

## Behind the strike wave

# A POLITICAL CHALLENGE

### A Statement by the Political Committee of the S.L.L.

**THE MASSIVE** wave of strikes now engulfing British industry is the beginning of a major change in the class struggle in Britain.

At the same time it is necessary to stress that these strike struggles are only the first skirmishes in a conflict which can be resolved only by the taking of power from the capitalist class.

All the Labour, trade union and Communist Party leaders conceal from the workers that this is what is at stake.

The Socialist Labour League, with its daily paper, the Workers' Press, devotes all its efforts to the recruitment and training of the forces to achieve this revolutionary task.

Miners, motor car workers, dustmen, steel-workers, engineers, dockers, women workers in many industries, have all been thrown into struggle within days of each other.

These struggles take the form of wage demands, unprecedentedly high ones, because millions of workers and their wives are feeling, two years after devaluation, they can no longer live on the standards at which they are being kept.

It is no longer a question of separate and consecutive struggles, but of the world crisis bringing together the fight for living standards of all sections of the working class.

These effects of the world crisis—the threat of further unemployment, price rises, curtailment of investment, entry into the Common Market, speed-up and rationalization by the big monopolies helped by state finance—now begin to weld together the working class as a fighting force.

The Labour government's attack on the trade unions and the Tory Party's plans to go even further in these attacks, are both reflections of the world economic crisis and at the same time accelerators of the process of facing the working class up to the political character of its struggle.

Whatever the form taken by the strike struggle—against unemployment in the car industry and in GEC-EE, for parity with the best-paid motor industry areas, for the eight-hour day in mining, for equal pay for women, for substantial pay increases for the dustmen—the content of them goes very deep because whole sections of the class are acting independently of their leadership in response to the deepest crisis of the system.

It is in such a situation that the dustmen's strike for £5 a week increase has had such a big effect, from the mining industry to the teaching profession.

The strength of the organized workers in these strikes can and will force certain concessions from the employers and the government which supports them.

But the government and the employers will continue to press forward, in whatever ways they can find, with exactly the type of policy which has produced higher prices, cuts in public spending, reduction of credit and deflationary policies; all of these will continue.

Jenkins and Wilson have accepted the dictates of the international bankers and monopolists; they have promised the International Monetary Fund a payments surplus of £300 million annually for the next ten years.

The slight progress which they have begun to make is a result of cut-backs in credit, higher prices and fewer jobs, which have caused the present strikes.

The resulting decline in in-

vestment will soon destroy any temporary gains in the balance of payments, and worse attacks will follow.

The Tories and the right-wing Labour leaders can only go on by provoking the severest clashes.

In the service of these same bankers and monopolists they must attack the unions, to weaken the working class.

Imports will be further reduced to cut consumption of the workers and their families.

The so-called 'shift of resources into export industries' is again to cut the amount for consumption on the home market.

Wages must be kept down. Speed-up and closures—so-called rationalization—are the only way capitalists can restore their rate of profit on return from international trading. And so disputes over redundancy, short-time working and Measured-Day Work will grow.

The government's policies and the employers' plans are one and the same thing.

By stopping the Labour government's plans for laws against the unions, the working class has left itself with the ability to wage the strike struggle against the employers.

Jenkins has made it clear that the credit squeeze, the cuts in consumption and the whole 'deflation' package will continue.

This is why the bankers are so enthusiastic about Wilson's government, even if the motor manufacturers are fearful of the effects of the credit restrictions on their sales.

Finance and heavy industry always win out against the manufacturing industrialists in such critical periods, and the manufacturers, like the motor industry, then take advantage of the repressive

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Miners outside Wednesday's Porthcawl delegate conference are at the centre of the class struggle in Britain at the moment.

## Union officials pelted at Vauxhall meeting

Workers' Press correspondent

WORKERS at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port, Cheshire plant are continuing their work to rule against the company's hated 'penal clause' pay and productivity deal, despite union attempts to get the deal accepted.

## A.T.U.A. meetings SWINDON

Speaker: Frank Willis  
Young Socialist candidate in the parliamentary by-election

Wednesday, October 29  
8 p.m.  
Swindon Town Hall

## SWINDON BY-ELECTION Thursday, October 30

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5a Milton Road, Swindon  
phone: Swindon 20570

VOTE FOR FRANK WILLIS  
YOUNG SOCIALISTS DEMONSTRATION  
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Meeting Town Hall 4 p.m.

## YOUNG WORKERS BACK RENAULT STRIKE

By David Maude

SEVERAL thousand workers struck for four hours on Thursday at the giant Boulogne-Billancourt Renault plant, near Paris.

Union leaders are now demanding the immediate opening of negotiations on their demands. These include:

- Shorter hours
- Increased basic rates of pay
- Removal of anti-strike conditions on bonus earnings
- Retirement at 60
- Monthly payment of wages.

The majority of those supporting the strike were younger workers.

### Delegation

At a meeting of 3,000 strikers in the factory's central hall, on the Isle Sequin, officials of the two trade union federations—the Confédération Generale de Travail and the Confédération Fran-

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### Uproar

When the platform refused to take votes against the deal, uproar broke out.

Mr Norman Macdonald, AEF divisional organizer, was hit in the face by a microphone taken from the platform.

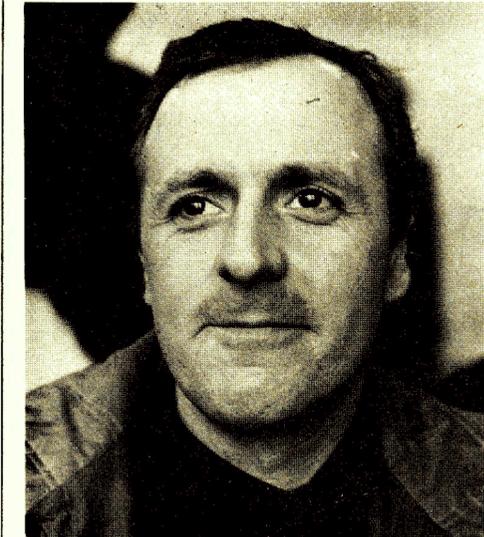
The meeting's chairman, Mr Arthur Prescott, complained and the platform party then became targets for clods of grass.

But despite efforts to split the workers, the NUVB meeting, held later in the morning, rejected the deal by a unanimous vote.

This is a vital stage in the Vauxhall dispute.

There must be no weakening in the face of management and union officials.

Vauxhall workers must stand out solidly until the threat of penal clauses and productivity is withdrawn.



FRANK WILLIS, Young Socialist candidate in the Swindon by-election, answers three questions put to him by the Workers' Press. Polling in the by-election is next Thursday (October 30).

## Frank Willis answers questions

### Why do you oppose the Common Market? Why do other parties support it?

THE Young Socialists have made our opposition to entry into the European Common Market very clear in the canvassing.

Our explanations of our position have generally received a favourable response.

We are opposed to the European Common Market because we know that the cost of living, and particularly food, will rise meteorically.

Despite all this, the parties in parliament are in favour of entry.

They know that in the developing world economic crisis the British employers can only face competition from the US corporations by building giant companies of the same size, which necessarily cuts across national frontiers.

The British manufacturers want to move wherever there are cheap labour and high employment.

Therefore the three main parties, who all stand for the continuation of capitalism, must support entry, although it is at the expense of the working class.

Special mention should be made of the Communist Party's position on this question.

They appear to be revising their policy of outright opposition. Why?

Comecon, the Eastern European common market, is making overtures for trading agreements with the EEC.

Schumann, the French foreign minister, is engaged in trade negotiations with Moscow.

The overall strategy of world Stalinism must therefore be moving away from opposition to the EEC.

This agreement with the capitalists inevitably involves the disarming of the workers of all Europe. East and West.

### What is your opinion of the Gallup Poll's reported swing back to Labour?

THESE figures undoubtedly show up the contradictory nature of the class forces now entering into struggle.

On the one hand, workers are moving back towards voting Labour in order to prepare for a political fight with the Tories. This they see as the logical outcome of their battle against the employers and the road back for the Tories will be prepared.

But on the other hand every worker should be warned: the attacks of the employers are backed by the policies of the Labour leaders, who have capitulated all along the

line to the international bankers.

The official trade union leadership, right and left, has refused to lead any fight against Wilson.

Unless the strike struggles are part of a political fight against the Wilson government, the attacks on the working class will continue and the road back for the Tories will be prepared.

That need not happen, and to prevent it is the purpose of our fight for alternative socialist policies in this by-election.

A word is necessary about the supposed improvement in balance of payments.

The better figures are entirely the result of restrictions of credit and investment.

In a few months these restrictions will lead not only to fresh attacks on the working class, particularly unemployment, but also to another worsening of the balance of payments.

In preparation for these struggles, the essential thing is a clear alternative socialist policy based on Marxist principles.

The Workers' Press, in conjunction with the campaigns of the Young Socialists, has already made a big contribution in this direction.

### What is the record of the Young Socialists on the issues facing the electors?

THE fight for support in the Swindon by-election is a continuation of a long and principled fight by the Young Socialists against the betrayals of Wilson.

This began with a fight for socialist policies when the Young Socialists were still in the Labour Party.

After these policies won the support of the majority of the Labour Party youth, the right wing carried out a vicious campaign of expulsions in 1964.

Following that the Young Socialists fought against Wilson's deferment of old-age pensions increases.

We supported the striking seamen in 1966 and initiated the struggle against the Prices and Incomes Act and then against the anti-trade union legislation.

The Young Socialists have always warned against Wilson's subservience to the international bankers and cam-

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## Dangerous T.U.C. move by miners

By our industrial reporter

YORKSHIRE area council miners were meeting TUC general secretary Victor Feather in London yesterday after the council had decided to call in the TUC and the government to seek an end to the coal strike.

This move is extremely dangerous for the miners.

The council has done little to strengthen the strike since it began ten days ago.

Pushed into the forefront of the strike, many miners feel it has completely inadequate leadership.

No amount of intervention by Mrs Barbara Castle and the TUC can change the simple demand for the eight-hour day, inclusive of meal-times for all surface workers.

There is nothing to discuss about this demand.

The strike must go on until the National Coal Board concedes.

This is the only formula for a return to work that is acceptable to the rank-and-file miners.

### NOTORIOUS

The TUC's role in 'settling' disputes has already become notorious, while there need be no illusions about the government's attitude.

Any attempt to foist some kind of 'compromise' settlement on the miners must be firmly resisted.

The full claim not only can, but will, be won if the strikers stand firm and take up the fight inside their union to spread the strike to every pit in the country.

The only break in the united front of the Yorkshire miners was quickly repaired on Thursday.

Less than 100 men on the morning shift at Thurcroft colliery, near Rotherham, went down the pit after voting by a majority of six to resume work.

The afternoon shift, however, decided to continue the strike after pickets from other collieries in the area had spoken to them.

### LOBBY

In South Wales, where more than 7,000 miners are on strike, plans are being laid to lobby delegates attending the union's national conference next Thursday.

More than 500 miners are expected to travel to London to demand that the conference make the strike official and extend it throughout the coalfields.

## 'Strike now' call to London firemen

LONDON firemen will be on 'emergency calls only' from 9 a.m. on Monday morning following a 1,000 strong meeting at Tower Hill on Thursday night.

The men, whose slogan is 'Undermanned, underpaid—that's the London fire brigade', are demanding an accommodation allowance in the region of £5 10s.

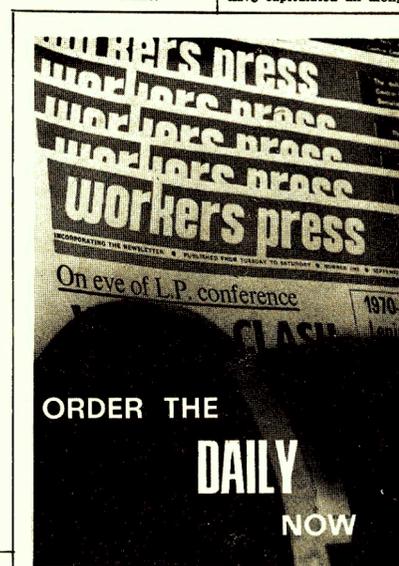
The meeting was absolutely hostile to the London borough council's offer of a house loan at the present 8½ per cent bank rate.

Continuous calls came from the floor of the meeting for an all-out strike.

A tremendous cheer went up when London brigades committee member Ken Head reported an all-London delegate meeting next Wednesday to discuss the possibility of strike action.

One fireman expressed the feeling of the meeting:

'Many firemen have held back from strike action in the past, but now see it's the only way—and once we're out we won't go back until we get the allowances.'



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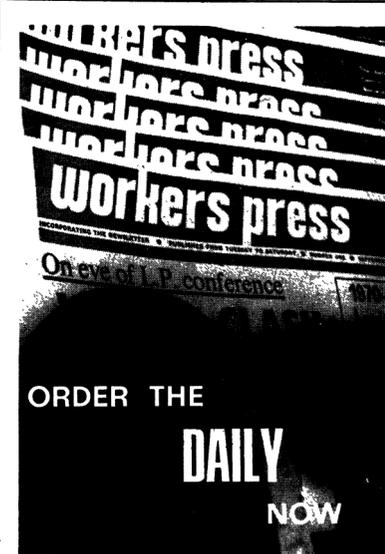
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More than 500 miners are expected to travel to London to demand that the conference make the strike official and extend it throughout the coalfields.

## Swindon stewards back Frank Willis

THE undersigned stewards of Pressed-Steel Fisher Swindon wish Frank Willis the YS candidate every success in the forthcoming by-election.

D. Montoat (Monty) NUVB senior shop steward and chairman of PSF joint shop stewards' committee, Harry Lane, T&GWU senior shop steward, NUVB shop stewards W. Park, I. M. Whinney, Pat Lewis, Albert Briga, John Gregory, Dave Sawyer, and T&GWU shop stewards Eric Lees and E. E. Ruffe.



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# CRISIS IN MOTORS



## 'You're not even a machine, you're a wound-up, nervous wreck.'

The third of a series of articles on the motor industry by our industrial correspondent  
**DAVID MAUDE**

**THURSDAY'S** attempts to engineer acceptance of Vauxhall's new pay and productivity proposals by workers at the company's Ellesmere Port plant settle nothing.

If the company and the union leaders hope to contain the growing hostility of workers at both the company's major car plants not only towards the deal, but towards Vauxhall's whole 13-year-old Measured-Day Work system, it is a vain hope.

As Alan Baker, Ellesmere Port's AEF convenor, told me recently:

'The whole situation's in the melting-pot. Men were laid off for working to the company's own standard times. In other words, for just doing what they were supposed to do under the old agreement.'

'So this question has to be sorted out before we even think about operating any new agreement. During the last fortnight, only the efforts of union officials, backed up by their national executives, have prevented workers at both Luton and Ellesmere Port decisively rejecting the company's new proposals. One Luton die-shop worker spoke for many when he told me at the end of last week:

'We've got to get rid of this dead hand of our present leadership.'

### The Luton Situation

**A**N NUVB trim shop steward explained his view of the present situation at Luton, reputedly far less militant than the Merseyside factory:

'Everyone likes to get a standard wage each week—if they're getting a decent rate, that is. We're not!

'If there was a vote to go back on piece-work here at the moment, I'm sure there'd be a big majority in favour. Although we get a flat rate,

we're working at piece-work pace anyway.

'If you worked like they want you to, it'd be slavery!

'The company's always completely determined to get the time it wants a job to be done in. If you dispute it, they'll get it anyway by simply moving you and putting another man on the job.'

'Unfortunately, our union organization here's at sixes and sevens. You know the membership definitely wants to fight, but the leadership behaves as if it's controlled by the management—it just dissipates everything.'

At Ellesmere Port, another NUVB steward explained some of the background to the agreement drafted at York just over a fortnight ago. Said Frank Gardner:

'The standard time system has got to a stage now when you're not even a machine, you're a wound-up nervous wreck. We couldn't go any faster.'

'I suppose we always say that, then we're surprised when they work something out to prove us wrong!

'The system just doesn't allow for a man ageing—it's a stretch, hold, grasp job.'

'If you think about what you're doing, you're working too slow.'

'We were sold out to this system as soon as the Ellesmere Port plant opened. It was already in.'

'Rootes had to pay 17s. 5d. for it in Coventry, we've got it for a top rate of 10s. 1d. If we're going to reach parity on the basis suggested in the new deal—further productivity—we'll have to sell our souls.'

'And we mightn't get it even then!

'Sometime we get an extra man put on the line if there's a change in the model, but this only means we have to make up working harder the next day or the day after. The management's final word is always "Each man has to pay for himself!"'

'You've got time-and-motion at all levels. Even the area manager has to make up his debits and credits, but he's working in men!

'If they get the review of standard times they're asking for, conditions will be just about intolerable.'

Acceptance of the York draft would give the company, in return or increase of a mere 8d.—10d. an hour:

● Streamlining and consolidation of the present wage structure.



## M.D.W. at Vauxhalls

● Establishment of work-study and job-evaluation as the basis for all future negotiations.

● Tightening of the disciplinary procedure in respect of lateness and absence from work.

● Review of standard times to take into account changes in machine performance, methods, layouts and techniques.

● Local arrangements to ensure the fullest possible acceptance of the obligation to act through constitutional procedure.

To understand why Vauxhall's need such an agreement and why the company has been prepared to lose £850,000 a day over the last four weeks in order to wear down the resistance to it among its workers, it is necessary to take a brief look at how the general crisis of the motor industry is affecting it.

### The state of trade

**I**N JULY this year, Vauxhall—now Britain's third largest car manufacturer—raised its share of the home car market by one whole point to give it 12.92 per cent.

But the company has been coming under increasing pressure from Ford's and British-Leyland and the present conditions of slackening home demand and sharpening competition internationally make it

unlikely that it will be able to maintain this increase or increase it.

While it made a trading profit of £30,588,000 last year, this is only half that of its two major competitors.

At Ford's where Measured-Day Work has reached a much more intense stage than even Vauxhall's has been able to manage so far, the profits breakdown for each worker was £1,233 as compared with Vauxhall's £837. Each vehicle made £105 10s for Ford compared with Vauxhall's £94 6s.

On the other hand, of course, British-Leyland's inability to break the resistance of its workers to Measured-Day Work gave it a breakdown of only £461 a worker and £82 14s. per car.

The standard-time system thus gave Vauxhall's almost twice as much profit a worker as Leyland's piece-work dominated wage structure.

Unlike Leyland, however, Vauxhall is almost out of the running in Europe and its cars have never sold in the United States—the province of its 99 per cent owner General Motors.

In order to break back it will have to cut back rising

production costs which, in September, forced it to raise the prices of three of its car models by between £17 and £76. The main attack here must obviously be on wages.

This is the purpose of the proposed new deal.

### Comments on the deal

**A**SKED Dave Thompson, an AEF shop steward in Ellesmere Port's spares department, what he thought the deal would mean.

'Their talk of "A fair day's work for a fair day's pay" is farcical', he said.

In the weaker-organized areas of the factory, the company is already imposing exactly what job-times it likes.

'They want the new deal so they can do the same in the strong areas—in other words, so they can break down all shop-floor action.'

'You've virtually no protection even now against the management's increasing the number of machines.'

'Being asked to work two machines is commonplace. Often you've got them back to back—a man's like a ballerina, twisting and turning all day to get round.'

'No one is ever able really to get the amount of work they set for a job out consistently.'

'Yet it took 12 months on my section to get a job knocked down officially from 36.6 to 30 an hour, although it's never been done consistently at more than 22 an hour. The procedure "agreement" is just a big joke.'

'It works like this:

If the foreman thinks he's going to have trouble he may consult you about a time, but there's no provision for a steward's signature on a time-sheet and once the foreman's signed for a particular time, you've a hell of a job to get any satisfaction.

'If the deal goes through they'll impose the sort of conditions you've got on the track now on the rest of the factory.'

'We'd be working under conditions over which we'd have absolutely no control.'

Commented Alan Baker:

'The company's taking a hard line, but the struggle's only just beginning. I think we're in for a whole 12 months of crunches!'

At Luton also, there is a growing determination to fight their way out of the situation in which the local trade union leadership has placed them.

As one assembly line steward said:

'We've got to get all the unions in this together. Heath says he's going to fetch the law into the unions, Wilson wants the law in and Vauxhall's want to tighten up their discipline.'

'We've got to start a revolution in the unions so the membership can fight them!'

## Balance sheet of Soviet economic reforms

By a foreign correspondent

comes, has been the main reason why the economic reform has been carried out relatively smoothly.

But, as with any process of this kind, the big question is what happens when the money flow dries up, or, at least, ceases to grow.

This will expose the extent to which, behind the economic reforms, things have been going on as before with the ease of making profits disguising the same old defects.

### Temporary

In a sense, therefore, it would be correct to describe the economic reform as just one more 'production campaign'.

This time it is one which, by offering important material advantages to plant and enterprise management—or at least placing large sums of money at the disposal of the middle layers of the bureaucracy—has achieved a temporary success.

But this merely whets the appetite of these members of the bureaucracy, who feel themselves to be more important and are bound to seek greater powers.

The plant manager thus seeks to get more independence from the central Ministry concerned with his industry for 'his' factory.

These tendencies have not gone without note in the Soviet press and have given some writers the opportunity to knock the reforms.

On the other hand, what might be called spokesmen for the middle layers of the bureaucracy argue that the Ministries are too heavy-handed, that still more initiative should lie with plant management.

Significantly, the question of the plant being able to retain part of the proceeds of exports and to be able to make contracts with foreign firms is in the background of some of these discussions.

In other words, the growing powers of the plant management press against the monopoly of foreign trade which insulates the planned economy from further pressures from the capitalist world market.

Because lower labour productivity means Soviet goods cost more to produce they are not able to enter the circuit of international exchange on equal terms with the products of the advanced capitalist countries.

The international implications of the reform have certainly to be watched, but they will show up more in the coming years than they have done so far.

### Buying time

It seems, therefore, that the leadership has been buying time in the hope that the reforms would, over a few years, bring some relief to the goods shortage.

In the meantime they have proceeded, of course, to make enormous contracts with big foreign capitalist firms to carry through extensive modernization of lagging sectors or to establish in the Soviet Union wholly new industries.

The most spectacular of these contracts relate to cars, trucks and buses (Renault, Fiat, British-Leyland), to chemicals and to synthetic fibres.

The reform, whatever it may achieve in the short term, does nothing to solve the basic problems of the Soviet economy.

In fact, both through encouraging the local bureaucrats to go their own way and through pressure on the monopoly of foreign trade, it may aggravate these problems.

There is, in any case, the problem of what happens when money incomes and prices cease to rise. Big problems of misdirected resources, unsaleable stocks and lack of balance between industries are likely to be revealed.

Meanwhile the conflict within the bureaucracy rages.

Writing in 'Pravda' on August 27 last, V. Babushkin, head of the Department of Planning

and Financial Agencies, denounced a whole series of wrongful uses of funds retained by the plant management under the new system.

These included the construction of swimming pools, canals for rowing, sports grounds and payment of footballers. Evidently the local bureaucracy has a taste for outdoor games.

Babushkin did not forget to mention that monies were also spent lavishly on banquets and entertainments.

Funds were also handed over to local authorities to finance construction not allowed for in the plan.

### Deception

He concluded his article by saying:

'Decisions on the illegal expenditure of assets sometimes impel the personnel of enterprises to deceive the state; they are forced to conceal and camouflage expenditures that are made for purposes other than those for which the money has been earmarked.'

'They resort to sleight of hand in reporting to the statistical, financial and control agencies and they conceal illegal expenditures through illegal documentation.'

'All this, needless to say, has a very negative effect on the upbringing of cadres.'

That a high official has to resort to the columns of 'Pravda' to denounce such practices means that they are not isolated occurrences, but are going on all over the country.

The local industrial bureaucrats are evidently out to make hay in the warm sun of the 'economic reforms', gratifying



Khrushchev has made continued attempts to collectivize the virgin lands (above) to yield maize, wheat, etc. and failed.

their desire to patronize sport, to entertain their friends and to do favours for their opposite numbers in local government.

They have received a warning; whether they heed it or not is another matter.

The reforms not only give them more powers but also place millions of additional roubles at their disposal.

The central authority sees resources eluding its control or being misused.

At the same time, because the bureaucracy remains all-powerful, there is no question of the workers in the enterprises exercising real control over how the plant is managed. In fact the management has now acquired greater powers regarding the hiring and firing of workers too.

While it is too early to draw a full balance sheet of the reform, it is already possible to conclude that it has solved none of the problems which arise from the backwardness and isolation of the Soviet Union and the irresponsibility of the privileged, bureaucratic caste.

It would not take very much, in fact, to precipitate a crisis in production of the sort which preceded the fall of Khrushchev.

As in the past, it may be expected that the continued shortcomings of agriculture will be at the root of the trouble.

This gives point to the recent reports of disappointing crop yields from the 1969 harvest.

**ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE**

All car, car components and delivery workers are invited to a motor workers' conference

Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth Birmingham

**Saturday, November 8**  
2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Write for credentials to:  
R. Parsons, 21 Strawberry Path, Blackbird Leys, Oxford

Conference fee: 5s. a person

# US CAPITALISM SPLIT



# OVER VIETNAM AND ECONOMIC POLICY

**THE SPLIT** in the American ruling class over the US economy and Vietnam war is creating very favourable conditions for breaking the working class from the two capitalist parties.

The 'Vietnam Moratorium' hit Nixon really hard and forced those sections of the ruling class opposed to a continuation of the war to speak out more loudly than they have ever done before.

The same open conflict, again provoked by pressure from the working class and the world crisis of imperialism, is developing over the problems of the US economy.

While Paul McCracken (chairman of Nixon's Council of Economic advisers) advocates the continuation of the government's present deflationary measures, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, McChesney Martin, recently stated that 'there are indications that we may be getting to the end'.

This optimistic tone was countered within days by McCracken's remark that 'evidence obviously does not add up to an end of our inflationary problems'.

### TWO VIEWS

Two different views are clearly being expressed here—and both by leading members of the US ruling class.

Nixon has the problem of attempting to resolve these conflicts and devise a strategy for action.

This is what faces him in Vietnam, and it now confronts him with growing force at home.

His radio broadcast on Sunday gave a few pointers to the direction in which his government is moving when he warned that 'we [meaning the working class, and not the residents of the White House] are going to experience some "slowing pains"'. He none the less saw this

as a 'healthy development' in which 'unfortunately some industries and some individuals will feel this necessary adjustment more than others'. These 'adjustments' are inflation, wage control, the sack, speed up and the threat of large-scale recession if the working class does not toe the line.

### SPOKE BLUNTLY

Nixon is fully aware of the smouldering discontent in the US working class.

Nevertheless, he spoke bluntly on the question of sackings, admitting that although 'we must keep a close watch on the level of unemployment', the number of those with jobs could not be increased.

'We cannot effectively and fairly make it more by ignoring the widespread hardship that a run-away cost of living imposes on so many Americans.'

Nixon is saying here that either way, attacks on the working class are coming up. Either more unemployment, or more inflation—and with it, a reduction in the purchasing power of the employed workers' wages.

The conflict still rages, both within the government and the ruling class as a whole, over Vietnam and the economy.

That these differences have become public reflects the basic instability of the US economy and the unease in the ruling class of its future both in the US and overseas.

### BIG OPPORTUNITY

With the bankers, politicians, employers and Generals all at loggerheads, an unprecedented opportunity now opens up for building the revolutionary party, the Workers' League of America, and establishing the US labour party based on the trade unions.

# WEEKEND TELEVISION

## SATURDAY

**B.B.C.-1**

10.00 a.m. Repandez S'il Vous Plait. 10.30-11.00 Wie Bitte? 12 noon Weatherman. 12.05 p.m. Casey Jones. 12.25 Charlie Chaplin in 'The Rink'. 12.45 Grandstand. 5.15 Star Trek. 6.05 News, Weather. 6.15 Simon Dee. 6.45 Dixon of Dock Green. 7.30 The Dave Allen Show. 8.15 Three Great Stars. 10.00 News and Weather. 10.10 Match of the Day. 11.10 Braden's Week. 11.50 Weatherman.

All regions as BBC-1 except at the following times:

Midlands and East Anglia: 11.52 p.m. Weather.

North of England: 11.52 p.m. Northern News Summary.

Scotland: 5.03-5.15 p.m. Sports reel. 10.00-10.55 Sports reel. 10.55-11.40 One Over The Eight, Weather.

Wales: 6.15-6.45 p.m. Disc A Dawn.

Northern Ireland: 5.10-5.15 p.m. Sports Results, News Summary. 11.10-11.40 Square One. 11.52 Northern Ireland News.

South and West: 11.52 p.m. Weather.

**B.B.C.-2**

3.00-4.20 p.m. Saturday Cinema: 'The Extra Day'.

7.00 News, Sport, Weather. 7.15 Gardeners' World. 7.30 Rugby Special. 8.15 Tulankhemen Post-Mortem. 9.05 Peterson Plays Farnon... Plays Peterson.

10.00 The First Churchills. 10.45 Review. 11.25 Line-Up. 11.50 News Summary. 11.55 Midnight Movie: 'Town On Trial'.

**London Weekend**

11.10 a.m. RAC Road Report. 11.15 Saturday Session. 11.40 Stay Alive. 12.05 p.m. Thunderbirds. 12.55 News From ITN. 1.00 World Of Sport. 1.05 On The Ball. 1.20 They're Off. 3.10 International Sports Special. 3.55 Half-Time Roundup. 4.00 Wrestling from St. Albans. 5.00 Results Service. 5.15 Bonanza. 6.10 News From ITN. 6.15 Wheel Of Fortune. 6.45 The Saturday Crowd. 7.30 Please Sir!

**8.05 'A Walk On The Wild Side':** starring Lawrence Harvey, Capucine, Barbara Stanwyck, Jane Fonda, Anne Baxter, Richard Rust.

10.00 News From ITN. 10.10 Saturday Night Theatre. 11.10 Frost On Saturday. 12 midnight All Our Yesterdays. 12.25 a.m. Medicine In Question.

**Westward**

12.25 p.m. All Our Yesterdays. 12.55 National News. 1.00 World Of Sport. 1.05 On The Ball. 1.20 Racing. 3.10 Sports Special: International Schoolboy Boxing. Pre-World Gymnastics. 3.55 Half-Time Round-Up. 4.00 Professional Wrestling. 5.00 Results Round-Up. 5.15 Wheel Of Fortune. 6.10 News. Highland League Results. 6.15 Wheel Of Fortune. 6.45 The Saturday Crowd. 7.30 Please Sir! 8.00 Main Feature: 'The Full Treatment'. 10.00 News followed by 'Weather'. 10.10 Saturday Night Theatre. 11.10 Frost On Saturday.

**6.45 The Saturday Crowd.** 7.30 Please Sir! 8.05 The Saturday Film: 'Legend Of The Lost' starring John Wayne, Sophia Loren, Rossano Brazzi. 10.00 National News. 10.10 Saturday Night Theatre. 11.10 Frost On Saturday. 11.55 Faith For Life. 12.01 a.m. Weather.

**Yorkshire**

12.55 p.m. News. 1.00 World Of Sport. 1.05 On The Ball. 1.20 Racing. 3.10 Sports Special. 4.00 Professional Wrestling. 5.00 Results Round-Up. 5.15 Wheel Of Fortune. 6.10 News. 6.15 The Saturday Crowd. 7.00 Please Sir! 7.30 Edgar Wallace. 8.30 Miami Exposure. 10.00 News, Weather. 10.10 Saturday Night Theatre. 11.10 Frost On Saturday. 12 midnight Late Weather.

**Tyne Tees**

12.55 p.m. News. 1.00 World Of Sport. 1.05 On The Ball. 1.20 Racing. 3.10 Sports Special. 4.00 Professional Wrestling. 5.00 Results Round-Up. 5.15 Wheel Of Fortune. 6.10 News. 6.15 The Saturday Crowd. 7.00 Please Sir! 7.30 Edgar Wallace. 8.30 Miami Exposure. 10.00 News, Weather. 10.10 Saturday Night Theatre. 11.10 Frost On Saturday. 12 midnight Late Weather.

**Border T.V.**

12 noon Stay Alive. 12.25 p.m. All Our Yesterdays. 12.55 National News. 1.00 On The Ball. 1.15 Tarzan. 6.10 National News and Border Weather. 6.15 Wheel Of Fortune. 6.45 The Saturday Crowd. 7.30 Border Sports Results. 7.35 Jokers Wild. 8.05 Feature Film: 'East Of Eden' starring James Dean, Julie Harris. 10.10 National News and Border Weather. 10.10 Saturday Night Theatre. 'The Blood Relation'. 11.10 Frost On Saturday.

**Anglia**

12.55 p.m. News. 1.00 World Of Sport. 1.05 On The Ball. 1.20 Racing. 3.10

**Scottish**

12 noon-12.25 p.m. Stay Alive. 12.55 News. 1.00 World Of Sport. 4.00 Professional Wrestling. 5.00 Results Round-Up. 5.15 Cowboy In Africa. 6.10 News and Weather. 6.15 The Saturday Crowd. 7.00 Please Sir! 7.30 The Saturday Feature: 'Houdini' starring Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh. 9.25 Scoop. 10.00 Weather and News. 10.15 Saturday Night Theatre. 11.10 Frost On Saturday. 12 midnight Late Call.

**SUNDAY**

**B.B.C.-1**

9.00 a.m. Nai Zindagi—Naya Jeevan. 9.30 Repandez S'il Vous Plait. 10.00 Wie Bitte? 10.30 Sung Eucharist. 11.30 Buying A House. 12 noon Know How. 12.30-1.00 p.m. Representing The Union. 1.25-1.50 Farming, Weather for Farmers and Growers. 2.00 Ten Classic Dishes. 2.29 News Headlines. 2.30 Day Time. 3.00 Film Matinee: 'Boots Malone'. 4.40 Hobbyhorse. 5.05 Going For A Song. 5.30 Dombey and Son. 5.55 Ken Dodd.

6.05 News, Weather. 6.15 Malcolm Muggeridge. 6.50 Songs Of Praise. 7.25 Detective. 8.15 British Film Night: 'A French Mistress'. 9.50 News, Weather. 10.00 Omnibus. 11.10 Monty Python's Flying Circus. 11.40 Weatherman.

All regions as BBC-1 except at the following times:

Midlands and East Anglia, North of England, Northern Ireland and South and West: 11.42 News, Weather.

Wales: 2.30-2.55 p.m. The Newcomers. 2.55-3.30 Rugby Union. 3.30-3.50 The Newcomers. 3.50-4.10 Dwedch Be Fynnoch Chi. 6.15-6.30 Insight. 6.30-6.50 Addola Dduw. 11.40 p.m.-12.15 a.m. Malcolm Muggeridge.

Scotland: 2.30-3.00 p.m. Right, Left and Centre. 6.50-7.25 Songs Of Praise. 11.10-11.50 Braden's Week. 11.50 Weather.

**B.B.C.-2**

7.00 p.m. News Review, Weather. 7.25 Bird's Eye View.

**8.15 Fou Ts'ong: piano music** composed by Mozart, Chopin, Debussy.

9.15 A Year In The Life: June 1968-June 1969, paralysis with polynuritis.

10.00 Show Of The Week: Mantovani.

10.50 Thirty Minute Theatre.

11.20 News Summary.

11.25 Line-Up.

**London Weekend**

11.00 a.m. Church Service. 12.15 p.m. Sunday Session. 12.40-1.05 Your Living Body. 1.25 Sunday Session. 1.55 Out Of Town. 2.15 Sports Arena. 2.45 University Challenge. 3.15 The Big Match. 4.15 The Flaxton Boys. 4.45 The Golden Shot. 5.30 On The Buses. 6.00 News From ITN. 6.15 All Creatures Great and Small. 6.35 Tomorrow's Child. 7.00 Stars On Sunday. 7.25 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). 8.20 'The Lady Is A Square' starring Anna Neagle, Frankie Vaughan and Janette Scott. 10.10 News From ITN. 10.20 Music Hall. 11.20 Tonight With David Nixon. 12.05 a.m. Medicine In Question.

**Westward**

11.00 a.m. Matins. 12.15 p.m. Sunday Session. 12.40 Your Living Body. 1.05-1.25 You and Your Child. 2.00 Farm and Country News. 2.15 Feature Film: 'The Witness' starring Dermot Walsh and Greta Gynt. 3.15 The Big Match. 4.15 The Beverly Hillbillies. 4.45 The

**Golden Shot.** 5.30 The Forest Rangers. 6.00 News. 6.15 All Creatures Great and Small. 6.35 Tomorrow's Child. 7.00 Stars On Sunday. 7.25 Feature Film: 'Kismet' starring Chuck Connors and Kamala Devi. 9.10 Strange Report. 10.10 National News. 10.20 Music Hall. 11.20 Tonight With David Nixon. 12 midnight Faith For Life. 12.06 a.m. Weather.

**Yorkshire**

11.00 a.m. Morning Service. 12.15 p.m. Sunday Session. 12.40 Your Living Body. 1.05 You and Your Child. 1.30 All Our Yesterdays. 2.00 Sunday Sport. 3.15 The Long Arm. 5.00 Julia. 5.30 The Flaxton Boys. 6.00 News. 6.15 All Creatures Great and Small. 6.35 Tomorrow's Child. 7.00 Stars On Sunday. 7.25 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). 8.20 Hawaii Five-O. 8.20 I Confess. 10.10 News, Weather. 10.20 Music Hall. 11.20 Tonight With David Nixon. 12.05 a.m. Late Weather.

**Tyne Tees**

11.00 a.m. The Morning Service. 12.15-1.05 p.m. Sunday Session. 1.20 Farming Outlook. 2.30 Shoot. 3.20 Sunday Matinee: 'Make Mine Mink' starring Terry Thomas and Billie Whitelaw. 4.45 The Golden Shot. 5.30 The Flaxton Boys. 6.00 News. 6.15 All Creatures Great and Small. 6.35 Tomorrow's Child. 7.00 Stars On Sunday. 7.25 It Takes A Thief. 8.25 Film Premiere: 'Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed?' starring Dean Martin, Elizabeth Montgomery. 10.10 News. 10.20 Music Hall. 11.20 Tonight With David Nixon. 12.05 a.m. The Burning of the Leaves by Lawrence Binyon read by Jennifer Clare.

**Border T.V.**

11.00 a.m. The Morning Service. 12.15-1.30 p.m. Sunday Session. 1.55 Border Diary. 2.00 Farming Outlook. 2.30 Adam. 2.55 Football. 3.50 The Prisoner. 4.45 The Golden Shot. 5.30 The Flaxton Boys. 6.00 National News and Border Weather. 6.15 All Creatures Great and Small. 6.35 Tomorrow's Child. 7.00 Stars On Sunday. 7.25 Strange Report. 8.25 Feature Film: 'Donovan's Reef' starring John Wayne. 10.10 National News and Border Weather. 10.20 Music Hall. 11.20 Tonight With David Nixon. 12.05 a.m. Epilogue.

**Anglia**

11.00 a.m. Matins. 12.15 p.m. Sunday Session. 12.40 Your Living Body. 1.05 You and Your Child. 1.30 All Our Yesterdays. 1.55 Weather Trends. 2.00 Farming Diary. 2.30 Match Of The Week. 3.20 University Challenge. 3.50 The Baron. 4.45 The Golden Shot. 5.30

**Scottish**

12.15 p.m. Sunday Session. 1.30 All Our Yesterdays. 2.00 Diane's Matinee. 2.15 Sports Arena. 2.45 University Challenge. 3.15 Feature Film: 'The Lion and the Horse' starring Steve Cochran, Ray Teal. 4.45 The Golden Shot. 5.30 The Flaxton Boys. 6.00 Weather and News. 6.15 All Creatures Great and Small. 6.35 Tomorrow's Child. 7.00 Stars On Sunday. 7.25 Hogan's Heroes. 7.55 The Bogart Special: documentary narrated by Charlton Heston. 8.50 The Bogart Festival: 'The Perilous Forest' starring Humphrey Bogart, Leslie Howard, Bette Davis. 10.10 News and Weather. 10.20 Music Hall. 11.20 Tonight With David Nixon. 12.02 a.m. Late Call.



By Peter Jeffries

# HUSAK REPORT CONCEALS THE TRUTH

By Tom Kemp

**THE LENGTHY report** made by Gustav Husak, first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, to its Central Committee on September 25 blamed 'anti-socialist and right-wing forces' for the events of 1968.

The claim that 'an active nucleus' of the Party is now behind the policy of the Central Committee in its acceptance of Moscow's diktat is an indication that it still meets with stubborn resistance from Czech workers.

Husak went through the now familiar official account of the causes of the 1968 crisis following the fall of the Novotny leadership.

He blamed it for 'covering up its shortcomings by bureaucratic methods of Party and state leadership and by naked administrative interference'. He was unable to explain what happened from January 1968 or why, after 20 years, 'anti-socialist and right-wing forces' were able to come to the fore.

avoid the admission that the Czech working class was on the move, that it was its pressure on Dubcek, and not forces seeking to return the country to capitalism, that brought about the situation which led to the military intervention by the Warsaw Pact countries on August 21, 1968.

It was not a question of restoring capitalism, but the first steps of the political revolution against the bureaucracy, beginning with its most objectionable representatives, led by Novotny, whom even Husak does not try to defend.

**FAIRY STORY**  
The fairy story that the Party and the state were 'led astray' by 'right-wing and anti-socialist forces' does not bear examination. There followed a series of accusations against Dubcek, especially charging him with concealing from the Party communications from the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party and refusing to attend the Warsaw Pact countries. Dubcek probably feared that at this meeting the Czechs would be brow-beaten into accepting conformity with the demands of Moscow. At its meeting on July 19, 1968, Dubcek justified his

position by claiming that the country was in no danger from counter-revolution. The decision to approve this stand has now been rescinded. As Husak put it, 'if our Party policy had been conducted in a more responsible way, it would have been possible to avoid the entry of troops into our territory'. In other words, if the Dubcek leadership had capitulated right away, the invasion of August 21, 1968, might not have been necessary! But Dubcek had very little choice. Not because he was a prisoner of 'anti-socialist and right-wing forces', but because the Czech working class, including the majority of Communist Party members, were on the move against the subservience of the bureaucracy to Moscow.

**POSED INVASION**  
Responding to this pressure, the president of the Czech Communist Party, which had been in session since the previous day, passed a resolution opposing the military intervention of the Warsaw Pact countries on August 21. Husak called for the rescinding of this and all other resolutions passed in Czechoslovakia critical of the entry of Warsaw Pact troops.

This resolution is declared to be 'in its main part non-class and non-Marxist in character, fundamentally wrong and injurious in its political consequences for our Party, our people and our state'. In obedience to Moscow's demands, Husak tries to pass off the events of 1968 as part of a conspiracy in which the mass media were in the hands of people favouring the restoration of capitalism and 'the entire Party and people' were disoriented.

How does he explain this situation 21 years after the establishment of 'Peoples' Democracy'? There is, of course, no explanation of how the 'right-wing and anti-socialist forces' could have remained strong through this time and be in a position so to disorganize the Party and the state that only military intervention could save the situation. There is no explanation either of how it is that only a 'healthy nucleus' of the Communist Party supports the present policy imposed by Moscow and believes that the account which Husak gives of the events of 1968 is correct. His attempt to discredit those Communist Party members in Prague who convened the 'extraordinary 14th Congress' of the Party and held it

in secret under the protection of factory workers will fail. Husak equates 'right-wing' with any criticism of Moscow or of bureaucratic methods, any striving for national self-determination or freedom of expression, any return to the canons of Leninism.

**NOVOTNY NOSTALGIA**  
This double-talk, demanded by Moscow, will be acceptable to the members of the Czech bureaucracy who look back with aversion to the troubled times of the past two years and are nostalgic for the Novotny regime. The return to stability required a break with Dubcek's swerving position and the snatching back of all the gains made by the workers, intellectuals and youth in 1968. Husak's speech indicates a willingness to carry through a relentless purge in the party and all spheres of Czechoslovak life. The expulsions from the Central Committee are only part of the drive to restore Stalinism in its full panoply. The threat to rid the Communist Party and other organizations of 'opportunist influences' can only mean a tightening up of repressive measures along the line. Although Husak speaks

**LENIN: Speech to the Petrograd Soviet, 1918**  
3s. 0d.

By G. Zinoviev

Illustrated with many photographs, this was a speech delivered by one of Lenin's closest associates on the occasion of his recovery from wounds received in an attempt on his life. It gives a remarkably clear picture of Lenin and what is required to be a revolutionary.



All vestiges of Dubcek's 'liberalization' disappear, as the Czech Stalinists visit Moscow to approve the August 1968 invasion by the Warsaw Pact countries. From left to right are seen Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister; Cernik, the Czechoslovak Prime Minister; President Svoboda of Czechoslovakia; Brezhnev, the Soviet Party leader; Husak, the Czechoslovak Party leader; and President Podgorny of the Soviet Union.

# Standard-Triumph vote to stay out

THE STRIKE by Liverpool Standard-Triumph workers remains solid in its eighth week.

A mass meeting of the 1,150 strikers voted on Thursday to stay out until the management concedes their claim for a £4.10s wage rise and guaranteed pay during lay-offs.

Mr. Bill Moore, strike committee spokesman, said that the strike committee were determined to be as intractable as the management.

## Deadlock

He reported to the meeting that Monday's talks with management ended in deadlock despite the efforts of Mr. Vic Feather to find a solution.

He also announced that the committee had arranged a meeting with local Labour MPs.

# Bologna workers demand C.P. end neutrality

WHILE Italy was again hit by strikes in all the major industries, important new developments took place on the political front.

Italy's ruling party, the Christian Democrats, is already split into six warring factions.

Now the dominant group, led by the caretaker Prime Minister Rumor, has itself split, throwing his already makeshift minority cabinet into even greater confusion.

Developments in the working class are even more significant.

A march of 30,000 Bologna strikers ended up at the town hall in a demonstration against the neutral position adopted by the municipal government in the recent

# East Kilbride, Scotland POLICE ATTACK B.S.R. STRIKERS

From M. Shaw

BRUTAL police methods are being used against strikers at the BSR factory in East Kilbride. The pickets allege that police work in collaboration with the management, moving in massive reinforcements just as the scabs are due to leave.

Women told the Workers' Press how the police line up with their backs to the pickets and then lash out with their boots.

One woman said the kneeling boots she was wearing were protection.

The strikers, who have been out for nine weeks, are fighting for union recognition.

=====

BSR works' manager Mr John England is reported to have said 'under no circumstances will the company ever recognize a union'.

## Clash

On Wednesday, 400 pickets clashed with police outside the factory. As stones were hurled at buses carrying scabs through the gates, police dived into the mass picket and seized a worker. His name and address were taken.

Plain clothes police mingled with women and young girls on the picket and singled out those who, they alleged, were 'violent'.

## Names taken

Several names and addresses have been taken.

But, the women say, nothing is said by the employers' press and television about the alleged police brutality.

The 800 workers on strike are as determined as ever to win.

One girl striker said she was employed as a soldering operator and her basic wage was £9 15s.

At a factory in Kilmarnock, she said, girls were being paid 9s. 4d. an hour for similar work. That was why she was on strike, she said.



Police hold back BSR pickets as a bus carrying scabs drives in the factory gate.

## HAY'S WHARF CLOSURE

# Dock bosses throw down challenge

Workers' Press reporter

THE THREATENED closure of Hay's wharf on the south bank of the Thames is a challenge to all dockers faced with the Devlin 'modernization' scheme Phase Two.

But Mr. Peter Shea, London docks secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said this week that there was little the men could do once the closure was announced.

'You cannot fight a shadow', he said.

The jobs of 650 workers are not a shadow, but very real. Behind the Hay's closure is the threat of mass redundancies posed by Devlin Phase Two.

Hay's has been in the vanguard of implementing Devlin. Earlier in the year Hay's made repeated attempts to force the Dock Labour Board to agree to drastic labour cuts.

## Try-on

This was very much a try-on for the benefit of the rest of the employers.

Now Hay's is to close. The union officials refuse to fight the Hay's closure, just as they are negotiating the introduction of Devlin with the threat to dockers' jobs this brings.

The redundancies at Hay's can only be fought by a campaign for the nationalization of the docks under workers' control and with no compensation to the former owners.

This fight must be taken up as part of the rejection of the whole Devlin scheme.

# Unemployment total up

THE NUMBER of unemployed this month has risen by 12,874 compared with September, to make a total of 571,868.

Department of Employment and Productivity figures released this week show that on October 13, 2.5 per cent of the labour force were unemployed.

Much of the increase in unemployment has been caused by lay-offs in the car industry.

The immediate cause of the crisis in the motor industry and industry generally is the government's squeeze on consumption and credit.

As the Labour government is determined to continue this policy as it is looking to unemployment to dampen the militancy of the working class.

## POLL 'SCARE'

WORRIED by recent polls showing a swing to Labour, the ruling Liberal Country Party coalition has resorted to the 'Red Bogy' in an attempt to hold on to power after today's Australian general election.

Speaking on Wednesday's evening television Prime Minister Gorton alleged that Labour's policy of withdrawal from Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore might affect 'perhaps the future existence of this country'.

## LEBANON

# Guerrillas attack frontier posts

THE MIDDLE - EAST crisis heightened on Thursday after the killing of 25 Palestinian commandos by the Lebanese Army.

A statement broadcast by Beirut (Lebanon) Radio said three frontier posts came under attack on Thursday.

The first, at Maasna, was razed by 50 men in military uniforms with Arab head-dresses.

As this attack was being repulsed, a larger force overran two other posts at Al Ariba and Al Baki'a, taking 20 gendarmes, customs men and

security officials prisoner. Later the same day, it was announced in Damascus that the raids had been carried out by Al Fatah, the Arab guerrilla organization.

## Released

Al Fatah said the kidnapped Lebanese officials would be released.

'The Palestinian revolution will never be a party to any struggle against the Lebanese people. When we captured some of our brothers in the person of Lebanese security men it was intended to prove

to the ruling authorities in Lebanon that the Palestinian revolution is able to hit back against forces.

Unlike the present rulers of Lebanon, Al Fatah rightly sees Zionism as the main enemy of the Arab peoples, though in its statement the guerrilla organization made it clear that no more stabs in the back would be tolerated.

## Warning

'As such measures were only a warning to the Lebanese authorities, so the release of the 24 kidnapped brothers constitutes full evidence of the revolution's ability to take any measures it considers appropriate for self-defence until victory is achieved.'

# Workers strike against the army

MILITARY units were being brought into the Lebanese capital Beirut, on Thursday to guard against demonstrations in support of the Palestinian Liberation movement.

Police had already dispersed a demonstration of 500 people, mostly Palestinians, in the city's Bourg Al-Brajneh quarter that same morning.

In the southern city of Sidon, a fully effective general strike was reported.

From the Jordan capital of Amman came news that Palestinian units stationed in Jordan will declare war against the Lebanese army unless it ceases all military ac-

tion against Palestinian commandos.

The statement was issued by the Action Group for the Liberation of Palestine, a breakaway organization from Al Fatah.

In an attempt to avoid further clashes, Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi tried to arrange a meeting between the Lebanese government and Palestinian commando leaders.

President Helou of Lebanon said that he could not go to

Libya at the present, but might do so in the near future.

It is obvious that the Lebanese government is on the verge of a tremendous crisis.

If the strike spread, it could well be brought down in the next few days or weeks.

# Frank Willis

FROM PAGE ONE

- Paigned for a socialist alternative. Our policies are:
- Hands off the Unions!
- Sack the Wilson leadership!
- Build a socialist alternative!
- Oppose the Common Market!

The big issue here is not the size of the vote. Working-class victory depends on the building of an alternative force based on principles, and this is the appeal of the Young Socialists.

They should like to thank and commend the members of the Young Socialists for their untiring and principled struggle, both in this election campaign and in the years leading up to it.

They have set an entirely new example in political campaigning in Britain.

# RENAULT

FROM PAGE ONE

cause Democraque de Travail —proposed that a delegation should confront the management immediately with their demands.

When workers surged forward to take advice, however, they found doors locked against them.

The union leaders then left the meeting, leaving no time for discussion of a continuation of the strike.

Heated arguments with union bureaucrats followed as workers returned to their shops.

Earlier, groups of workers had walked out of the meeting.

The factory's Stalinist secretary of the CGT had launched an attack from the platform on 'leftists' in the CFTD.

## Heading off

Several workers told the Workers' Press as they came out of the plant that a four-hour strike was a completely useless weapon against the increasing attacks being made against their wages and conditions.

Many also felt that the strike had been called by the Communist Party-dominated CGT leadership in an attempt to head off the growing militancy of Renault workers.

One union delegate said on Thursday afternoon that the 40 per cent support claimed by the Stalinists for the stoppage contrasted sharply with last week's 100 per cent solid strike in the plant's maintenance department.

# B.S.A. PROFITS SLUMP

Workers' Press reporter

PROFITS of BSA, the motor cycle firm, slumped to £846,000 for the first half of this year compared with £3,330,000 over the same period last year.

The dividend to shareholders has been reduced from 14 to 5 per cent.

BSA has recently been encountering increasing competition from abroad, especially from Japan.

# RENAULT STRIKES—BAROMETER OF STRUGGLE

By a foreign correspondent

The Renault management at Le Mans has now declared a lock-out, a step that could very quickly provoke a bitter reaction from the workers throughout the combine.

## Joint action

The present struggle in Renault, the traditional 'barometer' of the French working class, can now serve

to bring millions of French workers into joint action with the struggles of their fellow workers in Italy and Britain

The strike movement today is international.

It demands international leadership. Registered with the GPO as a newspaper. Published by Workers' Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4. Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.



# Peter Archer

# John Walls

IT IS now one year since John Walls died—on October 20, 1968. John Walls was a Trotskyist for 14 years and a member of the Yorkshire area committee of the Socialist Labour League.

He was a member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and was for many years convenor of shop stewards at George Mann's (Engineering), Leeds.

He was expelled from the Labour Party in 1959 when The Newsletter (forerunner of Workers' Press) and the Socialist Labour League were proscribed.

John Walls was a consistent fighter against the right wing and the Stalinists in his union and in the Leeds Trades Council.

He was also one of the first leading trade unionists to support the Young Socialists, first in their struggle against the right wing inside the Labour Party and then in their fight against the betrayals of the Wilson government after they broke from the Labour Party in 1964.

At a time when most adult trade unionists still had faith in the Wilson leadership, John's support meant a great deal to the Young Socialists.

He was a regular seller and campaigner on behalf of The Newsletter and played his part in making the first Trotskyist daily paper possible.

We are very sorry that John Walls did not live to see this paper.

It will carry to success the work to which he devoted 14 years of his life.



# John Walls