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fight against the
Tory government

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

**What
we
think**

Ramelson breaks his silence on Devey affair

SPEAKING in Clapham on Monday night Communist Party Industrial Organizer Mr Bert Ramelson felt obliged to break his silence over the Devey affair.

'Devey knew he couldn't be a member of the Communist Party and sell out,' said Ramelson. 'He knew he would have to leave the CP.'

All this would appear very plausible if it weren't for the fact that at least 12 leading CP members in Sheffield were fully aware of what Devey was doing while he was doing it ... and agreed with him.

Devey can be characterized as the most principled since he clearly unfurled his policy of opportunism and left the CP while they remain concealed opportunists, protected, in effect, by Ramelson.

A revolutionary party must take responsibility for its members.

It is the party which educates them during the course of which it is obliged to fight against tendencies such as sectarianism and opportunism within its membership.

It is also obliged to tell them what to do since theory and practice here are inter-related and it is this relation, in fact, which supplies the main basis for the existence of the revolutionary party. The revolutionary party is the vehicle through which theory is related to practice.

'We don't,' said Ramelson, 'tell our trade union members what to do. The Party lays down the principles.'

Cynicism such as this must surely be the last refuge of a hardened Stalinist.

Are not principles connected with what Party members do? Surely the test of principles is contained precisely in what the members do.

Everybody knows that when it comes to supporting certain trade union candidates for union posts without closely examining their policies (Scanlon in the AEF), Ramelson and the CP are always telling their members what to do and who to vote for.

The CP's Industrial Organizer is clearly revealed as a man without a shred of principle or the barest knowledge of elementary socialist theory.

He is talking as a Stalinist who is now desperately and cynically trying to cover up the unpalatable results of the politics of Stalinism.

Devey, like Stalin before him, doesn't look nice now and therefore he has to be dropped over-board whilst the opportunist politics which gave rise to him go marching merrily on within the CP.

Mr Ramelson went on to say: 'Neither the Communist Party nor the Trotskyists can say that not one of their members will become corrupted.'

He mentioned the case of the infamous Jock Haston, secretary of the Trotskyist movement in Britain from 1940-1949.

What he doesn't say, of course, is that the present leadership of the Socialist Labour League fought Haston for nine years (1940-1949) as an opportunist and eventually expelled him in February, 1950 for opportunism and desertion of the revolutionary movement.

'We didn't separate from Haston when he felt it necessary to leave the Trotskyist movement for other political pastures.

We fought him politically whilst he was in our movement and in this way educated the movement against opportunism. This is the Leninist way as distinct from the role of Stalinism in the case of Devey.

Interestingly enough, some members of the 'state capitalist' group of Mr T. Cliff present at the meeting remarked that the Devey case was unimportant and the main issue was the anti-union laws.

When Cliff arrived in England in September, 1946 he was immediately admitted into Haston's leadership. He publicly and privately defended and justified Haston's politics until 1949.

The 'state capitalist' group is tarred with the same kind

Barber's speech reveals

Tory-unions clash near

BY MICHAEL BANDA

TORY CHANCELLOR Anthony Barber's Birmingham speech on Monday spelt out the counter-revolutionary determination of his class.

They intend to smash the trade unions, drive down living standards and defy Labourite attempts to 'democratically' undo the reactionary Tory legislation in parliament.

Barber told the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce: 'The Bill will go through. At the same time, we as a nation must continue to prove our determination to show that unwarranted militancy does not pay.'

'And once the Bill is passed I do not believe the nation will lightly contemplate the pledge of the Opposition to repeal it.'

What clearer proof do we now need of the necessity and correctness of calling on the Trades Union Congress to organize a General Strike to make the Tories resign?

Where indeed is the basis now for the complacent and opportunist belief of the Communist Party and the Liaison Committee that protest action will force the Tories to abandon the anti-union laws?

Inflation

Let them listen again to Mr Barber speaking; not only on anti-union laws but on the question of inflation as well: 'The government has repeatedly made it clear, and I want to reiterate this again today, that it will not connive at unreasonable pay settlements for the sake of industrial peace.'

'Before the start of the work-to-rule in the electricity supply industry I said the unions were entitled to know where the government stood in relation to that dispute ... It is right that other groups who may be considering industrial action should know that the government's determination remains unchanged.'

Barber's words prove conclusively that the power workers' court of inquiry is a stage-managed farce with the union leaders playing the role of a ventriloquist's dummy.

Nothing will come out of it for the power workers.

His words also prove that the government is set on a collision course with the Post Office workers on their £3-a-week pay demand.

Confident after the defeat of the power workers' and miners wage claims, Mr Barber feels that he can force a 7 per cent settlement on the postmen by exploiting the bureaucracy's political weaknesses and by threatening state intervention.

As the Chancellor bluntly put it: 'The main way in which we can destroy the monster of



Printworkers on the march yesterday from a Friend's House meeting to Fleet Street.

'Explain secret talks' demand to Jones?

DOCKERS in Liverpool are to demand an explanation from transport union secretary Jack Jones over his secret talks with port employers about abolition of the national dock labour scheme.

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

This move follows Saturday's Workers Press story which revealed that Jones and Tim O'Leary, T & G W U national docks officer, were discussing ending the scheme—which safeguards a dockworker from unemployment and guarantees him a fall-back wage when there is no work—with employers.

Despite the notable silence of the Fleet Street press about these moves, Alan English, secretary of the Liverpool docks stewards' committee, said that the Liverpool executive would be discussing Jones' behaviour at its stewards' executive meeting tomorrow.

'We are likely to send a resolution to the T & G W U docks and transport committee demanding an explanation of these talks and Jones' behaviour.'

Disgusting

If what the Workers Press says is true, it is disgusting that Jones who is always talking about democracy in the union should go behind

All-out action against Bill — London call

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

FEELING FOR all-out industrial action against the Tories was the keynote of many of the demonstrations and meetings which took place in the London area yesterday.

A Ford's motor-body shop motion demanding that the executives of all unions call official industrial action against the Industrial Relations Bill was unanimously carried by a meeting of 1,500 car

and engineering workers at Dagenham.

At Westland Helicopter's in Hayes, Middlesex, workers called on the executives of all the unions in the factory to lead strike action against the Bill, while pressing through the Trades Union Congress a general withdrawal of labour until the legislation is stopped.

Many of the 1,000 or so workers who gathered in London's Hyde Park yesterday afternoon, before marching to the TUC's Albert Hall protest rally, voiced similar demands.

An afternoon meeting of 250 building workers called for a recalled Trades Union Congress before March 18, and demanded that the TUC campaign be extended to embrace more direct industrial action.

Baltic ports still simmering

MONDAY'S sacking of Szczecin Party bosses Antoni Walaszek and Henry Huber will do little to cool down simmering discontent in the Polish Baltic port, scene of bitter pre-Christmas fighting between strikers and police.

Reports from the city yesterday spoke of a 'tense and dissatisfied mood' amongst shipyard workers, with some enterprises staging go-slows and work-to-rules.



London building workers marched to Conway Hall for a meeting.

Massive Jan 12 turn-out: NE factory poses next step

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTING TEAM

FULL SUPPORT for the Young Socialists' anti-Tory Alexandra Palace rally in February was voted by a 5,000-strong NE engineering plant during yesterday's countywide demonstrations against the Industrial Relations Bill.

Indicating the great changes in the political mood of the working class since the December 8 protest, the resolution gained a five-to-one majority by workers at Hebburn's Reynolds-Parson's factory.

Shop stewards were instructed to send a delegation to Alexandra Palace to discuss the six demands of the All Trades Unions Alliance's Charter of Basic Rights, which were endorsed by the meeting.

Frightened Tories and employers were quick to try and explain away yesterday's mass turn-outs.

Lunch-time demonstrations gave extremists a unique opportunity to indulge their disruptive tendencies,' Tory Solicitor-General Sir Geoffrey Howe said yesterday.

Satisfy

Addressing the British Institute of Management conference, Howe — one of the chief draftsmen of the Industrial Relations Bill — made clear that only complete subservience from the union leaders will satisfy the Tories.

It was questionable just how far the Trades Union Congress was having to run to keep ahead of the militants, he told 400 businessmen assembled in a top-class London hotel.

'Extremists,' he claimed, 'have a professional interest in the disorder and instability which the Bill is intended to reduce and which, I repeat, the Bill is already tending to reduce by forcing management to take a very critical look at themselves.'

Moderate elements in the trade union movement were under pressure to reopen the class war over the Bill, he said.

Some 15,000 DOCKERS halted four major ports and many smaller ones completely, and work was badly hit by afternoon protest meetings at several others yesterday.

Only 286 of Merseyside's 10,500-strong labour force reported for work. This was despite dire warnings from new Mersey Docks and Harbour Board broom John Cuckney that the shut-down would stop 76 ships and cost the troubled MD&HB £70,000.

All 1,300 dockers in nearby Manchester were out—for the third time this month — making 13 ships idle.

Counter revolution gains speed in Jordan

BY ROBERT BLACK

CLOUDS of smoke hung over Jordanian villages yesterday as the Royalist army continued its offensive against Palestinian guerrilla positions.

Observers on the Israeli side of the frontier report large-scale Jordanian troop movements and the setting-up of road blocks.

The Palestine Liberation Organization's Central Committee claims that Royalist attacks in the Nazal, Ashrafya, Eltaj, Eljof and Elmasarwa areas resulted in the deaths of both civilians and Arab commandos.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat, after three months of collaboration with the Jordanian regime, yesterday turned another somersault when he appealed to President Boumediene to prevent a repetition of September's massacre.

MISSION

So far all Boumediene has done is to send out a 'fact-finding mission' headed by Cherif Belkacem of the Algerian Revolutionary Council.

Bahi Ladgham of the Arab committee, charged with reconciling the Royalists and the PLO, flew into London today for talks with King Hussein, who has been in Britain since December 19 undergoing medical treatment.

The political background to the renewed fighting is, of course, the resumption of Israeli-Arab talks guided by UN Middle-East envoy Gunnar Jarring.

Uruguay manhunt hits left

STRENGTHENED by its suspension of major constitutional rights, the Uruguayan government yesterday sent more than 12,000 troops and police into Montevideo to hunt down leaders of the urban guerrilla movement, the Tupamoros.

The immediate aim is to release the Tupamoros' hostage, British Ambassador Geoffrey Jackson, but the incident will undoubtedly be used to hit at all left-wing groups and working-class militants.

Lahore under army rule

LAHORE, Pakistan's second city, is under army rule after clashes between striking newspaper workers and police.

Troops were moved in yesterday after tear-gas attacks by police had failed to break up demonstrations called against the breakdown of talks with the employers over the reinstatement of 41 sacked union members.

CASTRO'S leadership yesterday stiffened Cuba's labour discipline under which so-called 'vagrants' can be sentenced to forced labour for six months to two years.

Workers absent from work for more than 15 days without good cause can be sentenced up to one year at government 're-education centres'.

ULSTER Premier James Chichester-Clark decides tomorrow whether to continue the six-month ban on processions and parades after reporting to the Joint Security Committee on talks with Orange organizations.

Last July's imposition of the ban was immediately followed by British Army 'shoot-to-kill' warnings and intensified repression.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS

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ALEXANDRA PALACE
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For more details or a ticket please write to YS national secretary John Simmance, 186A, Clapham High Street, London SW4.
Please send me more details/a ticket. I enclose cheque/postal order for £1.

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