

Second statement by the All Trades Unions Alliance miners' section What next for the miners?

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The surfacemen's hours is a matter of principle. It is intolerable that low-paid workers in arduous conditions of work cannot have a 20-minute meal break included in the eight-hour day—that is the stand of the miners.

Behind their fight on the eight-hour day is a powerhouse of determination and fighting strength—they are going to put an end to the pit closures, speed-up, sackings and decline in real wages inflicted upon them by the NCB and by their union leadership.

But the Labour government is equally determined to insist on the eight hours and 20 minutes.

Under orders from the international bankers, they say they will not allow a breach of the incomes policy by granting what would in effect be a 13 per cent increase to surface workers.

These orders they pass on to Robens.

That is the reward to the miners for nearly 70 years of unequalled loyalty to the Labour Party! The Labour government makes them the whipping boy for its grovelling subservience to international capitalism.

This is the cardinal lesson of the first two weeks of the strike: the miners are fighting for all workers on questions of principle—the right to a decent living wage and hours of work, won by their own strength, and the right to security of employment against the employing class and the government.

It is therefore unavoidably a political fight.

From 1912 to 1926, the miners' struggle for a living wage had to go beyond what

was won in the Minimum Wage Bill and raise a political demand against the Tory government of the day.

That demand was nationalization. The treachery of the trade union leaders in 1926 brought defeat, and it was not till 1945 that a Labour government was able to introduce a bill for nationalization.

The miners will never give up that gain. But what kind of nationalization is it? Nationalization with thousands of jobs lost every year; with the eight-hour day negotiations beginning in 1947, and still not successful! With hundreds of millions of pounds paid out to the parasitic ex-owners of the industry!

Out of this strike, which must be fought to the end—no return till the eight-hour day is won! The miners will decide to fight on a political programme once again, against the betrayal of the Wilson government and against the return of the Tories.

The political programme must be:

- National minimum wage of £20 for all mineworkers, regardless of the 'incomes policy' decided by the international bankers. £5 a shift minimum for face workers.
- Sack Robens and all the top officials of the NCB.
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Furnacemen back after strike

By an Industrial correspondent
BLASTFURNACEMEN at the Port Talbot steelworks walked out on Friday after the management suspended 12 process workers.

The 12 men were sent home after refusing to lift blow pipes and tuyeres in the No. 2 blast furnace.

One furnaceman told me: 'For years our process workers have been injuring themselves lifting these pipes. It's about time they were shifted by crane. As far as we're concerned, they can stay on the floor, until the management agrees to pay the riggers to do the job.'

The riggers are demanding

A warning to all trade unionists MINERS WERE BETRAYED

THE DECISION of the Yorkshire area council of the National Union of Mineworkers to recommend a return to work without the eight-hour day for surfacemen is more than just another sell-out by a union leadership.

It is one of the first fruits of the joint declaration with the Confederation of British Industries signed by Jack Jones, Victor Feather and others to 'resolve' the question of industrial relations.

The decision follows the direct intervention of TUC general secretary Vic Feather.

We know that the decision of the strike committee to travel to London to see Mr Feather did not come from nowhere.

It was 'leaked' to the committee that Feather was 'sympathetic', that they might 'get something' the easy way. (Exactly the same thing happened a few days earlier

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when the Cadeby committee also 'suddenly decided' to see Feather and were persuaded to call off their demand for market men till the surface issue was over.)

We know also that Feather was in contact every day with Lawrence Daly and Lord Robens (behind whom stood Harold Wilson).

The strike committee's action must show miners that to go into a fight behind a leadership which is not a convinced socialist leadership is to put yourselves into the hands of men who can be manipulated.

Urgency

The TUC is now determined to intervene in all strikes to smash them on behalf of the government, regardless of the cost to the working class.

This takes on a special urgency when they see the danger of a new and politically conscious leadership beginning to develop.

For the issue here was not one of 20 minutes (the difference between having meal breaks included in the eight hours or excluded, as the NCB had offered).

What was at stake was the accumulated resentment of the miners against their treatment by the Labour government and the lack of fight from their own leaders.

The old threat of 'strikes mean closures' had failed to work. Demand after demand was surging forward—on hours, on wages, on closures.

Above all, the official leadership faced its biggest challenge since the war.

Daly—elected as general secretary after talking about strike action against closures—had been exposed at the first challenge.

The miners' fighting strength, sapped by years of pit closures, was aroused again.

The area council and the eight-man strike committee (nobody knows how this committee was formed—and every member of it is a branch official) did not organize a single mass meeting or demonstration.

Yet car loads of rank-and-file pickets travelled from Yorkshire to Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Real links were being established between militant miners in different coalfields—moreover these men were learning political lessons in the strike and represented a real challenge to the leadership of the right wing, the Communist Party and the 'lefts'.

Warned

This was why the strike had to be broken.

We warned over and over again in the Workers' Press that leaders who had been forced to make militant noises

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Guerrillas and army fight in Lebanon

MORE fighting broke out on Friday between the Lebanese army and Palestinian commandos.

According to a commando radio broadcast, Palestinian guerrillas were surrounded by 3,500 troops armed with tanks and artillery in the south Lebanese village of Majdal Salem.

Reports from Damascus speak of fighting in the north Lebanese city of Tripoli, where large-scale demonstrations have been in progress since the first news of clashes between the army and Palestinian commandos.

In the Lebanese capital of Beirut, commandos moved into a Palestinian refugee quarter and told the security forces to keep out.

Together with refugee leaders, they then sealed off the area, Borj Al-Brajeh, with barricades of rocks and concrete pipes.

Police were told that order would be maintained inside the area by the commandos and refugees themselves.

As a protest against the treacherous conduct of the Lebanese government, Salem Ali, chairman of the South Yemen Presidential Council, announced on Friday that his government is to break off diplomatic relations with the Lebanese government, as well as with the US government which may well be instigating these latest attacks on the Arab liberation movement.

Left move

Together with the leader of the pro-Stalinist faction, Aldo Moro, these two are now calling for a new move towards the left inside the Party and the government, which they feel has become isolated in recent months from the real problems before the nation.

Flaminio Piccoli, a close ally of Rumor in his centre policy, will now resign as party secretary.

With this latest split the Party now has no fewer than

Political crisis hits Italian ruling party

THE ITALIAN strike wave has again heightened the crisis within the ranks of the ruling Christian Democratic Party.

The Party's dominant faction, which holds the bulk of the cabinet posts in the present caretaker government, has itself just split into two new fragments.

Prime Minister Mariano Rumor's position of strength was based on his leadership of the ruling faction, which until recently held the balance between the 'left' and right factions within the Party.

Now Rumor is faced with two formidable new opponents: Giulio Andreotti, chairman of the parliamentary party in the Italian Chamber, and Emilio Colombo, Minister of the Treasury.

Whether fragmented into numerous small parties, as under the French Fourth Republic, or brought together under one party umbrella, as

in the Christian Democratic Party of West Germany, sectional interests, often based on agrarian and small proprietary elements, have still plagued the struggle of the big capitalists for a united front against the working class.

In France, this conflict helped to prepare the way for the rule of de Gaulle, whose Bonapartism was an attempt to regulate these interests while defending the power of the ruling class as a whole against the workers.

This method does not so much abolish these contradictions as temporarily smother them.

The fall of de Gaulle has once again brought these age-old problems to the fore.

In Italy, such contradictions are, if anything, even more acute.

The Christian Democrats represent an attempt by the Italian ruling class to weld together a mass party embracing conflicting interests and classes through the medium of the powerful Catholic hierarchy.

This strategy demanded a change of tactics on the part of the Vatican itself, which in the fascist period had openly backed Mussolini in his bid for power and throughout the entire 22 years of his rule.

Considerable pressure was brought to bear by sections of the Italian ruling class on the Vatican to 'liberalize' itself as an integral part of creating a mass capitalist party based on a programme of moderate reforms.

Pope John (1958-1963) was the answer to their prayers. His election also heralded a new warming of relations between the Vatican and the Italian Socialists—all highly useful for the Italian ruling class.

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By Peter Read
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A 250-strong YS demonstration marched through Swindon on Saturday.

Passers-by stopped to watch as the marchers, most carrying 'Vote for Willis' placards, passed through the shopping centre.

The slogans shouted: 'Wage freeze out! Willis in! 'Unemployment Out! Willis in!' emphasized that only the YS candidate's policies offered a real alternative to Wilson.

At the Town Hall meeting after the demonstration Mike Banda, editor of Workers Press, opened by stressing that the YS was not on 'a vote-catching exercise'.

IMPORTANT MATTERS

The purpose of our intervention, he said, was to 'put our policies across to the working class of Swindon on such important matters as unemployment, inflation, the Common Market and all the questions posed by the big struggles in front'.

'Monty' Montonout, NUVB senior shop steward, brought a message from stewards and workers of Pressed-Steel Fisher, Swindon, wishing the YS candidate every success.

Frank Willis thanked the Young Socialists for their sterling work over the last nine months.

'The size of the vote is not the most important thing by a long way,' he said, 'but the building of the alternative leadership in Swindon.'

The third speaker, YS National Committee member John Simmance, told the meeting 'the biggest criminals today are not the Biggs—the train robbers—but the trade union leaders who do the dirty work for the employers'.

'Don't look to Wilson to fight the Tories,' he said, 'the only way is to build the revolutionary leadership.'

EVERYONE CANVASSED

Every Swindon elector has now been canvassed at least twice by the YS.

A team of 200 Young Socialists worked all day Sunday to complete the third canvass.

Preparations are well in hand for the organization of the committee room work on polling day.

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ATUA EVE OF POLL MEETING SWINDON

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

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

Labour hides deep money crisis

SPEAKING to the British section of the International Chamber of Commerce in London last week the Prime Minister said that the 'magnitude of the balance of payments improvement is not perhaps always fully appreciated.'

Many leading industrialists and bankers take precisely the opposite view.

Despite all the ballyhoo surrounding the latest trade figures they realize that there has been no fundamental change in British industry's structure or competitiveness.

The slight gains made in the balance of payments position can all be traced rather

to the shortage of capacity abroad, the domestic stagnation at home which has forced manufacturers to look abroad for sales and the 1967 devaluation which brought some temporary gain for sections of industry.

Serious lag
The serious lag in capital investment in British industry provides the real picture of the crisis still facing British capitalism.

Investment hit
In other words, five years of almost continual credit squeeze and deflation have severely hit capital investment on which any permanent improvement in productivity or exports rests.

With growing signs of a serious American recession, the rate of expansion in world trade must now begin to slow down, if not turn down absolutely.

None of the historical roots of British capitalism's crisis have in any way been tackled over the last five years.

Far from looking forward to any further improvements in the balance of payments, British workers must prepare for major class struggles against the employers and the government as British capitalism attempts to tackle this crisis.

6d.-an-hour increase for similar work and have said they will only take on the job of moving the pipes when this demand is met.

The support of the furnacemen was 100 per cent in all three shifts and the 1,300 men met Saturday.

The 26-man lodge committee backed the men and recommended giving ten days' notice to the company to comply with the demand.

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London tube guards stop again

ALL LONDON'S underground train guards are to strike today despite appeals from union officials to call off the action and promises of a new pay deal.

The guards are demanding the same mileage bonus as the drivers.

The 12-man strike committee, elected after last Monday's one-day stoppage, expects complete support from the 1,800 men involved.

The committee was given a mandate to organize further

strike action at a mass meeting last Thursday.

Mr McCloskey, a strike committee member, said: 'The attitude of the men is hard—and hardening.'

The strikers are angry at the lack of progress in talks between the management and their unions—the National Union of Railwaymen and the Associated Society of Loco-

motive Engineers and Firemen.

Union officials tried to persuade the strike committee to call off today's strike by holding out the prospect of a new pay deal for all London underground workers to be signed shortly.

This would raise the guard's basic wage by 16s. a week.

ASLEF leaders sent telegrams to their members asking them not to strike because of the 'disrepute' this brought on the union.

Young Socialists
GRAND XMAS BAZAAR
Saturday, Nov. 29
Canning Town Public Hall
doors open 12 noon

Can you sew? knit? paint?
make something for our Bazaar?
give something towards our bazaar?
Have you a tin of grocery? jumble?
Help us make this the best bazaar ever held!
Help us raise the money for our daily paper—
THE WORKERS' PRESS

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C.A.V. WALK-OUT FOR £5 CLAIM

FIVE THOUSAND shift workers at Lucas combine factory on Merseyside last Friday stopped work three hours before their shift ended in support of their demand for an all-round £5 shift allowance.

For the second week running they took united action, despite the rumour being spread that the Lucas gas turbine factory at Broad Green had called off the stoppage.

Shift workers at this factory, in fact, stopped work with the others.

The CAV stewards had already defeated one diversion by the management when they were offered a 25s. increase all round, with the condition that all other claims should be dropped and no fresh claim put in for two years.

The stewards threw the offer out.

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The riggers are demanding

6d-an-hour increase for similar work and have said they will only take on the job of moving the pipes when this demand is met.

The support of the furnacemen was 100 per cent in all three shifts and the 1,300 men met Saturday.

The 26-man lodge committee backed the men and recommended giving ten days' notice to the company to comply.

● PAGE 4 COL. 6 →

Labour hides deep money crisis

By Peter Jefferies

to the shortage of capacity abroad, the domestic stagnation at home which has forced manufacturers to look abroad for sales and the 1967 devaluation which brought some temporary gain for sections of industry.

The serious lag in capital investment in British industry provides the real picture of the crisis still facing British capitalism.

Warned

This was why the strike had to be broken.

We warned over and over again in the Workers' Press that leaders who had been forced to make militant noises

● PAGE 4 COL. 1 →

Real links were being established between militant miners in different coalfields—moreover these men were learning political lessons in the strike and represented a real challenge to the leadership of the right wing, the Communist Party and the 'lefts'.

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London tube guards stop again

ALL LONDON'S underground train guards are to strike today despite appeals from union officials to call off the action and promises of a new pay deal.

The guards are demanding the same mileage bonus as the drivers.

The 12-man strike committee, elected last Monday's one-day stoppage, expects complete support from the 1,800 men involved.

The committee was given a mandate to organize further

strike action at a mass meeting last Thursday.

Mr McCloskey, a strike committee member, said: 'The attitude of the men is hard—and hardening.'

The strikers are angry at the lack of progress in talks between the management and their unions—the National Union of Railwaymen and the Associated Society of Loco-

motive Engineers and Firemen.

Union officials tried to persuade the strike committee to call off today's strike by holding out the prospect of a new pay deal for all London underground workers to be signed shortly.

This would raise the guard's basic wage by 16s. a week.

ASLEF leaders sent telegrams to their members asking them not to strike because of the 'disrepute' this brought on the union.

C.A.V. WALK-OUT FOR £5 CLAIM

FIVE THOUSAND shift workers at Lucas combine factory on Merseyside last Friday stopped work three hours before their shift ended in support of their demand for an all-round £5 shift allowance.

For the second week running they took united action, despite the rumour being spread that the Lucas gas turbine factory at Broad Green had called off the stoppage.

Shift workers at this factory, in fact, stopped work with the others.

The CAV stewards had already defeated one diversion by the management when they were offered a 25s. increase all round, with the condition that all other claims should be dropped and no fresh claim put in for two years.

The stewards threw the offer out.

● PAGE 4 COL. 8 →

Labour hides deep money crisis

By Peter Jefferies

to the shortage of capacity abroad, the domestic stagnation at home which has forced manufacturers to look abroad for sales and the 1967 devaluation which brought some temporary gain for sections of industry.

The serious lag in capital investment in British industry provides the real picture of the crisis still facing British capitalism.

● PAGE 4 COL. 1 →

Young Socialists GRAND XMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, Nov. 29

Canning Town Public Hall doors open 12 noon

Can you sew? knit? paint? make something for our Bazaar? give something towards our bazaar? Have you a tin of grocery? Jumble? Help us make this the best bazaar ever held! Help us raise the money for our daily paper—

THE WORKERS' PRESS



Franco tries to bribe Picasso

GENERAL FRANCO, fascist dictator of Spain, has personally approved negotiations to secure the return of the world famous painter, Pablo

Picasso, to his native Spain.

Picasso has always refused to return home until the removal or death of Franco. His reactions to this latest invitation are as yet unknown. Not involved in politics until

the outbreak of the Civil War in July 1936, Picasso commemorated the fascist bombing of the small town of Guernica with perhaps his most famous, if not greatest painting.

During his exile in France, he was drawn towards the

workers' movement and became a sympathizer of the French Communist Party.

As part of the bait to draw him back to Spain, the director-general of fine arts has promised that there

would be no conditions imposed upon the painter if he chose to come home.

But the most cynical bribe of all is Franco's plan for a new £1,200,000 museum of modern art at the Madrid university.

The fascist director hopes that

the centerpiece of the entire display will be Picasso's own 'Guernica', which at the moment is displayed in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The fascist regime in Spain is obviously disturbed at the prospect of the world's

greatest living painter ending his days in exile (Picasso is 88 years old).

Picasso must hurl this cynical offer back in the fascist dictatorship's face. The acceptance of such a

bribe would be a real stab in the back for the rising wave of workers' and student struggles now building up against Franco.

It is not just a question of art. Vital political principles are at stake.

By Cliff Slaughter

IN EVERY capitalist country, the Stalinist parties ('Communist Parties') are in crisis. Certain leading members in the French Party have resigned, openly opposed the Party line, and there are known divisions at the top of the British and other Parties.

But this is only a pale reflection of the questioning in the ranks: militants walled off from Marxism for many years are trying to find ways of breaking out, in all corners of Western Europe.

There is a reason for this: since the establishment of the temporary victory of Stalinism over Bolshevism in the Soviet State and the Communist International, which began in 1924-1925, and was completed on the world scale in 1933, Stalinism has been the principal force for counter-revolution, the main pillar of the continued existence of capitalism.

Now capitalism has entered a period of profound crisis and at the heart of this crisis is a strong and confident working class.

Those bureaucratic forces which dominate the working class—Stalinism, social-democracy, the trade union bureaucracy—rest on capitalism's defeats of the working class, and so they also must go into crisis.

Within the countries ruled by Stalinist parties, the working class, as in Czechoslovakia, challenges the bureaucracy more powerfully than ever before.

Opposition

Into the opposition bulletins in the USSR comes the voice of those who want to defend the conquests of October from bureaucracy, to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of a 'world October'.

Trotskyism has existed, first in the Left Opposition and then in the Fourth International, as the force for destroying Stalinism and building revolutionary leadership in the working class.

The present crisis of Stalinism makes that task one which can now be completed. It must be done on the basis of the most principled struggle for Marxism, the firmest opposition to Stalinism in all its forms.

The role of the middle-of-the-road people who called themselves 'Marxists' was to head off these left-moving forces and steer them back to reformism.

Now, in 1969, Stalinism is being offered similar services by people who call themselves Marxists and even some who call themselves Trotskyists.

The 'New Left Review' group of left-talking middle-class intellectuals has welcomed to the fold Monty Johnstone.

Johnstone is an ex-official of the Young Communist League and Communist Party. Since 1956 he has advocated the right-wing policies and programmes of the Italian Communist Party.

Destroy

With talk of 'structural reforms' of capitalism and accepting the framework of a 'democratic' state with capitalist parties, the Italian CP has taken the idea of 'peaceful, parliamentary roads to socialism' further than any other Communist Party.

Johnstone is helping the British CP along this road. Like the Italian Stalinists, Johnstone pays a certain amount of attention to Trotsky and Trotskyism—in order to destroy it.

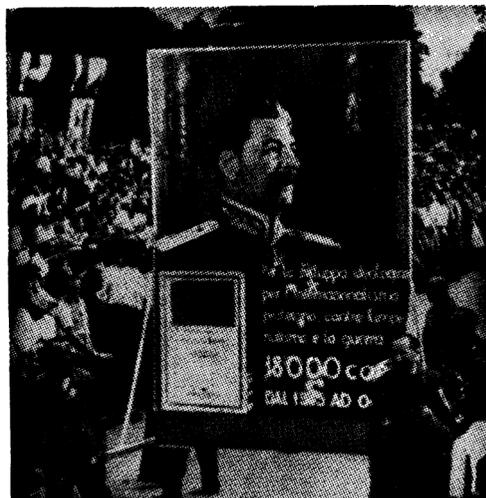
The technique is to adopt an apparently honest and liberal stance, to withdraw the grossest of Stalin's lies about Trotsky and then to use this mask of goodwill to distort and reject the struggle for revolutionary politics which was Trotsky's contribution to the history of Marxism and the working class.

Johnstone and those like him are thus products of the crisis of Stalinism and at the same time conscious agents of Stalinism in turning their fire against the only force which can defeat it and build revolutionary leadership.

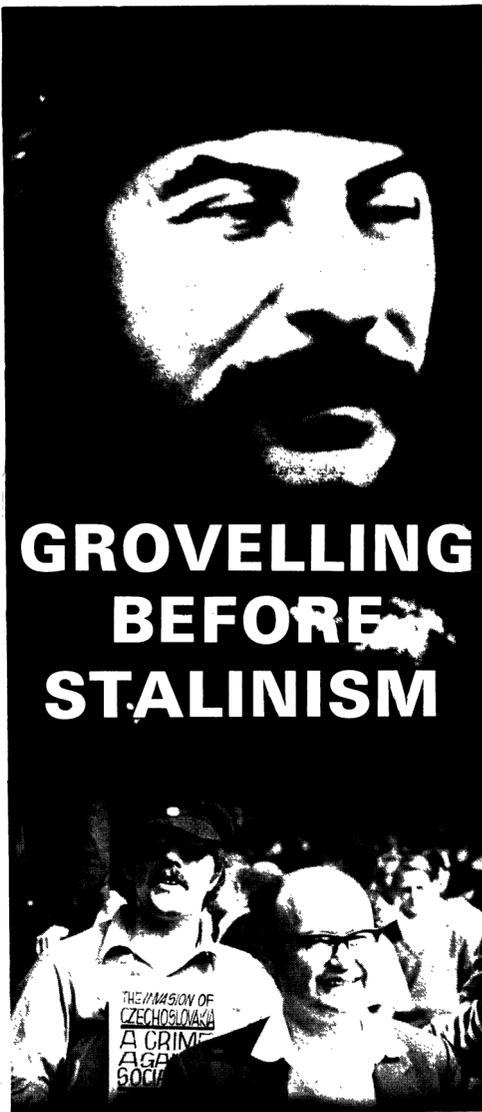
The 'left' intellectuals and revisionists of all kinds abandon the principled struggle against Stalinism as the historical enemy of Bolshevism.

Instead, they work on impressions of the 'liberalization' and 'democratization' of Stalinism, its 'left' and 'right' tendencies, its possibility of changing into something better without being defeated.

Within the Trotskyist Fourth International, revisionists have constantly tried to turn the movement away from the



The 'New Left Review' has welcomed into its fold Monty Johnstone who projects the line of the Italian C.P. (above) who have taken Stalin's peaceful, parliamentary road to socialism policy further than any other Communist Party.



Above: Bob Purdie, seen with Pat Jordan (right), both of the International Marxist Group, makes fawning references to Stalinism, providing it with a left cover.

struggle against Stalinism and to provide it with a left cover of the type we have described. Michel Pablo founded this revisionist tendency and this led to the split in the Fourth International in 1953.

This led to the leader of his

tendency at the time, John Lawrence, eventually joining the Communist Party after Khrushchev's speech.

Now the latest representative of this Pabloite tendency, which has several times tried unsuccessfully to get a footing in this country against the Socialist Labour League, after Lawrence deserted, is the International Marxist Group, publishing a monthly paper, 'International'.

It was among those forming the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and has as one of its members Mr. Tariq Ali. 'International', particularly in the persons of Pat Jordan and Bob Purdie, is now openly turning towards Monty Johnstone and those like him in the Communist Party.

This service to Stalinism is entirely in line with the international perspective adopted by the 'Unified Secretariat' of which International Marxist Group is part.

Purdie's latest article ('International', October 1969: 'For A Debate On Trotskyism and "Revisionism"') goes even further than before. There is no doubt that the great fighting capacity of the working class in Europe is growing at such a pace that it pushes middle-class 'socialists' frightened to death, into the arms of the bureaucracy and of the bourgeoisie which stand behind it. Purdie presents the miserable spectacle of a so-called 'Trotskyist' grovelling

on his belly before the Stalinists.

Tim Wohlforth in an earlier article in 'The Newsletter' showed that Purdie and the Pabloites were dropping the term 'Stalinist' in order to get away from Trotskyism and close to the Stalinists, precisely at a time when the Stalinists must attempt their greatest betrayals and when the responsibilities facing Trotskyists for actual leadership are far more urgent than ever before.

Purdie says: 'It is here that we will admit a deep theoretical gulf between ourselves [the Pabloites] and the Socialist Labour League. . . .'

He claims that by omitting the terms 'Stalinist' and 'counter-revolutionary' when referring to the Communist Parties and the bureaucracy, his group does not change any of the principles of Trotskyism: condemnation of 'peaceful co-existence', definition of USSR as a workers' state, programme of political revolution in the workers' states, workers' democracy.

Difference

The difference, he claims, is in estimation of the crisis reached by the Stalinist bureaucracy. In this, he says, quoting the resolution of the Pabloite International Conference, are four main factors.

... a slowing down of economic growth coupled with the detrimental effects which the 'economic reforms' of recent years have had for the masses; the crisis in the 'world socialist camp', that is, the crisis in the relationship between the workers' states and the Communist Parties; the bureaucracy's inability to develop a consistent ideological line to take the place of the Stalinist doctrine; the impact on the workers' states of American imperialism's aggressive escalation, of the victorious resistance of the Vietnamese working masses, and of the revival of revolutionary agitation and struggles in western Europe.

Purdie adds: '... The two factors which are of most relevance to this discussion are the ideological crisis, and the crisis of the relationships between the bureaucracies.'

All this he says '... contrasts so sharply with the monolithic bloc (sic) which Trotsky fought and analysed during his lifetime, that it would be a betrayal of the Marxist method to coast along with the ideas and attitudes formed 20 years ago.'

The political questions which Trotskyists have to raise in relation to these parties have altered, the opportunities for Trotskyists to influence and win elements within these parties has altered decisively in our favour, and the attitude of the bureaucracies towards the Trotskyists has of necessity altered. (Our emphasis.) In this long quotation Purdie's politics are crystal-clear.

He echoes the Unified Secretariat in ignoring the struggle of the working class and Marxist intellectuals as the principal 'factor' in the crisis of the Stalinist bureaucracy.

The 'four factors' are all of them seen through the eyes of the bureaucracy itself and its petty-bourgeois horizons: how to regain 'consistency', how to react to imperialism, how to maintain 'economic' growth without disturbing bureaucratic privilege, how to get back to the homogeneity of Stalin's day!

All of these are, of course, problems, but they all arise from the pressure of the revolutionary force in Soviet society, the working class. Elements of the bureaucracy

and the Communist Parties, in order to try and stabilize their position in relation to the struggle of the masses in East and West alike, adopt 'new' attitudes which they hope will endear them to the middle class, reformist and trade union bureaucratic forces everywhere.

And so Purdie asks that we should all help them. Instead of exposing them with the weapons forged in Trotsky's struggle, Purdie says 'drop the ideas developed by Trotsky' who was writing in a 'contrasting' situation.

The claim to 'new thinking', 'not coasting along with ideas of 20 years ago', has arisen in all past revisionisms, under slogans like, 'junk the old Trotskyism', 'face the new reality'.

According to Purdie, we must interpret the anti-Trotskyism of Johnstone, not as a Stalinist reaction to the pressure of the working class and its demand for revolutionary leadership, but as a symptom of these 'new' opportunities and the changing attitudes of the bureaucracies towards Trotskyists.

Despite acknowledging that Johnstone accepts 'socialism in a single country' and 'nowhere goes further than a liberal rejection of the more distasteful aspects of the Stalin era', Purdie accepts Johnstone's rejection of the Moscow Trials as a great opening, because it concerns '... precisely those aspects which had prevented any real political discussion between partisans of the Communist Parties and of Trotskyism'.

We therefore cannot denounce him as an 'apologist for Stalinism'! We have shown that the apologist for Stalinism today must adopt the 'liberal' stance and further he must devote his attention to a more and more 'presentable' attack on Trotskyism as the main enemy.

Purdie still cannot explain why Johnstone is the chosen advocate of the British Communist Party against Trotsky, along with the old-line servant of the bureaucracy, Betty Reid.

Broker

Even though he claims the Unified Secretariat has not revised the Trotskyist theory of Stalinism, Purdie is in fact throwing it overboard and acting as the 'theoretical' broker for a new middle-of-the-road, pseudo-Communist grouping, helping the Stalinists out of their crisis.

After saying that Stalinism is a 'precise scientific' term denoting the political line of the Soviet bureaucracy, Purdie goes on to reject the whole Trotskyist idea of Stalinism. He says in passing that the Communist Parties have not 'as yet' broken from the Stalinist theoretical heritage, thus implying that they are on the road to doing so.

Indeed he says later that: '... the (Communist) Party as a whole could be moved towards co-operating with the Trotskyists and other tendencies in work of immediate value to the British workers or the world revolution'.

Here is the crux of the matter! Purdie will say: 'co-operation on particular issues does not contradict the view that they are tied theoretically to Stalinism'.

But what is this 'theory'? Can it be that without abandoning the Stalinist 'theoretical heritage' the Stalinists will carry out actions 'of immediate value to the British workers or the world revolution'?

Here the worst kind of double talk is used to express counter-revolutionary revisionism.

'We are not revising our Trotskyist estimate of Stalinism, you understand. . . . BUT, Stalinism can be made to carry out 'work of immediate value to . . . the

world revolution'! Most certainly the split in the Fourth International was absolutely necessary in order to break from the revisionism of Pablo and German, who told us that Stalinism would be forced against its nature to carry out the world revolution. Purdie is the latest and rottenest fruit of that revisionism, coming to the aid of Stalinism in its most desperate crisis.

According to Purdie:

'... in order to express the new dominant features of these (Communist) Parties, their organizational fragmentation and political diversification, the term "Stalinist" has lost its usefulness. . . . (Our emphasis.) Because of this "diversity", he says, "such terms as "the Khrushchev apparatus" and "the communist movement" are not only legitimate but scientifically necessary'.

A further, 'secondary' reason for dropping the term 'Stalinist' is that:

'Amongst wide layers of new forces on the left, dissident elements in the CPs, the "New Left", and other non-Trotskyist Marxists [?], this term has taken on quite a different meaning from that traditionally used by the Trotskyists; for them it refers solely to the period in the CPSU from the triumph of Stalin over the opposition, to the 20th Congress.'

Purdie gives the game away. The 'diversification' and 'fragmentation' are now for him 'the new dominant feature' of the Communist Parties.

Stalinism, the characterization of these parties as counter-revolutionary, now recedes into the background or out of existence altogether, and they

sition, let alone of the Fourth International, was abortive.

The defeats for which Stalin and Stalinism were responsible from 1926 onwards were simply the mistakes of a 'communist movement' to be corrected within it, in response to pressure.

We in the Socialist Labour League and the Fourth International know where we are going.

We are building the kind of Party—a Bolshevik-Leninist Party—in all our national sections in order to smash the Stalinists, to counter and to defeat every move by those like Johnstone who cook up a mixture of Stalinism and liberalism in order to confuse and divide the advanced workers.

Continuity

We are training young Marxists and revolutionary cadres in the trade unions to start from the continuity of the whole struggle of Trotsky against Stalinism and of Lenin against Menshevism.

We know that Stalinism is in crisis because it is counter-revolutionary and clashes with the resurgent working-class movement all over the world.

We will continue to oppose with all our strength all those, like Purdie and his mentors, Pablo and Mandel, who want to wipe out the past struggles of Trotskyism in order to whitewash the present.

There will be no successful building up of the centrist alternative which Purdie and Johnstone want, in order to tide over Stalinism's crisis.

Our task is not to debate with the revisionists of Purdie's group, but to carry out a consistent political struggle against them, alongside our relentless fight against Stalinism.



Tariq Ali, another member, with Purdie, of the International Marxist Group.

can once again, together with the Stalinist bureaucracy, be called—in the interests of 'scientific' necessity—the communist movement!

Can revisionism of Trotskyism go any further?

The Pabloites, when they erected the theory that Stalinist parties could be forced to take power on behalf of the working class, called in question in effect the whole foundation of the Fourth International.

After all, if the Stalinist parties were going to do the job before a revolutionary leadership, a new International, was built, why was it not correct in the 1930s to abandon the idea of a Fourth International and continue to fight, as the Left Opposition did, for reform of the USSR and the Communist International?

As we have pointed out, on all the other issues Purdie goes much further, Stalinism is not, for him, the essence of the politics of the Soviet bureaucracy and the Communist Parties, but only one phase of their development, to be replaced by another, in which 'diversification and fragmentation' are the 'dominant' factors.

If this was the case, the whole fight of the Left Oppo-

When Purdie asks for a debate, he fools nobody.

When his group made its so-called 'reunification' with the Socialist Workers' Party (USA) in 1963, they did so by explicitly excluding discussion of all the outstanding political questions.

The SLL and the International Committee asked that all the questions be discussed in writing and in Conference before any organizational steps could be considered.

But the Pabloite revisionists rejected this on the grounds that discussion of 'old' issues of 1953 would be unnecessarily divisive.

Purdie knows as well as we do that the suppression of that discussion has resulted, six years later, in the degeneration we have analysed in this article.

He knows that the question of the characterization of Stalinism, which split the movement in 1953, has re-emerged as a 'split' question once again at the 1969 International Pabloite Conference.

His demagogic requests for a 'debate' are a transparent device to cover up this whole process and to avoid the

Statement by the miners' section of the All Trades Unions Alliance

What next for the miners?

FROM PAGE ONE

NCB, and introduce workers' control of the industry from top to bottom. Suspend all pit closures: the future of every pit to be decided by workers' inspection committees. There are thousands of miners capable of carrying out this job. A scale of reducing hours of work as the answer to redundancy. Suspend all interest payments on compensation to ex-owners. Nationalize under workers' control all underground mining and open cast contracting, all coal distribution and mining machinery manufacture. Nationalization must be made to work in the interests of the miners and the whole working class. The struggle

the Midlands, Kent, and on the executive, and the so-called 'left' around Daly, have failed to prepare for the present struggle in any way. They have never challenged Ford and the right wing. In fact, they have shared power with the right wing in the NUM. Paynter, a life-long member of the Communist Party, was complimented for the smooth way that 216 pits were closed under the present Labour government. The Workers Press, organ of the Socialist Labour League and the paper of the All Trades Unions Alliance, has been the only paper to put forward these policies and to expose the treacherous leadership of the right-wing and pro-Stalinist leadership. ATUA members have been right in the front of the battle to spread the strike and win it. The Workers Press has become known among the strikers as the daily paper which expresses their interests and points the way forward. Around the policy put forward here, supporters of the Workers Press in the mines are building ATUA sections and Socialist Labour League branches. The Young Socialists in the mining areas must build their branches, educating through the strike struggles a new generation of Marxists. It is the building of this leadership which is the key to winning the political battles opened up by this strike. It is as a by-product of this revolutionary struggle that the just demands of the surface workers can be won, and in no other way.

employers' press; particularly answer the Yorkshire Tory businessmen who are demanding that social security payments be stopped. Work towards a national strike committee. Call regular mass meetings to explain the progress of the strike and draw fresh forces, particularly the youth, into the organization of the struggle. No surrender! The eight hours, including meal-break, now! Sack Robens! Workers' control of the mines! Ford, Daly and the executive — resign! Build in every division the basis for a national strike committee.



Paynter

begun in 1912-1926 must be completed; the defeat of 1926 avenged. The miners have returned to the very forefront of the struggle against the employing class. They are once more showing the way to beat back the old enemy, the Tory Party. They will need to fight alongside workers in all unions for socialist nationalization of all big industry, under workers' control and without compensation. The other major issue raised by the miners' strike is the question of union leadership. From thousands of miners the cry has gone up: Daly and Ford! Resign! And the rest of the executive with you! It took many years for Will Paynter to be revealed to every miner in his true colours when he deserted to a government job. Daly cannot hide behind the right-wing majority on the executive. It was only because of the strike that Robens and the government conceded the 27s. 6d. wage increase, which is in any case five years out of date and totally inadequate. Daly, before he was elected secretary of the union, promised action, even strike action, against pit closures. But he instructs the strikers now to return to work, knowing full well that to win this strike would be the best guarantee of building up the miners' strength against pit closures. Instead, his call helps Robens' attempt to break the strike and thereby weaken the fight against future closures. He is helping Robens to use the threat of closures instead of fighting them. This is the political lesson of the strike once again. A fight on socialist policies, the only policies holding out any hope for the miners, is not possible without a fight for a new, socialist leadership in the unions.

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PROMISED

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STRENGTH

This means a leadership which opposes Wilson's betrayals, opposes Robens' and the capitalists' distortion of nationalization, and joins with those in other unions fighting on the same policies to organize the whole strength of the working class against the employers and the Tories. The Communist Party in Scotland, Wales, Yorkshire,



Miners outside a delegate meeting in Porthcawl, South Wales, last week.

GROVELLING BEFORE STALINISM

FROM PAGE TWO fundamental theoretical discussion. Ever since 1953, the group which Purdie supports has denounced the International Committee and the SLL for what they called 'boring' and 'repetitive' appeals to build the alternative revolutionary leadership. We were condemned as sec-

As opposed to this, those who denounced us as sectarians have ended up as a tiny group turning all its attention to aiding Stalinism in overcoming its crisis. We shall deal in a further article with Purdie and the International Marxist Group's capitulation to Stalinism in connection with the Ho Chi Minh memorial meeting in London on September 20.

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B.B.C.-1

9.15 a.m.-12.23 p.m. Schools. 1.00 Bob Yn Dri. 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45-1.53 News, Weather. 2.05-2.35 Schools. 3.45 Malcolm Muggeridge. 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Wacky Races. 5.15 Monster Music Mash. 5.44 Babar. 5.50 National News and Weather. 6.00 London-Nationwide. 6.45 Z Cars. 7.05 Tomorrow's World. 7.30 Decidedly Dusty. 8.00 Eric Robinson Presents. 8.50 The Main News and Weather. 9.10 Love Of A Kind: Tuesday's Documentary by Lord Snowdon. 10.00 He and She. 10.25 Points Of View. 10.30 24 Hours. 11.05 Viewpoint. 11.25 Medicine Today. 11.55 Weatherman. All regions as BBC-1 except at the following times: Midlands and East Anglia: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Midlands Today. Look East. Weather, Nationwide. 10.00-10.30 Jackie Stewart—World Champion. 11.57 News Summary and Weather. North of England: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Look North, Nationwide. 10.00-10.30 Somewhere Up There. 11.57 Northern News Headlines. Scotland: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Reporting Scotland. 10.00-10.25 Corrie Folk. 11.57 Scottish News Headlines.

B.B.C.-2

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School. 7.00 p.m. The Question Of Pressures. 7.30 Newsroom, Weather. 8.00 Floodlit Rugby Field: Kelghley v. Hull Kingston Rovers.

Northern Ireland: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Scene Around Six, Weather, Nationwide. 10.00-10.30 Speak Your Mind. 11.57 Northern News Headlines, Weather. Wales: 5.15-5.44 p.m. Telewela. 6.00-6.45 Wales Today, Weather, Nationwide. 6.45-7.05 Heddiw. 8.00-8.25 One Of The Family. 8.25-8.50 Cadw Cwmni. 10.00-10.20 Z Cars. 10.20-10.30 New... O'r Newydd. 11.57 Viewpoint. South and West: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Points West, South Today, Spotlight South West, Weather, Nationwide. 10.00-10.30 Free For All. 10.00-10.25 Peninsula. 10.25-10.30 Points Of View. 11.57 South and West News Headlines.

8.45 Jazz Scene. 9.10 Premier: 'Winchester 73'. 10.45 Europa. 11.20 News Summary, Weather. 11.25 Line-Up.

Thames

11.00 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.45-2.53 p.m. Schools. 3.25 Wild Bill Hickok. 3.55 Face Of The Earth. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Paulus. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News From ITN. 6.03 Today. 6.30 The Rifleman. 7.00 The Tuesday Film: 'The Ghost Of St. Michael's'. 8.30 The Dustbinmen. 9.00 Who-Dun-It. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Wild and Free—Twice Daily. 11.20 How About You? 11.50 Giving and Getting.

Yorkshire

11.00 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.45-2.30 p.m. Schools. 4.11 News Headlines. 4.13 The Tingha and Tucker Club.

4.25 Katie Stewart Cooks. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30 Castle Haven. 6.55 Top Of The World. 8.30 The Dustbinmen. 9.00 Hadleigh. 10.00 News At Ten, Weather. 10.30 Wild and Free—Twice Daily. 11.20 Half Hour Story. 11.50 Late Weather.

Grampian

10.58-11.15 a.m. Schools. 11.40-12 noon Schools. 2.00-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Sean the Leprechaun. 4.30 Skippy. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Grampian News and Farming News. 6.15 Out Of Town. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 The Film Stars: 'Casanova'. 8.30 The Dustbinmen. 9.00 Who-Dun-It? 10.00 News At Ten, Weather. 10.30 Wild and Free—Twice Daily. 11.20 Play With A Purpose.

Tyne Tees

11.00 a.m.-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.09 North East Newsroom. 4.11 News Headlines. 4.13 Paulus. 4.25 Mad Movies. 4.53 North East Newsroom. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today At Six. 6.30 Where The Jobs Are. 6.35 Castle Haven. 7.00 The Tuesday Film: 'Turned Out Nice Again' starring George

Formby and Peggy Bryan. 8.30 The Dustbinmen. 9.00 Who-Dun-It? 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Wild and Free—Twice Daily. 11.20 Late News Extra. 11.37 The Status Game.

Westward

11.00 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.45-2.53 p.m. Schools. 4.01 Hubble Bubble. 4.15 Westward News Headlines. 4.15 Castle Haven. 4.41 The Gas Honeybun Show. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 National News. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Movie: 'The Captive City' starring John Forsythe and Joan Camden. 8.30 The Dustbinmen. 9.00 Who-Dun-It? 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Wild and Free—Twice Daily. 11.20 How About You? 11.50 Faith For Life. 11.56 Weather.

Scottish

11.00 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.45-2.53 p.m. Schools. 4.20 Scotland Early. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 National News. 6.00 Scotland Now. 6.30 Raw Deal? 7.00 Star Western Movie: 'Vengeance Valley' starring Burt Lancaster, Robert Walker, Joanne Dru. 8.30 The Dustbinmen. 9.00 Who-Dun-It? 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Wild and Free. 11.20 Late Call. 12.25 The Privileged?

Anglia

10.58 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.43-2.53 p.m. Schools. 4.10 Castle Haven. 4.35 Anglia Newsroom. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Western Movie: 'Fort Worth' starring Randolph Scott, David Brian and Philip Thaxter. 8.30 The Dustbinmen. 9.00 Who-Dun-It? 10.00 News At Ten, Weather. 10.30 Wild and Free—Twice Daily. 11.20 All Our Yesterdays. 11.50 Reflection.

tv column

The show that will not go on

BY FRANK CARTWRIGHT



Prince Charles in his own show—playing a parson in a university revue.

WHEN international stars as big as Elizabeth, Charles and Anne Windsor, Philip Mountbatten and Margaret Jones decide to cut down on appearances, that's usually the prelude to a big increase in publicity. So the Royal Family's fear, which any show business team in similar circumstances might share, that they were over-exposed, was given headline treatment in all the bourgeois press. Begun in 1932 by George V, the Christmas broadcasts were part of the British bourgeoisie's attempt to deal with the disastrous economic and political crisis of that period. Since then the only years when the show didn't go on were 1936, when the monarchy and its supporting cast in parliament were a bit upset over the Duke of Windsor's most unprofessional behaviours, and in 1938.

The film sets a new standard for presenting royalty to the people. It is not enough for the Royal Family to be exposed to view: they have to come alive as personalities. The task for the future must be to develop this [the film's] style of presentation. The efforts to sell the monarchy this year have reached truly extraordinary proportions. Apart from the investiture show and the film there have been endless pictures and news coverage of our young trendy with-it Princess Anne and the Duke has been fully reported sounding off in his usual frank, forthright reactionary way. In the past couple of weeks Anne has been seen a lot with horses on television and last Tuesday on the commercial channel we had the disgusting spectacle of the centenary

After all the idea of workers starving themselves to death instead of fighting must be a very pleasing prospect to the whole of the capitalist class. Then, just a few days later the papers were full of the amazing fact that Anthony Armstrong-Jones has a documentary film going out on BBC-1 tonight. About that controversial subject — pets — the film promises to be another semi-amateur attempt like the last one. Supported by some of the BBC's most loyal professional production talent and buoyed up by some of its best technical staff, Mr Jones has obviously had a very interesting time—this time at the licence payers' expense. All in all not a bad week for the Royals. And, as one television man put it to this column:



'In the light of the new agreement between Equity [the actors' union] and the commercial companies, which virtually insist that all performers shall be members of their appropriate union, it really is time that the whole lot of them at least applied for their tickets! They must surely be the biggest showbiz family since Bebe Daniels and Ben Lyon!'

The Class Nature of the Soviet State

and THE WORKERS' STATE and the question of THERMIDOR & BONAPARTISM by LEON TROTSKY PRICE: Four shillings

Available from New Park Publications Ltd. 186A Clapham High Street, SW4

LAST WEEK'S television carried another very informative exercise. This time on 'Panorama'.

The set-up in the studio was very revealing. Appropriately sharing one desk were the chairman, Robin Day, Lord Robens of the National Coal Board and Lawrence Daly of the National Union of Mineworkers. Opposite them were three ascending rows of chairs for mine workers. Daly, Robens and Day each had a microphone in front of them; the miners had one between them, on an overhead boom. The battle began with the big three each getting time to expound their positions.



Robens

powerfully and made their rejection of both Robens and Daly very clear, they did so against overwhelming odds. Nine men all talking at once and seated close together is meant to look like a rabble. Workers should never forget that television belongs to the capitalist class; they are only invited to appear in order to be belittled. The studio, the lights and cameras, will always be unfamiliar to them and it is still alien territory. The rules were invented by the bourgeoisie and as usual serve its interests best. Before agreeing to take part in such discussions all workers should insist on equal facilities and air-time; then, if the agreement is broken during a live programme, they should explain to the chairman that it is being broken and refuse to continue until the terms are met. Equally television technicians must do their best to ensure proper coverage. The sound balancer sometimes has a big hand in such interruption were somehow too low to catch. This happened several times during the discussion. No miracle: simply a question of sound balancing. And of experience of television. Workers who appear in these programmes should be careful. Though all the miners spoke

programmes; so does the vision mixer responsible up to a point for selecting which pictures from the different cameras are seen on the air.

All such technicians are bound to work to the instructions of the producer or director but, as in most trades, there is usually some leeway. It should be used in solidarity with all workers in struggle. And if the church and union leaderships can run television training schools for their spokesmen, we must be equally prepared; or not play their game at all. ONE other event last week confirmed the trend we can expect in commercial television for the coming period. Having firmly committed itself to continuing its alleged policy of producing good programmes, despite the recent resignations of most of its production talent, London Weekend Television bought the redundant Simon Dee. The price was reported as £50,000 for a two-year contract.



Dee

Responsible for only three evenings in the week LWT already gives a bleak schedule. If David Frost is the Wilfred Pickles of television, what shall we expect of the amiable disc-jockey Simon Dee?

Footnote: In last week's TV column the number of American dead in Vietnam was given as 400,000. This should have been 40,000.

Merseyside building sites strike on deal

ORGANIZED building workers in Liverpool are to hold a half-day token stoppage today to lobby the North-West conference of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers in Manchester.

Several sites, including the Hospital and Cantrell Farm sites are expected to take part in the action, called by the Merseyside site stewards' committee.

The lobbyists will be demanding the rejection of the current pay and productivity deal, now in the final stages of negotiation between the building unions and the employers.

They point out that in exchange for almost complete 'interchangeability'—a scaffold with a shovel, a steel-fixer with a saw, a brickie with a brush, as their leaflet puts it—workers could be made redundant for a 4½d.-an-hour increase.

The employers are in fact offering three rises of 4½d., one next month, one in November 1970 and one in 1971. They want not only interchangeability, but a revised disputes procedure which puts an end to the 'Green Book' and means that disputes would be arbitrated by government departments.

Targets

The employers are also asking for a revised bonus system which would mean that targets would be decided at site level, thus severely restricting the bargaining powers of stewards.

There is also a revised holiday payment scheme in which building workers will lose their right to holiday pay for periods when they are off sick.

This vicious productivity scheme must be rejected. The stewards say: 'No strings, no redundancies. Stop the delay, give us the pay.'

Building workers must unite around these demands to prevent their rights being signed away.

B.S.R. GIRLS FORM SOLID PICKET AGAINST SCABS

THE young militants seen on the right are just a few of the 800 women who have helped form one of the strongest and most vociferous picket lines seen around any factory in recent strikes.

They have stuck out tenaciously against police attacks as the management—at Better Sound Reproductions, East Kilbride, Scotland—has moved in legions of scabs in fast-moving buses through the factory gates.

Now out of the gates for ten weeks, the women are demanding union recognition. Three weeks ago, 4,000 workers demonstrated their solidarity with the women in a march. 10,000 other workers stopped work for two hours.

This tremendous class action must not be lost. The BSR women cannot be allowed to drop back into isolation.

The strength of all workers in the area—particularly those in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers, the union for which the women want recognition—should be continually lined up behind the BSR strikers.

Workers' Press reporter



By our Industrial reporter

DELEGATES of London's 4,800 firemen will vote tomorrow whether or not to begin an all-out strike over pay and conditions.

At a mass meeting on Thursday the men agreed to begin 'normal working duties' on Monday. This means refusing to clean out fire stations and similar jobs, but does not affect the answering of fire calls. Firemen are angry that no progress has been made in the last four months over implementing proposals that the GLC pay rent allowances and extra pay for extra qualifications.

Two jobs

Many of them have to travel 30 miles to work and some have to do two jobs because of the low pay.

This situation exploded with the five-week work-to-rule just before Christmas last year.

Last Thursday's meeting showed that the firemen's militancy was as high as ever. There were loud cheers when Mr Dusty Miller, chairman of the Fire Brigades' Union London committee, said that a total stoppage would be recommended on Wednesday if the GLC had not improved its offer.

This would be a decisive step as it is illegal for firemen to refuse to answer emergency calls.

Jeered offer

Mr Miller said that after four weeks talks they had failed to reach agreement with the GLC on accommodation allowances.

AEC BEGINS OVERTIME BAN

ASSEMBLYworkers at British-Leyland's AEC, Southall, factory began an overtime ban yesterday to support a 1s.-an-hour demand without strings.

Last Thursday the men went home an hour early. Crankshaft workers also walked out over lost bonus earnings. These were conceded on Friday.

Though AEC militancy is rising, there is a growing threat of Measured-Day Work.

The management plans to introduce this payment method first among non-production workers and then on the production line.

London firemen consider all-out action

The GLC on accommodation allowances.

The men jeered when they were told that the GLC had offered to assist with house purchases by lending a deposit at current interest rates.

The GLC had also offered a 7s. 0½d. a week travel allowance and £50-a-year allowance to help subsidize rents, although they could give no guarantee on this at present.

Firemen must now finish the fight that was begun last year. They have now been joined by other sections of lower-paid workers like the dustmen and the miners, who are waging a political fight against the Labour government and the employers.

They must join the All Trades Unions Alliance to win a decent living wage without productivity strings and to defeat the Tories' plans.

NURSES DISCONTENT OVER HOURS AND PAY

FOUR HUNDRED delegates at the Royal College of Nursing congress in Harrogate last week palely reflected the boiling discontent in the nursing profession when they passed an emergency resolution demanding an all-round pay rise, improved working conditions and the 40-hour week.

But the College's ultra-conservative leadership is determined that the nurses' movement should remain on the level of protest.

Miss Catherine Hall, RCN general secretary, said: 'We will not strike, but we will leave no one in doubt that we mean what we say.'

The time might come, she said, when it would be necessary to organize a mass lobby in which nurses would converge on Westminster in an 'orderly and organized' manner.

Not left out The time has indeed come for action on nurses' pay and hours, not to mention working conditions.

At a time when thousands of lower-paid workers are locked in struggle for higher wages, the nurses must not allow themselves to be left behind.

They can and should call on the support of all trade unionists for their just and long over-due demands.

By an education reporter

Students held after London anti-apartheid demonstration

UNIVERSITY of London students joined a protest march yesterday in connection with incidents which occurred during a demonstration last Tuesday at Senate House, Malet Street.

The students were calling for the resignation of London university principal Sir

Richard Saville, was severely injured and had to spend the night in University College Hospital.

The five students made a brief appearance on Wednesday at Marlborough Street magistrate's court and were remanded in custody to Brixton Prison for a week.

SOVIET UNION

Red Navy officers held in purge

By Robert Black

ACCORDING TO reports from oppositionist groups in Moscow, three Soviet naval officers have been arrested after organizing resistance to the Stalinist regime.

The sources, who are associated with the 'Initiative Group for the Defence of Civil Rights in the Soviet Union' said the three officers were part of a much larger civilian organization.

They were arrested in Tallinn, capital of the Estonian Soviet Republic while preparing an 'appeal to the people', a programme calling for the restoration of democratic rights in the Soviet Union.

Search

The same sources informed western correspondents in Moscow that hundreds of other officers have been questioned and had their houses searched.

Investigations are also underway among naval officers, cadets and students in the ports of Khabarovsk, Baku, Leningrad, Riga and Perm. If this latest information is correct, then it is yet more proof that the bureaucracy is tightening the screws on the various oppositionist movements in the Soviet Union.

Saigon leader resigns from puppet party

NGUYEN VAN THIEU, 'president' of the Saigon puppet regime, has been hit by the defection of one of the main supporters of his six-party 'National Social Democratic Front'.

First pulled together two months ago, this hotch-potch of various political cliques was intended to provide the mass basis for Thieu's regime after the bulk of the US forces now stationed in Vietnam departed.

One of the Front's more 'liberal' members, Trinh Quoc Khanh, wrote to Thieu on Thursday stating that he thought the Front served no useful purpose in national politics.

We no longer want to attend the Front's meetings because we think they do not lead anywhere. All we do is meet, discuss the national situation and then leave!

This defection, and the reasons given for it, reflect the pessimism of ruling circles in Saigon, which now has to face the prospect of fighting on alone against the National Liberation Front.

Khanh and many others like him are now hedging their bets, preparing themselves for a situation in which they hope to form the right wing of a coalition with the NLF.

STRIKE JAMS

A 24-HOUR public transport strike hit Italy on Friday. Huge traffic jams built up in all the main towns as thousands tried to get to work by car.

Furnacemen back

FROM PAGE ONE

to quash the suspensions and the men returned to work on Saturday afternoon.

The swift action of the furnacemen reveals the tension building up in the plant.

The men are becoming more and more angry over their conflicts with the national leadership of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen.

Their militant mood exploded on Thursday when national secretary Jim Barry visited the plant.

A demonstration of furnacemen forced him to slip into a back door of the offices.

The demonstrators, far from silently 'protesting', almost came to blows with Barry and two ex-delegates Jack Jones and Dai Hunt.

The national executive is still refusing to recognize the 26-man lodge committee, and committee members are bitter that this union dispute was dragged in front of the management by Barry.

Meanwhile the management has aggravated the situation by keeping earnings of the furnacemen down through cutting back on production since the recent big strike.

The use of steel imported from the US has meant an average reduction of £5 a week.

The furnacemen's dispute confirms the lessons of the dustmen's and miners' strikes, that today the fight over wages and conditions cannot be separated from the fight for a new political leadership in the trade unions.

The ATUA today leads that fight.

'Bureaucratic wastage'

—Kremlin speaks out

By a foreign correspondent

A PUBLIC decree by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party has announced measures to save about £8,800 million over the next year.

The statement, published in all Friday's newspapers, complains of bureaucratic wastage and duplication of work.

It also calls for the reduction of 'unnecessary junketing'.

Directives

Such 'attacks' on bureaucracy are as old as the Soviet bureaucracy itself. These directives, like all

their predecessors, are aimed at the lower ranks of the Party and state apparatus, and might even be the prelude to a shake-up in its personnel. Kremlin banquets for visiting capitalist statesmen will continue as before.

Italian crisis

FROM PAGE ONE layers of the working class, rural workers and women, and the conflicts that this shift to the left in the Catholic masses has produced in the Christian Democratic party itself.

Now a historic decision faces the Italian ruling class and its representatives in the Christian Democratic Party.

Contributions

Should it continue to search for what it calls 'the opening to the left' (a coalition with the socialist parties or even the Stalinists), or should it opt for an 'extra-parliamentary solution' through the army on the lines of the 1967 Greek coup?

If we look at the possible parliamentary combinations, together with their probable repercussions in the working class, the magnitude of the dilemma becomes clearer.

Present composition of Italian Assembly:

Christian Democrats	265
Communists	177
Socialists (Left-Wing)	62
Liberals	31
United Socialists (Right Wing)	39
Neo-Fascists	24
Proletarian Socialists	23
Republicans	9
Monarchists	6
Total	626

Recent attempts to form a 'centre-left' coalition between the Christian Democrats and the socialists led to split in the reformists' ranks, with the right-wing rising and becoming even more discredited in the eyes of the working class.

This indeed is the essence of the problem. The Christian Democrats cannot rule alone.

They need the support of at least 51 other deputies. They can be sought on the left or amongst the extreme right—in the Liberals, the Monarchists and the fascists.

The Association of Fighting Officers' has publicly stated: 'The domestic situation leads us to think of the eventual possibility that the armed forces will have to go into action to defend democratic freedom and the constitution.'

While the Stalinists offer themselves as props for a disintegrating parliamentary system, the ruling class begins its search for more direct methods of attack on the working class.

The new content of the developing situation is the instinctive rejection of compromise solutions by both the ruling class and the workers.

strations, in which several workers were killed, the government had to retreat and begin a new turn towards the reformists.

There is, in fact, no combination possible which can provide a stable majority government for the Italian ruling class.

Every permutation has been tried, and all of them have created more problems than they solved.

Each alliance with the leaders of the reformist workers' parties produces new splits within their ranks, as the working class moves into action on the wages front against its own leaders sitting in the government.

The Stalinists' naturally view these new developments within the Christian-Democrats with a highly-trained opportunist eye.

In the Party paper 'L'Unita' for last Thursday, they once again advanced their claim as the obvious partners in a future coalition government.

This, of course, would be a reformist solution based upon a new round of concessions to the working class.

Without this, Stalinist participation in the government would be very hard to sustain, encouraging clashes between the bureaucracy and the rank-and-file party workers.

This has, in fact, already begun in some areas.

Resistance

The stiffening of resistance amongst the big monopolies to the workers' wage demands indicates that the ruling class is not thinking along these lines at all.

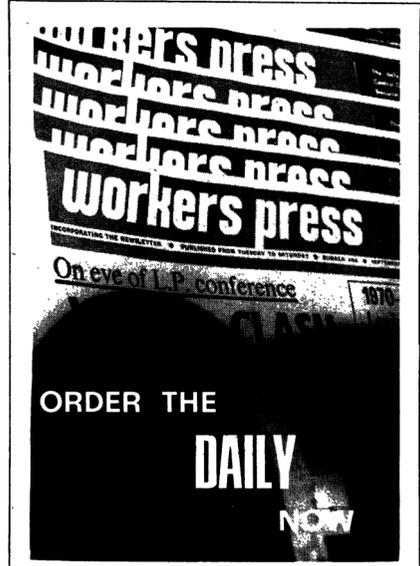
The Christian-Democrats cannot work out an agreed strategy to fight the working class, then other forces will have to be found.

The role of the military could easily become decisive, as in Greece in April 1967.

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Dockers to meet on Devlin Phase Two

Workers' Press correspondent

MASS MEETINGS will be held this week in London's enclosed docks facing the threat of the employers' Devlin Phase Two proposals.

Only the question of hours and wages separates the unions and the employers.

Mr Peter Shea, the Transport and General Workers' Union London docks secretary, told shop stewards on Friday the results of the negotiations on the enclosed docks modernization committee.

PROTEST ACTION AT HAY'S WHARF

By an Industrial correspondent

Acceptance

Union officials are proposing acceptance of two-shift working, greater mobility and flexibility and more control by the employers of the size of the labour force.

The employers are refusing to raise their offer of £33 10s. for a 3½-hour week.

The union is claiming a basic weekly wage of £37 10s. for 30 hours.

A compromise is thought likely now that the main changes in working practices have been agreed.

Opposition among rank-and-file dockers to the deal is considerable.

The National Association of Stevedores and Dockers has all along refused to sit on the modernization committee because its members reject shift work.

2,000 NASD members at the Royal docks met on Friday following the news that the proposals were to be put to the T&GWU stewards.

HAY'S wharf dockers on the Thames south bank are to continue their series of one-day strikes.

The 460 men are protesting against the planned closure of the wharf on November 28.

The management has made repeated charges—which were immediately trumpeted in the press—that the closure is due to high labour costs.

Their aim is to convince the dockers that accepting speed-up is the only way to save their jobs.

As the second phase of Devlin begins to bite, the employers are trying to play off one section of dockers against another in a competition for work.

The fight at Hay's has important lessons for all dockers and should be supported as part of the struggle against the whole Devlin scheme.

MINERS BETRAYED

FROM PAGE ONE

were only waiting for the opportunity to sell out.

On 'Panorama' (October 20) two very militant gentlemen were Bill O'Brien from North Yorkshire and Jim Oldham from the Doncaster area.

Both denounced Robens and Daly for the benefit of the television audience.

Both vowed that they would never go back without the eight hours.

Yet on October 24 it was O'Brien who moved the return to work in the North Yorkshire panel meeting and on October 25 it was Oldham—a member of the strike committee—who reported its unanimous decision to call off the strike to the Yorkshire area council meeting.

What had been gained? Nothing.

Unable to handle the mass strike which had developed, because of its political implications against the Labour government, the NCB chairman had gone running to Feather not for support for the strike, but because they wanted a formula to end it.

This formula was a promise of an 'independent' inquiry by either the TUC or the government!

So men who a few days earlier had been forced by pressure from below to demand the resignations of Ford and Daly ended by hiding behind right-wing Feather.

More fight

They talk about more fight if they don't get the eight hours.

But even the right-wing Sarril Bullough, Yorkshire area president of the NUM, who dissociated himself from the strike right from the beginning, told the press that the strike might be called again if the demand was not met.

But that sort of preparation was this action for a further struggle? Are the miners going to be asked to follow the same leadership again? How do they know the same thing will not happen? The miners have already shown that they reject the NCB's hours position.

Emphasis

The 'Morning Star' then laid great emphasis on the small number of pits which had voted to return to work and went on:

'An independent inquiry could see a breakthrough for the miners. During this summer's British Steel Corporation strike at Port Talbot, it was only after an independent inquiry had reached its decision that the steel workers gained their demand.'

'The setting up of the inquiry will provide help to all sides in the problem. Lord Robens, the NCB chairman, would be able to grant the miners' demands without losing face with the government—as he would have done if he had paid it off his own back.' (Our emphasis.)

Thus, the Communist Party, having covered up for Daly now covers up for Feather and the TUC!

It is quite clear there was a concerted effort by every force except the Marxists to get these men back to work.