

## A WEEK OF CLASS ACTION BIG REPLY TO TORIES' ATTACK

### What we think

#### Carr justifies jobless

ON THE EVE of yesterday's House of Commons debate on the huge unemployment, Robert Carr delivered a sermon.

It was his first comment since unemployment rose to over a million.

Did he render any apology for his government's disgusting policies? Did his speech contain an ounce of compassion for the men whose jobs have been stolen, or for their wives and families? Not a bit of it.

Carr spoke like a true member of the Heath Cabinet. He spoke precisely like the man who has framed the Industrial Relations Act and whose previous occupation was the directorship of Britain's largest private army, Securicor.

He told a Conservative students' meeting at Cambridge:

'Far from relaxing, now is the time to continue and intensify the policies we have been pursuing.'

You can't get much clearer than that, Carr and the Tory Cabinet are now chasing the two-million jobless mark.

Carr blames workers and 'wages explosion' for joblessness.

In response to these wage demands the employers had taken the only course open to them, says Carr.

'Quite the easiest and quickest way of doing that [cut costs] is to cut the size of your labour force and that is what happened on an enormous scale throughout the British economy.'

So he concludes the present unemployment trend will continue. 'We are still losing ground and not gaining it.'

This Tory doctrine carries more weight than any of the breast-beating and wailing which the Tories indulged in during yesterday's Commons debate.

#### And Tom Jackson?

ON THE subject of unemployment, postmen's chief Tom Jackson has something to say too.

Yesterday's 'Daily Express' gave him space to slap the Tories' wrists.

Summoning up all his political genius Jackson declared: 'My view is that the government has to have another crack at re-inflation.'

Then he makes the most astonishing statement yet from any trade union leader on unemployment.

His words reeking with sympathy for the plight of the Tories, Jackson says:

'I think the government is as puzzled as it is possible to be... I'm sure they were aiming at around 650,000 unemployed and pressed the button too hard.'

He ends with a call to 'cut' unemployment, not 'end it, and a warm tribute to capitalism.'

'I think we have just about reached the turning point. But it is not enough to halt the increase in unemployment, it must be cut swiftly. People must be persuaded that there is a profit to be made, so that they will invest.'

BY ALEX MITCHELL

### WHEREVER THE Tories turn this week, they will be confronted with a rising tide of militancy in the working class.

Britain's 290,000 MINERS today enter the 17th day of their national stoppage with the grim determination which has characterized their struggle against the Tory wages' policy.

Tomorrow thousands of DOCKERS throughout the country will strike for one day against dock redundancies.

On Merseyside the dockers will be joined by up to 100,000 trade unionists called out by the Liverpool Trades Council to protest against the massive unemployment.

Taking the lead in the march will be the men of the now-occupied FISHER-BEN-DIX factory belonging to multi-millionaire Sir Jules Thorn.

The car industry too is wracked with unrest.

A total of 20,000 car workers in the CHRYSLER and BRITISH-LEYLAND combines are either on strike or laid off.

And yesterday a further 1,200 were laid off at Leyland's Cowley plant, Oxford, after a dispute in the Marina production section.

Stewards in the Leyland combine are fighting against the extension of measured-day work at Triumph's Canley plant and at Austin's Longbridge plant.

They also dealt a swipe at their union trade union leadership at the combine stewards' committee meeting in Birmingham last week.

Speakers condemned their leaders for abandoning the national pay claim.

By atomizing the national claim into isolated plant-by-



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plant negotiations, the engineering union leaders have taken a massive step towards co-operating with the Tories' wage-cutting and unemployment policies.

In a speech before yesterday's unemployment debate in parliament Employment Secretary Robert Carr gave a grim warning of Tory plans in the coming months.

Not reductions in the number of unemployed, but increases.

Carr said: 'Far from relaxing, now is the time to continue and intensify the policies we have been pursuing.' (See What We Think.)

The united strength of the working class alone can put an end to Carr's plans. In the way of this class action stands the trade union leaders who are consciously holding back their members from directly challenging the government's inhuman and violent policies.

## SPLITS SHOW OVER PEARCE COMMISSION'S RESULTS

### RULING-CLASS circles are gripped with uncertainty and divisions over the Rhodesia crisis being fuelled by the presence of the Pearce Commission.

These circles fear that Ian Smith's racist regime is pursuing a course which throws away any chance of political stability.

Rhodesia's leading newspaper 'The Sunday Mail' commenting on Pearce said:

'Above all the Commission should go home now because if their continued presence is going to mean continued disorder, the already noticeable white backlash will become so strong that no progress towards the desired aims will be possible...'

Smith snapped back that any postponement of the Commission's work would mean appeasement and weakness.

This position drew support at the weekend from the right-wing Labourite Denis Healey, who agreed there was no case for recalling Pearce.

Yesterday the anti-settlement African National Council (ANC) claimed that 100 of its supporters had been arrested during last week.

The mooted arrest of ANC leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa could greatly escalate African resistance.

Already police have killed 15 Africans demonstrating their opposition to the Smith-Home settlement terms.

Undeterred by this carnage, a Commission spokesman said: 'The violence that has been witnessed in Rhodesia in the last week has not added up to disruption of the Commission's work.'

But yesterday's 'Daily Telegraph' was worried:

'The Pearce Commission is having a hard time trying to detect the true, underlying mood of the Rhodesian African population.'

In fact the Commission has been unable to find any breach in the unanimous African opposition to indefinite white minority rule.

Use of this particular phrase suggests that the two unions intend to become fully registered and possibly apply at a later date for legal backing for their position with the company.

Yet USDAW chief Alf Allen and the G&MWU's Lord Cooper sit on the TUC 'inner cabinet'—alongside the seamen's Bill Hogarth—without any question.

And what of the General

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We know that you, our readers, will do everything possible to assist the development of the paper. A record amount for January's Fund will certainly help us on our way.

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## No pay, no industry Yorkshire miners' warn

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

### YORKSHIRE miners yesterday brushed aside a Coal Board threat that one in every ten coal-faces could close permanently if strikers continue to block safety work.

Minutes after the NCB's William Sheppard issued the threat, men at Cadeby colliery, S Yorkshire, rejected a call to go underground to stop four faces collapsing.

But union leaders want to stop such demonstrations of the miners' determination to win at all costs.

Speaking to reporters in London, NCB deputy chairman Sheppard said that yesterday's safety position was the worst since the strike began 16 days ago.

Over 200 of the board's 289 pits were without underground cover by NUM members. Only 34 pits had full cover.

This meant that about 80 of the country's 800 coal-faces were in danger of having to close permanently.

'At an increasing number of pits, mainly in the Midlands, the miners' pickets are hell-bent to stop even our limited management resources getting underground to make inspections and take whatever steps they can,' Sheppard claimed.

The Board was writing to union president Joe Gormley to take this up.

The Cadeby men's answer was short, to the point... and unanimous.

'We are prepared to let the mining industry slowly decline if the government don't think it is important enough to solve the problem for us,' said NUM branch secretary Tom Ryan.

'If they think they can manage without paying adequate wages in the industry, then they don't deserve a mining industry and we shall not help to preserve it.'

Eddie Bond, president of the 1,100 miners at Cadeby, which the NCB claims loses £500,000 a year, said no one would go underground until the strike was settled.

This is somewhat different from the answer given to a rally of Ayrshire miners on Sunday by the Scottish miners' secretary, Communist Party member William McLean.

'We should not encourage any ideas of closure by failing to provide minimum safety coverage,' he said.

He told the rally that some of Ayrshire's 14 pits could close if adequate safety coverage was not maintained.

At CARDIFF yesterday, clerical staff at the regional NCB headquarters decided not to go to work if it means breaking through picket lines.

About 16 coaches left BARNSELY yesterday morning carrying miners to picket E Anglian power stations.

At ALLOA, Scotland, 400 pickets trying to persuade NCB office staff to join the strike faced 100 police.

● Young miners speak out. See p. 4.

RHUR VALLEY miners stayed home yesterday because of short-time measures, a spokesman for the Rhurkale AG company announced in Essen. Production in 37 of its 50 mines stopped for one shift yesterday affecting 100,000 workers.

EGYPTIAN police used staves and tear gas to remove several thousand student demonstrators from Cairo's Liberation Square yesterday. They had marched through the city's business district demanding the release of 1,600 colleagues detained at a six-day sit-in at Cairo University. The sit-in was in protest against government inaction against Israeli troops stationed along the E Bank of the Suez Canal.



### TREATED LIKE SHEEP

'I'VE NEVER been so disgusted in my life' Tom Jones (60), told Workers Press after queuing with 300 other miners for social security pay last week at the Central Hall, Tonypandy.

'They gave me £3.95 to keep two of us and out of that I've got to pay £3.75 rent. I haven't changed the giro slip yet. I'm too ashamed. The Tories are putting the pressure on and they're treating us worse than sheep.'

## REGISTRATION REBELS LET OFF THE HOOK

BY DAVID MAUDE

### NO EFFECTIVE action was taken by TUC chiefs yesterday against the leaders of moves to co-operate with the Industrial Relations Act.

An afternoon meeting of the TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee reviewed its recent discussions with 25 affiliated organizations who have allowed their names to go on the Act's new Register of Trade Unions.

Biggest of the 25 are the National Union of Seamen and the National Union of Bank Employees, both of whom intend using the Act to defend bargaining rights.

Moves by other unions whose position was not even raised yesterday are almost equally questionable.

The shopworkers' union USDAW and the General and Municipal Workers' Union have signed a new procedure agreement covering 1,750 staff workers at Littlewood's Mail-Order Stores which is drafted entirely in line with the Industrial Relations Act.

It sets up a joint negotiating panel which is described as 'the sole bargaining agent' for the staff.

Use of this particular phrase suggests that the two unions intend to become fully registered and possibly apply at a later date for legal backing for their position with the company.

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## MUJIB EXTENDS ARMS AMNESTY

SHEIKH Mujibur Rahman has extended his deadline for Bangla Desh guerrillas to surrender their weapons until the end of the month.

Despite a theatrical lay-down-your-arms ceremony in Tangail yesterday, large quantities of guns are still in the hands of workers, peasants and students who are looking very critically at Mujib's policies.

The political importance of this can be gauged from the fact that the premier took his first trip outside Dacca since returning to the country to attend yesterday's ceremony.

The Tangail surrender was staged by self-styled Gen Khader Siddiqui, who claims to be a leader of the guerrillas in the area.

Last week five villagers and a guerrilla from a rival, 'Maoist' group—opposed to disarming—were reported killed in a clash with Siddiqui.

Mujib's Industry Minister,

Nazrul Islam, pledged at the weekend that the new government would establish a socialist economy.

He urged the people to give up all luxuries and 'devote themselves to their duties honestly.'

In Moscow yesterday, 'Pravda' quoted Moni Singh, leader of the Bangla Desh Communist Party, as supporting Mujib's aim of forming a democratic, secular state.

With a trace of unease, however, he went on to say that 'life will show how consistently these wishes are carried out.'

The policy of the Bangla Desh CP in May 1971 was 'a united national front of all parties and patriotic forces' against Pakistan. Now it calls for 'unity among various parties and patriotic forces [which] will help inspire the people in nation-building work' (Moscow Radio, January 20.)

HELP THE YS JOBS CAMPAIGN

MESSAGE FOR ALL OUR READERS

## BOLD NEW EXPANSION PLANNED

### A WEEK from today will be an important milestone in the life of Workers Press. On that day Workers Press will expand from its present four-page format to become a 12-page tabloid.

The 50-per-cent increase in size, plus the recent rise in production costs obliges us to raise the cost of the Workers Press by 1p. We are confident that you, our readers and supporters, will understand the circumstances that have made this increase unenviable, but inevitable.

The necessity for bold changes in our newspaper can be easily detailed. Internationally, the capitalist world is in the throes of its deepest crisis. Its currencies are in chaos, its trading is reaching cut-throat proportions and many of its governments—from Italy, to W Germany, to Eire—totter from one panic-stricken day to the next.

In Britain the working class is faced with the attacks of the most reactionary government of the century.

● UNEMPLOYMENT, now more than one million, is the highest for a quarter of a century.

● THE INDUSTRIAL Relations Act is aimed at smashing trade unions and jailing those trade unionists who attempt to fight for decent wages and conditions.

● THE WAGES of every worker in the country are now being subjected to the Tory 'norm'. Miners on strike today are in the vanguard of the workers' battle to smash this wage-cutting policy.

● THE SOCIAL SECURITY system and the National Health Service have been repeatedly riddled by Tory Ministers. The result has been less social benefits and the introduction of even more intimidating red tape.

● THE PRICES bonanza has forced every housewife in the country to cut back on the food bill. The diet of our children has suffered while there is wholesale profiteering among the food manufacturers and big chain stores.

● ULSTER, a part of the United Kingdom, is under the murderous occupation of the British army. Innocent men are tortured, civilians are shot down indiscriminately and working-class communities are kept in a state of constant terror by the activities of the 14,000-strong occupation army.

● ON THE Common Market, the Tories, against the wishes of the working class, the trade union movement and the Labour Party conference, have signed the Treaty of Rome, thus paving the way for the grouping together of the most powerful W European monopolies (and reactionaries) to fight the working class.

Against this menacing political background the need for a larger revolutionary newspaper is obvious. The greatly-expanded Workers Press sets out to meet this urgent class requirement.

Our wider coverage will enable us to take on the news that the capitalist press in Fleet St consistently censors or 'plays down'. It will extend also to the issues which the 'lefts' in the radical press are too timid to touch.

In other words, the news and analysis we will present will be YOUR news: it will come from the factories, the docks, the coalfields. We will expose the machinations of the police courts, the activities of slum landlords and the fight of the wives and mothers who today stand alongside their menfolk in resisting the vicious Tory attacks.

Our international coverage will be enlarged. Apart from a 24-hours-a-day news agency service from Reuters and from Latin America, plans are in hand to send our staff to file on-the-spot reports of working-class struggles in all parts of the world.

In our enlarged paper we will strive for higher standards of reporting and presentation. Besides the basic news team, we are assured of the professional assistance of guest writers and top photographers. For the lay-out of the new paper we have obtained the services of two of the leading newspaper designers in the country.

Our main body of advisers will, however, remain you. At the readers' meetings held throughout this month, the editorial board has noted your criticisms and your suggestions. This contact with readers will be continued during the coming months on as regular a basis as possible.

The change to a 12-page tabloid is only one stage of our political programme for this year. We will be giving maximum coverage to the Young Socialists' 'Right-to-Work' marches which start from Glasgow on February 5; from the first issue of the tabloid until the rally at Wembley Pool on March 12, one page of the paper will be devoted to a readers' discussion on the All Trades Unions Alliance draft manifesto which calls for the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party.

The building of the party is the most crucial political task this year of every reader of the Workers Press.

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WANTED URGENTLY

Loan of vehicles—road-worthy vans, cars (reasonable hire will be considered)

Accommodation

Cooking equipment

Tinned food

Finance

Brass/jazz bands

Please tick box where applicable.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

Please complete above form and post to: Clive Norris, national secretary Right-to-Work campaign 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4. Or phone 01-622 7029.



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Please tick box where applicable.

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Biggest of the 25 are the National Union of Seamen and the National Union of Bank Employees, both of whom intend using the Act to defend bargaining rights.

Moves by other unions whose position was not even raised yesterday are almost equally questionable.

The shopworkers' union USDAW and the General and Municipal Workers' Union have signed a new procedure agreement covering 1,750 staff workers at Littlewood's Mail Order Stores which is drafted entirely in line with the Industrial Relations Act.

It sets up a joint negotiating panel which is described as the sole bargaining agent for the staff.

Use of this particular phrase suggests that the two unions intend to become fully registered and possibly apply at a later date for legal backing for their position with the company.

Yet USDAW chief Alf Allen and the G&MWU's Lord Cooper sit on the TUC 'inner cabinet'—alongside the seamen's Bill Hogarth—without any question.

And what of the General

## MUJIB EXTENDS ARMS AMNESTY

SHEIKH Mujibur Rahman has extended his deadline for Bangla Desh guerrillas to surrender their weapons until the end of the month.

Despite a theatrical lay-down-your-arms ceremony in Tangail yesterday, large quantities of guns are still in the hands of workers, peasants and students who are looking very critically at Mujib's policies.

The political importance of this can be gauged from the fact that the premier took his first trip outside Dacca since returning to the country to attend yesterday's ceremony.

The Tangail surrender was staged by self-styled Gen Khader Siddiqui, who claims to lead some 17,000 trained guerrillas in the area.

Last week five villagers and a guerrilla from a rival, 'Maolist' group—opposed to disarming—were reported killed in a clash with Siddiqui.

Mujib's Industry Minister,

### TREATED LIKE SHEEP

'I'VE NEVER been so disgusted in my life' Tom Jones (60), told Workers Press after queuing with 300 other miners for social security pay last week at the Central Hall, Tonypandy.

'They gave me £3.95 to keep two of us and out of that I've got to pay £3.75 rent. I haven't changed the giro slip yet, I'm too ashamed. The Tories are putting the pressure on and they're treating us worse than sheep.'

He told the rally that some of Ayrshire's 14 pits could close if adequate safety coverage was not maintained.

CARDIFF yesterday, clerical staff at the regional NCB headquarters decided not to go to work if it means breaking through picket lines.

About 16 coaches left BARNSELEY yesterday morning carrying miners to picket E Anglian power stations.

At ALLOA, N Scotland, 400 pickets trying to persuade NCB office staff to join the strike faced 100 police.

Young miners speak out. See p. 4.

RHUR VALLEY miners stayed home yesterday because of short-time measures, a spokesman for the Rhurkohle AG company announced in Essen.

They had marched through the city's business district demanding the release of 1,600 colleagues detained at a six-day sit-in at Cairo University.

The sit-in was in protest against government inaction against Israeli troops stationed along the E Bank of the Suez Canal.

EGYPTIAN police used staves and tear gas to remove several thousand student demonstrators from Cairo's Liberation Square yesterday.

They had marched through the city's business district demanding the release of 1,600 colleagues detained at a six-day sit-in at Cairo University.



A day in the miners' strike. STEPHEN JOHNS was at Polmaise pit in Stirlingshire. Here he describes how the long and fighting history of the British miners lives in their present struggle.

## The men of Polmaise

# 'Gormley is riding a tiger' —and he knows it

'SOLIDARITY for ever, solidarity for ever...' the men of Polmaise roar out a spontaneous chorus and the wooden walls of their pit-head office shake with the spirit of the miners' strike.

Still singing, the militants tramp into the cold Stirlingshire morning and cross the road to the Fallin village miners' welfare for a meeting.

At the top of the room sit the strike committee, behind them, and through the windows, the snow-covered Ochill Hills stare down at the welfare, the union office and Polmaise pit.

The orders are given. Polmaise's task is to starve the giant Kincardine power station of the coal that the pit and its 560 miners normally feed into it.

Their shift on the picket line is Sunday and the chairman warns against 'armchair militants' —the more men they can get out, the shorter the time each miner spends patrolling the Kincardine gates. The miners ferociously applaud the suggestion.

### Battles

This is the spirit in Fallin—a village of 4,000 which lives off the pit. Fathers, sons and wives tell you the miners are going to win—and they mean the full claim of £5 to £8.

Fallin is the labour movement. If Harold Wilson can strut around Westminster today, it is because Polmaise miners, their fathers and grandfathers, have fought and fought from the days when 'punishment' meant being chained-up at the pit bottom, through the General Strike, and now against the wages policy of the hated Tory government.

But at Fallin they will tell you about another battle. It was Polmaise that broke the contract system of pay under the old masters in 1938.

The men were out ten months—the longest miners' strike in British history—but they held on and won. The rest of Britain followed and soon contracts, which allowed the owners to pit miner against miner, were a thing of the past. It's a victory that Polmaise is proud of. The soup sheds that kept the colliers' families alive in those days still stand behind the welfare.

The miners are close to this history. They either lived it themselves or hear it first hand from their fathers.

If, for example, you ask an old miner how long he's been down the pit, the answer will usually come in terms of strikes—'I remember the 1921 strike, I remember the 1926 strike and the long one in 1938'.

It makes this battle all the more dramatic for the miners of



ROBERT McCormack and his wife. Robert, with seven years to go at Polmaise pit, remembers the ten months strike of 1938 when the miners broke the contract system. So does Mrs McCormack. 'It was very hard but we managed. It's the same today but we stand behind the men.' Robert's son John works down the pit and is a militant NUM committee member.

Polmaise. It's part of the old struggle, the score with the enemy has still to be settled and the parallels are readily drawn—the General Council of 1926 and today's TUC, Jimmy Thomas, the railwayman's leader who retreated in 1926, and Victor Feather, Baldwin and Heath, Ramsay MacDonald and Harold Wilson.

The strike has revived all the old bitterness. The mine management has closed all the facilities the retired colliers use—the wash houses and the canteens.

### State of war

During the overtime ban the men stuck to the union's six conditions and worked-to-rule. One Monday they were sent home for refusing to carry out work beyond union instructions. At the end of the week there was no bonus in their wage packet. Yet the men who had stayed away from work that day—the retired colliers use—their bonus at the end of the week.

Provocations like this made Polmaise come out on strike before the official call. Now a state of war exists between the miners and the NCB.

Like most working-class communities, Polmaise has never written down its history. But it

lives in the old miners who pass it on to their younger work-mates. They refine the experience and it becomes a part of the way they struggle.

The old-timers talk about queuing for the soup in 1926, and the 2s 6d from the Russian workers. They also remember the day Dean Leslie, the High Sheriff of Sterling, came to Fallin and read the riot act during the strike.

But James Selkirk's recollections go even further back than that. He began at 13 down the

pit owned by the Elphinstone family in the Lothians in 1916. His grandfather and grandmother worked the same colliery.

'The miners were slaves then. Once one of my grandfather's daughters ran away and the farmer who was responsible for her to the master had to pay a £50 fine. On another occasion my grandmother was expecting so she wanted a day off. But they sent for her and made her work her shift. Then she went home and had the baby.'

'I started at Elphinstone at the back end of the First World War. Two and six a day. I got; sometimes I worked on till four in the afternoon—that's starting at 7 a.m. and if you were a second late down the pit you'd lose money.'

'Then I went to the mines round Glasgow after better money, but I spent the General Strike up here. I remember the slogan, "Not a penny off the pay, not a second on the day". We finished up with a shilling less and half an hour more to work. That was Thomas, J. H. Thomas, the railwayman's leader. He let us down then skipped it to America.'

### Link

John Perrie, another old-timer, due to retire in April, also travelled from the mines of the S Scottish field to Stirlingshire. When the Lanarkshire pits closed he came to Millhall pit and asked the manager for work.

'He said, "Right, get your pit clothes and you can start." So I cycled back to get my clothes and came to the pit.'

'The distance? Oh, it was about 30 miles home and 30 miles back again.'

When John settled in Fallin he became a top man—a contractor with his own team of three men.

'But it was a hard system. They broke me down from 3½d a ton to 1½d a ton. Sometimes we had to shift 2,000 tons a week.'

John was a small contractor and shared the money out fairly with his men. But other big contractors would employ armies of miners and pay them a wage but no one knew how much they were getting of the old Polmaise coal masters, Archibald Russell and Sons.

The old men are a living link with these early days of struggle and hardship. They were the people who built the labour movement and eventually realized the great goal of nationalization.

Terry McMeel, the secretary of



The Polmaise strike committee. In the background the Ochill Hills that look down on the little Stirlingshire mining community of Fallin.

the local NUM branch, remembers the day.

'They got the flag up with some slogan about the mine belonging to the people. The colliery manager didn't like this so he came along and took it down. He put one up with safety slogan across it, but the union wouldn't stand for it and the original flag went up again.'

'But really the miners did not get a great deal from nationalization. Ownership didn't really change. It was the same team with different judges, as they say. "People don't realize how much money the board pays away in interests on old compensation debts—it's our money and the taxpayers' money, but no one ever questions it. At the same time they get rid of 300,000 miners. Not profitable, they say. Well, last year we made £34m profit, but the debt charges brought this down to half a million.'

### Angry

Mr McMeel—who fought in the movement all his life—is saddened and angry with the Labour Party.

'They are like the TUC. They sold us down the river. The only genuine people we have got left in the party are the miners' MPs. The rest are working for themselves. You need a degree to get anywhere in the party now. The whole thing is drifting away from the working man.'

They are in for a battle with the Tories. They want them out and they want them out with a General Strike if necessary.

Says James: 'Something is wrong when we are still striking for wages like my father did. The trouble is that the Labour Party didn't deal with those big money boys. We have to get hold of those men in the city of London and on the Stock exchange. They pull all the strings.'

Willy: 'The Labour Party—that's just a bunch of liberal reformists. How the hell are we going to change that?'

James: 'We have the leadership...'

Willy: 'We have to change the leadership.'

John: 'But how?'

### Stakes

There's a pause in the discussion. Then they all laugh.

John McCormack gets up and leads the team out of the office. They're off to Dumfermline for a big rally. Next day they'll be out guarding Kircardine. They pile into the van and speed away from Fallin.

From the time Jimmy Selkirk's aunt tried to escape from master Elphinstone as a little girl, to the strike of 1972, the Miners have fought. But for miners like John, Willy and James—whether they know it or not—the stakes this time are higher than they've ever been.

## LATIN AMERICAN ROUND-UP

### Uruguay Hard hit

THE ECONOMIC crisis is hitting Uruguay hard, and the government of Pacheco Areco, re-elected last November, faces a year of inflation, unemployment and strikes.

The cost-of-living rose by 35.6 per cent last year and economists of the University of Montevideo's Institute of Economics estimate that the rise in 1972 could be as much as 60 per cent.

Inflation was kept in check before the elections, but only at the price of an overvalued currency which disorganized foreign trade. Now that the peso has been devalued inflation is going on at about 5 per cent per month.

The Uruguayan economy depends heavily on exports of animal products, chiefly meat and wool. It has only been kept going in recent years, by borrowing from abroad, which has hoisted the foreign debt to around \$800m. This is a great deal for a small country of only 2.8 million people.

Unless means can be found of meeting interest and other payments on this debt, Uruguay will not be able to borrow the additional sums which are necessary to keep the economy going. The peso and dollar devaluations have not eased this burden. Debts expiring this year add up to \$285m.

In the parallel market the peso is now down to 700 to the dollar. Imports have now greatly increased in peso terms, adding fuel to the inflation. Beef export-

ers have been smuggling cattle into Brazil and Argentina on a large scale and there has been an acute shortage of meat on the home market.

Big ranchers who control the cattle industry have got higher prices by smuggling their stock into neighbouring countries rather than by sales to the nationalized meat-packing industry. The result is that this industry has been making losses and many workers have lost their jobs.

Although the government has now issued a decree against cattle smuggling, the army and the police, who are supposed to enforce the law, are themselves deeply implicated in the traffic. Not so long ago the Minister of Cattle and Agriculture indignantly denied that any smuggling was taking place.

The cattle-smuggling story is one aspect of the general deterioration taking place in Uruguayan society. While the big land-owners and banks—and their accomplices in the government—are getting rich, the mass of the people face a steeply rising cost-of-living and severe shortages of meat, which is a staple of the diet in this cattle-raising country.

Workers in meat-packing and other industries are beginning to fight back against the Pacheco Areco government. The Tupamaros guerrillas are once again in business. The coming year threatens to be one of the most turbulent in Uruguayan history.



### Settling for discipline

CUBA'S drive against vagrancy has resulted in the incorporation of 100,000 people into the labour force who formerly had no settled jobs. Agriculture received 43 per cent, industry 15, construction 13 and the rest are working in public health, education and other key services.

The new workers are placed under the surveillance of the 'workers' collective'. Other attempts are being made to tighten up work discipline, notably by the reduction of absenteeism.

The Minister of Basic Industry claimed an 18-per-cent increase in output for 1971 and a 10 per cent increase over the previous record. He stressed that a good deal of the increase had come through higher labour productivity and insistence on work norms.

Locked in contradiction arising from its isolation, the Castro regime is obliged to put pressure on the working class to work harder by an all-round attack on slackness, absenteeism and loose labour discipline.

### Guerrillas Mexico style

POLICE and troops in a number of Mexican cities have been making a concerted attempt to smash urban guerrilla groups which have carried out a series of daring coups.

Seven people have been shot by the police in recent swoops; their own casualties have not been revealed. One student and two police were killed in a raid on a house in Monterey; six others were wounded and 15 arrested.

Much recent guerrilla activity has consisted of raids on banks in the course of which police have shot a number of raiders. Another objective is the kidnapping of wealthy people for ransom money.

The guerrilla leaders are mainly university students and intellectuals. There are rural commandos which try to win support from the peasantry. The influence of Che Guevara is very apparent in the guerrilla organizations which have a vague programme for the overthrow of the oligarchy and the setting up of a broad popular-front, coalition government.

Like all movements of this kind, the Mexican guerrillas substitute themselves for the mass movement and seek a short-cut to the overthrow of imperialism and its local hirelings.

Heroic and desperate actions, which only lead to fruitless loss of lives, are no substitute for the patient work of building revolutionary parties as part of the Fourth International.



### Banzer in the balance

COL BANZER'S Bolivian government is trying to bring about a fusion of the two parties which participated in the military coup last August and established one-party rule.

Many issues divide the openly fascist Falange from the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement of former President Paz Estenssoro and it is unlikely that this project will succeed.

Recent army changes suggest that there is dissension among those who engineered the military coup which brought Banzer to power.

Repressive measures have been stepped up following the break-up of an anti-government group in a La Paz mental clinic and the arrest of nine doctors and four other staff.

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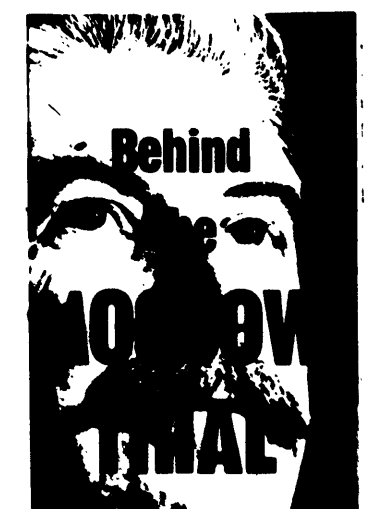
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# Renault workers in the front line

## INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

**T O U G H** bargaining is expected over a new contract covering workers in France's nationalized Renault plants which employ over 90,000 people.

Renault workers are traditionally in the vanguard of big class actions, as was shown in May 1968 and in the hard-fought strike last spring.

Rapidly rising prices and constant efforts by the management to step up production while reducing the number employed are causing strong pressure for a substantial wage increase.

The unions have begun to negotiate on the basis of a monthly minimum wage for the lower-paid workers with additional fringe benefits.

### Slump

Management resistance to even these demands is likely to be tough in view of the increasing competition in the car market and the slump which is affecting tractors and trucks. For the first time for some years there has been a slight decrease in the number of workers employed by Renault.

At the Le Mans factory, which makes farm machinery, 300 workers have recently been retired prematurely at 60 years of age.

Although the lower-paid workers made some gains as a result of their last strike, the management is now digging its heels in and opposing further concessions and saying quite plainly that the limit has been reached.

### FRANCE



Renault workers during 1971 occupation.

Any attempt at a compromise by the unions will be opposed by the workers, especially at the giant Paris factory at Boulogne-Billancourt where the Stalinist-controlled CGI union is dominant.

public sector, notably the railways and gas and electricity, where new contracts have also to be negotiated. The management is using delaying tactics and trying to postpone the conclusion of a new agreement.

### Delaying

Rampant inflation and rising unemployment means that French workers will have to fight hard in 1972 to defend their standard of living and past gains.

Wage claims are also being made by other workers in the

The railwaymen's unions are demanding a holiday bonus and a reduction in the hours of work, issues behind the big strike in June last year.

Workers in other industries and public services will be closely watching what happens at Renault and on the railways and a new round of big struggles is on the agenda.



German strike banner reads 'If we didn't have unions we would be living in the stone age'

### EUROPE SURVEY

## Counting the jobless toll

**U N E M P L O Y - M E N T** now standing in Britain at 1,023,583, is growing rapidly in W Europe.

The impact of economic crisis, the break-down of the post-war monetary system and the declining level of industrial production are taking their toll throughout the capitalist world.

A survey of seven key countries by Reuter's economic services shows a total of about 3 million people registered as out of work.

And that means a real total significantly higher, in view of acknowledged gaps in some official reporting systems.

Registered unemployment in the seven countries has risen by more than 10 per cent to a total of some 2,999,000 since a similar Reuter's survey at the end of November, when 2,702,000 were listed.

The picture includes a continuing drop in the number of foreign workers in W Germany and Switzerland — cushioning the domestic effects of the rising tide of unemployment — while France has introduced tighter controls on foreign labour.

At the same time, several W European stock markets reflect investor caution, as potential share-buyers are influenced by fears of recession.

**ROME**—Some 1,113,000 Italians were registered as looking for jobs at the end of October, and officials say the total did not change significantly by the end of the year. But this figure does not cover substantial numbers of unregistered jobless in S Italy—amounting, according to some estimates, to at least another 1,500,000.

**PARIS**—Financial experts expect official figures for December unemployment to top 400,000. But French officials acknowledge that the reporting system used means the announced figures come out 30 to 50 per cent lower than the real total. An independent survey has forecast a French total of 600,000 by the end of 1972.

**BONN** — The Federal Labour Office this month reported a 30-



Italian and Greek signs outside Bosch's Stuttgart factory during the metal workers' strike in November last year.

per-cent jump in unemployment to 269,800 in December, from 208,000 in November.

The December figure still represents only 1.2 per cent of the labour force—not a dramatic figure by comparison with some other countries. But total hours worked per employee are also expected to fall. The Federal Labour Office forecast an average of about 300,000 jobless over the first half of 1972.

**AMSTERDAM**—The number of jobless in the Netherlands rose to 115,000 in December from an end-of-November total of 69,000. Stock market circles think the picture is likely to worsen.

**BRUSSELS**—Unemployment climbed to 77,900 in November from 70,000 in October. An Employment Ministry spokesman said the number of jobless was

gradually rising and predicted a slightly higher rate of increase in the coming months. The outlook depends to a considerable extent on trends in Belgium's Common Market neighbours.

**LONDON**—Thursday's announcement that 1,023,583 people were out of work as of January 10 sent the jobless total over the million mark for the first time in 25 years.

**ZURICH**—Unemployment is traditionally minimal in Switzerland by international standards with the number usually listed at between 50 and 130. But reports are appearing of a few small firms dismissing 10 or 20 workers at a time, and some financial sources say this could be taken as the beginning of an expected cooling of the economy.

## Looking for a way in

### JAPAN

**I N T H E** wake of the Group of Ten agreement on dollar devaluation, Japanese business is preparing to do battle in the markets of the world.

Refusing to make big concessions to US Treasury Secretary John Connally's pressure, the Japanese are now working with tense determination to render inoperative all the US attempts to curtail their exports and restrict their bargaining power.

First of all, Japanese business has no intention of reducing its drive to increase sales in the American market, which reached \$7,500m last year. While revaluation will make it impossible to sell some lines in the States except at a loss, Japanese cars, motor bikes, sewing machines and cameras are expected to be as competitive as ever.

So exporters will concentrate on these items. High US costs are still likely to keep down the level of exports to Japan, despite tariff and other concessions, which will be delayed for as long as possible in any case.

On the hotly disputed question of access for foreign, and especially US capital investment in industry, few, if any, concessions are likely to be made. Business is determined to remain master in its own house and not to permit foreign control of substantial sectors of industry.

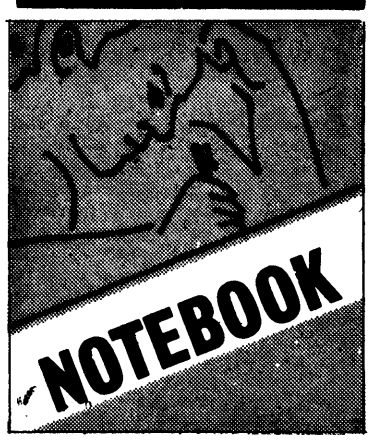
So, although more US capital may be allowed in, Japan will try to prevent it rising as a proportion of total capital invested.

The businessmen hope that any losses suffered by their exports in the US market can be compensated for by increasing sales in Europe. Activities of Japanese banks will be extended, as will direct investment.

In Britain and Europe, Japanese products have become increasingly competitive in the past year or two. Car sales are rising, although still not large in absolute terms. Radios, TVs and cameras have been doing well, boosting exports to Britain by 48 per cent in the first ten months of 1971.

Japan is gearing up for action inside the Common Market by finding ways round trade restrictions. More factories and banks are likely to set up within the EEC following those already established in recent years.

Japanese capitalism has been warned by the slump and the international monetary crisis that it must fight hard to hang onto its gains. Government policy is closely co-ordinated with business in waging trade war in the most ruthless and effective manner. While speaking softly about concessions and liberalization, the Japanese are going all out to push back their European and American rivals.



### Boom boob

**W I T H T H E** highest unemployment for more than 30 years, production dropping, investment declining, what does the 'Scotsman' make of the economic situation?

One of their financial wizards, Brian Donaghy, produced this gem last Wednesday.

'The boom begins. Britain is now firmly, and officially, on the path to an economic boom.'

Thank you Mr Donaghy—and good night!

### He's no pansy

**A N O T H E R** piece of Australiana has reached our desk. It appears that the recently knighted premier of New South Wales, Robin Askin, has just had his name changed by deed poll.

Askin, a terrible Tory, decided that he did not want to be known as 'Sir Robin Askin'. He apparently feels the name 'Robin' is too pansyish for an Aussie, muscle-bound, bronzed he-man premier.

He's altered it to 'Robert'.

### Dodgy US aid

**T H E A G E N C Y** for International Development (AID) is a key department in the US Administration.

It is responsible for dispensing with many millions of dollars to underdeveloped countries. On the advice of AID officials, millions are spent on projects which help the ruling élites of various banana republics and military dictatorships.

Some of the so-called aid has a distinctly dodgy flavour. Take a recent hand-out to the Dominican Republic. After checking through the records, Senator Clifford Case has found \$126,422 loaned to a privately-owned hotel near the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo.

The hotel owners spent the money on providing a swimming pool filter system, a diving board, underwater lighting, an extensive restaurant, swivel bar stools, toasters, griddles, electric kettles and hot plates, a frankfurter warmer and a dry-cleaning press.

Case said: 'Barring some extraordinary explanation, this is a shocking misuse of the AID programme.'

Were the AID people unhorsed by these amazing revelations?

Not at all. A spokesman explained that the money was a perfectly legitimate loan. The republic needed to boost tourism, he said, so money had to be spent on hotels.

### Japanese attack on Saigon

**W H E N** it comes to making a fast buck—or in this case, a fast yen—the Japanese capitalists are the greatest.

Take war-shattered Saigon. Who do you think is pouring in massive investment capital in the wake of the so-called US withdrawal. Ever-anxious for enlarging its markets in SE Asia, Japan is quietly moving in.

Four Japanese companies, including such giants as Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Kubota, are either operating or building joint venture concerns to produce agricultural machinery. Matsushita Electric Industries, Sony and Sanyo Electric are making radio and television sets. Not that making profits in Vietnam is anything new to these greats. The Japanese capitalists have prospered throughout the war through export of consumer goods (nearly every-one rides a Honda) and through sales to US servicemen.

### Red letter

**A T E L E G R A M** supporting the miners arrived the other day from Soviet coal miners.

But instead of reaching Lawrence Daly in person, it was addressed to 'Comrade Euston Road'. Meanwhile, when are the Polish miners going to send their telegram of support?

# US Round-up

## 'The President does not want to be evenhanded'

**S H A R P** DIFFERENCES within the Nixon Administration during the Indo-Pakistan war are shown by newly published secret documents released by columnist Jack Anderson.

Nixon and his leading adviser, Henry Kissinger, strongly supported the Yahya Khan regime in Pakistan and wanted to prevent an Indian victory. They claimed that the Indians intended to invade W Pakistan and force it to submit.

This view was opposed by David Packard, who was then deputy Secretary of Defence, as well as by Joseph Sisco, the assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and S Asian Affairs, and the US ambassador in New Delhi, Kenneth Keating.

Packard later resigned for 'personal reasons'. The text of a memorandum on a National Security Council meeting marked SECRET/SENSITIVE shows that it discussed the Indo-Pakistan war in detail. Held on December 8, top government members and army chiefs were told that Pakistan could only hold out for 48 to 72 hours.

### Regrets

Kissinger told the meeting that Nixon had halted all aid to India and wanted to know whether the government could take over all work being done for India by US contractors.

It was Kissinger, on behalf of Nixon, who led the discussion, making it clear that the administration wanted to go as far as it could in supporting Pakistan. He regretted that arms supplies had been cut in the past.

Packard took a different view. He feared that it was too late for the US government to do anything effective and that it was best not to get involved.

Summarizing Nixon's views,



Kissinger: Strong supporter of the Khan regime.

Kissinger said: 'We are not trying to be evenhanded. There can be no doubt what the President wants to be evenhanded. The President believes that India is the attacker. We are trying to get across the idea that India has jeopardized relations with the United States.'

Soviet satellite merely because of pique.

The leak of top security material is highly embarrassing to the White House which now claims to have located its source.

The Presidential press secretary, claiming this, said that steps had been taken to prevent it happening again and hinted that strong action would be taken against those responsible.



Mrs Gandhi: 'The Lady is tough'



# YOUNG MINERS SPEAK OUT

## WE DON'T WANT AN INQUIRY

YOU could say William Baillie went down the mines by mistake. His mother was applying for a job with the NCB and she took him along with her. The recruiting officer spotted William and signed him on as an apprentice electrician.

He does not regret the decision. He agrees the pay in the industry is bad and the conditions even worse, but the comradeship and solidarity forged below the surface is worth more than money to William Baillie.

At 21 he is the craftsmen's youth delegate at Moncktonhall and he says it's the union, and his dedication to the union, that keeps him going.

After serving his time he is one of the highest paid in the pit—his wage packet for a week at the face is £30.

'But this is an atrocious wage considering the conditions we work in,' he told me.

is how much support we get from other unions.'

'I would like to see the Tories got rid of—I think most working men would. But whether it will come or not is another matter. I think if all the coal could stop moving and if the power stations shut down we could win our battle.

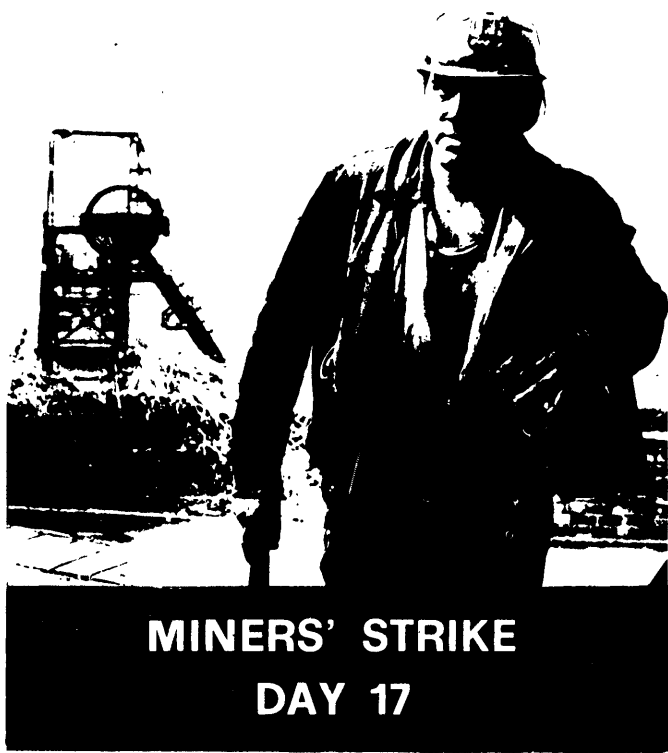
'But if the government tried to put troops in, like they did the last time, this would mean an immediate General Strike.'

Like most Moncktonhall men he has an answer to the

rumours about the possibility of an 'independent' inquiry into the claim—'NOT ON.'

'I think we are all too wise now after the post-office workers' struggle. They had an "independent inquiry" and they were completely defeated.

'But I think the policy of one union after the other going on strike is stupid. We know we are fighting the government policy now—can anyone deny it? So why do our leaders keep marching us out one at a time to be picked off one by one?'



MINERS' STRIKE DAY 17

## We want a real socialist govt

DAVE MASON, a young Doncaster miner, married with two children, talks to Workers Press about why he wants to see a Labour government back and his support for the Young Socialists 'Right-to-Work' marches in February and March.

'This strike is a big deciding point between miners and the rest of the country. That's why the strike is so solid. Another reason is the insulating "pocket-money" offer we got,' said Dave, face-worker at Brodsworth pit.

'The Tory government aren't give in to the miners because millions of other workers are waiting to follow us. There can be no give so it must come to another 1926.

'If miners fall now, the NUM might as well dissolve—all we'll be getting is titbits and be treated like slaves.

'Let's have a Labour government—they're supposed to be for the working man. I saw on TV that they were all shouting "Heath out" in parliament.

'Every worker knows all about this Tory government. It's a capitalist government, that's why it's made one million unemployed. In that way it saves wages and gets more production out of each man.'

Workers Press asked Dave what he thought the problems were in mobilizing workers to force the Tory government to resign.

'Everything you feel or touch is made by the working man, so all workers have the same interest.

'But our leaders seem to prevent us from fighting. Why doesn't the TUC call out all trade unionists in support of the miners?'

'Union leaders always complain about the Tories. But they earn a lot of money, far more than us, so they must have different interests from us.

'I think we need fresh leaders for the working man. They should only carry out the wishes of workers. This union is the men, not the leaders. We can make what we want of it,' said Dave.

'The union leaders have had too much say in the past. The rank and file should say what goes on.

'The rest of the working class won't come out until they see it's in their interest to do so. That's the problem.

'These talks they're having will get nowhere. They are a waste of time and money. We will have to force an election on the Tory government. It is a capitalist government run by parasites.'

What would the next Labour government have to do to restore the right to work? Would it be different from its last term of office?'

'The miners have always been far too loyal towards a Labour government. We've given them more than they gave us. In a sense we've been taken for a ride.

'The first thing it has to do is to stop paying royalties to the old mine owners. That's where a lot of the money is going.

'The only way I can see men getting their jobs back is if Labour nationalizes all the big industries that are making profits. Then we could end the dole queue.

'The next Labour government has to be a real socialist government. It should give us the pits. The unions, the miners, should run the collieries.'

We told Dave about the Young Socialists' plans for the 'Right-to-Work' marches in London, calling for the resignation of the Tories.

'I'd like to join that if I'm still on strike. Put me down for it, definitely,' he replied.



## AUDREY FEEDS THE PICKETS

WHENEVER her husband is called out, Mrs Audrey Harris goes to the picket line with him.

'I bring the men some hot pies,' she told me, pointing to a bundle of silver foil warming near an open brazier. 'Somebody's got to look after them.'

Mother of two, Mrs Harris joins the Celyn South pit, near Risca, S Wales, picket line every night or day for four hours.

'I support the men,' she told me. 'They deserve every penny they get.'

'There's lots of things my children can't have. Fruit's too dear and butter's a luxury. My boy had to go to school in training shoes this week because the shoes he had Christmas wore out and we can't afford any more yet.'

'If the Tories can afford to pay themselves, they should pay us,' she told me, surrounded by a dozen miners picketing oil tankers

taking fuel into Rogerstone power station.

'The Tories should get out. They've been shown often enough they're not wanted. Everybody should support the miners. Certainly there should be a General Strike.'

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## Dust

The height of the face varies between four and five feet and William has to work between power supports spaced 2ft 6ins apart. Before he can start, the thick layer of muck must be dug away from the machinery he services.

Then there is the killer dust: It's not the dust that you can see that's the trouble, but the dust that you can't see—this is the stuff that really eats into your lungs,' he says.

When he comes to the surface after a shift he spits black for two hours.

Does it worry him? 'No I'm too young to worry,' he laughs.

His father was a miner, but had to leave the pit when both his legs were injured in an accident.

But Willy himself is a stickler for safety and will stop a machine if he thinks the men using it are in the slightest danger. The colliery management don't like this—time is money.

He thinks the strike is going well.

## Militant

'We have a good chance because all the workers are behind us. I think every working man in Britain is ready to support our strike. Even at this stage we have more support than I first thought we'd get—more support anyway than the postal workers got, which shows how much more militant people are now.'

'But I don't think this public support will worry Ted Heath—what will worry him

# FREDDIE'S WORKING WEEK— ALL FOR £14

A QUESTION MARK hangs over the future of every young miner. They all know that if the pits remain under the old order their future is bleak—one of redundancy, low wages, bad conditions and eventual disease.

In Scotland's Moncktonhall colliery—where 1,750 miners dig out over a million tons of coal each year—the young miner can observe an old collier who can hardly bend down without collapsing for lack of breath.

They watch and they wonder—will that be me in 40 years' time?

Their answer is a decisive 'No!' And the youth in the pits—lads like William Baillie and Freddie Meachin interviewed below—are right in front of this latest miners' strike to ensure that the future in the mines will be long to the men who dig out the coal.

This is how Freddie's

working day went before the strike.

At 4.45 am out of bed. First 5.10 am bus to Edinburgh. Another bus out of the city to catch the pit bus. Arrive Moncktonhall, 6.20, still in the inky morning dark.

Get self-rescue kit (safe against carbon monoxide, not safe against methane gas or a vacuum).

Travel in cage to pit bottom. Get picked out by a deputy and sent to section. Walk one, maybe two, miles to section.

Start laying down stone dust: 'They say it's not dangerous but I keep coughing. It's a menial job, anyone can do it.'

Work until 10 am. Have your 'piece' and water (now luke-warm because of the heat). Start work again until end of shift.

Go up to surface. Get into

fresh air and begin coughing your lungs up. (You get most of the big dusts out but it's the small stuff that counts, below 0.05 microns these particles do the most damage.)

Go to pit baths. Try to get fifth out of hair, ears, nose, etc. Notice older men. ('The ones with dust disease—you can tell them straight off—they're buggered when they bend down, and their chests are sort of crumpled-in-')

Go to canteen. Buy half a pint of milk. Drink quickly to get rid of burning sensation in throat. Get bus home.

Repeat five times a week—result £17.90, take-home pay £13 to £14. Repeat 40 years—end up in hospital with lungs that can't breathe.

You will understand that Freddie Meachin (20), is not keen on working down the pit.

But he had to. 'I came off the trawlers

and was five months idle so I went down the pit.

'It was bad at sea, but I have never worked under conditions like I do now. It's hellish. The dirt, the noise, the dust, plus the fact that you are gasping in warm, stale air, make it hell. It's difficult to describe to a man who works on the top. How the miners have stood it I will never know.'

The race for productivity in a modern mine is fierce. If the endless belt carrying the coal stops for a second the deputies are screaming—'Get that belt going, what's going on.'

They tell young miners like Freddie that an idle minute costs £5. Often shots are fired along a coal face while further down the machines are still ripping out the coal. In some pits deputies ignore elementary safety rules to keep production satisfied.

Freddie has seen it all. It makes him a very, very militant miner.

'We must get the backing of the TUC in this one. This is the only way to victory. Sympathy is very nice, but what we want is concrete action from the union leaders. Their members would follow, they have already shown that by the way they have backed us on the picket lines.'

In Scotland the miners are led by Mick McGahey—a Communist Party member.

'Now McGahey is saying he is against any move by the national executive to compromise. But he said this last year.

'Miners don't forget that he brought them out last year and then got them back for nothing.

'But the official leaders will not be able to control this strike. They have made a very serious mistake if they think this.'

The miners have been defeated all the time. This leads to bad attitudes, but it also is a benefit. It means they watch their leaders.'

# Huge deficit but arms spending up

A RECORD budget with massively increased arms spending and a huge deficit was presented to the American Congress by President Nixon yesterday.

He slashed foreign aid, but announced an increase in military aid to 'friendly countries' in SE Asia.

Nixon's election-year, 'strong-medicine' treatment for US economy means the largest deficit piled up during a single four-year term since World War II.

It predicts a \$38,800m (£14,920m) deficit for the current financial year and a total shortfall of \$89,300m (£34,350m) during the first three years of the presidency.

And with an unemployment rate of 6.1 per cent, the White House predicts a deficit of \$25,500m (£9,810m) for the 1972-1973 financial year.

Nixon announced in advance of the budget publication that defence spending would rise next year, despite a 'scaling down' of the Vietnam war.

He asked for an extra \$2,000m (£768m) to expand the US nuclear missile submarine fleet. Defence spending, he said, would take 32 per cent of the total federal budget.

There is to be a sharp cut back in funds for developing natural resources and improving environment. Space research and technology spending, which suffered deep cuts this year, will remain the same although the US Space Agency yesterday abandoned its planned 'grand tour' of the outer planets.

Nixon proposed fresh cuts in non-military foreign aid to 'developing countries'. He put no overall tag on his foreign aid programme, stressing its importance as an instrument of foreign policy.

But while purely non-military aid is down, there is an increase in so-called economic supporting assistance, which goes to 'friendly countries' with especially high defence budgets.

This totals about \$800m (£300m), with most of it going to SE Asian countries—S. Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia.

With this added to foreign aid, the total is \$3,200m (£1,200m).

The biggest cut in the aid programme is in 'Food for Peace'—pickets which the US donates or sells foodstuffs cheaply to under-developed countries.

There is also an overall reduction in development assistance, through cuts in bilateral aid.

Nixon asked Congress to authorize him to enter national defence commitments totalling \$85,363m (£32,832m). The budget emphasized research and development of sophisticated new weapons.

Among these are an advanced nuclear submarine force that will fire missiles as far as 6,000 miles, nearly double the present missile range.

Meanwhile the US Space Agency has been forced to drop a project to build a big nuclear rocket for a journey to Mars.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said it intended to avoid the dramatic peaks in spending associated with the Apollo programme.

KRAFT workers who have entered the tenth week of their strike against victimization at Kirkby, Lancs, have made the magnificent gesture of donating £20 to the Young Socialists' 'Right-to-Work' campaign.

The 180 strikers have been fighting a determined battle against the Kraft company with little or no support from their trade union officials.

Throughout the strike the men have been refused strike pay.

The men also promised to contribute more money to the YS campaign when they win the fight to get their jobs back.

BHUTTO VISIT

PAKISTAN has decided to break off relations with Yugoslavia following Tito's decision to recognize Bangla Desh, formerly E Pakistan.

W Pakistan president, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto left Karachi yesterday for a two-day visit to Turkey. He will also go to some other Middle East and African capitals before returning home.

## Nationalities discussion at Yugoslav conference

THE LEAGUE of Communists of Yugoslavia will discuss the 'nationalist problem' when its second conference opens in Belgrade today.

It follows conferences of the League of Communists of all Yugoslavia's five regions—Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia.

A report to the Croatian League's Central Committee last week reveals that up to January 15 this year 398 League officials had been dismissed or resigned from their posts following President Tito's purge of right-wing nationalist elements.

Another 357 Croatian League members were expelled in the same period and a further 25 left of their own accord, bringing the total to almost 800.

Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Trade Muhamed Hadzic has announced that the essence of Yugoslavia's whole economic policy is to assure the dinar complete convertibility.

Present restrictions on imports—involving 40 per cent—will be gradually eliminated until there is a complete liberalization in foreign trade.

These trade measures can only exacerbate the nationalist crisis and strengthen tendencies towards the restoration of capitalism, already rampant in Croatia.

Foreign capitalists will be able to operate in Yugoslavia on a similar basis to any capitalist country. This poses a threat to the nationalized property relations.

'Hitler Marcos'

SOME 5,000 Filipino youths exploded 11 petrol bombs in front of the Education Department building in Manila yesterday in a mass demonstration outside Congress.

Earlier they jeered 'Hitler Marcos' as President Fernando Marcos entered the bullet and bomb proof Congress building for his state-of-the-nation speech.

He outlined a programme of 'suppression of subversive activities and the checking of crimes'.

The Philippines, he added, was embarking on a worldwide rapprochement with 'socialist countries'—two weeks ago relations were opened with Yugoslavia and Rumania.

## Kraft strikers donate to 'Right-to-Work' campaign

Support has also come in from numerous Coventry engineering union branches—49, 59, 73, 74 and 45—who have all donated to the campaign fund.

And Ron Doughty, convener of Herbert-BSA, the machine tool firm which has had enormous redundancies in the last year, promised a delegation of unemployed youth to support the march.

He will also raise the campaign at the next shop stewards' committee meeting.

Erith AUEW district committee has voted to support the campaign and individual committee members have pledged financial support.

Also in Erith, the Sovex engineering firm's stewards committee voted to donate £10 to the 'Right to Work' and to raise collections.

DAGENHAM: Wednesday January 26, 8 p.m. Trades Hall, 24 Adelphi. The 'Right-to-Work' campaign.

LUTON: Thursday January 27, 8 p.m. Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Rd, Luton. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.

N LONDON: (Please note change of date.) Thursday January 27, 8 p.m. Town

SW LONDON: Tuesday February 1, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4. 'The General Strike'.

W LONDON: Tuesday February 1, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Rd, off York Way, King's Cross. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.

CROYDON: Thursday February 3, 8 p.m. Ruskin Hse, Coombe Rd. 'Stalinism and Trotskysim'.

Socialist Labour League  
Special course of lectures  
In line with the decision of the ATUA November 6 conference to build the revolutionary party.

Lecture Room 1  
Digbeth Hall, Digbeth  
BIRMINGHAM, 8 p.m.  
TUESDAY JANUARY 25  
Economics and Politics  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 1  
Historical Materialism today  
Mid-Hall  
Woodsie Hall, St George's Cross  
GLASGOW, 3 p.m.  
SUNDAY JANUARY 30  
Economics and Politics  
given by  
G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

## Berrigan brothers go on trial

THE HARRISBURG Seven, leaders of the anti-war Catholic left, went on trial in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, yesterday on conspiracy charges, involving an alleged plot to kidnap Presidential adviser Dr Henry Kissinger and blow up government buildings.

Selection of a jury to try the Rev Philip Berrigan (49), and six co-defendants is expected to take at least a week and some court observers predict the trial will take several months.

Strict security is in force and authorities said only 80 people—all carefully screened—will be admitted to the Federal building courtroom.

At a rally in a church, John Glick, who was indicted with the seven, but whose case has been separated, said the trial would be used by the anti-war forces to revitalize the peace movement.

The government is expected to base much of its case on letters between Father Berrigan, serving a prison term for destroying draft records in 1968, and Sister Elizabeth McAlister, (32), an art history teacher at Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York.

Father Berrigan's brother, the Rev Daniel Berrigan, who was in the same prison on the same charges, was named as a co-conspirator in the case, but was not indicted.

The government claims the letters outlined a plot to kidnap Kissinger, President Nixon's security adviser, and hold him until the bombing in Vietnam was ended and political prisoners were freed.

It also claims they planned to set off bombs in the utility tunnels linking Federal buildings in Washington.

Defence lawyers, who include former Attorney-General Ramsey Clark, have called the letters nothing more than 'revolutionary rhetoric'.

Other defendants are: The Rev Neil McLaughlin (30), and the Rev Joseph Wenderoth, two Baltimore priests.

Anthony and Mary Scoblick, a former priest and a former nun, now married, and Egal Ahmad (40), a Pakistani student.

If convicted, all could face a maximum of five years in prison.

## LATE NEWS

NEWS DESK  
01-720 2000  
CIRCULATION  
01-622 7029

## RHODESIA

FOREIGN SECRETARY Sir Alec Douglas-Home said yesterday the Pearce Commission had the government's full authority to carry on as long as they wished in Rhodesia.

## MINERS' ATUA MEETINGS

DEAL: Tuesday January 25, 1 p.m. The Yew Tree, Mill Hill.

## LEEDS: Tuesday January 25, 7.30 p.m. Quarry Hill Flats Community Centre.

OLLERTON: Thursday, January 27, 8 p.m. 'The Angel', Forrest Rd, Ollerton, Notts.

NUNEATON: Thursday, January 27, 8 p.m. 'The Angel', Atherstone, near Nuneaton.

COVENTRY: Sunday, January 31, 11 am. 'Golden Eagle', 11, Hatt Rd, Keresley.

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## WEATHER

APART from a few scattered showers in W coastal areas, most parts will start dry and bright. There will be frost in many places at first and some icy roads.

W districts will become dry during the morning with rain spreading in from the W by midday.

Somewhat clearer weather with scattered showers will spread into N Ireland and W Scotland during the evening.

E districts will remain dry for much of the day, but rain will spread to all parts before midnight.