

THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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At the head of the processions were horsebacked police and mingling with the protesting shopkeepers, clerks and assorted bible-bashers were plain-clothes policemen.

For once they weren't snooping for 'subversives', but pushing the propaganda of his holiness Dr Claxton, Bishop of Blackburn, who organized the march and is very worried about all our morals.

But most surprising of all—with the Bishop walked the Bobby!

The other mastermind behind this politico-religious jamboree was top-cop William Palfrey, chief of the 7,000-strong Lanes constabulary.

This modern-day Pilgrims Progress was for God and morality say the organizers. But what kinds of ethical outrages concerned the 10,000.

Perhaps the state of Blackburn's and Lancashire's housing? In this county, 100,000 of working people live in pre-First World War slums.

Or maybe the Bishop is worried about his flock who work in the cotton mills where the air is heavy with fibre that corrodes the lungs.

Were they perhaps outraged at the government's attempts to destroy the welfare and health services that mean so much to Lancashire workers and the county's unemployed?

No, the main worry appeared to be the state of discipline in the nation. The chief constable is apparently disturbed at the growing number of people who 'do not conform to a code of conduct'.

The Bishop is a little more specific. The demonstration for him was a call to 'ordinary' working men to fight against the 'enemy within'.

The biggest current evil, he says, is the 'greed' revealed in its most vivid way in strikes.

For his own part policeman Palfrey is 'fed up of demonstrations when coppers get thumped'.

'Here in Lancashire,' says Palfrey, 'we are going to try and re-establish a code of conduct based on the Christian faith'.

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But his efforts fell entirely on barren ground.

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Powell outlines attacks on workers

Unemployment, nationalism and bankruptcy

By John Spencer

NATIONALISM, 'honest' money and big blows for the working class. These political planks filched from the platforms of previous capitalist dictatorships have become the stock-in-trade of extreme right-wing Tory Enoch Powell.

In yesterday's 'Sunday Express' he writes that:

'After 30 years of slipping and slipping, it isn't easy to call a halt... There is no soft option; if the shock of ceasing to inflate causes bankruptcies and unemployment that is how it has to be.

'The idea of slowing down so smoothly that nobody notices is a pipe-dream: alcoholics are not cured that way.'

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Such is the Tory answer to the economic crisis which is now racking British capitalism. The rights won in struggle by the working class are contemptuously to be cast aside and a new regime of brutal anti-working-class measures imposed.

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Speaking in a BBC radio debate with Tory union-basher-in-chief Robert Carr, she indicated that her policy would be designed to get the strike weapon used as a last resort.

The public had been misled into thinking that strikes which caused inconvenience—like those of dustmen and power workers—would be 'magically wished away' by the Tory proposals, she said. Carr hoped that when strikes took place in future they would be of the bigger variety with official union backing.

'This on the whole will be healthy,' he said.

ENGINEERS were last night trying to trace the cause of a fault that brought a series of power cuts through England and Wales.

Thousands of families missed their Sunday lunches because of the fault, in an overhead line on the Yorkshire-Durham border.

The Central Electricity Generating Board had to close down three other lines carrying power to the South, and for nearly an hour homes in Yorkshire, Lancashire, the Midlands, Wales and the South were without electricity.

Anti-strike law used against NY firemen

LEADERS of New York's 11,300 firemen yesterday received summonses as action in support of a new wages contract entered its second day.

Michael May, president of the United Firefighters' Association (UFA) was one of 350 union leaders and delegates summoned to appear today in Manhattan Supreme Court. He said: 'I will rot in jail if I have to.'

The firemen are refusing to clear snow from station driveways and alarm boxes as part of a 'job action', following the

expiry of their wages contract on New Year's Eve.

New York City authorities have obtained a court order against the firemen under a state law prohibiting public employees from striking or waging similar action.

At today's court hearing the union will be asked to show cause why their emergency-calls only action should not be stopped.

The firemen want a 30-per cent pay rise, but the authorities have offered only a cost-of-living increase which the firemen have rejected.

State firms at bargain prices

TORY PLAN

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

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The talks are aimed at implementing a scheme this year to sell stakes in state industries to speculators at knock-down prices.

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Despite his witch-hunting role during the miners' strike, Roberts has expressed his opposition to these plans.

A few weeks ago, when he launched a new hotel reservation service which employs an NCB computer, Roberts stated that any attempt to sell off the new business the Board was developing would be made 'over my dead body'.

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He added: 'The last man who said that got the sack'—a reference to sacked Post Office chief Lord Hall.

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Roberts' remarks suggest that the Tory denationalization plans had already been outlined to him.

Since the Tory election victory, there is mounting evidence that not one of the state industries will escape the government's attacks.

The Devey affair British CP leaders must accept responsibility

BY DAVID MAUDE

FEW worthwhile answers can be expected from the promised union investigation of the recent seven-week reinstatement strike at Sheffield's Batchelor's Foods plant.

Like the Yorkshire district committee of the Communist Party, the national executive of the Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers will be mainly concerned in its discussion of the settlement—possibly tomorrow—to establish its own innocence of the

£3,000 pay-off accepted by convenor Terry Devey. However, the time for buck-passing has long since gone.

NOTORIOUS

Chief responsibility for the now notorious Batchelor's settlement rests squarely with the leadership of the British Communist Party, with Yorkshire district secretary Howard Hill, with national industrial organizer Bert Ramelson and in the final analysis with the entire CP executive. The CP's Yorkshire district

committee has described the pay-off as 'a retreat before the same forces which are behind the Industrial Relations Bill'.

Yet Hill admitted on television last Wednesday night that both the committee and he personally were in touch with the strike throughout. If the CP lays claim to having any organization at all in the Yorkshire area, it is reasonable to assume that its members would be working in a concerted manner in a situation where a leading member—Devey was at that time chief area spokesman for the Stalinist-dominated Liaison Committee for Defence of Trade Unions—faced the sack.

DISCUSSIONS

Discussions on CP policy on this issue must have taken place involving Hill, AEF district secretary George Caborn, other members of the Union's district committee and Devey himself.

The first evidence of retreat came in the same week as the December 8 token strike against the anti-union legislation, when approaches were made to bring a Department of Employment conciliation officer into the dispute from Leeds.

Initiative for this is said to have come from Caborn, and no denial of this charge—made by Batchelor's strike committee members the following week—is on record.

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Along with Ramelson, CP national secretary John Gollan and the rest of the Stalinist executive did nothing.

So the talks went ahead with the company. First came an offer from the union officials—Caborn leading them—to accept conditions on Devey's reinstatement. When this was rejected, the officials agreed to take back to the strike committee terms involving a money offer.

TELEPHONE

Devey is known to have been in contact with Hill by telephone during that evening (Monday, December 14), to ask for advice before two

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Youth rally prepares a major campaign against the Tory govt

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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Reporting the year's progress of the socialist youth monthly at the 'Keep Left' 20th Annual General Meeting she warned the packed audience 'beware of complacency'.

The government, she said, 'was out to smash the unions, raise unemployment, victimize militants and abolish the health and social services'.

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Powerful

'We support the call of the Young Socialist national committee for the rally on February 14 and we want it to be the most powerful event ever organized in the history of the trade union movement in Britain,' she said.

For the paper a first step in the campaign would be the publication of a special 40,000 copy edition.

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Feather sees press strikers

By an Industrial correspondent

LONDON, SUNDAY: Mr Victor Feather, TUC general secretary, today met leaders of the unofficial journalists' strike on the 'Sun' and 'Daily Mirror'.

Mr Malcolm Withers, father of the 'Sun' National Union of Journalists chapel said Mr Feather met him, Mr Bryn Jones, father of the 'Mirror' chapel and senior NUJ officials this morning.

'We had a meeting with Mr Feather this morning lasting a number of hours.'

'There was a general discussion on the whole situation. Certain proposals were put forward by us and at one stage by Mr Feather,' said Mr Withers.

He added that the talks were 'extremely helpful'. The dispute follows a new pay deal for national newspapers agreed by the NUJ and Newspaper Publishers' Association—which includes an 18-month freeze on talks on house agreements.

The new agreement was accepted by a ballot of journalists in London and Manchester last week.

Mr Ken Morgan, NUJ general secretary, has called the unofficial strike by 'Sun' and 'Daily Mirror' journalists 'unconstitutional' and instructed his members to return to work.

During the dispute, the papers—and the 'Glasgow Daily Record' and 'Sunday Mail' also hit by a journalists' unofficial 'sympathy' strike—have been produced by executives.

TUC CHARADE

THE RETREAT of the Trades Union Congress before the Tories' anti-union attacks is being carried through in charade style.

No expense is being spared on every conceivable gimmick, rather than mobilize the strength of the trade union movement.

While the TUC petition does the rounds, another £15,000 is being spent on conferences and courses for full-time union officials and £60,000 on 'campaign kits'—teaching aids for crash educational courses on the Bill.

Says TUC general secretary Victor Feather: 'At present we do not believe that people fully understand the Bill. We hope as a result to get it withdrawn.'

One of the first to receive a kit will be Employment Minister Robert Carr—to help him to understand his Bill!

Workers Press

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tory government

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ALL ROADS LEAD TO.
ALEXANDRA
PALACE

WOODGREEN N22 14 FEB



'Keep Left' editor Aileen Jennings giving her report. YS national secretary John Simmanace was the chairman.

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Bengal terror continues

A MAOIST trade union leader was among two people killed in Calcutta yesterday.

Promode Dasgupta, secretary of the W Bengal Marxist Communist Party has charged that 23 peasants were murdered by police during the current harvesting season.

He told a press conference the workers had been victims of 'ferocious attacks by the whole administrative machinery, landowners and vested interests'.

Police said yesterday that 300 people had been detained in Calcutta under the Prevention of Violent Activities Act introduced in W Bengal last month.

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Pages from miners' history

AFTER 1926: The Fruits of Betrayal

BY JACK GALE

demonstrated in London under the slogan 'A General Strike Against Baldwin', despite the fact that the march was boycotted by the London Labour Party.

The Glasgow Trades Council called for a general strike against the Trades Disputes Act by 117 votes to 20.

But, while the workers were still willing to fight, the leaders were not. A special conference of the Scottish TUC rejected the Glasgow policy by 19 votes and a conference of union executives also rejected strike action.

Instead of fighting the Tories and the employers, the right-wing trade union leaders gave increasing support to 'Mondism'.

'Mondism' was derived from Sir Alfred Mond, a Liberal MP, who was involved in the amalgamation of four chemical firms to form Imperial Chemical Industries.

'Rationalization'

Mond believed in 'rationalization of industry' through collaboration with the trade union leaders. Needless to say, this invariably involved increasing the number of unemployed and breaking down many of the working conditions established by trade union action in the past.

The 1928 TUC Conference voted in favour of the Mond-Turner talks (Ben Turner was a leader of the Textile Unions and chairman of the TUC General Council) after strong speeches in favour by Walter Citrine and Ernest Bevin.

A joint committee with the employers was formed on which the chief trade union figures were Turner, Bevin, Citrine, J H Thomas, Arthur Pugh, Tom Richards and Will Thorne.

The same conference of the TUC broke from the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee and voted to investigate 'disruptive activities' in the unions.

As Henry Pelling puts it in his 'History of British Trade Unionism', the 'personal friendships then formed between businessmen and union leaders were later to be of great importance'.

In 1929 the second Labour government took office, and stood impotently while the total of registered unemployed rose to nearly three million.



Following the betrayal by Spencerism and the 1926 General Strike, the Tories pressed home their advantage and introduced the Trades Disputes Act in 1927. Above: demonstration in London against the Act.

'Third Period' theory.

While in Germany the Communist Party was denouncing the Social Democrats as 'Social Fascists' and a worse danger than Hitler, in Britain Party leaders such as Gallacher were demanding that the unions should disaffiliate from the TUC and affiliate to the Minority Movement.

Tom Bell argued in 'Workers' Life' that the Communist Party should work to split the existing unions and form new 'revolutionary' unions. When a strike broke out among 11,000 unorganized workers at Austin's Birmingham plant, Emile Burns called for the formation among these workers of a new industrial engineering union.

The result of this was that the

positions on the Scottish executive.

The right wing on the old Scottish executive postponed the annual conference of the Scottish miners because they knew they would be in a minority on the new executive.

Flouted

They then tried to use unpaid debts by the Fife miners Association (debts contracted by the old right-wing leadership before the Communist Party took office) to disenfranchise the Fife miners.

Although there is no doubt that the right wing unscrupulously flouted every democratic principle in order to cling on to office, the Communist Party played into their hands by pulling out of the union.

In fact, the right-wing position had been so desperate that they had formed their own break-away right-wing organization in Fife.

In October 1928, the Communists called a 'Save the Union'

conference to which 49 Scottish miners' branches sent delegates.

At this time the Party flatly denied that it intended to set up a new union.

A 'Save the Union Committee' was established with its own paper 'The Scottish Mineworker'. The right wing intensified its drive against the Communist Party in all the unions, but especially amongst the miners.

Breakaway

Then, in February 1929, the Communists issued, through the 'Save the Union Committee', a call for a new Scottish miners' union.

The extent of the split that this caused was shown by the fact that in Fife, where the Communist Party was strongest and where the right wing had broken away, the Fife miners' executive voted for the proposed new union by only 13 votes to 12.

(This, in fact, enabled the right wing to recognize the right-wing breakaway as the official union in Fife.)



ERNEST BEVIN

The Communist Party-dominated United Mineworkers of Scotland was set up at an inaugural conference in April 1929. 132 delegates attended.

Five months later—in September 1929—the first annual conference of the union could muster only 64 delegates—a decline of over 50 per cent.

Blind alley

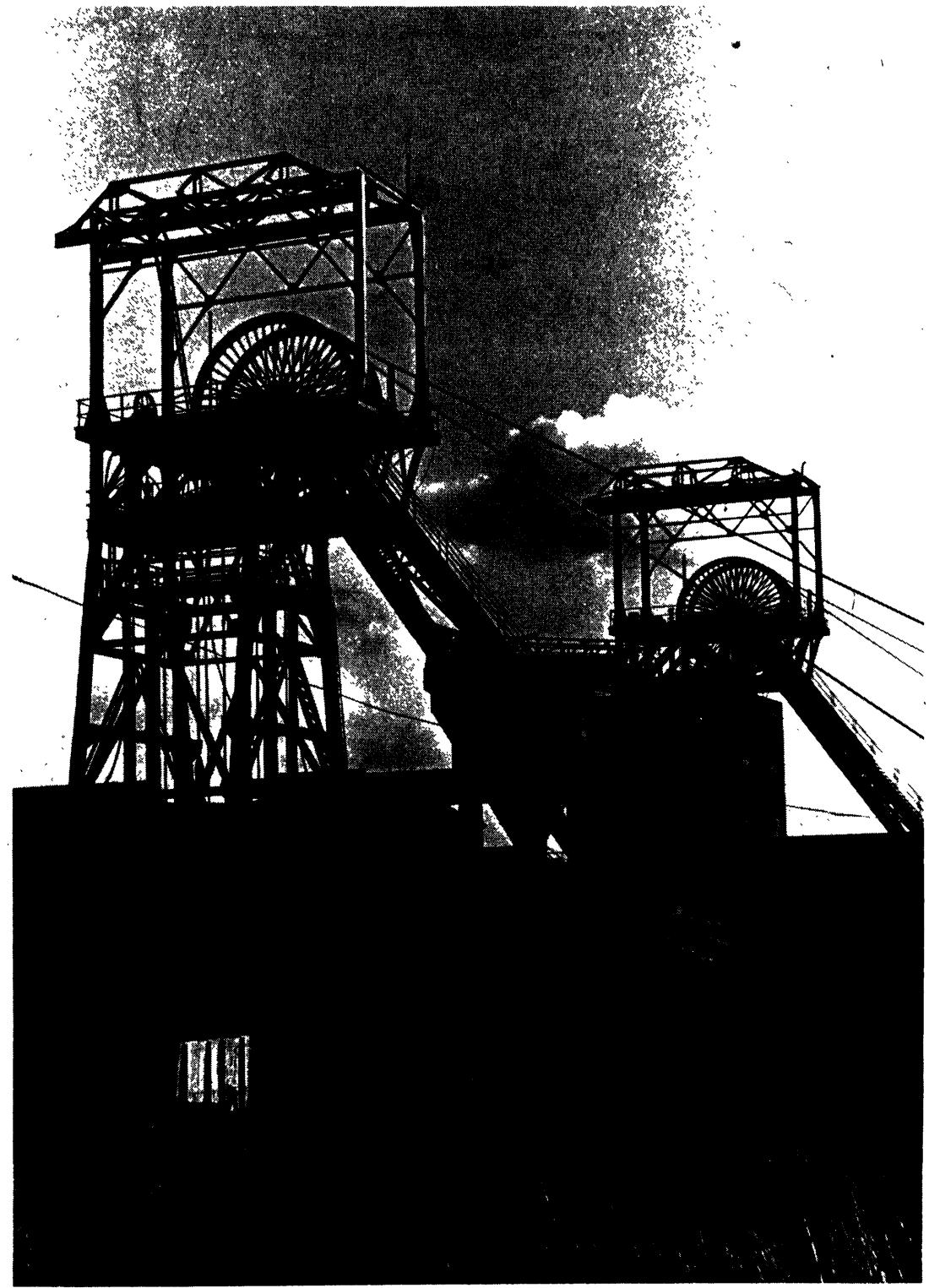
Although the Communist Party continued to hold a strong position in Fife—Willie Gallacher was elected MP for W Fife in 1935—its support declined elsewhere.

By 1935, however, the Stalinist 'Third Period' theory had given way to the new line of a 'Popular Front Against Fascism'.

Not only the Labourites and right-wing union officials, but clerics and 'progressive Tories' were assiduously courted. And so, in January 1936, the United Mineworkers of Scotland was dissolved.

The militants had been led up a blind alley.

WILL THORNE



SPENCERISM (see Workers Press, December 19) was only one product of the 1926 betrayal. After the miners' lock-out, the policy of the Conservative government was to solve the problems of the industry by imposing longer hours and lower wages on the miners.

Mining villages experienced appalling conditions of hunger and misery. Earnings fell to well below half of those of 1921, as the following table shows:

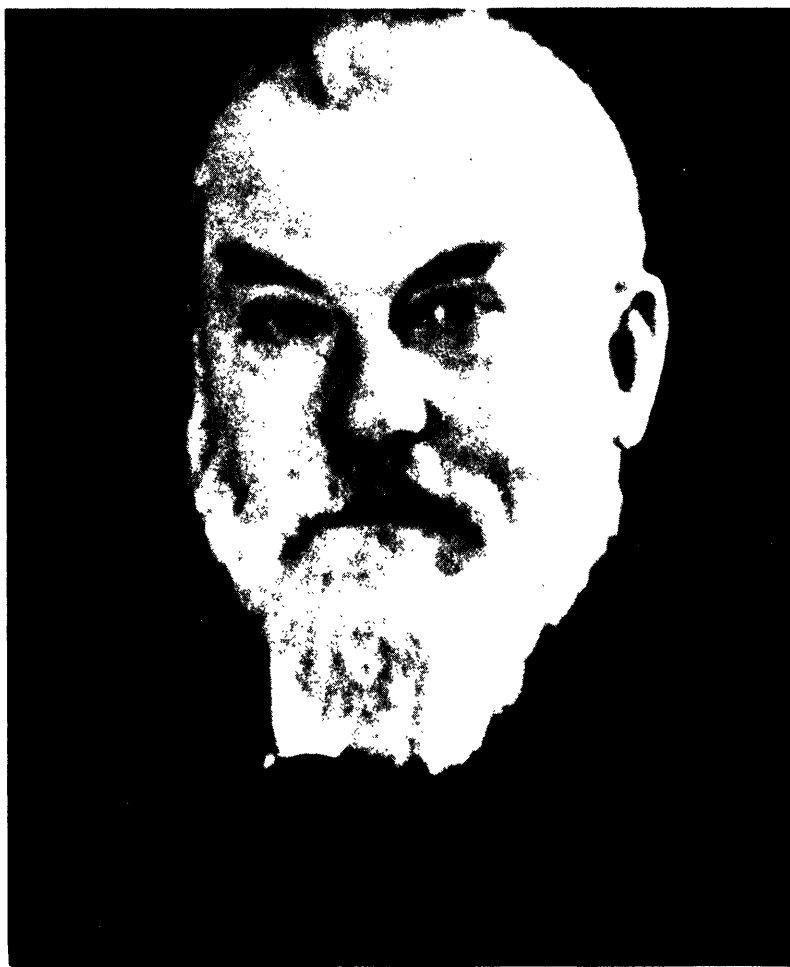
Earnings per man shift	
1921	19s 2d
1926	10s 5d
1927	10s 0 1/2d
1928	9s 3 1/2d
1929	9s 2 1/2d
1930	9s 3 1/2d
1931	9s 2 1/2d
1932	9s 2d
1933	9s 7 1/2d
1934	9s 1 1/2d
1935	9s 3 1/2d

families, well over a million people were destitute in the mining villages.

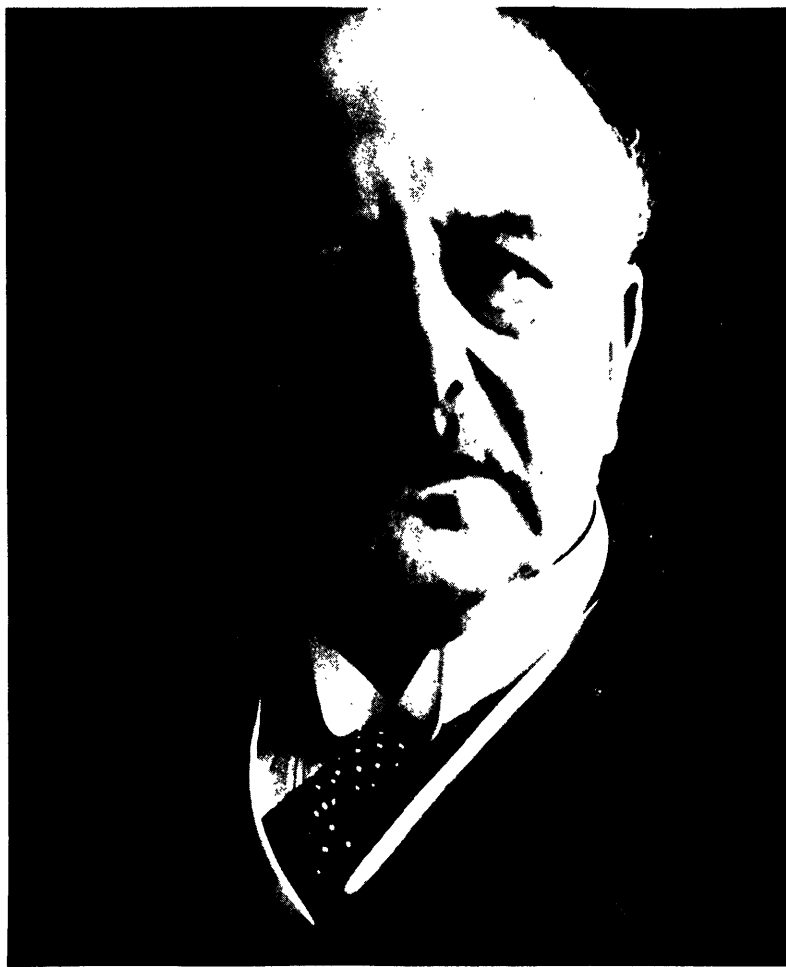
In addition, many workers were denied unemployment benefit under the pretext that they were 'not genuinely seeking work'.

Applicants for unemployment benefit were interviewed by employment exchange officials. They were cross-examined and any hesitation or confusion used against them. The unemployed worker, under-nourished and ill-clad, and frequently weakened by prolonged privation, was expected to walk from ten to 30 miles daily in search of work.

The miners' leaders were reduced to pleading for charity for



Ben Turner, a leader of the wool textile workers (left) and Sir Alfred Mond, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries (right).



But even more than this was involved. For ten years after 1926 conditions in the coalfields steadily worsened.

Misery

Longer hours, lower wages and harder work were combined with unemployment and widespread malnutrition.

By January 1927 there were 200,000 miners out of work and by July of the same year, well over a quarter of a million—and these were only those included in the figures of workers insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act. But large numbers of men had been unemployed so long that they were no longer entitled to benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act and so were not included in the figures.

It is safe to say that, including

their members. Instead of leading a fight, they organized a Distress Fund, begging for money, blankets and food.

They even obsequiously thanked—of all people—the 'Daily Mail' for its generosity!

Repression

The Tories pressed home their advantage. In 1927 they introduced the Trades Disputes and Unions Act. This Bill declared General Strikes illegal, restricted the right of picketing, debarred Civil Service Unions from affiliation to the TUC, and substituted contracting in for contracting out of the political levy.

There was tremendous feeling in the working class against this Bill. On May Day 1927, 100,000

In 1931 the government fell, over the question of cuts in the dole. MacDonald, Snowden and Thomas joined the Tories in the National Government which cut wages and unemployment benefit in the teeth of tremendous demonstrations of unemployed workers and a mutiny in the North Sea Fleet at Invergordon.

Meanwhile, government wage cuts were copied by the railway and other private employers. The textile bosses, for example, tried to impose wage cuts of 12 1/2 per cent and to increase hours from 48 to 52 1/2.

'Third period'

Following 1928 the Communist Party embarked on a sectarian policy produced by the Stalinist

Minority Movement rapidly declined in strength, and by 1933 it was dead.

The biggest sectarian adventure carried out by the Communist Party, however, was the attempt to form a 'revolutionary' union for the Scottish miners.

Gains

The Party had already made some important gains among the Scottish miners. In January 1927 they won all five seats on the Scottish executive from the Fife Union, plus the two full-time positions of miners' agent.

They also held both the secretaryship and the presidency of the Lanarkshire miners and six out of 11 of the Lanarkshire

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ADVANCE NOTICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1971. 11 a.m.

ALEXANDRA PALACE
Wood Green London, N22

Young Socialists and All Trades Unions Alliance
GREAT NATIONAL RALLY AGAINST TORYISM

BOOK THIS DATE NOW!

tv

BBC 1

12.55 p.m. Malcolm Muggeridge. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Barrier reef. 5.44 Magic roundabout. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK. Weather.

6.20 THE VAL DOONICAN SHOW.

7.05 Z CARS. 'Prevention'. Part one.

7.30 NOT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN. 'Pastures New'.

8.00 PANORAMA.

9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.20 DOOMWATCH. 'The Islanders'.

10.10 COME DANCING.

10.40 24 HOURS.

11.15 Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except:

Midlands, E Anglia, North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland, SW, South, West: 11.17 News, weather.

Wales: 1.30-1.45 Ar. In man. 6.00 Wales today, weather. 6.20 Horton hears a who. 6.45-7.05 Heddiw. 7.30-8.00 Fo a fe. 11.17 Weather.

Scotland: 12.55-1.30 Having soldiers under me. 3.10-4.40 'Fighting Man of the Plains'. 6.00-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 11.17 News, weather.

N Ireland: 6.00-6.20 Scene around six, weather. 7.30-8.00 Day at night. 11.17 News, weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL.

6.30 p.m. MONKEYS WITHOUT TAILS. Lectures to young people.

7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 THE HIGH CHAPARRAL. 'A Matter of Vengeance'.

8.50 CALL MY BLUFF.

9.20 HORIZON. 'Wildlife—The Last Great Battle'. A survey of zoos.

10.10 DONOVAN in concert.

10.40 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

10.45 TEST CRICKET. Australia v England, Third Test Match.

11.15 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

1.35 p.m. Corridors of Power. 2.30 Della. 3.45 Yoga. 4.15 Once Upon a Time. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Lost in Space. 5.45 News.

5.55 TODAY.

6.40 DAVID NIXON'S MAGIC BOX.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.

8.30 MAN AT THE TOP. 'Too Good For This World'.

9.30 MR DIGBY DARLING.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 FILM: 'THE HOUSE ON 92nd STREET'. William Eythe, Lloyd Nolan and Signe Hasso. Spy thriller.

12.05 a.m. SHARE THE SECRETS OF MY SONG.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 3.55 Once upon a time. 4.05 Puffin. 4.15 Moment of truth. 4.45 Forest rangers. 5.10 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 News, weather. 6.10 What's on. 6.15 International detective. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.05 Tales of unease. 11.28 News, weather.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 3.53 News. 4.05 Gus Honeybun. 5.55 Diary. 6.15 Sports desk. 6.35 Horoscope. 11.33 Faith for life. 11.58 Weather.

WOMEN today. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.12 Felix the cat. 4.20 Best of Lucy. 4.50 Lost in space. 5.45 London. 6.00 Day by day. Complaints box. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 News. 11.10 Tom Jones. 12.10 Weather. It's all yours.

HARLECH: 4.09 Moment of truth. 4.34 Women only. 4.40 Magic boom-erang. 5.14 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.56 Report West. 6.20 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'April in Paris'. Doris Day, Ray Bolger. 12.15 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 3.25 Horoscope. 3.30

HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.07-4.09 Report West. 6.20-6.45 This is the West this week. HTV (Wales) colour channel 3 as above except: 5.56-6.20 Y Dydd.

HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 5.56-6.20 Y Dydd. 8.00-8.30 Yr whithnos.

ANGLIA: 3.35 Granny gets the point. 4.00 News. 4.05 Women today. 4.30 Romper room. 4.40 Bugs Bunny. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 6.00 Today. Anglia. 6.40 London. 10.30 Foreign policy discussion: Joseph Godber, MP; Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Shadow Foreign Minister Dennis Healey and Russel Johnston, MP. 11.00 Department 'S'. 11.55 Farming. 12.20 New voices.

ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Houseparty. 3.25 Horoscope. 3.30 Women today. 4.00 News. 4.10 London. 6.00 Today. 6.40 Once upon a time. 4.50 Showtime. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.40 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.02 Personality speaking, weather.

ULSTER: 4.25 Romper room. 4.45 News. 4.50 Phoenix Ave. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 6.00 Retrospect. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.35 Film: 'Suddenly'. Frank Sinatra, Sterling Hayden.

YORKSHIRE: 4.00 Houseparty. 4.10 Once upon a time. 4.25 Matinee. 4.50 News. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 6.00 Calendar. 6.15 University challenge. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Weather.

GRANDRA: 4.05 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.50 Skippy. 5.10 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 6.01 Newsday. 6.20 Beverly Hillsbillies. 6.40 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Homicide.

TYNE TEES: 4.00 News. 4.05 Women today. 4.35 Paulus. 4.50 Stingray. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Sport. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the press. 11.10 Film: Wilson. 12 mid-night News. 12.15 Popular negatives.

BORDER: 4.05 News. 4.07 High living. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.50 Joe 90. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.56 News. Lookaround. 6.15 University challenge. 6.40 London. 6.00 Retrospect. 6.15 11.35 Michael MacLiammoir. 12 mid-night News, weather.

SCOTTISH: 10.35 No easy answer. 4.10 Once upon a time. 4.25 Castlehaven. 4.50 Captain Scarlet. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 6.00 Retrospect. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Pumpkin Eater'. Anne Bancroft, Peter Finch. 12.25 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 2.25 Film: 'Ivanhoe'. Robert Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor. 4.05 News. 4.10 Upon a time. 4.25 High living. 4.55 Rumble jumble. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 News. 6.00 Edgars. 6.15 Junkin. 6.40 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Father, dear father. 11.30 Epilogue.

PAGES FROM IMPERIALIST POST-WAR HISTORY



HIROSHIMA and NAGASAKI

PART ONE

MANKIND has now lived under the threat of nuclear weapons for over a quarter of a century.

Nuclear bombs have only twice been used in war, when American imperialism destroyed the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

But a large number of human beings have died, been injured, or been born dead or deformed as a result of radioactivity released in the testing of nuclear weapons.

Apologists for US and British imperialism have repeatedly said that the bombs were dropped in order to end the war as quickly as possible, avoiding an invasion of the Japanese mainland, thus 'saving' more lives than were lost in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Foregone conclusion

In reality, however, there was never a decision on whether the atomic bomb should be used on Japan, but only on how it should be used. For much more was involved than the timing of a Japanese surrender, already a foregone conclusion.

The bomb entered as the most important military factor in a trial of strength between imperialism and the Stalinist bureaucracy on the division of the post-war world—a trial of strength heavily disguised by the diplomatic ritual postulations of 'friendship' of the political chiefs.

In this struggle military factors, including the atomic bomb, were secondary to the class forces which were everywhere threatening to overthrow the exploiters.

Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met at a series of conferences—Tehran, November 1943; Yalta, February 1945; and Potsdam, July 1945.

At Yalta they agreed to demand Germany's unconditional surrender, and at Potsdam the leaders (Roosevelt had died in April and was succeeded by vice-president Truman) divided Germany into four zones.

The Soviet zone subsequently became E Germany, and the American, French and British zones W Germany.

The Red Army had occupied Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, and E Austria.

Disarmed and entered

Yugoslavia was held by the Communist partisans under Tito. In France and Italy, on Stalin's instructions, the Communist Party leaders ordered the resistance forces to disarm and entered bourgeois governments.

Greece, where the communist-led ELAS partisans had already liberated a third of the mainland in 1943, was also reserved for imperialism. Churchill sent British troops into a massacre of the Communists in December 1945, to the echoes of Stalin's praise of the 'spirit of perfect unanimity' between them.

At Potsdam, the 'Allies' issued a call for the unconditional surrender of Japan. At Yalta Stalin had agreed to denounce his Neutrality Treaty with Imperial Japan and enter the war in the Far East 'two or three months' after Germany's surrender.

In return for a promise that Outer Mongolia would remain 'independent' and that the Soviet Union should control Dairen, the South Manchurian Railway, the Kurile Islands, and the south of

Sakhalin, he agreed to sign a treaty of friendship with the Chinese government — i.e. the Kuomintang regime of Chiang Kai-shek.

Even though Chinese Communist forces occupied large areas of Shensi and Manchuria, Stalin undertook to support a capitalist regime throughout the country.

Endangering their plans

In May he told Truman's envoy, Harry Hopkins that he favoured an 'open-door' policy for China (the full exploitation of the Chinese people by US imperialism) and that unification should take place under Chiang. Chiang's foreign minister T. V. Soong, was invited to visit Moscow in June, essentially to negotiate the conditions for the Red Army to move against the Japanese forces in Manchuria.

But already in April, during the first weeks of Truman's presidency, the State Department and sections of the US military were pressing for Soviet forces to be kept out of China.

Underestimating Stalin's readiness for counter-revolution, they feared that Soviet entry into the Japanese war would be a factor endangering their plans for a capitalist China.

In particular they thought that Stalin, once into Manchuria, would support the Chinese Communist Party against China.

At the same time the US-British atomic bomb programme was nearing its first test.

To brass tacks

No one could predict the results, though it was clear that they could hope for a weapon of unprecedented destructiveness. Accordingly Truman adopted a strategy of delay, waiting for the bomb to be tested.



STALIN AND CHURCHILL

In May he backtracked on the encouragement he had given Soong to visit Moscow.

Similarly he postponed (to Churchill's annoyance) the planned meeting with Stalin at Potsdam. Soong and Chiang, unaware of the atomic bomb, were confused. They wanted to get down to brass tacks with Stalin, precisely in order to get his assistance against the Chinese Communists.

And in fact at the end of May Stalin told Hopkins 'he would welcome representatives of the Generalissimo (Chiang) to be with his troops entering Manchuria in order to facilitate the organization of Chinese (Chiang's) administration in Manchuria'. (Report from Hopkins to Truman, May 28, 1945.)

Hopkins also reported that the Soviet forces, strengthened by transfers from the European fronts, would be ready to march by August 8. The question for Truman from this point on was whether the atom bomb could

force a Japanese surrender before the Red Army entered China and before the Chinese Communists gained too much leverage over the Chiang regime.

On July 16, 1945, the first atom bomb was exploded in the New Mexico desert. It proved more powerful than almost any one working on the project had estimated, releasing energy equivalent to the detonation of 15,000 tons of TNT.

News of the test arrived as Truman was in conference with Stalin at Potsdam. According to his Secretary of War, Stimson, he was 'tremendously pepped up by it'. He immediately went into the next session and 'told the Russians just where they got off and generally bossed the whole meeting', telling Stalin that he would recognize the governments in E Europe 'when these were established on a proper basis and not before'.

In the hands of such men the 'battle test' for the atom bomb could not be delayed. Preparations for the operation had already been made by a special



CHIANG KAI-SHEK

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BELOW: JOSEPH STALIN

Tightest security

Stalin had not been told of the bomb. It had in fact been developed in conditions of the very tightest security, and Truman himself was ignorant of it until he became President.

As soon as full reports came to Potsdam Truman casually told



STALIN, TRUMAN AND CHURCHILL MEET IN POTSDAM, JULY 1945

CALCULATED SLAUGHTER BACKED BY STALINISM



Stalin that he had 'a new weapon of unusual destructive force'. He was surprised by Stalin's relatively offhand reaction, but did not at the time grasp the significance of it—that Soviet intelligence already knew of the weapon, and perhaps even of the successful test, through Klaus Fuchs and other spies working on the programme.

Stalin, in fact, replied that he hoped Truman would 'make good use of it against the Japanese'.

No objection

Stalin therefore, willing, but not eager to send his forces into Manchuria, raised no objection to the use of the bomb, although he certainly knew that a single atom bomb was capable of causing death on a gigantic scale.

The military preparations for bombing Hiroshima then swung



MAJOR-GENERAL L. R. GROVES (SEATED)

into action. Various less drastic plans—such as a demonstration of the weapon off the Japanese coast—had already been ruled out.

Secretary of War Stimson, in what must be one of the most sickening gestures ever made to 'culture' had had Kyoto, historic centre of Japanese art and religion, excluded from the list of prospective targets, despite its military suitability.

But the memoirs of Stimson, Truman and Churchill all agree that there was not then any question of not using the bomb against a major city.

Yet for some time the British and American governments had been aware that the Japanese were on the point of surrendering, with only a military faction in the Cabinet arguing for a fight to the finish.

Not only were Japanese communications being daily intercepted and decoded, but the Japanese leaders were making

continued approaches to the Soviet government for mediation to bring the war to an end. They knew that an offer to allow the office of Emperor to survive (which was subsequently allowed) would almost certainly have produced a rapid ceasefire.

Truman and Churchill also knew that the major factor in the minds of the Japanese leadership was the probable entry of the Soviet Union into the war.

Razed to the ground

But they made no effort to accelerate this, while General Groves was instructed to deliver the first bomb as soon as possible. On August 6 a flight of B-29s set off from the American-held island of Tinian and seven hours later Hiroshima was razed to the ground and over 70,000 people were dead.

On August 8 Stalin declared war on Japan and the Red Army crossed the border into Manchuria, launching a full-scale attack on the Japanese forces. At 11 a.m. on the 9th a second atom bomb destroyed Nagasaki. And on the morning of the 10th Truman first had news of a Japanese offer—though not an unconditional one—to surrender.

By the 14th cease-fire terms had been settled, and Japan was shortly occupied by American troops. Soviet troops occupied a number of the key cities in Manchuria and N Korea as the Japanese forces surrendered on and after August 16.

It is accurate to say that the use of atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was not the final blow of the Second World War, but the opening one of the Cold War.

Truman's policy towards Europe was enormously stiffened by these 'live' demonstrations of the new weapon. He went on to insist on the 'rehabilitation' of 'democratic' governments in the areas under Red Army control.

In China the end of the Japanese war reopened the civil war between the Communist forces and the Kuomintang.



But Truman's and Churchill's fears that Stalin would use his position to help the Communists proved groundless.

The Red Army remained in Manchuria until the spring of 1946, by which time the US Navy had helped Chiang move half a million troops into the area to take up advantageous positions against the Communist forces in the countryside.

Pure hypocrisy

And as late as March 1949, with Chiang's forces in full scale retreat before the Communist advance, Stalin's diplomats moved with the national government, refusing any recognition to the Communists. Stalin, that is to say, was loyal to Chiang virtually up to the point where he was

driven off the mainland.

And just as Stalin, would-be suppressor of the Chinese revolution, cheerfully greeted the plans of US and British imperialism to massacre tens of thousands of Japanese civilians with the bomb, so was he echoed by his political pupils in the British Communist Party.

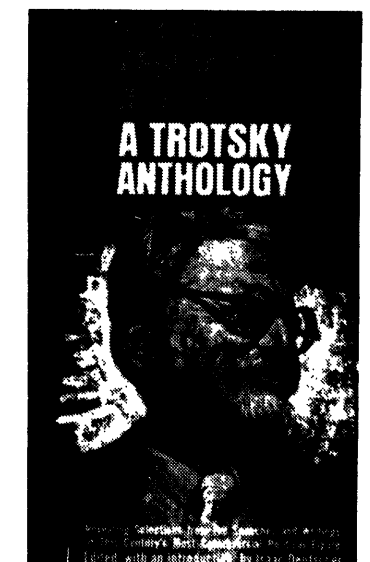
In a 1946 CP pamphlet, 'Atomic Energy and Social Progress', we find the statement:

'All intelligent people know that the atom bomb helped to shorten the war and thus saved millions of lives!'

When Stalinism now denounces the slaughter at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is pure hypocrisy, flowing directly from the present requirements of Kremlin diplomacy and reactionary to the core.

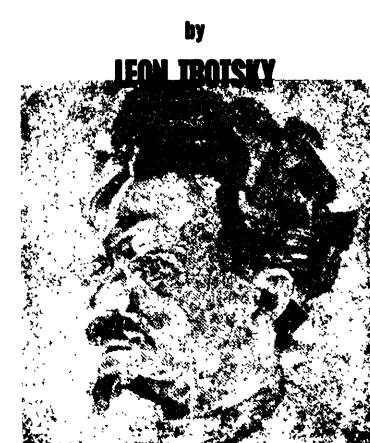
Stalinism has always fought against the mobilization of a class battle against the weapons of the imperialists—even joining with the right-wing Labour leadership in the hey-day of CND to do so.

IMPORTANT READING



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British CP leaders must accept responsibility

FROM PAGE ONE

crucial meetings the following day. First of these was the Hill committee meeting which decided to recommend Devey's resignation in return for £3,000 and second was the regular meeting of the AEF district committee that evening. It is claimed by CP members in Sheffield that Hill told Devey not to accept the pay-off. Whatever the truth or otherwise of this, Hill certainly knew what members of his Party were proposing to do—and at a time when the slightest intervention on his part could have swung the day. It is inconceivable that Ramelson and Gollan would not also have been contacted in a situation of this importance.

INSTRUCTION

An instruction to Caborn, Devey and the other CP members on the AEF district committee not to accept the settlement could easily have been issued that night or early the following morning. Even if both Caborn and Devey were operating as mavericks in the CP and had gone ahead with forcing through a recommendation of acceptance by the strike committee, Hill could have instructed the AEF district committee to make a counter-recommendation to the mass meeting of Wednesday, December 16. In the event, one vote was cast against the proposed terms on the strike committee—after what amounted to an ultimatum from Caborn that Devey's family would suffer if the money was not taken. No attempt was made to turn the situation at the district committee meeting. But even then, there was a third point at which the CP could have stepped in had it wanted to prevent the settlement.

STATEMENT

Making the unlikely assumption for the moment that Caborn, Devey and all the rest of the CP members on the AEF district committee were out of line with Hill, an immediate campaign against the proposed settlement about which Hill had by this

time full knowledge—on the morning of December 16 could still have had far-reaching effects. Again nothing was done and it was not until the strikers had been back at work for six days that the CP issued any statement at all. Even then, it is believed that CP members were unwilling to raise the matter again on the AEF district committee. One account of its December 23 meeting circulating in Sheffield is that Devey arrived late—effectively preventing any real discussion of the settlement under minutes of the previous meeting or the secretary's report—and that the committee only resolved it had no part of the Batchelor's settlement after the matter was raised by right-wingers under an item on anti-trade union legislation. This is Stalinism in action.

Powell

FROM PAGE ONE

working class and other governments shouldn't interfere—a principle, incidentally, which was strictly adhered to by the E European Stalinists during the Burgos trial when they made no effort to sever their diplomatic and commercial relations with the fascist regime. It is this international treachery of the Stalinist bureaucracy, running parallel with the unprecedented retreats of the trade union leaders in Britain, that gives Powell the confidence to speak out for the abolition of working-class living standards and rights.

Battle

He knows that, as he puts it: 'Long before the end of 1971 the question will have been ripped open and the battle-lines formed', not just on the Common Market but on every major issue facing the working class.

It is not the first time the CP has backed down before victimization in Sheffield and other areas and it will not be the last, if the Stalinists are allowed to get away with it. But this settlement takes place in a new and dangerous political situation. RESPONSIBLE Party members right up to top leadership level are politically responsible for selling a key trade union post to the powerful Unilever-Batchelor's-Bird's Eye food combine in the midst of the biggest struggle ever faced by the British working class. As the Sheffield branch of the Socialist Labour League insisted, Saturday's Workers Press, Stalinist leaders must be forced to explain how rights, dearly and bitterly won by workers over hundreds of years, are up for auction by the CP in this way.

Youth rally

FROM PAGE ONE

booked and the campaign had taken shape. 'But,' she warned, 'it is the biggest political operation we have engaged in. We must guard against complacency in the first stages of the fight. This we cannot afford because these are times that demand an entirely new and urgent approach. The aim of the rally would be to force the government to resign and fight for the return of a Labour administration pledged to nationalize the capitalist wealth of the country under workers' control. 'The movement must not be pessimistic,' continued comrade Jennings. 'The whole success of our work is based on the belief that the working class, whose vanguard is the youth, will defeat this Tory government and force it to resign. It is up to us!'

A major part of the future struggle would be the re-possession of the 'lefts' in the leadership of the labour movement and the Stalinists. 'The counter-revolutionary role of these people was now very clear. We challenge the Stalinists, revisionists and Labour leaders: are you prepared to allow this Tory government to continue to do the things it is doing now for the next four years? But this is precisely what they protest mean and they do not make the slightest impression on the reactionary gang in Heath's government. The Communist Party in particular was in full retreat and the Devey affair, where a leading Party member in Sheffield accepted a £3,000 pay-off for ending a strike against his own victimization, was proof of this. This act by Devey was in effect an acceptance of a major principle of the anti-trade union laws. We say that all those people who confine themselves to protest and accepting the Tory government and do not intend to force it to resign. It is our job to create conditions to force it out of office before its full term has expired,' said comrade Jennings.

Not neutral

'Nobody can be neutral on this issue. It is time to stand and be counted; either you are getting rid of the government or allowing it to destroy the working-class movement,' she added. 'The Young Socialists and the "Keep Left" supported every action against this government, no matter how limited, and they were throwing their weight behind the January 12 actions on the basis that this should become a General Strike against the Tories. Earlier in her report Aileen Jennings announced that in the near future "Keep Left" would be converted from a monthly to a weekly paper. Circulation would also be boosted from its present level of 21,000 copies sold to 30,000. The "Keep Left", said comrade Jennings, had fought consistently on the basis of Marxist principles. 'We challenged the right wing continuously when we were the majority of the Young Socialists in the Labour Party,' she said.

Best group

'Our circulation in those days was small, but each copy played a vital role. Our paper was responsible for organizing the best politically-prepared and disciplined group within the social-democratic youth movement that has ever been seen in any part of the world. In October 1964 when the Labour government of Wilson was elected, we warned that these policies would betray and open the way for the Tory government. 'We were right and it is because we were right that we increase our circulation. More and more young workers are

N London Young Socialist wins photo competition



WINNER of the National Photographic Contest, N London Young Socialist Ian Ferris (left), receives his prize—a Praktika camera. Photographer and film director Maurice Hatton judged the contest and presented the prizes. Top: One of Ian's entries, taken in Yugoslavia.



WEST Yorkshire Young Socialist Steve Howgate, winner of the lively public speaking contest at the "Keep Left" Annual General Meeting.

Release all class-war prisoners

SATURDAY'S meeting passed the following resolution unanimously.

THIS AGM of 'Keep Left' readers, conscious of the reactionary offensive of imperialism to deprive the working class and colonial peoples of their rights and liberties, declares its unconditional defence of all victims of capitalist injustice and oppression. We salute in particular the heroic struggle of Peruvian revolutionary Hugo Blanco, whose release from jail was made possible only by the world-wide struggle of the working class, in which the Young Socialists and 'Keep Left' played a significant role. We salute the 16 Burgos prisoners whose heroic conduct and selfless devotion to the cause of the Basque people in their struggle for liberation from the fascist tyranny of Franco is an enduring inspiration to youth everywhere. We demand their immediate release. We denounce unequivocally the frame-up of Comrade Juan Farinas of the American Workers' League by the US Federal Court. Farinas' only crime was his uncompromising opposition to the Vietnam war, for which he now faces the prospect of 15 years' jail. The struggle for the release of Comrade Farinas is an inseparable part of our struggle for the liberation of the Vietnamese people and the defence of the democratic rights of the US working class. The AGM pledges every effort to secure the release of Angela Davis, Bobby Seale and all other Black Panther militants held in the prisons of the racist Nixon Administration. We demand the release of Alain Gelsmar and the 'Proletarian Left' members jailed by the Pompidou government and the restoration of all legal rights of the socialist movement in France. We demand the release of all class-war prisoners in the jails of imperialism.

Nixon's fear for Spanish bases Basques may face US-style murder squad

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

FRANCO'S decision to use his elite 'Green Beret' force against revolutionary groups in the Basque country has the full support of the US government.

New Jarring talks hold dangers for guerrillas

DR GUNNAR JARRING, Swedish ambassador to Moscow and special Middle-East 'peace' envoy, is now believed to have secured the agreement of both Egypt and Israel to take part in talks on a possible settlement.

SHAH TO OPEN LINKS WITH MAO?

THE Shah of Iran (Persia) is considering opening diplomatic relations with Peking in a bid to stop Chinese support for revolutionary movements in the Persian Gulf states.

This is the theme of an article in the new issue of the French weekly 'L'Express'. The magazine says the Shah is already studying a document setting out the arguments for and against recognizing the Mao regime and breaking links with Chiang Kai-shek's anti-communist, pro-US dictatorship on the Chinese island of Taiwan (Formosa). Recognition of Mao would open up a big new market for Iran's fertilizers and petrochemicals, but would bring about the inevitable rupture of the Shah's trade relations with Taiwan.

Relations

The opinions of the Chinese leadership on the question are not known, but such a step would certainly be in line with Mao's post-cultural revolution policy of seeking better relations with the capitalist world.

The recent repressive measures of the Trudeau government did not stand in the way of Peking exchanging ambassadors with Canada.

The torture and murder of communist (Tudeh) party members by the Shah has not prevented him from establishing the best possible relations with the Soviet bureaucracy, which over the last few years, has specialized in boosting this type of reactionary, anti-communist regime (Greece, Spain, Indonesia, Cambodia, etc.).

Gierek pushing for conference security

RATIFICATION of the recently-concluded Polish-West German treaty is 'a reasonable political forecast for 1971', the Polish Communist Party daily 'Trybuna Ludu' said yesterday. The normalization of relations with Bonn is 'in the interests of Poland and the German Federal Republic—and the whole European continent', the article stressed. This makes it clear that the new leadership of Gierek and Moczar intends to follow Gomulka's policy of pushing hard for a collective security conference between the Warsaw Pact Powers and NATO.

Ulbricht

Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Jedrychowski's planned visit to East Berlin for talks with government leaders is obviously part of this strategy. Walter Ulbricht remains to be convinced that the Kremlin's collaboration with W German imperialism will not undermine his own regime in the East.

Nixon is known to be very concerned about the security of the American bases in Spain, established by the Franco-Eisenhower agreement of 1953.

The open political, economic and military support given by US imperialism to Franco makes its bases a certain target of any future mass movement against the regime.

MODEL

Franco's 'Green Berets' are closely modelled on Nixon's notorious murder squads of the same name. Based in Navarre, they can be hurled against the adjoining Basques at a moment's notice.

They use both US equipment and its military techniques of 'counter-insurgency'. The impending mobilization of this counter-revolutionary force underlines the role played by US imperialism in Europe and throughout the world.

The US Central Intelligence Agency masterminded the military coup of April 1967 which brought the Greek colonels' junta to power.

CONSPIRED

Despairing of victory in Vietnam, it conspired with right-wing military leaders in Cambodia to depose the 'neutralist' Prince Sihanouk and install the anti-communist General Lon Nol.

In the Middle East, Nixon pumps a never-ending supply of economic and military aid into the coffers of the Israeli Zionists, for their war of repression against the Arab people. In Latin America, he stands behind every reactionary dictatorship, arming the cliques who guard the US big business investments.

This unprecedented degree of intervention in the world class struggle by US imperialism flows from its economic predominance amongst the world's capitalist powers.

But in the growing crisis of world imperialism, this involvement now becomes a source of weakness, and not strength, for the American ruling class.

RIGHT TURN

Nixon's sharp turn to the right at home is reflected in his support for the most reactionary regimes abroad.

United States labour must fight for the withdrawal of all US bases from fascist Spain. In the approaching period of revolutionary struggles against Franco, they will become the rallying point for all the forces of counter-revolution.

Ibrox investigation continues Belated outcry on stadium safety

INVESTIGATIONS continue today into Saturday's soccer disaster at Glasgow's Ibrox Park in which 66 football supporters were crushed to death and 108 injured.

Early yesterday efforts were still being made to identify 17 bodies, taken from the ten-foot high pile-up that occurred when a reinforced crush barrier gave way. The crush occurred in the last minutes of the traditional New Year's Rangers-Celtic match, which attracted a packed 80,000 capacity crowd. One policeman commented: 'The injuries of some of the people who had been crushed right under the barrier were terrible. We came away with our boots, socks and the bottoms of our trousers soaked with blood.'

Cause

Glasgow's Lord Provost yesterday said that it appeared that the immediate cause of the disaster was the attempts of sections of the crowd to get back on to the stands after Rangers' late equalizer. 'One cannot prejudice the outcome of any inquiry,' he said, 'but it certainly does appear that this reason is the most credible.'

Glasgow Labour MP Hugh Brown stated: 'This terrible accident will give support to those of us who have been arguing over the years that football grounds should be licensed and controlled so that regulations on safety and health can be introduced. It seems to me quite wrong that any place—football ground or otherwise—should be allowed to have 80,000 or 100,000 people together without any control on the part of either local authority or government, to make sure there is adequate provision for the well-being of the people.'

No standard

He said he was not specifically criticizing Rangers' Football Club, the owners of Ibrox Stadium. There is in fact no British standard laid down for the safety of crush barriers, terraces and stands. It has been found that the tubular steel used for barriers can corrode below ground level, seriously weakening the barrier's ability to withstand crowd pressure.

Yesterday's 'Sunday Telegraph' commented: 'Even at the best organized grounds the density among standing spectators is still far too severe for safety... It has to be admitted that financial cupidity encourages clubs to allow the gross overcrowding that exists at many grounds.'

The Ibrox Park tragedy indicates that a thorough examination of the present safety standards may be long overdue.

Oppose

We stand for the Socialist United States of Europe in complete opposition to Powellite jingoism and the patriotic stance of the Stalinists.

The Socialist United States of Europe can only be achieved by the struggle to overthrow capitalism all over Europe through building the revolutionary leadership.

Powell's attacks on immigrants—in the 'Sunday Express'—is a speaks of 'an invasion of a magnitude which nothing in a thousand years has remotely resembled'—have the same purpose as his opposition to the Common Market: to divide the middle class and confused sections of workers from the fight for basic rights.

Warning

Powell's current campaign is boosted by the Tory press and the BBC. It must be a warning to all workers of the intense urgency and danger of the present situation. Every day that Heath remains in office is now a day lost for the working class. The fight to force the Tories to resign and for a Labour government pledged to the intense urgency and danger of the present situation.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

SHEFFIELD: Thursday January 7, 7.30 p.m. Hart and Foundry Nursery St. Batchelor's and the future of the AEF in Sheffield.

CASTLEFORD: Saturday, January 9, 12 noon. Ship Inn. Speaker: Sid Hinchcliffe (Glasshoughton Colliery).

BENTLEY: Sunday, January 10, 12 noon. Horse Inn. Speaker: Frank McCabe (Brodsword Colliery).

OLLERTON: Saturday, January 16, 12 noon. Ship Inn. Speaker: Eckl Barker (Ollerton Colliery).

BRIEFLY

ROME'S hospital anaesthetists end the first of three four-day strikes tomorrow in support of better pay and working conditions. During the strikes—the next scheduled to run from January 10 to 14—they are only dealing with emergency cases.

SPECIAL meeting of the Association of Cinematograph and Television Technicians' general council and shop stewards decided to make January 12 an official stoppage against the anti-union Bill.

The meeting also passed a resolution calling on the TUC to make January 12 an official stoppage and the first step towards all-out General Strike action against the government until the anti-union proposals are withdrawn. See T&GWU stewards' meeting page one.

WEATHER

FREEZING fog will be widespread at first over much of England, E Wales and S Scotland. Fog will be slow to clear, and may persist all day in places, particularly in industrial areas of England and the Forth-Clyde area of Scotland. It will become widespread again in E districts in the evening.

W Wales and SW England will have variable cloud and a few snow showers.

N Ireland and W Scotland will also have variable cloud, and will be mainly dry, with some fog patches at first.

N Scotland will have sleet or rain showers, with some snow over high ground.

In the W and N, temperatures will be a little below normal and it will again be cold or very cold in the foggy areas.

Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Rain, preceded in many areas by snow, will spread N and E across most districts. It will be cold in most places, but become milder in the SW later.

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Elements of Marxism

Lecture by G. Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League
BEXLEYHEATH: Roberts Hall, Christchurch, Broadway, Tuesday, January 5, 8 p.m.

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