

What we think

Vietnam

A C.P. diversion

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These political hoaxers and cynics know full well that every trick in the repertoire of the 'pressure' game has been tried out and has failed to convince or to move Wilson and the establishment one inch.

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So much for negotiations! The wretched optimism of Mr Matthews and Gollan is not shared by the Vietnamese who know from bitter experience that the imperialist leopard does not change its spots—or its appetite—even when it agrees to sit down at a conference table with its colonial victim.

They know this because while the talks were going on, American imperialism, far from ceasing its attacks, was escalating the war against the civilian population in the South and carrying out some of the worst atrocities of the war!

Such is the dialectic of the Paris talks!

From My Lai to the ghetto of Los Angeles, US imperialism is determined to smash and obliterate every vestige of resistance to its rule.

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As the Socialist Labour League has always insisted, the 1968 engineering package deal marked an important retreat on the part of the engineering unions' leaders.

Instead of using the strength of their united and confident memberships in action to force a favourable settlement, they accepted what was considered by many members as an inadequate wage offer with dangerous 'strings'.

Encouraged by the retreat, the employers then moved in on two more fronts.

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Higher

'Failure to agree' at any stage leads to the dispute being referred to a higher stage.

A 'failure to agree' at York means that the matter is referred back to the unions

Yorkshire area president Sam Bullough said the motion was backed by ten branches which did not agree with the attitude of the union's national leadership during the recent surfacemen's hours strike (which started in Yorkshire).

Daly's comment was that it would have been more appropriate for the Yorkshire council to call for the resignation of Lord Robens, as it was he who had refused to concede the full claim.

But what Daly ignores is that he was elected secretary on a clear programme of militant action over issues such as pit closures, pay and surface hours.

First test

The hours strike was his first test.

Throughout, he behaved in no way differently from his predecessor, Will Paynter.

He refused to lead the 150,000 strikers. He insisted on a return to work, on 'procedure'.

Thus, it has taken only a few months to show Daly in his true colours. What is involved here, however, is more than a left militant speaker-maker being shown up when he gets into office.

Background

Daly has a long political background.

He left the Communist Party in 1956 around the time of the Hungarian Revolution and the Khrushchev revelations about Stalin.

He formed the Life Socialist League and won a local council election, defeating both Labour and Communist Party candidates.

He subsequently joined the Labour Party and was elected to the leadership of the Scot-

CHICAGO BLACK PANTHERS

Police 'inquiry' as protest grows

BY JOHN SPENCER

SERGEANT Daniel Groth, the Chicago police officer who led the raid on December 4 in which two leaders of the Black Panthers were shot dead and four others seriously wounded, denied yesterday that the two men had been deliberately gunned down in their slum apartment.

Widespread allegations that the police shot Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in cold blood have led Chicago police chief James Conlisk to set up an 'investigation' into the killings.

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In London itself, building workers will march to the National Federation of Building Trades Employers'

The police inquiry will doubtless try to whitewash the 14 plain-clothes killers who poured a hail of bullets into the Panthers' flat.

The Chicago killings, which bring to 28 the number of Panthers murdered by police in the past 18 months, are part of a concerted campaign against black militants all over the country.

Cook County state attorney, Edward Hanrahan, whose office supplied the police squad which carried out the killings, described the allegations as 'an orgy of sensationalism'.

Notorious

Cook County is the notorious Democratic fiefdom ruled by supporters of Chicago's reactionary Mayor Daley.

Daley, like Nixon and Agnew, is a fervent advocate of 'law and order'—that is, the use of police, National Guard and the Army to suppress anyone who stands out against US imperialism.

6,000 people turned out for the funeral of the two dead Panther leaders on Wednesday.

Liberal Negro leader Ralph Abernathy told the crowd at the funeral:

'The nation that conquered Nazi Germany is following the same brutal course as the Nazis.'

Many leading US liberals, including nine Negro congress-



Fred Hampton, Black Panther shot down by Chicago cops.

STOP WILSON'S WASHINGTON VISIT!

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Auspices Young Socialists

P.I.B. tightens

more screws

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As Mrs Barbara Castle prepared to meet a storm over her new 'wage-freeze' plans, the guide described how to tighten the screws provided by her White Paper.

The Board is now demanding that agreements should spell out the need for constantly rising levels of efficiency; that reliable yardsticks for measuring such increases be devised; that output costs should be shown to be reduced; that pay should only be improved when productivity increases are proven and that any increases that are granted should not be too high.

Unions, it says, must expand and strengthen their productivity advisory services and 'look to their methods of communication between head office and the places where members work'.

We have been warned!

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'Some Mrs Castle claims, White Paper, 'must accept a smaller increase in our incomes over the years in order that these who are worse off can have more... the only hope of the low-paid lies in a conscious decision by their fellow-workers that they will accept a re-assessment of differentials both between different industries and within and industry.'

If trade unionists would not do this, Mrs Castle claimed, there would be 'a wages and prices explosion in which all those in a strong bargaining position on either side of industry will pre-empt the re-assessment that are available to help the load.'

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ACTON STRIKE: The Acton underground maintenance workers at a strike meeting yesterday voted overwhelmingly to continue their 12-week-old strike.

The strike is over the alleged breaking by London Transport of the agreement for recruiting craftsmen.

Yesterday London Transport again asked the strikers to return to work and London Tory MPs urged Mrs Castle to intervene.

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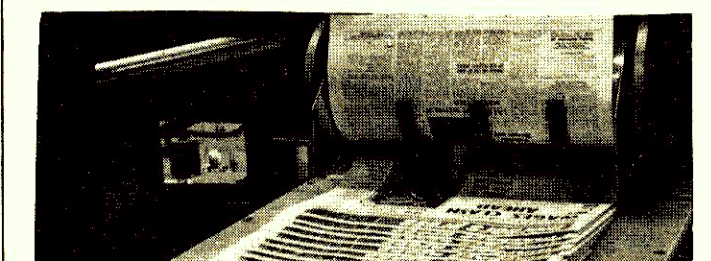
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Because of the small and decreasing number of students with 'A-level science or maths who enter teacher training, the colleges will not be able to meet the needs of the immediate future.

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'North Vietnam's delegation leader, Xuan Thuy, did not turn up for today's session. "Xuan Thuy didn't feel like attending", a spokesman said.

'Hanoi's second negotiator, Col. Ha Van Lau, claimed that "The Nixon Administration was actually downgrading the Paris conference . . . by not appointing a leader to the US delegation, after Mr Henry Cabot Lodge's resignation".'

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This is all the more revealing in view of the vast coverage given by the 'Star' to anti-Springbok demonstrations in recent weeks, together with the proposed campaign against the South African cricket tour next summer.

Communist Party members should seriously consider the politics behind these issues.

What is involved is the whole history of Stalinism, its attempt to subordinate the struggle of the British and international working class to the counter-revolutionary interests of the Soviet bureaucracy in its dealings with imperialism.

Solidarity with the Greek workers, as with all those struggling against US imperialism in Vietnam, cannot be based on such rotten compromises between imperialism and Stalinism.

The only way to assist the Greek people in their fight for freedom is to develop the struggle in Britain against the Wilson government, which has

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STOP WILSON'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Widespread support for our petition

THE SITE stewards' committee at Courtauld's New Factory construction site at Skelmersdale, near Wigan, Lancs., has passed a resolution demanding that the US get out of Vietnam immediately and condemning the Labour government's shameful support of American policy.

They demanded that Wilson's Washington trip be cancelled and sent a letter to Eric Heffer MP asking him to raise this demand in parliament.

Five shop stewards and 20 other workers at Plessey's Beeston, Notts, factory have signed a petition demanding the cancellation of Wilson's proposed trip to Washington.

The chairman and secretary of CAV Acton joint shop stewards' committee, together with three other shop stewards and nine other workers, have signed the petition.

Seven members of the Communist Party, including the chairman and secretary of the Coventry Council and the chairman of Keneley and Leamington No. 8 AEF branches, were among 48 people who signed a petition in Coventry recently.

Six AEF shop stewards, together with stewards from the TBGWU and the NSMM, also signed.

The petition says: 'The intended visit of Harold Wilson to Washington at the end of January, to swear continued loyalty to his paymaster Nixon, is an affront to the British working class and to those millions of Americans who have demonstrated their opposition to Nixon and the war.'

'We are in favour of the greatest possible mobilization of the Labour and trade union movement to stop this visit.'

Nine students at Birmingham

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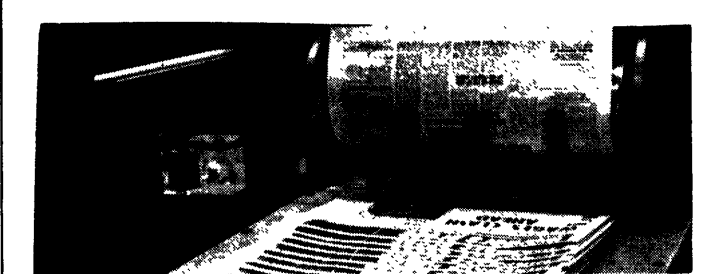
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BOOK REVIEWS

IMPERIALISM has always needed to shroud some of its political figures in myths to sustain certain illusions in the rightness of its economic activities.

In particular these myths serve to draw the middle class more closely to the ruling class.

T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) is a case in point.

At his funeral, Winston Churchill wept, called him 'one of the greatest beings of our time' and said that 'whatever our need we shall never see his like again.'

Ralph Fox, a prominent Stalinist intellectual of the 1930s offered a tribute in these 'humble' terms in 'Left Review':

The Lawrence myth and the imperialist reality

'THE SECRET LIVES OF LAWRENCE OF ARABIA'

By Phillip Knightley and Colin Simpson
Nelson pp. 293 42s.

Reviewed by Dave Spooner

'He was able to combine war and politics in a way that, apart from himself, only the leaders of the Red Army have succeeded in doing.'

This was the homage of the petty-bourgeoisie to imperialism.

In fact, as this new book makes clear, Lawrence's whole political life in the Middle East was devoted to the subjection of the Arabs to British imperialism.

★

He was prepared to go to the most fantastic lengths to do this—including posing as a Bedouin himself. He promised the Arabs independence and quite consciously and flagrantly breached the promise:

'I had to join the conspiracy . . . I risked the fraud, on the conviction that Arab help was necessary to our cheap and speedy victory in the East, and that better we win and break our word than lose.'

So much for Lawrence's legendary devotion to Arab nationalism.

Far from fostering the unity of the Arab tribes, he was intent on keeping them divided, but rallying the Arabs for the victory of British imperialism at the expense of the French in the Middle East.

His political life stinks of fraudulence and treachery which in turn characterizes the entire history of the British ruling class.

When he disagrees with upper civil servants and generals it is because he is not convinced that the government is fighting strongly enough. The Sykes-Picot agreement is a case in point.

This agreement was drawn up to carve up the Ottoman Empire (as it then was) between Britain, France and Tsarist Russia.

★

When the Bolsheviks took power, they made all secret treaties public.

When the Sykes-Picot agreement was made public the British government concocted a few old tales denying that any such agreement had been made. Lawrence opposed the agreement, not because he had Arab independence in mind, but because it allowed French imperialism the rich oil deposits in Syria.

That is why he led the Arabs so heroically into Damascus where he hoped to institute Feisal as a puppet of the British ruling class.

Politically, then, Lawrence's life reeks of deception. But of

course it is the private life of Lawrence that has aroused particular interest.

Like Oscar Wilde's Dorian Gray, while the public Lawrence was built into heroic proportions, the so-called 'personal' life of Lawrence was full of what can only be called depraved relationships.

There are numerous hints of masochism, flagellation and homosexuality.

While these appear to be two opposed sides of Lawrence, they constitute a unity. Lawrence put it bluntly later in life:

'I prostituted myself in Arab service. For an Englishman to put himself at the disposal of a red race is to sell himself to a brute. . . .'

Those writers and intellectuals who joined the Communist Party or were sympathetic to Stalinism in the 1930s cultivated the rotten myth of Lawrence.

Ralph Fox insisted that 'This man who was so typical of his own class renounced that class!'

In what way, he fails to reveal.

★

A whole section of Communist Party intellectuals made a cult of Lawrence (and, by proxy, British imperialism) which was perfectly in line with their acceptance of the counter-revolutionary activities of Stalinism.

Christopher Cauldwell, for example, wrote in 'Studies in a Dying Culture' that:

'[T. E. Lawrence] had desired to be just and friendly and brave and to hate pomp and ceremony and wealth, and to love the essence of a man simply as it realized itself in action. These values, lost to the bourgeois world and only partially and primitively realized among the Bedouins, are the core of Communist honour.'

All of these intellectuals eulogized Lawrence as a man of action.

When it came to action and politics, any old politics and action would do.

There is nothing of Bolshevism in all this; only a crude hero cult.

The working class is

abolished by common consent.

Like many journalistic exposes this book draws back at the critical point.

While often presenting material that exposes Lawrence's enormous deception, it seeks to keep the myth going.

Nevertheless, in spite of all their efforts to the contrary, the funeral scene that ends the book, with Lady Astor weeping, Churchill weeping and the King sending a dignified message, reads as the sheer farce and miserable humbug that it was.

THROUGHOUT the history of man's struggle to understand and control the world he lives in, science has been in conflict with religion. This was so, whatever men of science might personally have believed.

The rationalists used to dream that knowledge could, by itself, conquer superstition and mysticism.

But, in this century of stupendous scientific and technological expansion, the fundamental outlook of science, including physics itself, has been infected with scepticism and idealism.

For this is also the century of capitalist decay.

Religion in all its forms derives, not merely from ignorance, but from the continuation of class exploitation and oppression.

God's mystery springs from the mystery of the social order, not just of nature.

In its youth, bourgeois science believed that it would ultimately explain everything in the world—life and human thought included—in terms of the laws of motion of basic particles of matter.

These laws, essentially quantitative and mathematical, would bring into their compass all the qualitative contrasts and transformations of living reality.

This mechanical world view could never be carried through consistently, as Engels foresaw. 'Mechanics . . . knows only

quantities, it calculates with velocities and masses, and at most with volumes. . . . In physics, however, and still more in chemistry, not only does continual qualitative change take place in consequence of quantitative change, the transformation of quantity into quality, but there are also many qualitative changes to be taken into account whose dependence on quantitative change is by no means proven. That the present tendency of science goes in this direction can be readily granted, but does not prove that the pursuit of this tendency will exhaust the whole of physics and chemistry.' ('Dialectics of Nature' pp. 255-256.)

The attempt to reduce all phenomena to mechanical motion of identical particles was doomed to failure, and religion has not been slow to take advantage of every weakness of its old enemy.

'Beyond Reductionism' is an account of a symposium held in Switzerland last year. Some important figures in biology, psychology and linguistics made contributions in which they discussed their dissatisfaction with the mechanistic approach and its inadequacy to cope with recent discoveries.

Several contributors stressed the importance of the conception of a 'system', especially in dealing with living organisms. The behaviour of such an object is not sufficiently described merely in terms of the detailed courses followed by its constituent parts.

will serve the capitalist state. Every major workers' struggle today involves a conflict with government, a political conflict.

In such a conflict, all those leaders who start with perspectives of the survival of capitalism and not the struggle for workers' power can only betray.

Three of the biggest unions in Britain are led by so-called 'left' leaders: Hugh Scanlon in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry-workers (AEF), Lawrence Daly in the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), and Jack Jones in the Transport and General Workers' Union (T&GWU).

They are supported by the Communist Party, in line with their tactic of 'left unity'. With this line, taking advantage of the desire of many workers for united action against the employers, the CP deceives the workers into thinking that their demands can be met through supporting this type of leadership. They are, in fact, preparing even worse betrayals than those already perpetrated.

It should be remembered that Scanlon is now sharing chairmanship of a committee to deal with strikes in the car industry with British-Leyland boss Lord Stokes, after having signed the engineers' claim in November 1968 and handed to Ford's a victory on their 'penal clauses'.

All these leaders accept wholeheartedly the need for 'productivity' and speed-up, which flows inevitably from their acceptance that capitalism must continue and prosper.

Scanlon, still with the full backing of the Stalinists, is now concentrating on speeding up the procedure agreements in engineering.

He combines this with proposals to place all negotiations on wage-rates in the hands of the local union officials.

Barbara Castle also speaks about the workers on the shop-floor and at local level as being a real 'power' in industry, while at the same time preparing anti-union and wage-cutting legislation.

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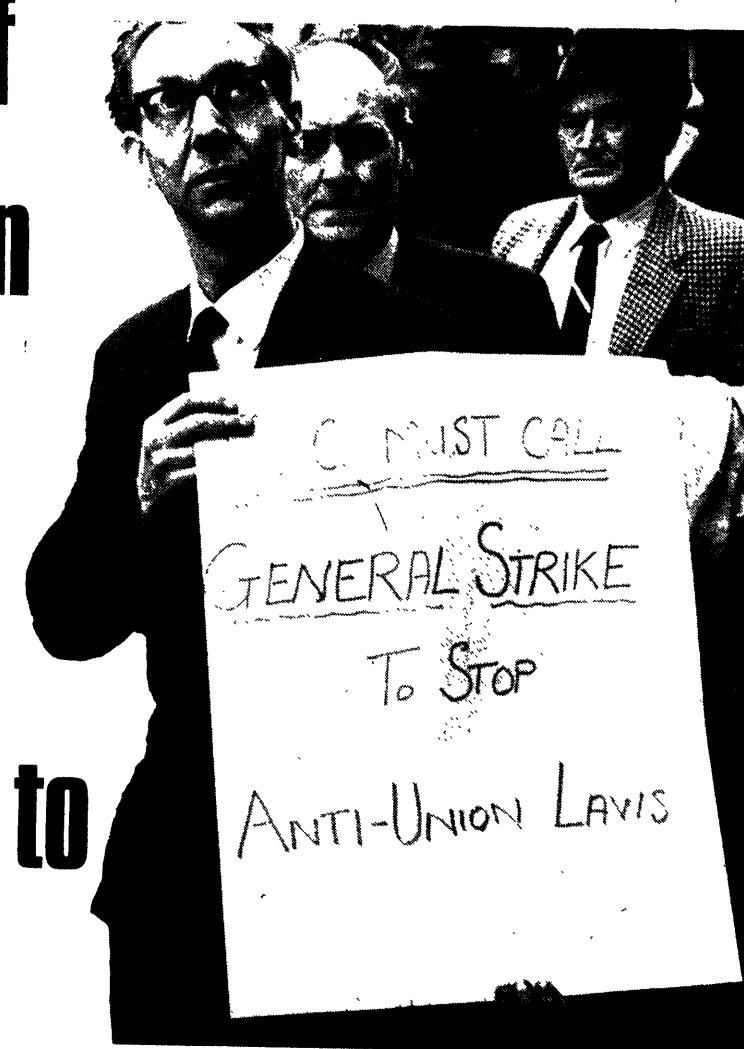
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Dangers of trade union reform—

A warning to engineers



BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

local levels tied directly to the monopolies and their 'productivity' plans. The purpose of all Scanlon's campaigning must surely be to take the union along this road?

Local arbitration boards dominated by company representatives and local union bureaucrats of the unions, mostly appointed by the national executive, constitute another aspect of the 'new reforms'.

The ETU, led by the right-wing Chapple and Cannon, is already far along this road.

At the present stage of trade union struggles in this country, these issues are of great importance.

In the engineering industry, the big employers are impatient to reap the profits harvest of the productivity promises made by Scanlon in the 1968 pack-age deal. Yet at the same time

a crucial battle is beginning at British-Leyland in Oxford over the proposed imposition of Measured-Day Work.

The Stalinists go along with the bureaucratic manoeuvres of Scanlon for two reasons: firstly, they hope it will help to consolidate the positions they and their friends have taken in the official machine;

secondly, and more important, their own counter-revolutionary politics actually coincide with the aims of the employers and the union bureaucracy.

If a situation is created where wages are negotiated and settled at local and plant level, then of course the national officials are freed from the test of any clash with the employers and the government,

and the 'left' leaders can go on talking left without ever engaging in struggle with the right wing.

The official machine is free to get on with the job of policing the unions.

In at least one district of the AEF, an attempt is being made to constitute new branches on a factory instead of a local basis. This should be strenuously opposed. The present union rule does not specify either locality or factory.

Marxists in the unions today, like Communist Party militants in the past, fight to build political groups in their factories.

In the fight against the trade union bureaucracy and its right-wing politics and class-collaboration, such groups of Marxists in the factories need to organize their work in the various union branches in the area.

The industrial strength of the engineers in centres like Sheffield, and any potential political strength, has been built up because one or two strong factory groups have in this way, through the various local branches, been able to influence and educate by example the workers in the weaker factories.

In fact the Stalinists have sapped that strength and turned it into an electoral base for their own and 'left' candidates in AEF elections.

In the present period of political struggles, what is the future of this type of political work?

★

The Stalinists encourage the factory-based branches (already set up in two plants in Sheffield where they dominate the district committee) in order to 'freeze' the present situation and obstruct the development of alternative leadership in the union.

They understand very well that this fight for alternative leadership is essentially the struggle between Trotskyism and Stalinism.

They anticipate a situation where branch meetings take place on company premises, with the employer stopping subscriptions off the wage note, and with the employer and the local officials collaborating to get rid of 'undesirable' militants.

For the politically advanced workers, the establishment of factory branches has no advantage whatsoever.

They are already able to fight for and carry out the responsibility of industrial and political leadership within the plant through the stewards' committees and through their politically organized work.

Where they are in a minority position, they will be weakened, because their activities will be constitutionally confined to the factory through the branch.

Undoubtedly, working in the All Trades Unions Alliance and the Socialist Labour League through the Workers Press, politically advanced workers will know how to continue the fight for revolutionary leadership, and no bureaucratic manoeuvre by the Stalinists and their friends will stop this.

But an essential part of this fight to build leadership is to struggle on this very issue, part of the fight for proletarian democracy in the unions.

No backdoor changes of union structure to tighten the grip of the bureaucracy!

Not 'trade union reform', but a revolutionary struggle for leadership, against opportunism and Stalinism in the unions!

Koestler's question-mark tipped with theological poison



brought out in several papers. Many of these ideas attack mechanistic methods of thought in ways which are quite acceptable to Marxism. In the case of the paper by Piaget and Inhelder, 'The Gaps in Empiricism', the debt to Marxism is clearly conscious.

But two papers, J. R. Smythies' on 'Aspects of Consciousness' and F. A. Hayek's on 'The Primacy of the Abstract', are openly idealist; and none of the

theological poison. In the 'Beyond Reductionism' symposium, he intervened from time to time in this spirit.

For example, when, in a discussion on evolution, it is pointed out that only a very small number of mutations are capable of producing a possible variant, Koestler asks:

'Do you realize that what you say leads to the conclusion that evolution is the fulfilment of a preordained programme,

Strip away the existentialist jargon and we find ourselves standing outside the pearly gates, waiting for opening time.

Because it develops inside a social order in its death agony, every advance made by science increases the danger it faces from religion in its modern guises.

Only Marxism can form the basis for victory in the struggle of materialism against idealism. Marxism bases itself on the power of the working class to smash capitalism and rid the world of exploitation, the soil on which mysticism grows.

★

This revolutionary method of thought sees the world as it really is: matter in motion. It seeks to grasp the processes of development of matter in their interconnection, instead of breaking them down into isolated and unchanging elements.

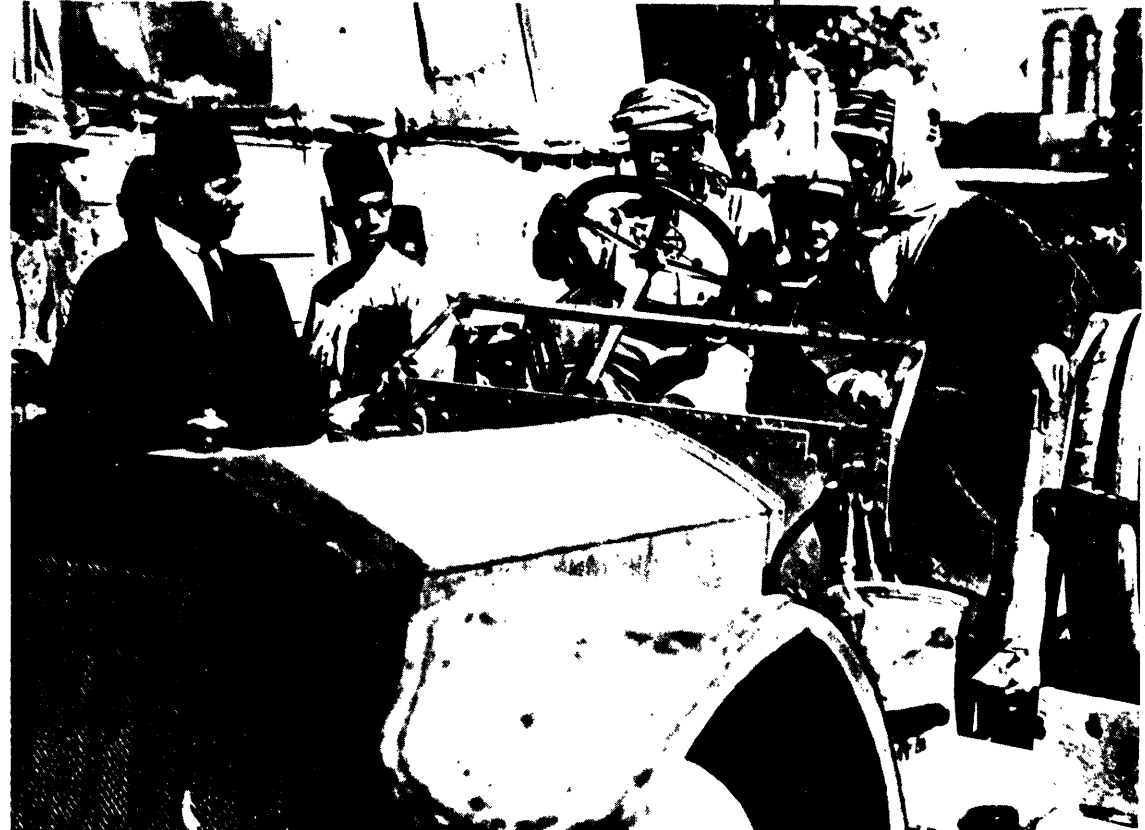
Movement, qualitative leaps, contradiction, struggle, are not regarded as unfortunate lapses which science must explain away, but as the essence of living reality.

Life and thought, not excluding Marxism itself, are the highest levels reached by the development of this essence.

Marxism goes beyond the old mechanical materialism, not only in understanding the material basis of its enemy—idealism—but also in grasping its own history materialistically.

In fighting for a socialist world, it prepares to release the movement of science from the shackles of private property and all the corruption which must accompany it and put it where it belongs, in the service of humanity.

'BEYOND REDUCTIONISM'
New perspectives in the life sciences
Edited by Arthur Koestler and J. R. Smythies
Hutchinson £3 10s.
Review by John Crawford



Behind the show of fighting for Arab unity, T. E. Lawrence sought to keep the Arab tribes divided in order to protect British imperialism. Above: Lawrence arrives in Damascus in his Rolls Royce.



Marchers walk by the offices of one of Parrett and Neves' newspapers.

Parrett and Neves back down

Printers win web-offset dispute

THE LONGEST and costliest strike in the post-war history of the National Graphical Association was concluded this week with a qualified victory for the union against Parrett and Neves, the Chatham based web-offset newspaper printing works.

The strike, which lasted 19 months and cost the NGA £50,000, began over wage rates for operating web-offset presses at Sittingbourne and developed rapidly into a struggle for trade union recognition.

Parrett and Neves, who publish 'Chatham Standard' and 'Chatham News', and some other local weekly papers, provoked the dispute by calling off the preliminary discussions over web-offset manning scales and refusing to enter into an agreement with the NGA.

The NGA response to this was no contract, no work. The employers first tried to win over the 24 NGA members by offering them an extra £5 a week and a job for life if they rejected the union's instructions and worked the machines.

Defiance

Despite the intervention of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation and the stopping of all collaboration between the NGA and the Newspaper Society—because of the Society's refusal to expel Parrett and Neves—the company continued its defiance not only of the NGA, but of the entire Kent trade union movement, which 'backed' all supplies going in and out of Parrett and Neves.

The embargo of the unions soon began to have an effect on the company after 33 issues, Parrett and Neves had to suspend publication of the daily 'Evening Mail' in October 1968.

In October NGA general secretary John Bonfield outlined four conditions for a settlement. They were: the reinstatement of the 24 members without victimization, the removal of the six expelled NGA members from the office, the establishment of 100 per cent trade unionism in all departments, and a proper settlement in connection with the ratting and manning of the web-offset press.

Demonstration

In May, 1969 a mass demonstration of 2,000 members of NGA and SOGAT in Chatham failed to shake the company's determination to employ scabs. The company kept production going from a stock-pile of newsprint which it had accumulated in preparation for the strike.

Finally, when every avenue of protest was exhausted and when criticism from the ranks began to mount, the NGA leaders decided to force the issue by 'backing' all Kodak products in all national and provincial newspaper works

By a Workers Press reporter because Kodak continued to supply Parrett and Neves. This move apparently had the desired effect.

What went on between Kodak and Parrett and Neves we can only surmise, but in the end the company capitulated on all except (possibly, we are not sure) the second demand of the NGA in relation to the six expelled members.

Irony

The irony of the dispute is that the firm, having refused to sack the 'blacklegs', is now saddled with the problem of massive overmanning of the machines—far in excess of the number at the beginning of the strike.



NGA and SOGAT members on the march through Chatham early this year in protest against the position at Parrett and Neves.

Israel rejects proposed terms for Middle-East deal

By our Middle East correspondent THE JOINT search by the Soviet bureaucracy and US imperialism for a Middle-East 'package deal' has run into new difficulties.

Building

Camden Street headquarters. They will lobby officials for rejection of the proposed agreement. Union leaders, however, have already indicated that they intend to accept the deal.

They have thus opened the way to a big new drive for productivity concessions from the employers. Such a drive will be opened up around, in particular, the notorious 'inter-availability of labour' clause.

Men will be asked to work at not only their own trade, but that of other workers as required by their employer.

Tighten up

The way that the employers intend to implement their wage offer, itself far less than the '£20 Now!' demanded by building workers all over the country, also indicates a drive to tighten up on discipline. The offer consists of a new basic rate made up by a 'minimum earnings level' (MEL) allowance.

No room

As in Vietnam, there is no room for compromise between imperialism and its agents and the struggle of the semi-colonial people for national unification and self-determination. Nasser and the other Arab leaders will still work for such a deal, and the Soviet bureaucracy will pull every diplomatic wire whilst encouraging Nixon to make it possible, but the struggle of the Arab masses will continue. The need is now for socialist leadership.

U.S. jets in Suez raid

US-BUILT Phantom jets were used for the first time by Israel on Wednesday in attacks on Egyptian positions along the Suez gulf.

It was the first time the supersonic long-range plane has been in action against the Arabs since the US government delivered 50 of them last summer. Cairo reported that one Phantom had been shot down in flames on the east of the Suez gulf.

Damascus, Thursday: Big formations of Israeli aircraft attacked Syrian military positions and airport, a military spokesman said here.

Syrian planes attacked the Israelis, he added. Aerial dog-fights were reported over the capital.

People in Damascus reported hearing explosions. A military communiqué said large formations of Israeli Phantoms, Mirages and Skyhawks had penetrated Syrian airspace.

'Our air force intercepted them and our anti-aircraft guns went into action,' the communiqué said. No casualties were immediately reported.

People crowded on rooftops to watch the aerial battle. Syrian MIG 17 and MIG 21 jets were in action.

The Israeli air raid came less than 24 hours after an artillery battle on the Syrian-Israeli ceasefire line, in which the Syrians claimed to have killed and wounded 26 Israeli soldiers for the loss of three Syrians.

Vietnam

deceit and chicanery of British Stalinism.

It is precisely now, when the movement of the European workers synchronizes with the heroic struggles of the Vietnamese workers and peasants, when the spectre of revolution and Communism begins to haunt European capitalists, that Stalinism rushes in with new and even more sinister diversions and distractions.

The anxiety of the 'Star' and the sudden flurry of CP activity is not really surprising. It is a conditioned reflex reaction to the inspiring and highly-successful campaign of the SLL and the Workers Press to stop Wilson's Washington visit.

The fact that leading trade unionists like Scanlon, Hearnsey and Birch have signed the petition is too much a betrayal for Gollan to swallow. Moreover the involvement

Meet Mr Lollipop in Leeds on Saturday



at the Young Socialists GRAND XMAS BAZAAR Saturday December 13 CORN EXCHANGE LEEDS Doors open 12 noon

One day wages strike at Lucas

A MASS meeting on Wednesday at Lucas Industrial Equipment, Fazakerley, Liverpool, decided unanimously to support a one-day stoppage on January 9 and reject a management offer of 15s. increase on shift allowance.

The Lucas Merseyside area shop stewards' committee have called for this one-day stoppage and a meeting of shift workers in the four Lucas combine factories on Merseyside on January 9.

The action is in support of their demand for a £5 shift allowance.

CAV and Girlings shop stewards' committees are to recommend to mass meetings of shift workers at the two factories that they reject the 15s. and support the January 9 action.

Libyan coup leaders are named

Lieutenant Colonels Adam El-Hawas and Moussa Ahmed were named yesterday as the two leaders of the abortive coup against the new military government in Libya.

The ruling three-man Revolutionary Command announced that the coup had been staged for last Sunday under the direction of the only two military men in the cabinet: the Minister of the Interior Ahmed, and of Defence El-Hawas, but it had been forestalled by the regime and its ring-leaders arrested.

The leaders of the coup have been charged with working to undermine the current negotiations with Britain on the evacuation of its bases in Libya granted under the 1953 Anglo-Libyan treaty.

NOT PROOF

It is quite possible that the split in the new regime reflects disagreements over the handling of the talks with Britain. Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Colonel Kadiffi certainly made a militant-sounding speech before the first session of the talks on Monday, though this should not be taken as proof of the regime's ability to pursue a consistent anti-imperialist line.

All the signs point to continued instability in the Bonapartist regime brought to power by the coup of September 1.

'Anarchy'

It was this which sparked EEF director-general Martin Jukes' outburst about 'anarchy' (reported in last Saturday's Workers Press).

What, then, are the dangers of the situation facing engineering workers? One of the stumbling-blocks to an agreement is the principle of 'status quo'.

Union leaders demand that management should not be allowed to proceed with any changes affecting wages or working conditions while these are still under discussion. At the 1969 meeting of the AEF National Committee in April, Scanlon insisted: 'There must be an entirely fresh approach to the principle of "status quo".'

Why then has the AEF not intervened against the procedure agreed with the South Wales Engineering Employers' Association in October—in which this issue is ducked? During the hearing of

ATUA-Y'S PUBLIC MEETINGS Stop Wilson's visit to Washington

GLASGOW Sunday, December 14 3 p.m. Partick Burgh Halls (nr. Merland St underground) Admission 1s. 6d.

CORBY Monday, December 15 8 p.m. Corby Candle Tinderbox Room

LEICESTER Wednesday, December 17 8 p.m. The Globe Silver Street

NOTTINGHAM Thursday, December 18 8 p.m. People's Hall Heathcote Street

WILLESDEN Thursday, December 18 8 p.m. Willesden Trades and Labour Hall High Road, N.W.10

NO RETREAT

FROM PAGE ONE and management concerned at local level. Many engineering workers view this agreement with hostility, because it appears to them that the dispute can be battered backwards and forwards from York almost indefinitely.

For the employers the situation is even more serious. Faced with increasingly competitive home and international markets, they sought changes which would shorten the procedure, tighten up on discipline and allow them to attack their main enemy—unofficial shop-floor actions outside of procedure.

The growing militancy of metal and engineering workers has prevented the union leaders from running this far yet. Unable to reach agreement in November on the employers' proposals for the compulsory establishment of works' councils and the obligatory ratification of a strike action by national union officials, union leaders threatened to withdraw from the procedure altogether.

'Anarchy'

Were the union leaders to carry out a retreat here similar to that they have been prepared to tolerate in South Wales it would be a bitter blow to all engineering and car workers.

Held

The 'Engineering Voice'—of which Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones are leading supporters—declared in November 1968 that 'the union side has clearly stated that unless this principle [mutual agreement of piece-work prices] is written in there will be no national piece-work agreement'. Scanlon and Jones must be held to this! One way in which a retreat could be carried out here is if the Confederation were to agree that workers would have to accept the management's price for a job until agreement on a new rate could be reached. Such a move, like the employers' other attempts to tighten discipline and attack shop-floor trade union strength, must be firmly resisted.

Ford and Daly

FROM PAGE ONE trial questions and left-wing stances on political matters.

A few years ago, for example, he visited North Vietnam, inquiring into American war crimes.

'Ready-made'

He thus became the darling of all the anti-Marxist 'left' groups who preferred basing their hopes on ready-made leaders like Daly to the scientific building of a revolutionary leadership in the working class.

His actions during the strike have left these people hurt and bewildered.

For example, 'Black Dwarf' of November 26 carries a cry from the heart: 'What is Lawrence Daly doing?'

'Lawrence Daly's actions during the recent mining strike appear to be totally indefensible. Siding with the NCB and the capitalist state against the strike actions of his men, he played an anti-socialist and counter-revolutionary role.

'From a union leader with a long record of militancy and internationalism, his action was horrid.

'Can he or anyone else explain these changes? Yes, Marxists can explain these 'changes'.

What has changed is not Daly but the political and economic situation.

It is now no longer a question of talking 'internationalism' and of well-publicized visits to Vietnam.

The crisis of American capitalism reaches out from Vietnam to Europe.

Atrocities

American imperialism is forced not only to commit atrocities against the Vietnamese people but to launch an economic offensive against Europe.

This leads to attacks on the working class in Western Europe over hours, wages, conditions and union organization.

The strike wave spreading through Britain—miners, dustmen, dockers, teachers, etc.—and also through France, Germany and Italy, has international implications.

At the same time, the fight against the Vietnam war takes place at a new level—specifically, the fight to stop Wilson's visit to the United States.

Left-talkers can get by no longer—on neither industrial nor international questions.

The Yorkshire miners have, in fact, answered the 'Black Dwarf'.

Black Panthers

FROM PAGE ONE

Chicago trial is in deadly earnest. The defendants face long prison sentences, and the judge has already made very clear that he intends to hit the Panthers as hard as he can.

Judge Hoffman is undoubtedly following a policy which comes straight from the White House. By its murderous onslaught against the Panthers, whose only 'crime' is that they are determined to resist police persecution, the Nixon administration hopes to frighten the vast numbers of Americans who are moving into action against the Vietnam war and against Nixon's imperialist policies.

The growing movement to defend the Panthers against this vicious persecution is evidence that Nixon will not succeed.

Washington visit

FROM PAGE ONE of the Workers Press. Constructional Engineering Union official Mr L. F. Spackman was among 40 people who signed petition forms in Tottenham Court Road recently.

20 workers at the Hounslop Post Office sorting office, 47 readers of the Workers Press in North Kent and 11 workers at the Albion Sugar factory in South-East London, have also signed the petition.

The London School of Economics branch of ASTMS passed a resolution yesterday calling on the executive committee of ASTMS and the Labour Party national executive to demand Wilson's Washington visit be stopped.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETING Czechoslovakia, persecution of Soviet intellectuals and the Communist Party Congress Monday Dec. 15, 8p.m. HOLBORN ASSEMBLY HALL John's Mews off Northington Street (nearest tube Chancery Lane)

Speaker: G. Healy (national secretary, Socialist Labour League) Chairman: M. Banda (Editor, Workers Press)

Israeli minister leaves for U.S. talks

ISRAELI Foreign Minister Abba Eban left Tel Aviv yesterday for a ten-day visit to the United States where he will have talks with Secretary of State William Rogers.

He will also officially launch the United Jewish Appeal Fund which is backed by wealthy American supporters of Zionism.

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WEATHER

London area, SE and Central Southern England, East Midlands: Dry with sunny intervals, but fog patches early and late. Frost during evening. Wind light, variable or northerly. Near normal. Maximum 7C (45F). West Midlands, NW and Central Northern England, Edinburgh: Dry with sunny intervals. Becoming rather cloudy later. Frost or fog patches early in the day. Wind light, nor or north-west, backing south-west. Near normal. Maximum 6C (43F). Channel Islands: Dry with sunny intervals. Fog patches early. Becoming rather cloudy later. Wind light, northerly. Near normal. Maximum 9C (48F). Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Rather unsettled with some rain at times in most areas. Near normal temperatures.

SW England: Dry at first with some sunshine and a few frost and fog patches. Becoming cloudy with occasional rain later. Wind north-west, backing south-west, light, becoming moderate. Near normal. Maximum 8C (46F). Northern Glasgow area, Northern Ireland: Dry with fog and frost patches early. Becoming cloudy, with rain spreading from the west in the afternoon and evening. Wind light, south-west, becoming fresh or strong later. Near normal. Maximum 8C (46F).