

## What we think

### Robens, the mines and the CP

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This would make their picketing illegal. It would be an assembly. It would be a restraint on trade and instead of the police having to protect the picket lines they could disperse them.

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No wonder the Tories confirmed Robens in his Coal Board post after they took office. This former Labour minister is now more royalist than the King.

But there is a vitally important reason for his attack at this time.

He is able to speak out now only because the miners' strike was broken by the Communist Party, which first opposed strike action and then put itself at its head in order to lead the miners back without winning a penny from the Coal Board and the Tory government.

Robens is well aware of the CP's role. For years he and NUM general secretary William Paynter had a close relationship while pits were closed with no official union action against them.

In his book 'Human Engineering' Robens goes out of his way to rebut the idea of a communist conspiracy.

But the CP treachery in selling out the miners' strike has opened the road for Robens to whip up a witch-hunt in aid of Tory attacks on fundamental working-class rights.

The lesson here is abundantly clear: the more Stalinism retreats, the more arrogant and demanding the Tories and their allies become.

Toryism today is insatiable. It cannot be bought off by concessions, any more than it will make concessions in response to protests, as the Stalinists treacherously maintain.

Stalinism's mouthpieces are spreading the deceitful lie that protest strikes will force the Tories to withdraw the Industrial Relations Bill.

On the contrary, protests by themselves can only serve to encourage the Tories.

The only response to the Tory plans is to mobilize the working class to bring them down.

The first essential for such a campaign is a ruthless and unremitting battle against Stalinist deceit and treachery, which is now the chief force in weakening the struggle in the face of the Tory enemy.

## General strike to fight £25 fines

# Force the union leaders to act

AS THE ANTI-UNION Bill day draws nearer, the retreat of the TUC is changing from a canter into a furious gallop.

If the Tories are experiencing any difficulty in cornering their quarry now, it is certainly not due to the vigour of its resistance, but because of the incredible speed of its flight.

The TUC has no intention of fighting the anti-union laws.

Its leaders hope instead to cover their wretched and ignominious trail with mountains of literature, petitions and regional conferences in London, Newcastle, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Cardiff, Bristol, Birmingham and probably Manchester and Southampton.

In the meanwhile the Tories, vastly encouraged by the retreat of the National Union of Mineworkers' leaders and determined to short circuit the electricity supply workers' wage claim, are advancing with visors positioned and lances lowered on a half-suspecting working class.

### Confident

The Tories at present are confident of passing their legislation unimpeded because they see the triviality and irrelevance of the TUC's opposition exemplified by its lament that the anti-union laws are based on 'political dogma'!

It is precisely because the TUC, the CP and the 'lefts' shy away from the political consequences of this struggle that the Tories can crow that they will not be pushed around by the unions as the Labour government was.

● THE 'LEFTS'—Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones—will join right wingers Lord Cooper and Sir Sidney Greene as TUC representatives on the liaison committee with the Shadow Cabinet and trade union group of MPs, Parliamentary Labour Party and the Party's national executive.

They are telling workers that if the Bill goes through, which they say is probable, then they will passively resist and not co-operate.

### Evasion

They are evading the political and class nature of this struggle and are allowing the Tories to fasten the halter of dictatorship on the working class.

● THE STALINISTS sedulously cultivate the illusion that the Tories will fall over and play dead, like the Labour government in 1969, if some protest activity is organized.

This is also the policy of the Soviet leaders. Radio Moscow on Friday, November 20 described Dec 8 as a strike 'aimed against the greed of the employers'. Presumably it has nothing to do with politics.

Any worker who has read the contents of Carr's 'consultative' document will see its extremely sinister political implications.

He will see clearly the enormous power which the Bill gives to the state to financially destroy political parties, papers and members of such parties if they get involved in so-called 'unauthorized industrial actions'.

### Menace

Some conception of the menace is given in yesterday's revelation that the penalties on workers could be £25 a day and on unions £5,000 a day!

Mr Feather says this is 'shocking and disastrous'—it is no less 'shocking and disastrous' than the TUC's complicity and inanity.

The situation is so desperate that some sections of the Stalinist-dominated protest movement have been forced to give a distorted echo to the Workers Press's campaign against the Tories.

This is revealed in the statement of the Kingston district committee of the AEF and the National Society of Metal Mechanics which has been issued for December 8.

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PLANE-MAKERS SHOW THE WAY

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

### Beer up 2d

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Several other draught mild beers—mainly sold in the NE—will also be increased by 2d. The price increases affect public-bar prices.

### Costly housing

RENTS of council houses will undoubtedly rise so astronomically that soon only rich people will be able to live in them, Frank Allaun, Labour MP for Salford East, claims in an architectural magazine this week.

Because of the government's cuts in council house subsidies rent would soar and the result would be a serious decline in council house building, he says.

OVER 2,000 plane-makers gave a lead to workers in SW London yesterday when they voted to strike against the government's anti-union laws on December 8.

The strike will close the large Hawker Siddeley Aviation plant at Kingston which makes the bodies for the Harrier vertical take-off jet.

This is the first factory in the Kingston area to declare for strike action on December 8 and others may follow. Already the Kingston district committee of the Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers' Union has called for stoppages on the day.

### 'Take stand'

Speaking at an open air mass meeting which voted almost unanimously for the stoppage, chairman of the works committee, Bert Deller, told Hawker workers:

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## Big business demands 'unpleasant measures'

PRESSURE for emergency Tory action to hold down wages is rapidly being notched up.

A warning that the employers do not have sufficient time to wait in the hope that 'the combination of rising costs, difficult markets and high unemployment will break the inflationary cycle' is made by the December issue of the influential business magazine 'Management Today'.

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

### 'HOW MUCH?'

'The question', says a sharply-worded editorial, 'is how much time and how much unemployment'.

Criticizing Tory leader Edward Heath's resistance to a statutory wage freeze, it says that 'the situation confronting British industry and government is now extremely serious'.

'Plainly inflation on this scale cannot be broken without a combination of unpleasant measures'.

The magazine's call comes hard on the heels of a warning from the powerful Charterhouse financial, industrial and banking group that the Tories may be forced into a pay freeze.

### 'WON'T WORK'

Government reliance on monetary policy rather than statutory intervention against wages, said the group's quarterly business forecast, 'will not work quickly enough'.

'Although employers have resisted strikes in support of claims in some instances, offers have been made well in excess of 10 per cent.'

## Maximum jail for Geismar

MAXIMUM sentence of two years imprisonment and a 2,000-franc fine was imposed at the Paris State Security Court on Tuesday against French Maoist leader Alain Geismar.

The 31-year-old science teacher already faces an 18-month sentence imposed in October for alleged violence against the police.

This time he was charged with reconstituting the 'Proletarian Left' organization, banned by the Ministry of the Interior last May together with eight other left-wing groups, including the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste, the French section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

In a court statement Geismar attacked the judges and refused to remain in the room while sentence—even stiffer than the 18 months demanded by the prosecutor—was passed.

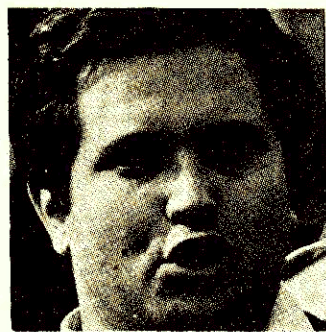
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The most despicable role of all has been played by the French Communist Party leaders.

Their response to the Gaullist government's repressive legislation against the left has been to print the foulest and most slanderous accusations they can find against 'leftists'.

The Stalinist newspaper 'L'Humanité' excelled itself last week on the eve of Geismar's trial when it devoted 26 columns to an unbelievably tendentious series smearing unnamed 'leftists' as criminals.

Written by Alain Guerin, this article is shot full of inaccuracies and lies, while nine-tenths of it represents only the fevered workings

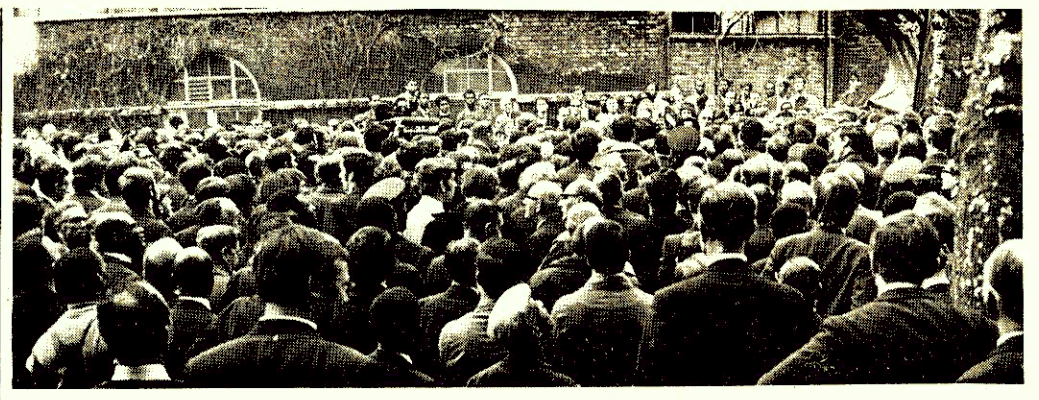


Alain Geismar

of Guerin's own imagination. This is how 'L'Humanité' and French Stalinism prepare to fight the mounting repression.

By their criminal failure to organize the slightest protest against the legal witch-hunt they are opening the door for major attacks on the trade unions and on the rights of all workers, CP members included.

● Free Alain Geismar now. Send telegrams and letters to French Embassy, 11 Kensington Palace Gardens, London, W8.



London postmen meeting at St Martin-le-Grand yesterday.

## Anti-Tory strike at GPO

£1,250 Nov Appeal Fund: stands at £861 3s 11d

LIGHTNING strikes will disrupt postal services today as postmen and sorting-office staff give their answer to what they see as a political move by the government in firing GPO chief Lord Hall.

These will be a continuation of the unofficial stoppages that swept through the capital and provinces yesterday as an anti-Tory mood spread rapidly among Post Office workers.

Mass meetings were held in many London sorting offices to consider further walk-outs today and the national executive of the Union of Post Office Workers indicated that the stoppages would have their approval, though they would not be official.

Jack Cowan, Paddington No. 1 UPW branch secretary, said that stoppages would occur at the big Paddington sorting office both during last night and today.

'We will stop work at times that will embarrass the department the most,' he said.

Post Office workers see the sacking as an act of deliberate policy by the Tory government.

Lord Hall was at least willing to discuss the UPW claim for a £3 across-the-board increase and an extra week's holiday.

### HOSTILE

Post Office workers also claim he was hostile to moves by the government to hive off the more profitable aspects of Post Office operations to private enterprise.

These may include the de-nationalization of the lucrative National Data Processing computer service offered by the PO to private firms.

'We feel that the sacking of Lord Hill will be detrimental to the industry, especially since he is likely to be replaced by a Tory who will—in line with the philosophy of this government—be in favour of the run-down of the Post Office,' said Mr Cowan.

In the City of London, almost 3,000 postmen struck for 90 minutes.

John Taylor, UPW City branch secretary, said that the men took the action to demonstrate their disgust at the sacking of a man who has 'done everything to make the industry work efficiently'.

Speaking at a mass meeting of 1,000 City postal workers Mr Taylor said that the sacking of Lord Hall was 'clearly an attempt by the Tory government to interfere in the working of the Post Office'.

'The political implications are very deep. It is part of a plan to hive off the profitable parts of the nationalized industry, together with the Giro and telecommunications sectors to the private sector.'

'They want someone who is going to work under the direction of this Tory government,' he added.

### SUSPICIOUS

Another London district organizer, Bob Clay, said that they viewed the move with great suspicion.

'The Tories watched the progress of Lord Hall and decided that he would be too soft on the wages issue and too soft when it comes to dealing with industrial relations,' he said.

About 200 engineers at the Post Office tower in London stopped work for half an hour today to attend a meeting as 'an expression of disgust' over the sacking.

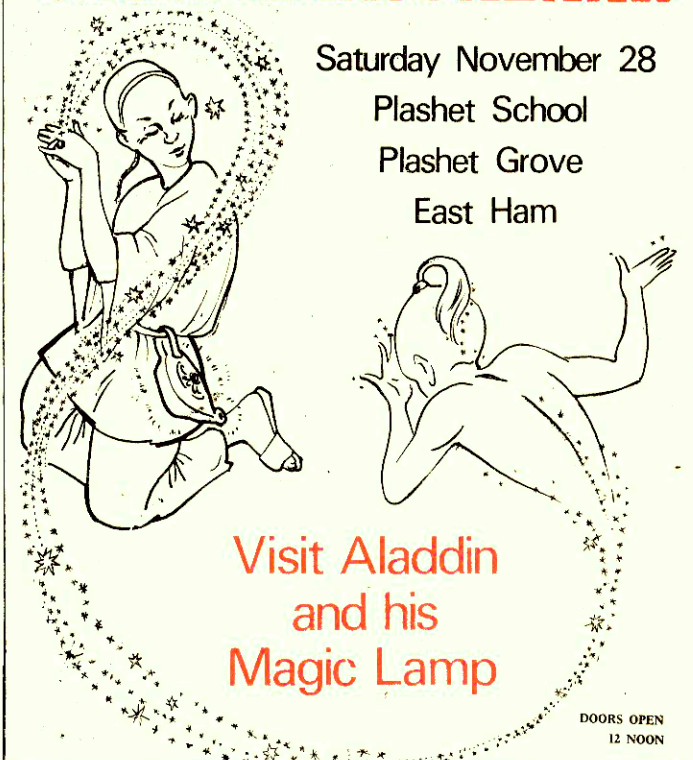
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## All Trades Unions Alliance

### Second Annual Conference

Discuss

## THE CHARTER OF BASIC RIGHTS

The right to a job, to strike and organize, to retain gains made, to fair prices, to welfare benefits and to decent housing.

Defend and maintain these rights in a fight to force the Tories to resign.

### BIRMINGHAM

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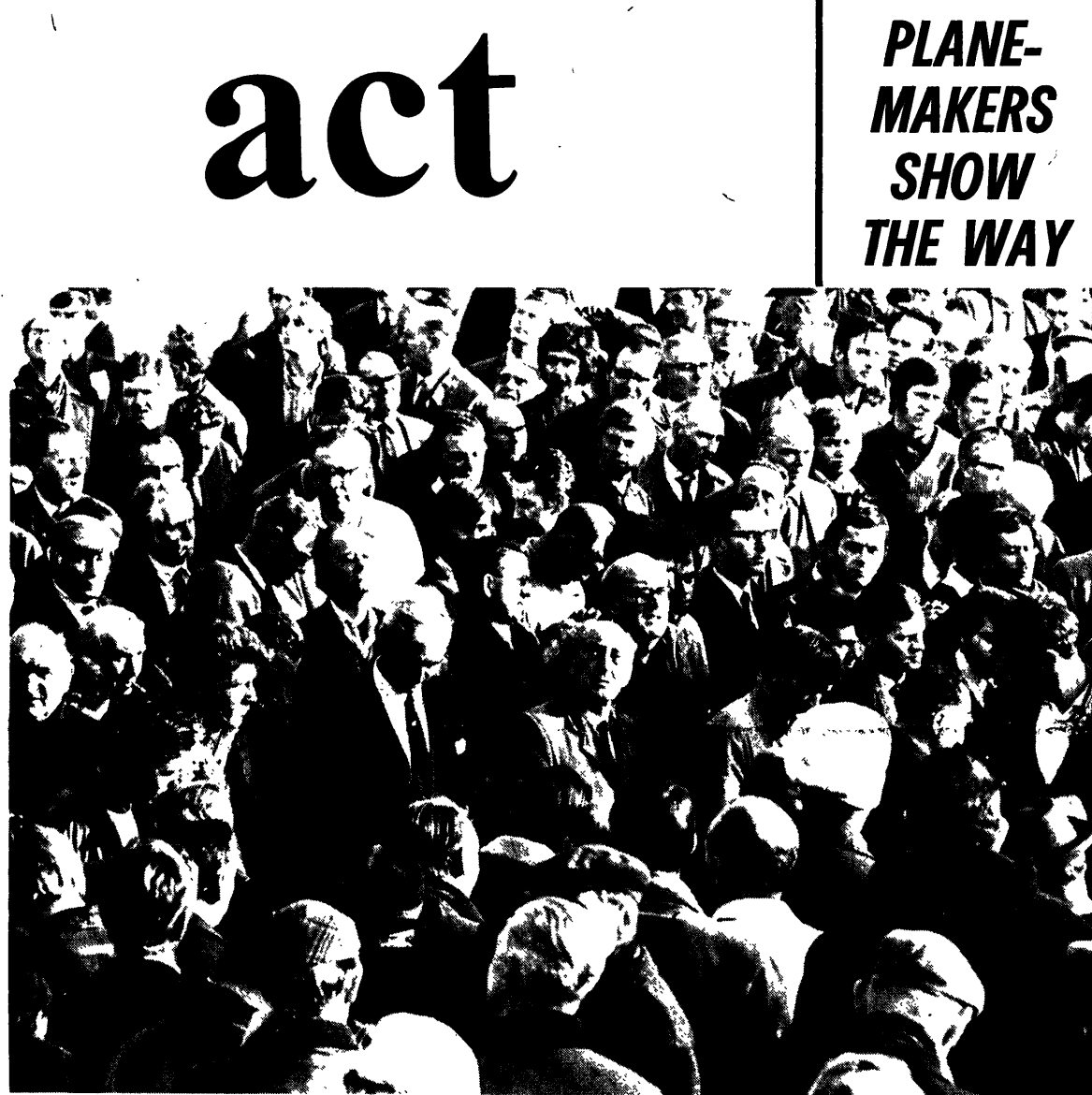
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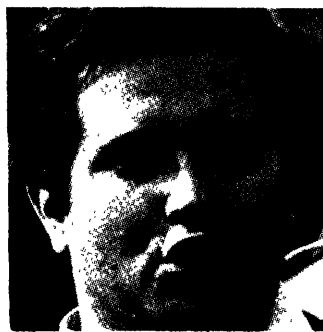
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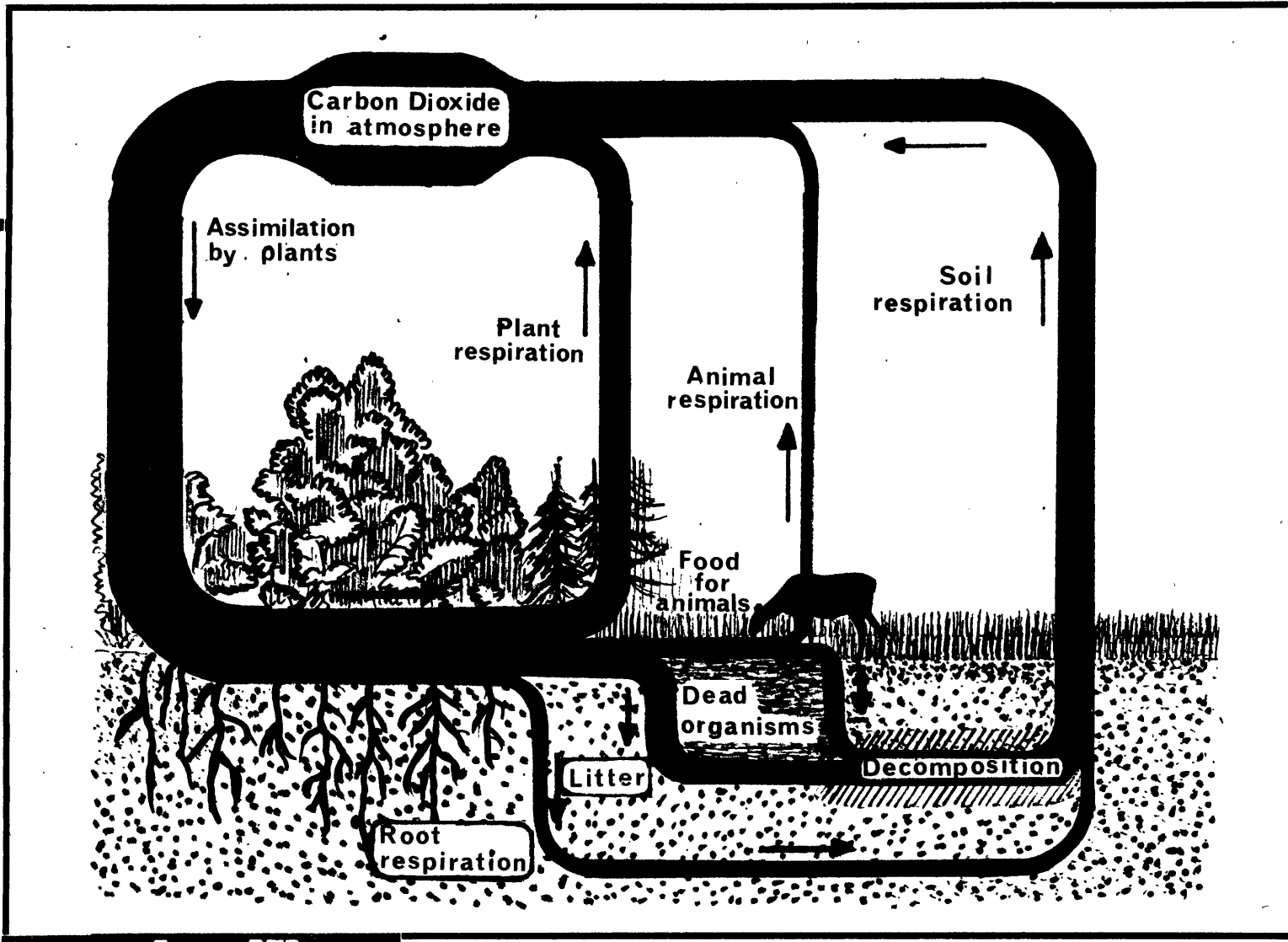
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PART TWO OF A SERIES

ILLUSTRATION SHOWING CARBON CYCLE



scientific world

# Man and Nature

LIFE'S central building material is the element carbon.

The basic molecules of life—sugars, carbohydrates, fats and proteins—contain a carbon 'chassis' to which are attached other chemical components.

Individual carbon atoms circulate from dead to living matter and back again in what biologists call the carbon cycle.

The main such cycle starts with the gas carbon dioxide in air, which is incorporated into living matter and then passes back into air. Some of the carbon is trapped in the form of rotting wood, dead animals etc., which may eventually yield further quantities of the gas or be converted into peat, coal or oil over a period of millions of years.

In living material, carbon compounds are converted to sugars—and from them are formed the other life-molecules.

## Indiscriminate consumption

In order to grasp the effects of man's indiscriminate consumption of fossil fuels on his environment, let us look closely at the carbon-dioxide cycle in plants and green vegetation.

Green plants convert the gas into sugars through photosynthesis: conversion takes place when sunlight falls on leaves.

Different plants incorporate different amounts of carbon dioxide.

In a tropical rain forest, where vegetation is lush and fast-growing, as much as two kilograms of carbon may be 'fixed' every year by each square metre of forest vegetation.

The Arctic tundra and near-barren desert regions, where growing plants are sparse, may only use one per cent of that amount.

The amount of the gas which is taken in varies with the season and the time of day, too. If the amount of carbon-dioxide in the atmosphere is measured in a forest at various heights above the ground, marked changes occur in a 24-hour period.

The night-time carbon dioxide concentration is about 320 parts per million. However, when the sun rises, photosynthesis leads to a rapid fall in the carbon dioxide level as the gas is converted to sugars.

Towards noon, as the temperature rises and the humidity decreases, the rate of fall levels out with the carbon dioxide concentration below the daily average.

At sunset, photosynthesis ceases and the plants take in oxygen and give out carbon dioxide. At this stage the concentration may exceed 400 parts per million near the ground.

This high value is partly due to the release of the gas from decomposing organic matter in the soil and partly to the tendency of air to stagnate near the ground at night.

BY A SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

The earth's forests contain between 400 and 500 thousand million tons of carbon or roughly two-thirds of the amount present as carbon dioxide in the air.

However, only a small fraction of the immense mass of carbon at or near the surface of the earth is in rapid circulation in the biosphere. The bulk consists of deposits such as chalk and limestone, together with organic fossil deposits such as oil shale, coal and petroleum.

Over the last century the burning of fossil fuel has released large quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Currently between 5,000 and 6,000 million tons of fossil carbon a year are released.

## Carbon dioxide content

Within the past 100 years the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere has risen from 290 parts per million to 320 parts, and more than a fifth of this increase has occurred in the last decade.

Only about a third of the gas released from fossil fuels has gone into the air. Most of the remaining two-thirds has probably dissolved in the sea, and some of it may have increased the total amount of land vegetation.

Since 1850, many areas of forest have been cleared for agricultural purposes. The pattern of carbon dioxide production and consumption has therefore altered dramatically under the impact of changed agricultural techniques.

Fossil fuels are important materials in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and are burned for energy.

Alternative sources of energy, such as hydraulic or nuclear power, are used only when dictated by the profit motive.

The indiscriminate change from forest to field has produced huge imbalances in the carbon cycle and the drive for greatest yield of crops from the smallest area has also disrupted basic processes involving the element nitrogen.

## Chemical compounds

Over three-quarters of the atmosphere is nitrogen, but it can only be used by plants and animals as part of chemical compounds. In nature, nitrogen from the air is fixed by small bacteria in small plants.

But it can now be 'fixed' by artificial means as well—mainly to produce fertilizer. Since 1950 this has increased fourfold.

It now equals the amount that was fixed by all terrestrial life before artificial nitrogen fixation began.

Before the large-scale manufacture of synthetic fertilizers the amount of nitrogen removed from the atmosphere was balanced by the amount returned by organisms that convert organic 'fixed' nitrogen to the gas form.

## Fixation processes

Now scientists are not sure that processes that return nitrogen to the air can keep pace with the fixation processes.

It is known, however, that nitrogen compounds washed from the soil into streams and rivers can kill many fish by removing most of the oxygen normally present in the water.

Water affected in this way is also a danger to human babies and some water supplies already contain dangerous amounts.

Excessive use of fertilizers can also exhaust essential soil minerals like potassium and phosphates.

Nevertheless, in capitalist agriculture profits come first in the short-term whatever the long-term dangers.

As a recent article in a scientific magazine stated:

'At present it is economically sounder [more profitable] for the farmer to keep adding industrial fertilizers to his crops.'

The price of this can be the death of human beings and areas of land rendered unfit for cultivation.

What is required is a 'planned agricultural system in which the production of food is carried out with the use of new fertilizers and a careful ecological balance is maintained. This, of course, presupposes food production for use and not for profit.

## Insecticide DDT

Another danger of the indiscriminate use of modern chemistry and its products in agriculture is exemplified by the case of the insecticide DDT.

Relatively small amounts of DDT in food can, it is thought, cause tumours.

But huge amounts of DDT have been used almost indiscriminately since the war without taking into account possible effects on the balance of nature.

Yet it is possible to control insect pests in many other ways, particularly by introducing animals that live on them. In this way a new balance can be made and sustained.

Naturally, the giant capitalist chemical monopolies would not find the alternatives as profitable as the use of pesticides.

These examples underline the breakdown of empiricism as a progressive scientific approach in the epoch of imperialist decay.

The continuation of the bit-by-bit approach in the interests of

profit now spells disaster.

The 'pollution problem' is inseparably a part of the system which results in wars, slumps and mass unemployment.

The ecological crisis cannot be resolved in a bit-by-bit fashion any more than capitalism can be reformed to operate in the interests of the working class.

All attempts by the anti-pollution experts to avoid these central questions must lead to failure and, in fact, provide the safety-valve so necessary to the continuation of imperialist rule.

● To be continued.

BY N. MAKANDA

# Anglicanism and apartheid

THE VISIT OF Dr Michael Ramsey, Britain's Anglican archbishop, to S Africa this month must have posed him with several problems.

How, for example, could he justify his church's criticisms of apartheid when it has, at the same time, a vast vested interest in it?

Another problem was how to explain away to the African and coloured clergy in the Anglican church why they

were paid less than the 'white' clergy; why the 'finest' pulpits were closed to them; why the Anglican church owned and controlled separate properties for 'white' and 'black' congregations; and why it owned and ran racially-segregated schools throughout S Africa.

Ramsey could not deny that all this was true, and has been true ever since the Anglican church took a leading role in creating for non-Europeans a system of inferior, racially-segregated education—and for Europeans a training to be masters.

He could not deny that the Anglican diocese in S Africa has, at the top, wealthy exclusive all 'white' schools for 'white' boys and girls, with all-'white' chapels in all-'white' areas and, at the bottom, inferior, segregated, often tribally-divided schools and churches for Africans and coloureds only, situated in the African and coloured segregated areas and in the Bantustans, which Ramsey visited.

Nor was all this forced on the Anglican church by law.

Anglican apartheid in S Africa, in church and state—as well as in the choice of sites where the Anglican chiefs built their respective 'white' and non-'white' schools and churches—was, from the beginning, not a voluntary or statutory choice.

This church was, with Rhodes and other imperialists, a major architect of apartheid, especially in education. The state merely legalized later what the Anglican church had done beforehand.

The Anglicans then used this law as a convenient excuse to justify their apartheid.

The church's view of the present regime is that they both have a common agreement—the 'fight against communism'—and on this basis they can have mutually understandable disagreements.

Vorster can say that the British arms intended for S Africa are needed for the 'fight against communism', while Ramsey says that British arms would, in effect, drive the non-Europeans into the arms of the communists.

Anti-Communism becomes the basis of agreement between the Anglican church and the S African regime.

This is understandable since capital in S Africa is predominantly British and imperialist interests have, been safeguarded and upheld by an apartheid system.

But then apartheid, in turn, is the basis on which Ramsey and Vorster agree to differ.

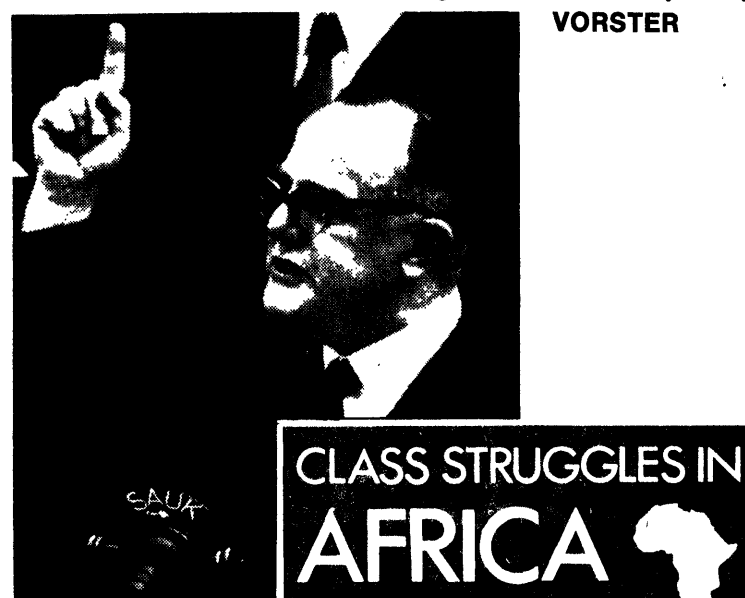
The Anglican church, together with British Liberals and the Labour Party, is part of the Anti-Apartheid Committee in London.

Anglican leaders are main speakers and compères at Trafalgar Square rallies.

For decades the Anglican Nation Congress and S African Communist Party has worked in this way with Anglican and Liberal elements in S Africa.

Now they do the same in Britain. The 'anti-apartheid' ANC and Stalinists have Ramsey's men as their leaders and on their platforms. But these are men representing an apartheid and anti-communist organization, as Ramsey's visit has once more brought out into the open.

It would be logical for the 'anti-apartheid' organization to have Vorster as their chief patron. Then the Popular Front would be complete and the angels of unity could rejoice.



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THURSDAY'S INTERNATIONAL youth NEWS

NUS CONFERENCE:



Student 'protest' not enough to beat back Tories' plans

TORY government threats to student rights are closely bound up with its anti-union proposals, social-service cuts and attacks on jobs.

At this week's conference of the National Union of Students, the band was highlighted by a number of questions under discussion: affiliation to the Trades Union Congress, grants, academic freedom and the planned expulsion of Rudi Dutschke from Britain.

Extreme reaction is lining up against the students, just as it is lining up against the working class, and preparing the groundwork for policing the universities.

Like the US Nixon Administration, Heath's Tory government has its reactionary backers yapping away for stricter student control.

Manchester's Professor Brian Cox, co-editor of the right-wing 'Black Paper on Education' has drawn up a document—signed by 150 academics—calling for the outlawing of 'sit-ins', expulsion for persistent student rebels and binding codes of conduct to be signed by every college entrant.

Legislation

Copies of the document were circulated at the NUS conference in Margate, and roundly condemned in Monday's debate.

This preparation behind the scenes for eventual anti-student legislation by the Tories has forced many students to think beyond the mere radical protest actions of 1968 and 1969. Workers Press spoke to a number of students about the discussion which had taken place at the conference.

Commenting on the conference decision to affiliate to the TUC, Dai Stephens—an observer from

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

London's Queen Elizabeth college—said:

'Students have no power on their own.

'They can only rely on the support of the workers to defend their position as it is.'

Kent University president Tony Chandler and president of the Student Union there, said he thought the affiliation 'obviously' the biggest step forward students have taken.

In fact there are two sides to this move.

More and more students feel the need to fight in the closest possible unity with the working-class movement.

But the reformist leaders of the NUS have already made clear that for them, approaches to the TUC represent merely a closer affinity with the treacherous official leadership of the labour movement.

Dishonestly brokering in a bid to cage the former trend in the later's service are, of course, the Stalinists.

And this role became clearer even when the conference came to discuss the proposed Industrial Relations Bill.

Many students felt that the fight against Heath meant a lot more than just protest.

'Liberalism', said Chandler, 'is inadequate.

'This isn't the time for liberal pressures. We have to fight for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism.'

But conference narrowly supported a Stalinist-proposed motion backing the December 8 call for a protest strike against the Tory anti-union laws... leaving action entirely at the whim of local NUS bureaucrats.

To limit students to ineffective protest action in this way is to wall them off from the political weapons they will most need to defend their rights.

Serious dangers are posed by such failure to take account of the lessons of May-June 1968 in France: where the students took the initial political lead only to find themselves deliberately cut off from the working class by the Stalinists—who then proceeded to cynically betray them both.

Seeing the fight against the Cox document within the same context as the battle to defeat the anti-union laws, Dai Stephens commented: 'We must fight the lot together.'

Appeal

Adrian Gough, a delegate from Gipsy Hill College of Education, declared:

'Professor Cox's document—Declaration of Academic Freedom—is, in fact, an infringement of student rights.'

The fact that German student leader Rudi Dutschke's appeal against deportation is to be held behind closed doors was condemned by the conference, and students felt that such restriction should also be opposed.

In relation to this issue, Allison Hymans, a delegate from Borough Road College of Education, Isleworth, Middlesex, felt that the experience of the witch-hunted Cambridge students should also have been discussed.

'Personally I think the NUS should conduct a campaign on this issue,' she said.

Kent University delegate Chandler, who tabled an emergency resolution on Dutschke, said:

'It is a tremendously dangerous precedent being set. Some of them on the "left" say that if we push too hard the Tories may deport him. We have to fight for the principles involved to be clarified. The time for liberal pressures has gone.'

Although the conference took important and decisive steps towards fighting the Tories there was criticism of the union leadership and a belief that it was inadequate for the struggles ahead.

Dai Stephens' opinion was that 'some of the real issues have been brought out, but there has been a lot of wrangling over liberal issues.'

'This isn't the way to prepare for the attacks of the Tory government.'

'The NUS sees its role as making statements on education, but divorces it from other social issues.'

Some students regarded the question of a student wage—accepted in principle by the executive—as a diversion from the fight for higher grants.

Commented John Shorter of Isleworth: 'A lot of students could be worse off after tax and insurance.'

A fight against the NUS leadership's reformist protest policies supported by the Stalinists and the revisionists—is urgent following the Margate conference.

Affiliation to the TUC must be sought in order to fight alongside the trade union rank and file against the TUC leadership's betrayal in face of the Tory offensive, and against the Stalinists who provide the smoke-screen for such treachery.

The most urgent task in the universities remains the building of a Marxist revolutionary leadership through the Young Socialist Student Societies in a fight alongside the working class to force the Tories to resign.

I THINK you may find useful some information about dentistry after April 1, 1971.

From that date, patients will have to pay 50 per cent of the treatment costs for National Health Service dentistry up to a maximum of £10 for any course of treatment.

Exemptions are under 18-year olds (now it is free up to 21), pregnant women and women with a baby under a year old. A new exemption group are parents (with young children) with an income of less than the poverty line, i.e. £15 or £20 a week per family. The actual figure has not been announced yet.

Social security usually pays for old-age pensioners, the unemployed and chronic sick who do not work.

Increased payments for filling and cleaning after April 1, mean

- a) six-month regulars will pay between 10s and 30s, b) one to two-year regulars will pay between £1 and £4, c) three to five-year regulars will pay between £2 and £8, d) over five years very neglected mouths up to £10.

(This is all in approximate terms.)

c) and d) patients will become first b) and then a) patients as soon as they become more regular.

On other items patients' payments will be approximately:

- Germ treatment as much as £2 15s. Root treatment as much as £2 5s. Crowns and dentures in the range £3 to £7.

The best bet is to have a first overhaul started before the end of March and then become a six-month regular patient.

Treatment started before March 31 and continuing into April won't carry the new fees as the fee depends upon the date of the check up.

So we advise people to have a check-up now.

Many 18, 19 and 20-year olds will contract out of dental treatment. For example, students and apprentices may have to pay more than a week's wages for a first overhaul of a previously neglected mouth.

Many others will stop attending regularly. There has been very little real health education and sound teeth are not a priority with most people.

The NHS has spent £1,000 million on treatment since 1948

What the dental cuts will mean

Letter

and only about £2 million on dental health education.

One can imagine strikes for less money. It sounds silly, but people 10s above the poverty line may well be 'better off' to go 5s under the line.

It means that dentists won't be able to give firm estimates to the b, c and d patients. An estimate of £4 may go higher by the end of treatment because what looked like a small filling could end up a large filling or even a crown. Thus at each appointment the patient's charges may have to be 're-negotiated'.

It will make dentists' lives a misery because the patient will most often not be able to afford the 50 per cent of the amended treatment. And also the patients will at each increase have to weigh up the pros and cons of more payments against a 'cheap' extraction.

The stopping of school milk will cause an increase of calcium deficiency diseases in young children. Rickets is already on the increase in poorer communities and it will be added less well-developed (chalky) teeth. Children need a pint of milk a day and rarely do they get any

at home. So even if parents have to supply the milk themselves it is important.

Fluoridation of the drinking water supply is even more important to overcome any loss of dietary calcium. Chemists sell fluoride tablets for giving to babies and children until fluoride is put into the drinking water.

Grim prospects

The reduced volume of treatment will close large numbers of dental surgeries, while others will have to open part-time. We have only 12,000 NHS family dentists to treat a population of about 55 million people and a recent survey showed that 30 million suffer from gum disease.

There will be about 300 dental students qualifying this year and their job prospects are grim. General practice will contract, the hospitals are full and the school and armed forces dental clinics, although not full, do not have a large establishment. There will be fewer dentists in ministry posts.

There will also be a contraction in the dental supply industry. The laboratories that make

our crowns and dentures will have less work. The equipment and materials manufacturers will monopolize as the industry contracts. Dental nurses and hygienists will find it harder to find work.

Any redundancy will mean loss of specialized, essential workers from the dental 'industry'.

Yet the need for dental treatment and health education is so great that we cannot afford to lose any workers.

The tax cuts may give 'Mr Average' 10s a week more in his pay packet, but the mini-Budget has put the cost of living up by £2 a week.

Many dental professors, the General Dental Council, the BDA and many sociologists have spoken out against the backwards move of the NHS that will occur.

The Socialist Medical Association calls for a completely free (at the time of use), expanding, comprehensive NHS. It should be paid for out of general taxation.

Michael Silver Socialist Medical Association Dental Group

Swiss arms firm dealt with Egypt and S Africa

SEVEN executives and former executives of Oerlikon-Buehler, Switzerland's largest arms manufacturer, are on trial in Lausanne charged with illegally exporting arms worth about £8.5 million between 1963 and 1968.

The prosecution claims the firm violated Swiss law by selling arms to belligerent countries.

Papers were falsified with the connivance of officials in the French Defence Ministry, the indictment claims.

Gabriel Lebedinsky, the firm's 56-year-old chief salesman told the court he had gone to Cairo to negotiate the sale of 220 Second World War 20-mm guns, for which Egypt paid over half a million pounds.

A second accused, Karl Seidmann, said he went twice to the Egyptian embassy in Berne to collect payment for the arms 'in bundles of notes'.

Another witness said receipts for the transaction were destroyed in a shredding machine.

Commission

The company paid a 15 per cent commission to an Arab businessman who acted as middleman for the deal.

The prosecution claims a forged letter from Ethiopia was used to fool the government into thinking the arms were destined for Haile Selassie's Air Force.

The company's main illegal customer, however, was S Africa, which acquired about £5 million-worth of arms through illicit sales.

The trial underlines the Swiss capitalists' cynical disregard for the high-flown principles of neutrality they profess as a body.

The only reason Oerlikon is on trial is that they did not even bother to maintain the fiction of neutrality by the usual method of exporting to countries at war via third parties which then shipped the arms on.

Slump in air firm profits

A MASSIVE drive for increased productivity can be expected by airline workers in both Britain and the United States following estimated year-end losses of several million pounds on internal routes.

The expected £2,000,000 British European Airways loss has been attributed by the state-owned corporation's traffic and sales management largely to inflation, strikes and expensive anti-hijack measures. Particular emphasis has been placed on the failure of productivity to rise by more than seven per cent this year.

For America's 20 privately-owned airlines, the situation is more serious—approximately 100 times more serious, in fact.

Latest estimates indicate that some of the seven biggest companies must either go to the wall or merge in face of a shock £200 million loss. Here, few attempts have been made to conceal that the slump stems directly from capitalist mismanagement and chaos.

Few more succinct arguments will be found against the Tory denationalization and productivity-dealing plans which the now inevitable international route war will call up.

Burmese guerrilla leader captured

BURMESE guerrilla leader, Thakin Soe has been captured, according to reports from Rangoon.

Ever since the collapse of Japanese occupation in 1945, Soe has led the struggle for land reform, first against the U Nu government, and following its overthrow in 1961, the Ne Win military dictatorship.

The pro-Moscow section of the Burmese Communist Party has collaborated with the Ne Win regime. Its more militant wing has taken to the countryside to carry on guerrilla warfare.

Until recently, Peking gave public support to the guerrillas, but since the Chinese turn towards better diplomatic and

trade relations with the West, the Mao regime has softened its attacks on Rangoon.

Only last week, the new Burmese Ambassador to China, U Thein Maung, presented his credentials to the Chinese government, marking another stage in the 'normalization' of relations between the two countries.

Soe's arrest now leaves the field open for former Burmese ruler U Nu to exercise his moderating influence over the anti-Win movement, comprised of poor and landless peasants and various minority tribesmen.

Soe, leader of the 'Red Flag' Communists in Burma, was and remains a resolute fighter against imperialism and everything must be done to secure his release.

Mrs Cleaver barred

W GERMAN police turned back Mrs Kathleen Cleaver, wife of Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver, when she arrived at Frankfurt airport on Tuesday night to attend rallies organized by the movement's supporters.

Earlier Mrs Cleaver was not allowed to enter France when she arrived at Orly airport in Paris from Algiers, where her husband lives in exile.

Warned in Paris that an entry permit would be refused if she went to W Germany, Mrs Cleaver nonetheless took a plane to Frankfurt.

Police here put her on a return flight to Paris while about 150 students demonstrated at the airport against the ban.

PUBLIC LECTURES Elements of Marxism

The importance of Marxist philosophy in the building of the revolutionary party.

Lectures by C. Slaughter (Central Committee member of the Socialist Labour League)

SWINDON: Eastcott Hotel, Manchester Rd, 8 p.m. Wednesdays. December 2, 9 and 16.

LIVERPOOL: Royal Institution, Colquitt St (nr Bold St), 7.45 p.m. Wednesday, November 25.

OXFORD: Northgate Hall, 8 p.m. Thursday, November 26.

Lectures by G. Healy (national secretary of the Socialist Labour League)

NEWCASTLE: Hotspur Hotel, Haymarket. 7.30 p.m. Sunday, November 29.

SOUTHAMPTON: Polygon Hotel, the Polygon, 7.30 p.m. Sundays. December 6, 13 and 20.

BEXLEYHEATH: Roberts Hall, Christchurch, Broadway, 8 p.m. Tuesday. December 1, 15, and 22.

ACTON: Oddfellows Hall, Fletcher Rd, W3. 8 p.m. Thursdays. December 10 and 17.

Lectures by P. O'Regan (SLL) BALHAM: Co-op Hall, 47-51 Balham High St, SW12. 8 p.m. Mondays. November 30 and December 7 and 14.

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Burmese guerrilla leader captured trade relations with the West, the Mao regime has softened its attacks on Rangoon. Only last week, the new Burmese Ambassador to China, U Thein Maung, presented his credentials to the Chinese government, marking another stage in the 'normalization' of relations between the two countries. Soe's arrest now leaves the field open for former Burmese ruler U Nu to exercise his moderating influence over the anti-Win movement, comprised of poor and landless peasants and various minority tribesmen. Soe, leader of the 'Red Flag' Communists in Burma, was and remains a resolute fighter against imperialism and everything must be done to secure his release.

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### Major battle due with government

# Power men decide on action

ALL THE lines are quickly being drawn for a major battle over the demand by 125,000 electricity-supply workers for a £5-a-week pay rise.

## Bread van strike may halt Scots bakeries

THREE major bakeries in the Glasgow and W Scotland area face closure this weekend following a strike by 1,000 delivery workers for a £4 wage increase.

All three bakeries, owned by the Rank, Spiller and Weston groups, will close on Friday because transport unions are stopping supplies of essential material and oil for baking ovens.

Group bakeries in Kirkcaldy and Dundee will also be affected.

About 5,000 bakers may be laid-off because of the decision. The strike is now approaching its third week and has been made official by the two unions involved, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Scottish Commercial Motormen's Union.

Shop stewards from the Motormen's union will be travelling to Edinburgh and into Fife to spread the strike. Members of the Scottish Union of Bakers and Allied Workers have responded to appeals from the two transport unions and have refused to load vans at the big-three bakeries.

The £4 claim would boost the van drivers' basic wage to £20, but employers say they will not improve on their latest offer of increases between 44s 6d and 49s 6d.

**WEATHER** PRESSURE will remain low to the SW of the British Isles. A weak trough of low pressure will be slow-moving over N Scotland. In Ireland, Scotland and the whole of England and Wales will be generally dry, though with fog in places at first. Fog will clear during the morning and sunny spells will have bright or sunny periods in the afternoon.

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Discuss the proposed draft of the Charter of Basic Rights

WILLESDEN: Thursday, November 26, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Rd. N.W.10.

SE LONDON: Thursday, November 26, 8 p.m. Artichoke pub, Camberwell Church St, Camberwell Green.

CROYDON: Thursday, November 26, 8 p.m. Prince of Wales, Thornton Heath Clock Tower.

LUTON: Friday, November 27, 8 p.m. AEU House, 396/8 Dunstable Rd.

BIRMINGHAM: Sunday, November 29, 8 p.m. New Inn, Bromsgrove St.

ACTON: Monday, November 30, 8 p.m. Acton Co-op Hall, Acton High Street.

SW LONDON: Tuesday, December 1, 8 p.m. Princes Head, Falcon Rd, Clapham Junction.

ABERDEEN: Tuesday, December 1 and Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Music Hall.

## LATE NEWS

**GROMYKO IN BERLIN** Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko made a surprise visit to E Berlin for talks with E German Socialist leader Walter Ulbricht yesterday. The official news agency ADN reported.

It was Gromyko's second visit here within four weeks. ADN said the talks were also attended by Prime Minister Willi Stoph, Politbureau member Erich Honecker, Foreign Minister Otto Winzer and candidate Politbureau member Hermann Axen.

The talks, which ADN said had taken place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, covered questions of European security and of mutual interest.

**COMMON MARKET TALKS** Tory Common Market negotiator Geoffrey Rippon told the Commons yesterday that the Foreign Secretary would represent Britain in talks on 'co-ordination of foreign policy in certain fields' in Brussels on December 2.

Rippon said they were now considering 'extremely important and a difficult question' of the British contribution to community finances: 'crucial to the present negotiations'.

**GLASGOW LORRIES STOP** An official strike of drivers halted many Glasgow fish and meat lorries yesterday.

The strike, involving members of the Scottish Commercial Motormen's Union, is over mileage payments.

**ANTI-TORY STRIKE** A spokesman for the PO Engineering Union said exchanges at Wolverhampton, Birmingham and in London had staged a 100-per cent walk-out.

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# Charter of Basic Rights

## A power worker speaks

I COULD go along with this charter all the way. Having said that, I want to comment particularly on point No 2, the democratic right to strike.

If anybody wants proof or evidence how really necessary this is, they've only got to look at my own industry and they can see quite clearly what happens when this right is taken away.

I consider every working man should have the right to strike—the right to put a price on his labour—in a capitalist system where the principle is to get as much as they can out of the worker for as little as possible.

He should have that right just as a businessman has the right to price his goods. It would seem that this Tory Bill will give the Tories the right to do what they like while the working man is held down by law.

Yet we are ready in the position where our trade union leaders can go to prison if they call us out on strike.

If it's such a great thing to take this right away, why is it that we power workers have some of the worst conditions and work for some of the worst wages paid?

In this industry we don't even get the right to a cooling-off period.

At one time this was a highly-paid industry, but like our brothers in the mining industry we've dropped right down the wages ladder.

Now I earn about £19 a week after stoppages and have to work weekends, bank holidays and nights to get it. And turbine driver is one of the top operational grades.

Of course, we get premium payments for working weekends. But I don't consider these part of my wage, and yet I'd be on the poverty line without them.

Our industry has been nationalized since 1948 and I agree with the Charter demand for nationalization.



Bert Price

though not the present kind—it's paralysation—paralysation of all our rights.

The industry still paying compensation to the old owners—22 years after the takeover. The trade union side has estimated that the Board is oversubsiding to the Depreciation Fund by over £35 million a year—this would fully meet our present wage claim without raising electricity prices at all.

Many of our problems arise from productivity dealing.

The productivity agreement that is really the cause of the trouble in our industry was signed in 1964. The present wage bill in 1970 is not one penny more than what it was when the deal was signed—and these are the Board's own figures.

In the case of Battersea, four years ago there were over 900 manual workers employed at our station. We still have the same amount of plant and we're still producing as much power as the consumer calls for.

But the number of workers has been cut by about 300—and we're still not receiving a penny productivity bonus.

All sections in the power station have been reduced by natural wastage—except skilled men who they can't get enough of in any case due to their lousy wages.

That's what productivity means for power workers. In other words, we're doing exactly the same amount of work with one-third fewer men.

One other thing about the Charter 'I'm pleased to see is the pensioners. This is something we've got to take

ANTI-STRIKE laws are nothing new for workers in the power industry. The Public Utilities Act makes it an offence for them to withdraw their labour.

If you work in a power station, a gas works or a water works your only legal sanction against the employer is an overtime ban or a work-to-rule.

Power station workers are getting ready for an official overtime ban and work-to-rule as negotiations for their £5 pay claim climax in talks between union chiefs and management on December 2.

One week later, if the Central Electricity Council persists with its derisory

35s reply to their claim, all overtime working at power plants throughout Britain will be halted.

Vernon (Bert) Price works as a turbine driver at Battersea Power Station in London. He is chairman of the Nine Elms branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union and anticipates a fierce struggle to win the £5 claim.

As he says: 'The Board as usual will have received instructions to bear in mind government policy.'

Here, he comments on the 'Charter of Basic Rights' and underlines graphically what anti-strike laws and productivity deals mean for power workers:

A GRAPHIC summary of the effects of productivity in the electrical power industry was given in a recent 'Times' letter from R. D. V. Roberts, secretary to the Central Electricity Generating Board's side of the industry's National Joint Council.

Since 1964, Roberts says, the number of power units sold has gone up 38 per cent, with a substantial rise in sales of appliances. Over the same period productivity went up 18.2 per cent.

The total number of employees, however, fell by 6.4 per cent—a figure which conceals a far larger drop in the number of manual workers (staff numbers have actually risen).

Roberts quotes 11.7 per cent as the drop in manual workers' numbers over the six years, but there is good reason for thinking this a considerable underestimate.

Since the number of hours worked in the industry has fallen by nearly a quarter, it is not surprising that though earnings have risen somewhat since 1964, the total wage bill has not.

Roberts' proudest boast is that wage drift—under the rigid terms of nationally negotiated agreements—has been completely eliminated from the industry. What this means in practice is that shop stewards and even district officials in the industry have no right to bargain for wages.

# European 'warning' on US trade block

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYERS' organizations in Britain and W Europe have wasted no time in their campaign to block the passing of protectionist legislation in the United States.

## Elderly eat less meat

RISING prices are forcing elderly people living alone in N London to eat less meat and fish, according to a study published yesterday.

The survey by a leading London geriatrician found that a section of 60 elderly people living in Islington cut down their consumption of meat and fish between the years 1962 and 1969.

In a statement released today addressed to President Nixon, the heads of Common Market and European Free Trade Area industrial federations 'express their serious concern at the content of foreign trade legislation now under consideration by the United States Congress'.

Signed for the Confederation of British Industry by its President John Partridge, the letter warns:

'If access to the United States market should be blocked for an increasingly wide range of our goods, balance of payments considerations amongst others will eventually force our governments to react to restrictive United States policies.'

## EARLY DAYS

These are early days yet for the development of such a conflict.

Many US exporters have much to lose by a European 'backlash' against restrictions on Common Market and EFTA exports into the USA.

Southern Republican Party leaders also hope to win votes away from their Democratic opponents by coming out for the protection of the region's textile industry, currently hard-pressed by Japanese rivals.

In this context, the protection campaign forms part of Nixon's 'southern strategy'. Despite its tough language, the letter is obviously intended to give European backing to the anti-protectionist lobby in Congress.

A more pressing problem facing the Nixon Administration is the unchecked growth of inflation, which saw a rise during October of 0.6 per cent in retail prices, the sharpest monthly increase for half a year.

## CAMPAIGN

Tuesday's figures are expected to spark off a renewed campaign by leading economists and government advisers for an incomes policy.

Support for a US 'wage freeze'—either official or 'voluntary'—has been expressed recently by former Federal Reserve Board chairman McChesney Martin and his successor Arthur Burns.

These basic economic problems, made even more acute by the wages offensive inside the trade unions, behind the protectionist debate in the US and today's statement by the European employers.

# Heavy criticism of farcical PoW camp raid

MEMBERS of the 'Green Berets', the notorious murder squad, were involved in last Saturday's abortive attempt to rescue US prisoners-of-war from a camp in N Vietnam.

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

This was revealed by US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird in his testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday night.

Defending the use of 'Green Berets' on the mission, Laird claimed:

'They think they can get in and out of almost anything.'

Under heavy Congressional criticism for his conduct of the mission, Laird was reminded several times by Committee Chairman William Fulbright that there were no US prisoners at the camp when the task force landed there.

treatment of captured guerrillas in the South.

It was only a few months ago that the world learned of the barbaric 'tiger cages' maintained by Laird's allies in Saigon for NLF prisoners.

Another specialist in 'intelligence', Vice-President Spiro T. Agnew, has already called for new attempts to free US prisoners in the North.

He told reporters on Tuesday that although 'these rescues are risky, I think we can't afford to give up on our PoWs. We've got to continue to extricate them whenever we can'.

Laird has been more cautious, commenting 'we are considering other action' to secure the release of prisoners.

## Unchanged

Nixon's decision to launch such an adventure is proof that his Vietnam policy remains unchanged.

US imperialism will not be talked or persuaded out of Indo-China; it will have to be driven out by the combined blows of the Vietnamese people and the international labour movement.

Laird's subsequent defence of US 'intelligence' gathering was at times greeted with hoots, of laughter.

## 'No cameras'

The difficulty was, he said, that 'we have no cameras that can see through roofs of buildings'.

'Anti-war' Congressmen were also worried that the raid may well have made the progress of peace talks with Hanoi even more difficult, coming hard on Nixon's November 24 bombing raid of the North which coincided with the abortive rescue bid.

Laird's main defence of the operation rested on the alleged plight of the US prisoners in N Vietnam, which, he cynically claimed, contrasted with the 'humane'

## Suspended sentence for arms salesman

FINES of up to £20,000 and suspended sentences ranging from three weeks to a year were all that the prosecution demanded yesterday in the closing session of the Swiss arms smuggling trial in Lausanne.

Seven men—six former employees of the arms firm Oerlikon-Buehrle and its present head, Dr Dieter Buehrle have been charged with having used false documents to avoid Swiss arms embargo regulations and illegally exporting arms and ammunition.

A small part of the consignment went to Egypt, but the bulk found its way to S Africa.

Counsel for multi-millionaire Buehrle claimed that his client 'had not acted out of greed for personal gain'.

The contracts were altogether worth about £8,500,000.

● See page three.

## Notts official at LSE

# CP's miners sell-out praised

TERRY WHELAN, Nottinghamshire area agent for the National Union of Mineworkers, defended the Stalinists' role in the miners' strike to a student audience this week.

## New Zealand farmers for Britain

AGRICULTURAL workers are to be flown to Britain from New Zealand next year in specially chartered Boeings and Britannias to work on farms here, according to the current issue of 'Farmers Weekly'.

The employment agency, Mayday Agricultural Services, is to bring over 600 'farmers and farmers' sons of between 20 and 25 who want to study English agriculture.

They are to be offered subsidized flight tickets and will be guaranteed jobs as relief milkers and tractor drivers.

A spokesman for the company explained the scheme as an attempt to overcome the serious shortage of skilled men in Britain where 300,000 workers (40 per cent of the labour force) have left the land since 1956.

## Public Meeting THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

7.30 p.m.

The fight for workers' rights

The Town Hall, St Helens, Lancs.

Speaker: G. HEALY (National Secretary of SLL)

## Phoney protest over Davis trial

THE French Communist Party's attitude to Geismar's case (see page one) underlines the completely phoney character of their campaign for the release of Davis and Geismar.

On its maiden voyage the tanker is carrying a 36-man crew—normal for this size and type of vessel.

However, once experience of operation has been gained, the crew level is to be fixed permanently at 15 men.

## PLANE-MAKERS

FROM PAGE ONE

'We must take a stand and say that this Bill must be fought outright by every trade unionist in the country. The Tories are taking our

hard won freedom from us. If this Bill goes through no shop steward will be bold enough to do his job properly for fear of fines or eventual imprisonment.'

One young production worker called upon the TUC to organize a General Strike to bring the Tory government down.

It is not enough just to protest on December 8, the fight must be developed into one to bring this government down and the TUC must be called upon to lead this fight,' he said to cheers from the audience.

Only a small minority in the meeting voted against the motion to stop work on December 8.

## FLQ girl says police beat her

A MAN and woman said to be members of the Quebec Liberation Front have been convicted of contempt of court in Montreal because they refused to give evidence to the inquest into the death of Quebec Labour Minister Pierre Laporte.

The woman, Lise Rose, aged 25, screamed before she was dragged from the courtroom that she had been stripped naked and beaten during interrogation by police.

The man, Clement Roy, 22, refused to testify on the grounds that his story could result in other people being charged.

Both were imprisoned until December 1, when the inquest hearing reopened.

Lise Rose is the sister of kidnaper suspects Paul and Jacques Rose, both of whom are being sought by police.

Lise Rose's statement Roy was being arrested together with several dozen other people—under the War Measures Act put into operation by 'liberal' premier Pierre Trudeau after the kidnapping of Laporte and British trade commissioner James Cross.

The Act gives police sweeping powers of arbitrary arrest and imprisonment without trial.

The two prisoners are likely to be tried eventually, however, and face five to 15-year jail sentences for advocating or promoting the unlawful acts, aims, principles or practices of the FLQ—a left-wing Quebec separatist organization outlawed since the kidnappings.

## Pay strike

The meeting also voted to take strike action if the Hawker management does not agree to a £2 cost-of-living increase demanded by production workers.

But the men rejected a move to extend the claim to non-production workers.

'They could put in for their own increase as a separate claim, advised one union official.

SIX HUNDRED engineering workers at the Leeds printing-machinery works of Hoe-Crabtree yesterday decided to strike on December 8.

Also in Yorkshire, the strike is being supported by the Wakefield district committee of the Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers.

## NUT backs out

LEADERS of the National Union of Teachers decided yesterday not to back December 8.

Inner London Teachers had asked the union's executive to back a strike call in protest against the laws and over teachers' pay.

But the executive decided to support TUC policy of not backing the protest on December 8, because, it claimed, action on the salary issue would become confused with the demonstration over the industrial laws.

## Royalists attack guerrillas

ROYALIST army units drove Palestinian commandos from a post near the N Jordan town of Jarash yesterday.

Military police set up by the Central Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization under last month's agreement between Hussein and Arafat first asked them to leave the post.

When the commandos refused, regular army units opened fire.

There were no casualties.

## Jobs cut on ship and shore

FORTY-SEVEN dockers are to be returned to the unattached register next month when the Blackfriars Cold Store on the Thameside closes.

The firm comes under the recently-conducted riverside wharves version of Lord Devlin's Phase Two 'modernization' scheme.

Shop stewards are claiming that firms using unregistered labour are opening up along the river and undercutting their by less than one-third.

A merchant vessel with the most advanced ship control system in the world was launched recently in Japan.

The 138,000-ton tanker, 'Sicco Maru' incorporates a computer which can take complete control of the engine room as well as making automatic navigational calculations and operating an anti-collision system.

On its maiden voyage the tanker is carrying a 36-man crew—normal for this size and type of vessel.

However, once experience of operation has been gained, the crew level is to be fixed permanently at 15 men.

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● See page three.