,380 pairs a week. This averages 690 pairs per man per week.

Despite this tremendous difference in productivity, top-line wages at Collier's just before the strike were on average £3 per week less than at Burton's!

This is why Burton's have

negotiations etc.—put forward by union officials. The foreman was dismissed.

Workers contrasted this situation with an incident ten years ago when 30 cutters were sacked and then 26 re-employed, leaving four—including a shop steward—outside the gate.

'They wouldn't get away with that today,' a Workers Press reporter was told.

in the North East there was a tremendous amount of overtime being worked until very recently.

A meeting last Saturday agreed on work-sharing between the factories in the group.

Support for this policy is being sought from the North East factories.

But many cutters are aware that it will take more than this to defeat the United Draperies Combine of which John Collier's is a part.

The fate of these 50 cutters and other workers depends on raising this issue, and with it the fight against the national productivity agreement signed in January throughout the whole clothing industry.

Many of the workers at Collier's realize this. One of them said:

Promise

'In 1964 a document was signed in the factory guaranteeing that the introduction of work-study would not mean redundancy. We were promised that modernization would mean a good wage, a 35-hour week and more leisure time.

'Our wages have not improved, we are still working a 40-hour week, and we have no more leisure time. We have come to the point where the needs of profit clash with the needs of working men.'

The work-study methods advocated in the national productivity agreement are being pioneered at Collier's.

Kirt Salmon the work-study expert has had 12 men permanently in the Leeds factories for five years. During the strike Rawson boasted:

'In the past six years the productivity increase generally has been far, far in excess of 50 per cent.'

All kinds of new innovations have been introduced—adjustable plastic patterns which can be slotted to any size have taken practically all the skill out of the cutter's trade.

'Marking-in' the patterns is now done by a spraying machine. Much of the tailor's skill has been eroded by new methods of cutting and pressing.

The kind of productivity increases which can be achieved can be demonstrated by a comparison between production per man of trousers in Collier's cutting room and Montagu Burton's, where more traditional methods are still in use.

At Collier's the cutter's board is 120 feet long and the cloth is opened up to 54" wide. Each lay of cloth is 59 thick. The men work in three teams with four men in each

recently appointed work-study experts to the Leeds factory.

Guarantees against redundancy mean absolutely nothing.

Nobody has expressed this more clearly than the employers themselves.

In March 1969 a report was made by the Economic Development Council for the Clothing Industry.

Among the members of the Council were J. E. Newton, general secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, L. A. Matthews, assistant general secretary, Miss E. Sutton, industrial officer of the union, and Stanley Rawson, managing director of John Collier's.

The report concluded that as a conservative estimate productivity could be increased by 50 per cent.

'Benefits' would be greatest if all the increased productivity could be used to increase output, that is if the market continued to expand.

But the authors of the report, monopolists and trade unionists alike, were clear that this would not be possible.

They were preparing for an international trade war under conditions where demand is certain to fall.

The conclusion of the EDC report was that the major benefits of increased productivity would come from:

1. Increased sales associated with a reduction in price.
2. A reduction in the labour force.

The report anticipated that this would result in a total saving in the jacket, trouser and shirt sections of the British clothing industry of £20 million!

It is because of this whole situation that the Workers Press insisted throughout the recent clothing strike that the demand for the rejection of the national productivity agreement should be one of the central demands of the strike, along with the demand for 1s-an-hour increase.

Preparation

On February 28 we said: 'The National Clothing Productivity Agreement . . . is the employers' preparation for the increased competition and the increased export prospects offered by Common Market entry. For clothing workers it will mean speed up, redundancy and enormous cuts in living standards.'

It is against these recent developments that we must measure the record of the South, with temperatures near normal in all districts. Changeable with rain at times, but also sunny intervals, particularly in the S.

Resolution

The resolution finally calling off the strike must now be looked at again by every clothing worker. It began:

'The Leeds Clothing Strike Committee met on Thursday, February 26 and analysed the situation in the clothing industry in Leeds arising out of this strike.

(1) The Strike Committee are still in complete control of the strike and have stood firm during the whole period.

(2) We note that the International Men's and Boywear Exhibition will be held shortly and we hope to increase

British export performance . . .

'(4) Some firms are already feeling the pinch and lengthening the period for completion of orders . . .'

The class collaborationist nature of the resolution can be understood more clearly in the light of recent events at John Collier's.

When the strike was called off there was a substantial minority of the strike committee who completely opposed the resolution, but finally accepted it in the interests of unity.

Those workers must insist that a special meeting of the Leeds Clothing Workers' Committee should be called to organize the defence of the Collier's cutters.

The Committee must stand by its pledge to protect all clothing workers against victimization.

To fight the national agreement means to fight the Tory government and everything it stands for.

Opposition to speed-up and redundancy in the clothing industry must mean a fight for the nationalization of the clothing monopolies under workers' control.

The Collier's cutters must be defended!



WORKERS AT May and Baker's Dagenham chemical factory decided yesterday to continue their strike for a straight £4, 20 per cent pay rise, and rejected a management proposal which would have given increases of 11-18 per cent, consolidating special payments for working with certain chemicals.

The strikers—now in the third week of their dispute—have been promised support from the International Confederation of Chemical and General Workers' Unions.

WEATHER

London area, SE and central southern England, SE and W Midlands: heavy spells at first. Cloudy later, with outbreaks of thundery rain or thunderstorms. Wind variable or southerly, light or moderate. Hot. Max. 26C (79F). England: Rather cloudy, but some sunny intervals at first. Some coastal fog patches. Outbreaks of thundery rain or thunderstorms. Wind S to SE, light or moderate increasing fresh at times later. Very warm. Max. 24C (75F) but cooler on coasts.

NW and central northern England: Rather cloudy, some sunny intervals at first. Outbreaks of thundery rain or thunderstorms. Wind S to SE, moderate or fresh. Near normal. Max. 16C (61F). Edinburgh and E Scotland: Mostly cloudy, but with some bright periods. Perhaps a little rain or drizzle in places. Wind southerly, moderate or fresh. Warm. Max. 21C (70F).

N Ireland: Mostly cloudy, with rain at times. Hill fog patches. Wind southerly, moderate or fresh veering West later. Near normal. Max. 18C (64F).

Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Becoming cooler in the South, with temperatures near normal in all districts. Changeable with rain at times, but also sunny intervals, particularly in the S.

Dockers' 'sheet anchor' threatened

BY DAVID MAUDE

'IF THE government is going to strengthen the National Ports Council as they've said they would, they've got to give us some power over labour,' said Council chairman Sir Arthur Kirby in introducing his delayed annual report yesterday.

As a first step towards abolishing the National Dock Labour Board, the 'sheet anchor'—his words of dockers' rights for many years, and making each port authority 'master in its own house', Kirby suggested NPC representation on the Board.

'Action will be called for,' said the report, 'on three fronts: alongside a vigorous and sustained drive to improve efficiency and reduce costs, port prices will have to be kept continuously under review on a realistic basis.'

Members of the Council, which has been enthusiastically pressing dockers for productivity concessions involving work study and similar schemes, include Transport and General Workers' Union general secretary Jack Jones and General and Municipal Workers' Union general secretary Lord Cooper.

James and Cooper—together with T&GWU docks officers Timothy O'Leary and Peter Shea—also sit on NPC standing research and training committees.

Besides abolition of the NDLB, Kirby and NPC director general Morris Gifford yesterday also came out for elimination of the present split—between the Ministry of Technology and the Department of Employment and Productivity—in ministerial control over the docks.

Under the shadow of Dachau and Belsen

NAZI-LIKE JAILS IN VIETNAM

YET ANOTHER illustration of the nature of the S Vietnam US puppet regime is given in the horrifying report from the prison island of Con Son, 140 miles from Saigon. 500 men and women are shut up here in tiny stone cages, starved and beaten.

Mid-East

FROM PAGE ONE comment on the US plan, or the Egyptian and Soviet responses to it, from the Arab guerrilla movements.

The unexplained dismissal of Colonel Uthman Haddad from his post as Chief of Staff of the Palestine Liberation Army may conceal some conflict in the ranks of Al-Fatah, the largest of the guerrilla groups.

The danger that a deal at the expense of the Arab people will be agreed by Nasser and the Moscow bureaucracy is now very real. The nationalism of the guerrilla leadership prevents them from preparing for this sell-out.

Cables strikers to meet officials

THE MANAGEMENT at Standard Telephones' submarine cables subsidiaries at Erith and Greenwich have, after four weeks of strike at both plants, agreed to meet union officials this Friday.

This was announced at a mass meeting of the Greenwich workers yesterday.

The strike began over the proposed sacking of 280 workers from the two factories in Erith and Greenwich. While union officials were hoping for an early return to work, the danger of 'another round of redundancy' was raised at yesterday's meeting by convener Bill Wright who claimed that the employers were 'still keeping quiet over the future of the two factories after present contracts expired later in the year'.

Bad conditions admitted in Hungarian factories

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

THE SECRETARY of the Hungarian National Trade Union Council, in a report to a Council meeting last week, has revealed the serious situation facing women and young workers in Hungarian factories.

The secretary, Gabor Somoskoei, told the Council's presidium on July 2:

'The working and living conditions of working women must be considerably improved. Over 46 per cent of women employed in industry are still in places of work which are harmful to health. A considerable proportion of women who have accidents—33 per cent in handicrafts and home industry, 36 per cent in the textile industry and 39 per cent in the printing industry—are girls of 14 to 19.'

'The question justly arises why managers and trade union organs allow thousands of women to be employed in bad working conditions.'

Despite the unions' principles, he added, women did not receive equal pay for equal work.

This was a violation of the constitution and must not continue.

Another speaker, Mrs Janos Bugar of the Patriotic People's Front, pointed out that women's rights were recognized only when there was a shortage of labour.

The concern being expressed by these top Stalinist bureaucrats mirrors the growing hostility of deep layers of the Hungarian working class to the continued bureaucratic stranglehold on industry, which creates appalling conditions of work for the Hungarian working class.

No doubt Somoskoei's report hides more than it reveals, but it shows very clearly the worthlessness of even the most basic Stalinist 'constitutional guarantees' to the working class.

MEETINGS

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

SOUTHALL: Thursday July 9, 8 p.m. Southall Community Centre, Bridge Road, Southall. 'Fight back now! Force the Tories to resign!'

COVENTRY: Thursday, July 9, 7.30 p.m. City Arms, Smithford Way. 'The working class can defeat the Tory government.'

DAGENHAM: Thursday July 9, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Ilford lane, Ilford. 'Fight back now! Force the Tories to resign!'

GLASGOW: Sunday July 12, 2.30 p.m. Workers Press office, 46, West Princes St. 'Withdraw troops from Ulster! Force the Tories to resign!'

SE LONDON: Sunday July 12, 3 p.m. Kerfield Tavern, Grove lane, Camberwell Green, SE2. 'Anti-union laws and the Tory government.'

CRYDOND: Thursday July 16, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd. 'Fight back now! Force the Tories to resign!'

MANCHESTER LENIN LECTURES

Two lectures to mark the 100th anniversary of Lenin's birth. SUNDAY JULY 12, 7 p.m. 'Theory, practice and the revolutionary party'. SUNDAY JULY 19, 7 p.m. 'Lenin and the coming English Revolution'.

Lesser Free Trade Hall, Peters St. Both lectures will be given by G. HEALY, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

National Docks conference

LIVERPOOL: Saturday July 18, 2 p.m. Central Hall, Renshaw St. 'Scrap Devlin Phase Two! Fight the Tories for a £20 basic wage and nationalization under workers' control.'

Credentials and further details can be obtained from L. Cavanagh, 5, Gamlin Rd, Birkenhead.

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LATE NEWS

INQUIRY ATTACKS HEATHROW FIREMEN

London Airport firemen who struck in March for higher bonus rates were attacked yesterday by the Robertson committee of inquiry set up by Mrs Barbara Castle to examine industrial relations at the airport.

The inquiry's report says the firemen should accept the British Airport Authority's 12s 6d allowance offer. It also finds the BAA and the Transport union broke procedure during the firemen's pay dispute.

The BAA, not surprisingly, said yesterday it welcomed the inquiry's recommendations.

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£20 MINIMUM OR A STRIKE!

Two major union national conferences meeting this week have this call on the table before their delegates—the railwaymen in Inverness and the miners in Douglas, Isle of Man.

Yesterday the miners despite executive opposition backed by a narrow majority of nine votes a S Wales resolution demanding strike action if the underground workers' minimum wage is not raised to £22.

The conference also called on the executive to submit an immediate claim for a minimum wage for surface workers of £20 a week (a £5 increase on the minimum), £22 for underground workers (a £6 increase) and £30 for coalface workers (between £3 and £5 increase).