

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1972 ● No 684 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

EMERGENCY DECLARED POWER LEADERS RETREAT

TORIES OUT TO SMASH MINERS

BY ALEX MITCHELL

BY ACCEPTING a 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent pay deal, the leaders of Britain's power workers have deserted the miners and agreed to wage-cutting.

The pay settlement, in line with the Tory 'norm', nowhere near compensates for the 15 per cent increase in food prices alone since the Heath government took power.

Power workers and their families are today at least 7 per cent worse off because of the settlement.

Leaders of the 115,000-strong power supply workers were strategically and powerfully placed to burst the Tories' wage-cutting policy. With the proverbial flick of a switch they could have joined the miners in creating a major fuel and power crisis to force the Tories to a General Election.

After five months of fruitless negotiation and endless threats of overtime bans which never materialized, the leaders accepted what amounted to the original offer.

Voting to accept the Electricity Council's miserable offer was split down the middle—six votes to six. Two negotiators from the electricians' unions and four from the right-wing General and Municipal Workers' Union were in favour of acceptance, while one electrical delegate, three from the transport union and two from the engineers were against. The casting vote of Frank Chapple, the electricians' leader and a former Communist Party member, succeeded in having the offer accepted.

Chapple showed his fear of the tide of militancy and solidarity with the miners when he told pressmen on Monday night that there may be some unofficial action in power stations. 'In some cases we won't be able to get the message across,' he said.

With the power workers off the wages agenda, the Tories can now unleash an all-out fight against the miners. The first step will be the declaration of a state of emergency.

Yesterday the cabinet's Emergency Committee met under the chairmanship of Reginald Maudling to discuss regulations under the declaration.

Employment Secretary Robert Carr will see both sides separately today to explain the latest measures.

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settlement. In a major editorial yesterday the 'Daily Telegraph', the voice of the Tory Party, called for troops to be used to break picket lines.

The 'Telegraph' says: 'The government, quite plainly, cannot simply stand aside while the situation continues to deteriorate; the time may now have come to resort to emergency powers in order to maintain vital supplies and services.'

'If the government takes emergency powers, troops and military vehicles could be used...'

The Tory press campaign for troops in the coalfields makes the possibility of a major national stoppage in Britain more on the cards.

RIGHT-TO-WORK CAMPAIGN THE ANSWER TO HEATH

EDWARD HEATH'S statement to the Overseas Bankers' Club that 'firms are not going simply to re-engage all those who have been made redundant' is a reaffirmation of the Tory government's determination to make the working class suffer for the crisis of capitalism. (For full report of the speech, see p 12.)

Cowardly retreats by the trade union leaders—like the settlement of the power workers' claim—only strengthen the Tories' resolve to press ahead.

The trade union leaders are abdicating their responsibility to lead the working class.

This makes the success of the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work campaign more important than ever. All over the country support for the campaign has come pouring in—proving once more that it is only the crisis of leadership in the working class that enables capitalism to continue.

THE CAMPAIGN has received a tremendous boost with the announcement of organized support at NOTTINGHAM.

The district committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union has voted support and also set up a sub-committee to handle all arrangements for the marchers in the Nottingham area.

The district committee has

voted £20 to the sub-committee to carry out its organizational tasks.

Meanwhile the shop stewards at one of the largest nearby plants, Plessey's Beeston factory, have agreed to support the march.

The shop stewards will carry out a collection in the factory, send a delegation to meet the marchers and send a further delegation of ten to the March 12 Wembley Pool Rally.

THE OTHER major news of support comes from the shop stewards committee at Rolls-Royce Ansty, COVENTRY. The shop stewards have unanimously decided to back the campaign. It is hoped that in conjunction with the Rolls-Royce Parkside factory enough money will be raised to provide food for the marchers when they arrive in Coventry on March 2.

OTHER Midlands support has come from Nos 2 and 6 branches of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers at LEAMINGTON SPA.

Both branches are donating £5 and are asking the local trades council to provide accommodation. The Leamington Spa No 9 AUEW is also supporting the march.

SEE RIGHT-TO-WORK DIARY p. 3.



BUILDERS LOBBY FOR £30 WEEK

ABOUT 80 delegates representing building workers from many major towns in Britain lobbied talks of the National Joint Council in London yesterday. The union claim is for £30 for a 35-hour week, and for three weeks' holiday a year.

Lobbyists also held placards calling for an end to the 'lump' and for decasualization of the industry. So far the employers

have rejected the claim completely.

Frankie Khan, shop steward for Liverpool's Direct Works Department, said that this claim was only a step towards the real goal of £1 an hour throughout the industry. The next step in the fight he said, if nothing came of yesterday's meeting, would be a national stoppage on February 15.

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AROUND THE WORLD

MAJOR EEC SPLIT

BY JOHN SPENCER

A SHARP division has appeared inside the Common Market over the terms of last Friday's Brussels agreement on trade with the United States.

The EEC's permanent representatives were meeting in Brussels yesterday to discuss strong French objections to the terms.

At Monday's meeting, France expressed 'grave reservations', claiming negotiators had exceeded their mandate by giving concessions without getting anything in return from the US.

The Pompidou government wants a unilateral declaration from the Common Market inviting a specific American undertaking to facilitate certain European exports to the US.

The Brussels agreement is tied

to the dollar devaluation agreed in Washington on December 18. On the strength of Brussels, President Nixon has agreed to ask Congress for a formal rise in the official gold price.

But the Gold Bill will not overcome the basic instability of the Washington and Brussels agreements. A big section of Nixon's administration, headed by Treasury secretary John Connally, is calling for a dollar bloc to take drastic trade measures against the Common Market.

Nixon himself raised the question in a speech to business executives on Monday. Urging them to learn again to compete in world markets and boost productivity, he said:

'If we were to let this country turn protectionist in its economic policy, we would be inviting a trade war—and, like the other kind of war, every nation on this planet would lose.'

This will not deter the growing sector of big business, and its representatives at the heart of the administration, who are pushing for the most belligerent trade war policies.

Considerations like these did not stop Nixon himself from imposing a 10 per cent import surcharge last year to force his trading competitors to heel.

Even if the US does raise the 'official' gold price, the dollar will remain inconvertible with gold. In these circumstances, the official price has little practical significance, except that it brings about a slight increase in the dollar value of other countries' gold reserves.

Edward M. Bernstein, former director of research for the International Monetary Fund, who now acts as a consultant to central banks, has warned that the currency crisis will continue so long as the dollar is not convertible.

Lack of confidence in the dollar lay behind the recent sharp rise in the 'free market' gold price to nearly \$50 an ounce and the heavy selling of dollars in Europe.

Despite the Brussels deal, great nervousness is still reported among foreign exchange dealers who have no confidence that a crisis has been averted.

TIME RUNNING OUT FOR US PORT BOSSES

THE UNITED STATES W coast strike reaches its 124th day today. But Harry Bridges, President of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Association, says the union and the bosses are only 2.5 cents (1p) apart on economic issues, according to House of Representatives Labour sub-committee chairman Frank Thompson (Democrat).

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives are trying to rush through Bills to end the strike.

The Senate Labour committee has agreed on compulsory arbitration and the proposal goes before the full Senate today. Previous opposition to compulsory arbitration by the Democrats (because of their trade union support) appears to have been dropped.

Committee chairman Harrison Williams described the Bill as substantially the same as that requested by President Nixon last month.

The House of Representatives Labour sub-committee has approved a Bill that would send the dockers back to work to handle military and agricultural cargoes for 60 days or until a settlement is reached, but rejects the idea of binding arbitration.

This Bill, however, would free the employers from one stranglehold—the hold-up of grain shipments. As previously reported in Workers Press, it is this aspect of the strike which is making the bosses scream most.

What the politicians are trying to do now is reconcile the two Bills, particularly the conflict over binding arbitration. If this is not done by tonight when Congress adjourns for its Lincoln's birthday holiday 'weekend', nothing can happen until next week.

Both Republicans and Democrats are desperate to bring the W coast strike to an end because a Taft-Hartley 80-day injunction against the strike of the International Longshoremen's Association at E and Gulf ports expires in mid-February.

ILWA and ILA leaders conferred in New York last month but Bridges' '2.5 cents' statement indicates that neither he nor ILA President Thomas Gleason are anxious for a joint national strike.

Troops out

The 5,000 Indian troops still in Bangla Desh are to be pulled out by March 25—anniversary of Yahya Khan's invasion. About 100,000 troops were pulled out of Bangla Desh when the Pakistani army surrendered on December 16.

SIR ALEC FOR SPAIN VISIT

FOREIGN Secretary Sir Alec Douglas Home is to visit Spain from February 27 to March 1. Home, a member of the appeasement lobby with Hitler and architect of the sell-out to the racist Smith regime in Rhodesia, last visited Spain in May 1961. No other British Foreign Minister has visited the fascist state since then.



ILWA president Harry Bridges with ILA president Thomas Gleason

RECESSION HITS STEEL AND COAL IN W GERMANY

W GERMANY'S two basic industries — coal and steel—continue to be hit by the growing recession.

As the economy runs deeper into crisis, the big employers are also waging a policy of wage-cutting and massive unemployment.

Steelworkers at the giant Hoesch steelworks in Dortmund are demanding a 10-per-cent wage increase. They have been on strike in defence of this pay claim. The workers are demanding a strike ballot because metalworkers' union leaders have been involved in three months of fruitless talks.

The crunch came when the

trade union leadership, after secret discussion with the employers, accepted what amounted to a 5-per-cent increase. The deal also headed off the men's plea for a strike ballot.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,045 workers were sacked without warning from the textile firm 'Göcke' in Hohenlimburg in the Ruhr area of Germany last week.

The firm went bankrupt with 1,800,000 DM debts. These workers will not find it easy to find another job as the whole district around Hohenlimburg is a steel area, and workers in the nearby steel works at Haspe and Eckesey are already fighting to keep their jobs.

In Bremen-North, workers in the Krupp Machine factories 'Spinnbau' have been on short-time work since January 3. They work a four-day week, losing 20 to 28 per cent of their net income.

WHAT WE THINK

DEVLIN PAY-OFF ON THE DOCKS

DOCKERS who want to fight mass redundancies should look closely at the credentials of those claiming to lead militant action to protect their jobs'. For despite the big boost they received in yesterday's 'Morning Star', their action is belated and their militancy questionable.

Workers Press completely supports the decision of the men in London's Royal group of docks to strike each time an employer tries to throw anyone into the port's unattached labour pool. We hope that the Tilbury dockers who meet today will support their decision.

The employers' aim in returning men to the pool is to stretch to breaking-point the statutory guarantee of jobs contained in the 1947 dock labour scheme, which they and the Heath government are planning to abolish.

Defending jobs on the docks, therefore, is part of the general battle, of which the miners are the spearhead, against the Tory drive to destroy all the post-war gains of the working class.

Yet yesterday's 'Star' talked glibly about national action for 'steps leading up to eventual nationalization [of the docks] under full workers' control' without even hinting at a united fight to force the Tories to resign.

In planning their strategy against the dockers' right to work, the employers have seized

every opportunity presented them by the world trade slump, the retreats of the union leaders . . . and the opportunist policies of many docks stewards themselves.

The threat of redundancy in London is in many ways the pay-off for the stewards' acceptance of Devlin 'modernization' Phase Two, which was never fought by the 'Star' or the Communist Party which publishes it.

Moreover the CP has continuously covered up for the activities of the docks union leaders, particularly Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers' Union, despite his retreat when dockers staged the first strike against the Tories in the summer of 1970.

And the Party and its 'Star' are still covering up. Not a single CP steward has ever publicly challenged Jones to explain our exposure in Workers Press—13 months ago—that the T&GWU chief was in talks with the port employers about abolishing the 1947 scheme. We urge dockers and those of their leaders who really want to fight to consider these points when they strike, possibly later this week.

And we urge them above all to back the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work campaign, join the All Trades Unions Alliance and help build the Socialist Labour League—the only organization which is seriously fighting to remove the Tory job-destroyers from the scene.

ALLENDE WANTS SINGLE PARTY

CHILEAN President Salvador Allende has appealed to the groups forming his popular unity coalition government to unite in a single party to fight the Congressional elections in May next year.

This would mean a fusion of the Communist Party and Allende's Social-Democrats with the bourgeois Radicals, who are also members of the coalition.

The call follows a sharp swing to the right in the government, which recently took more Radicals into the cabinet. The cabinet reshuffle was enthusiastically backed by the Stalinists.

The Radicals' main condition for increased participation was that Allende ensure the protection of property from expropriations by workers and peasants.

The Popular Unity government is billed as an 'experiment' in the peaceful road to socialism. While Allende and the Stalinists move to the right, however, the Chilean bourgeoisie, backed by the United States, is increasingly challenging for power.

In a speech to a rally at Concepcion on Monday night, Allende said he was disappointed by the 'sporadic' nature of recent demonstrations in support of his government. He has been holding crisis talks with the other members of his coalition since the by-election defeat of two Popular Unity candidates.

MRS GRACE TODD, wife of 63-year-old Garfield Todd, says her husband is sick and might not survive a winter in detention.

Their 28-year-old daughter, Judith, arrested with her father on January 18, has gone on a hunger strike.

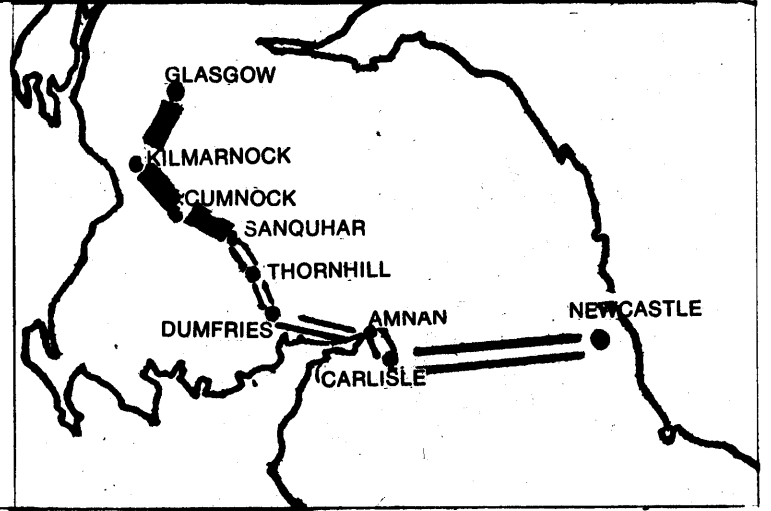
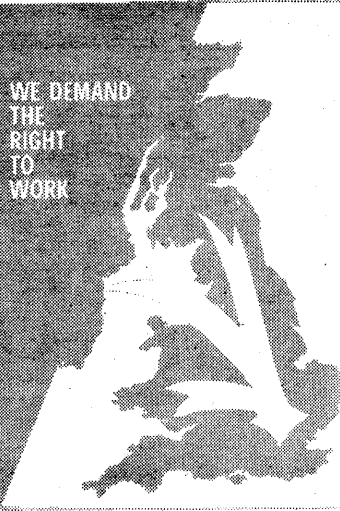
The Smith regime has refused to give any specific reason for the Todds' arrest and their name is disappearing from the Rhodesian press by order.

Right-to-Work

DIARY

By Stephen Johns

WE DEMAND
THE
RIGHT
TO
WORK



Ayrshire miners' selfless support

DAY THREE—On the road to Cumnock

WE WENT deep into mining territory today and tonight we sleep in Cumnock town hall at the centre of the Ayrshire coalfield.

Predictably we got selfless support and solidarity from the striking miners.

The first boost came as we approached the little village of Maliching (pronounced Motling by the English). Just when the morning was beginning to drag, a white Hillman stopped on the road. It was the pickets from the Barrony colliery.

They invited us to share their soup in the Maliching community centre. With the miners, we were the first to use the centre that had been opened at 11 a.m. that very morning.

David Gregory, a miner from the Barrony, and an Ayrshire Labour councillor, paid tribute to the young marchers.

'We have taken a deputation down to London from all the Scottish local authorities. But it made no difference to that man Heath. I hope to God you achieve your objective and get this government out,' he said.

He told me afterwards unemployment was a key issue in the miners' strike.

'The mining industry itself proves that. Mining is usually carried on in high areas of unemployment. A man can't get out of the pits and get a decent job and wage—though thousands would like to—because there are no other jobs. That's why we still take home a pittance each day.

'Your march is political and our strike is political in the sense that the government is trying to tie us down with their wage norm.

'At the same time the government is forcing even Labour authorities to push up the rents by 25 and 30 per cent. I would say that this government is no longer a democracy they are trying to rule by the methods of fascism—I say that with all my knowledge as a Labour councillor.'

Michael Miller, a miner from Sorn pit and the manager of the community centre, also backed the march.

'It's disgraceful that youth today should have to protest for such a basic right. I have a son, he'll be out of school in two years—but what future is there for him under a Tory regime like this? Good luck to the march. I hope it achieves its objective.'

We moved into Cumnock just as the sun was setting behind the Barrony pit and power station.

Cumnock is the centre of the Ayrshire field and the home of Keir Hardie, founder of the Independent Labour Party. His bust stands outside the municipal building.

Unfortunately the nightly meeting had to be postponed for a few hours while the local dog club exercised their pets around the town hall.

We pleaded, but the Labour council was adamant—pets first, unemployment meeting second. If stone could weep I'm sure that there would have been tears on Hardie's granite cheeks.

Despite the set-back the meeting was held to a packed town hall. Miners and youth all spoke about their determination to get rid of the government.



A WELCOME MEAL FOR THE YS MARCHERS FROM AYRSHIRE MINERS.

MARCH HAS COME AT RIGHT TIME

AYRSHIRE remembers the Hungry 1930s and the men who marched in those days for the right to work. Kilmarnock, at the N end of the shire was the first stop for the columns from Clydeside on their way to London.

It was at Kilmarnock's Bonnington Bridge where a squad of police attacked one column in the 1930s—but with the help of local trade unions they got through.

Workers Press talked to some of the men who are backing the

'Unless the British people are prepared to go out and protest about unemployment—the savage attacks on housing and rents—then Heath will get away with it. He can argue he has the so-called silent majority behind him, but we have got to show this is a lie.

'The only thing people can do is to demonstrate and support this march which is an echo of the marches in the 1930s.

'I am a local councillor and I know what this government is trying to do at local level—destroy democracy by concentrating the finance in their hands. This is what the Housing Finance Bill is all about. It will mean the virtual destruction of public housing—rents will be so high that working people can't afford them.

'The Common Market is the other thing. That vote in parliament was the biggest sell-out in the history of this country. They had no mandate to do this and of course the Labour MPs who supported Heath had absolutely no mandate—they turned their back on the working class when they did this.

'One idea in line with the Common Market is I understand to put a value added tax on the rents—another one is to introduce some kind of local income tax. If they are allowed to do this kind of thing it will be like King John's day people will have so many taxes they won't know where to go.

'Unless we get this government out in a short time we will be back to those days.'

GEORGE MONTGOMERY is the boilermakers' shop steward at Massey's. He told Workers Press why he supports the All Trades Unions Alliance Draft Manifesto which the marchers will be publicising wherever they go.

'They marched in the past—it was sheer desperation then. Now we have not got that desperation, but if we let it slip much further we will be back to those days. That's why I hope the march is a big success.

'I have read your Manifesto and personally I can't see where I disagree with it on any point. It points out that the aim should be to draw all the workers into a struggle to get this government out.

'This goes without saying. This government is serious. They are hammering the working class with all the weapons they can—on unemployment, on rents, with the Industrial Relations Act—

there is no doubt that the workers are into the political battle of their lives—it's got to come.

'Another part of the Manifesto is about the Labour Party and how the Labour Party MPs betrayed over the Common Market vote. It says they are weakening the labour movement—this is absolutely true. I have seen it and watched it happen. I would like to say that a lot of people in the Labour Party are not happy with what is going on.

'There are also a lot of bad eggs at the top of the trade union movement—people who talk about organizing the workers

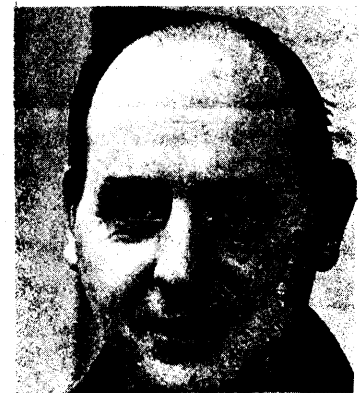
against the Tories, but always slide out of it. I have spoken up time and again about this.

'But it's a fight against the government whether you like it or not, and we have the issue for the battle in the miners' strike. The miners are leading a historic struggle, and so they should with the pittance they have to slave for.

'You always need a focus for these things and that's why I hope the march is a tremendous success. It could achieve an awful lot, but it has to have this aim of getting the working class together against the government that has lost its right to rule.'



GEORGE MONTGOMERY



JIM McCHRISTIE

Young Socialists' march and provided them with free accommodation on Sunday night.

JIM McCHRISTIE is a shop steward at the Massey-Ferguson plant in Kilmarnock. There the stewards have raised cash to keep the youth on the road.

Jim is a Labour councillor for the nearby town of Galston and his local party have also voted funds to support the march.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Make the Tory government resign!

Return a Labour government pledged to restore full employment and repeal all laws against the unions!

February 15, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4. 'Support miners and Ulster workers.'

ACTON: Wednesday February 16, 8 p.m. 'Mechanics Arms', Churchfield Rd, W3. 'Support miners and Ulster workers.'

CROYDON: Thursday February 17, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd, E Croydon. See Workers Press Ulster film.

LUTON: Thursday February 17, 8 p.m. Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Rd. World economic crisis.

SE LONDON: Thursday February 17, 8 p.m. Room 2, Deptford Engineers' Club (opp New Cross Stn). 'Support miners and Ulster workers.'

N LONDON: Thursday February 17, 8 p.m. Town Hall, Edmonton. Reformism and trade unions.

DAGENHAM: Wednesday February 9, 8 p.m. Room 11, E Ham Town Hall, E Ham. Support miners. Force Tories to resign.

WILLESDEN: Monday February 14, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Rd, NW10. Unemployment and the capitalist crisis.

SOUTHALL: Tuesday February 15, 8 p.m. Indian Workers Association, 18 Featherstone Rd 'Victory to the miners'.

W LONDON: Tuesday February 15, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Rd, off York Way, Kings Cross. 'Support miners and Ulster workers.'

SW LONDON: Tuesday Feb-

Socialist Labour League
Special lecture
Common Hall, Hackin's Hay
(off Dale St)

LIVERPOOL, 8 p.m.

Tuesday February 15

given by
C. Slaughter (SLL Central Committee)

THE FIGHT AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

THE
JOBLESS
ORGANIZE

In this 5-part series, Jack Gale examines the record of the unemployment struggles in the 1920's and 1930's.

Capitalism's treatment of the unemployed has always been linked with the revolutionary determination of the working class. The first unemployment payments in this country (outside of insurance) were the product of the unease which the ruling class felt towards the end of World War I.

It was the Russian Revolution, followed by the overthrow of the monarchy in Austro-Hungary and Germany, which led to the 'Out-of-Work Donation' Scheme, which came into operation on November 25, 1918.

The scales were 24s a week for males, 20s for females, 6s for the first dependant child and 3s for each additional child. This scale stood for two weeks.

Discontent amongst the troops and unrest in the factories made the government think again. The scales were increased to 29s for males and 25s for females. After 26 weeks, however, the scales dropped to 20s for males and 15s for females.

The government was, in fact, in a dilemma. Floods of men leaving the forces would swell the unemployed and cause trouble on the home front. So demobilization was deliberately slowed down—and led to open revolts in a number of regiments.

By May, 1919, there were 640,000 men and 453,000 women drawing benefit. At that time, the cost of living was 120 per cent above pre-war level.

But the government had got over its first post-war panic. That month the scale was dropped to that laid down in 1911—7s a week.

By autumn, 1920, unemployment was again rising rapidly, and nationwide demonstrations demanded provision for the unemployed. It was these demonstrations which led to the Unemployment Insurance Act of

1920, which brought the number of insured persons in the United Kingdom to 11.75 million.

Benefit was raised to 15s a week for men and 12s for women. But contributions were raised at the same time—from 2½d a week to 4d. Benefit was payable in the proportion of one week's benefit for every six contributions.

And the maximum benefit that could be drawn in any one insurance year (July to July) was 15 weeks.

The applicant had to prove that he had paid a minimum of 12 contributions before he could claim any benefit; that he was capable of and available for work, but unable to obtain employment; that he had not lost employment by reason of a trade dispute and had not left his work voluntarily or been discharged for misconduct.

But opposition was growing and the first big clash between the government and the unemployed occurred in October, 1920, when police attacked and clubbed a demonstration of unemployed—mainly ex-servicemen—in Whitehall.

From this grew the first national organization of unemployed under the slogan 'Work or Full Maintenance'. During 1920, the year the Communist Party was formed, many local unemployment committees were set up. The communists rapidly won the leadership of these committees, particularly as employers used the growing unemployment to weed out the militants.

By the end of 1920, these committees developed the 'Go to the Guardians' campaign. Huge demonstrations marched every day in all parts of the country to the offices of the Poor Law authorities, demanding immediate outdoor relief for those unemployed who could not draw Labour Exchange benefit. They also demanded extra relief for those who were drawing Labour Exchange benefits, on the grounds

that these were inadequate.

At that time the law stated that Poor Law relief should not be given to able-bodied unemployed without their performing task work or becoming inmates of the workhouse. The government urged the Boards of Guardians to stand firm and occasionally they did so, singling out certain applicants and refusing them relief unless they entered the workhouse.

When this happened, the unemployed organizations arranged for hundreds of unemployed to apply for workhouse tickets and held mass marches to the workhouse. The unemployed who had tickets occupied the workhouses, completely disrupting the administration, while outside marches and demonstrations were held every day.

This type of activity forced the Boards to grant both outdoor and supplementary relief. The Poor Law regulations had been broken down by the mass action of the unemployed.¹

In April, 1921, a national conference of between 70 and 80 unemployment committees was held and the National Unemployed Workers' Committee Movement (NUWCM) was formed. The resolution establishing it bound its members 'never to cease from active strife until capitalism is abolished'.²

A further conference was held in November the same year and Wal Hannington, a prominent Communist Party member, was elected national organizer. By now 140 local committees were affiliated to the NUWCM, which published its own paper 'Out of Work'.

By this time unemployment was over the 2 million mark. Huge demonstrations were taking place all over the country. Town halls, libraries and public baths were occupied and unauthorized meetings held in them. Raids of unemployed workers took place on factories working overtime.



Left: an idle steel works. Above: Ramsay MacDonald — he was strongly opposed to any measure that might improve the lot of the working class.



Everywhere, the communists were in the vanguard. In S Wales they organized a march of 5,000 unemployed to Tredegar workhouse.

In Shoreditch they led 7,000 unemployed to the local Board of Guardians and obtained improved relief from the frightened gentlemen who ran it.

In Liverpool, communist leader Jack Braddock (later right-wing leader of the City's Labour Council group and husband of Bessie Braddock MP) organized a demonstration of unemployed ex-servicemen on Armistice Day.

The government was intimidated into raising benefit to 20s for men and 16s for women and suspending the limit of 15 weeks' right to benefit.

The government was forced also to grant the 'Mond Scale'—a uniform national scale of benefits which recognized the principle of outdoor relief for able-bodied unemployed.

This was a victory, but it had not found work for the jobless.

The NUWCM therefore organized the first great national hunger march on London to demand work or full maintenance. This march began from Glasgow on October 17, 1922. Joined by other contingents along the way, it arrived in London on November 17.

Meanwhile, the NUWCM was seeking representation on the TUC and local committees were applying for affiliation to local trades councils.

Concern for the unemployed was felt throughout the labour movement. In 1921 the Labour Councillors of Poplar had been jailed for six weeks for refusing to collect rates for the London County Council in protest against the burden of unemployment relief falling on the poorer districts while wealthy areas contributed nothing.

In this situation, the unemployed organization was too powerful to ignore. At the end of 1922, while the hunger marchers were in London the TUC met the leaders of the NUWCM and agreed to call upon all affiliated unions to co-operate with local trades councils and NUWCM branches to organize concerted demonstrations in each industrial area.

The date was fixed for Sunday, January 7, 1923. On that day huge demonstrations took place throughout Britain. The London demonstration was held under the auspices of the TUC, the London Trades Council, the London Labour Party and the NUWCM.

The third national conference of the NUWCM, held in April, 1923, decided to organize rent and rate strikes and mass marches to factories. It also called for a General Strike against unemployment.

In September of that year, the Trades Union Congress agreed to set up a joint committee with the NUWCM to plan action on unemployment.

In January, 1924, this joint committee issued an Unemployed Workers' Charter:

1. Work or effective maintenance to be provided through the trade unions at a rate of £3 a week for a married couple and 9s a week for each child.
2. Public works—including a nationally owned electricity power supply scheme and the re-

conditioning, electrification and extension of the railways and state workshops—to supply government departments.

3. Reduction in the hours of labour to six a day.

4. Occupational training centres for unemployed workers.

5. A national Housing Scheme to provide at least a million new homes.³

In January, 1924, the first Labour government was elected, the scandal of the unemployed being a large factor in the defeat of the Tories.

Labour increased unemployment benefit from 15s to 18s a week for men and from 12s to 15s a week for women, and raised the child allowance from 1s to 2s a week. Other minor changes, such as the reduction of the waiting period from six to three days, were introduced.

It was, however, eight months after the election before these changes were made—the reason being a simple one. The Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Snowden, were strongly opposed to any measures that might improve the lot of the working class.

And many grievances were left untouched. For instance, much of the outdoor relief granted to unemployed applicants was in the form of loans, which had to be repaid to the Boards of Guardians when employment was obtained. Poor Law relief was often paid 'in kind' i.e. parcels of food, since the poor could not be trusted with money; the condition of some of the workhouses was appalling.

(They were all terrible, operating on the principle laid down in the 19th century that workhouses should be made worse than life outside, to prevent the poor from flocking into them for the pleasures that they provided. But some—particularly Belmont Colony and Hollesley Bay in London—were unbelievable.)

1925 opened with the Tories back in the saddle. Their first job was to introduce a new unemployment Act under which extended benefit ceased to be a statutory right.

The six-day waiting period was reintroduced and the categories under which certain of the unemployed could be refused benefit were restored.

These measures meant a saving to the Insurance Fund of £10 million a year—at the expense of the unemployed.

During the General Strike of 1926 the unemployed stood solidly with the employed. The government was totally unable to use the unemployed as scabs.

This did not prevent the TUC from deserting them after the strike and severing its connections with the unemployed movement.

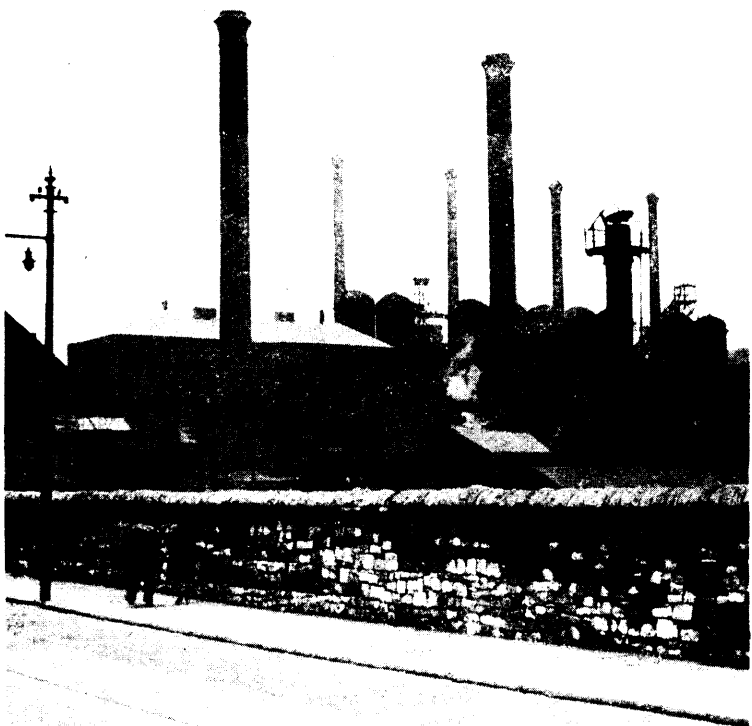
In fact, the TUC's break from the NUWCM (the word 'Committee' was dropped from the title as the Stalinists began to play down the role of local committees) paralleled its break from the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

¹ For details of this campaign see Wal Hannington 'A Short History of the Unemployed', p. 26 ff.

² L. J. MacFarlane 'The British Communist Party', p. 123.

³ MacFarlane, *op. cit.*, p. 127.



BUILDING THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY



DISCUSSION ON THE ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE DRAFT MANIFESTO

On November 6 last year a national conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance decided to adopt a draft manifesto to transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party. Since the conference a country-wide discussion has been initiated in League branches, in the ATUA, in the Young Socialists and among Workers Press supporters. Until the Right-to-Work rally at Empire Pool, Wembley on March 12, we intend to carry a full page each day devoted to your comments on the Draft Manifesto. We have received more than 100 contributions to this vital discussion. Now we want at least another 100.

Workers and their families, youth, students and the unemployed are all invited to join in this discussion. If you haven't got a copy of the Draft Manifesto write to Workers Press or contact your local ATUA branch.

RON WILSON
Unemployed 20-year-old from Camp Hill Estate, Nuneaton

While I don't understand a lot about the Common Market, I know it's no good for me. They say the Common Market will bring more jobs, but I can't see that happening. It was the Labour Party leaders that started the Common Market negotiations, but those 69 Labour MPs who supported the Tories should be thrown out of the Labour Party.

I think we should try to get the 69 Labour traitors expelled, but I don't think we'll be very successful. I think the only way forward is the Socialist United States of Europe.

The Tories shouldn't be in government at all. I think we've got the right to throw them out. The present situation could lead to fascism, but at the moment it's a long way off. What's happening in Ulster could happen here but not for 20 or 30 years' time.

The Labour Party should be returned to government pledged to socialist policies. But will they stick to them? I don't think they will. I think they should be forced to nationalize industry without compensation and under workers' control, but I'm not sure about bringing troops out of Ireland all at once.

The world revolution is what's needed and the programme of the Fourth International is what we want. The revolutionary party is what's needed. The Marxist ideas seem correct and I think we should strike now while the iron's hot.

If I can't get a job, I'd like to go on the Right-to-Work march.

JERRY MCCARROL
Assembly fitter, Massey Ferguson, Coventry

I see the Common Market as the formation of big cartels to make big business stronger and able to put the boot into the working class more efficiently.

The power of the working class frightens them, so it is not

just a question of profits. Heath spoke at the United Nations about the danger of civil war, so it is this fear of the workers that is driving capitalists together. They are cutting out competition and the drive is towards big monopolies.

The most vigorous action should be taken against the 69 Labour MPs who voted with the Tories on the Common Market. Most workers are against it and the Trades Union Congress voted against it and they have been completely ignored.

I believe this is an illegal government. All the people I know who voted Tory don't like what is happening and had they known the outcome of voting Tory they say that they wouldn't have done it.

The things the government has done—attacking jobs, pensions, schools—with such a small majority displays their arrogance. Every layer of society is feeling the effects—students, pensioners, children, workers.

Despite all this, the Labour Party has failed to take advantage of the opportunities it has had to remove the government and the trade union leaders have refused to follow the call of the workers to lead a fight against it. Their attitude has been slavish. A General Strike to force a General Election is the only answer.

Without the collaboration of Labour and trade union leadership the Tories wouldn't stand a chance of staying in office. They are absolutely dependent on our leaders.

I think a revolutionary party is the only solution. I've been a member of the Labour Party and I've known members of the party of 30 years' standing and we have seen no change, no possibility of changing the system. We have to look for an alternative leadership that will really fight for socialism and get rid of capitalism all together.

What I like about Workers Press is that it tells the truth and I am amazed at the accuracy of the analysis of the political situation. It is always out in

front and telling workers what is going to happen. I wish every worker in the country read it.

LES BLACK
Member of Kraft Maintenance Strike Committee, Kirkby

This Manifesto is, in effect, what every worker really thinks. Unfortunately, a lot of us are blinded to reality through the system of restricted education, with most people thinking that academic qualifications are the only road to real success.

In effect, the system, as we know it, does not allow for the slower pupil, or the less fortunate. Through no fault of their own they start their working life with an inferiority complex and are led to accept what the ruling class or the Tories tell us is their right.

They impress on the worker from the beginning that they have to accept low wages, bad conditions and to consider themselves lucky to be working. To protest and demand better pay and conditions is next to treason.

If we can, through common logic and sensible reasoning, convey the true picture in the Manifesto to the younger generation, they will, in turn, through obvious experience, pass on their learning.

Then the ruling class as we know it will be strangled by true circumstances. Humanity will be something to be proud of.

I welcome this opportunity to be part of such a progressive movement.

BILL WOOD
Miner of Coventry Colliery.
23 years in the mining industry

I think the decision to go into the Common Market by the Tories is a political move. It is made to show a strong hand to the Americans.

It is a move by the government, which has all the money representatives in it, to get more money out of European workers.

I think all the Labour MPs who voted with the Tories have kicked us in the teeth. They

should be chucked out of the Labour Party.

The Tories got in by false promises. They promised the golden egg that never came. They had no mandate to make all these attacks on the working class that they are engaging in. They have not kept one thing they promised.

We should all come out on strike to force a General Election. These people are trying to get us back to the 1920s. They want to get it so they can say: 'Do as I tell you'.

In the mines we are really making a profit, but each year we pay millions to these ex-owners and then show a loss after paying. All this compensation should now be stopped.

There has to be a different system in nationalized industries. When the mines were nationalized it was supposed to belong to the workers. Yet we have no say at all in the running of the pits. I think the workers must control the mines.

Yes. A Labour government should nationalize all industries and put workers in control and not pay any compensation.

I am on a Pit Consultative Committee. You bring a complaint up time after time. The job isn't done. You have to tell them at each meeting and it's still not done!

These Consultative Committees are a farce. Really, we have no say at all!

We need a strong party that puts the workers' needs first and foremost. If the next Labour government doesn't deliver the goods, we have to put in our own workers' government.

I think we must build the Socialist Labour League into a mass revolutionary party.

The Communist Party are turncoats. They keep changing their colours. They 'fight' until it comes to the crunch and then back right down.

I think the Workers Press is a good paper and welcome its expansion to a 12-page one. I hope it goes from strength to strength.

HELPING GIs TO HATE THE WAR

BY BRIAN MOORE

Donald Sutherland (right) is one of that younger generation of movie stars who have come into prominence in the last few years.

Films like 'Mash', 'Kelly's Heroes' and recently 'Klute' have established him as one of the most talented of screen actors.

He has a lazy look about him, bloodhound eyes, a slow thoughtful drawl, a sense of innocent irony. He has a kind of quality that a younger generation of filmgoers identify with all over the world which has made him into what the film moguls and money men describe as a 'hot property'.

He is offered script after script by anxious producers who are looking for that elusive seal of approval, that guarantee at the box office, which will bring home the bacon.

Yet Sutherland is not their man. He describes what he will do.

Although he is recognized wherever he goes, he has none of the trappings of the film star. In fact he is resolutely hostile to them. He shambles about in an old anorak and jeans, avoiding the usual frivolous show-biz rounds.

More than this, though, he has just returned from the Far East, where he and Jane Fonda and a number of other performers have been entertaining American troops.

If you think the show is anything like the Bob Hope circus that jollies up the American GIs, think again.

Their show was not allowed to be performed on any base camp. The American army saw to that. Instead they did open-air shows, sometimes in halls, outside the camps and the GIs flocked to see them.

It was a show devised in support of the GI movement, something which has grown rapidly in the last few years within the ranks of the American forces. It's a growing resistance within the army to the Vietnam war; to the conditions and contradictions of the GIs themselves.

There are now something like 65 GI underground newspapers throughout bases in the United States, Europe and SE Asia and a growing number of GI organizers on camps to mobilize troops around their basic rights.

It is a movement undoubtedly of political significance and has close links with the Vietnam veterans' movement within the United States itself. It prefigures the collapse of American militarism, because, quite simply, when ordinary soldiers refuse to fight, you have no army.

Donald Sutherland spent a few days in London after the end of the show in Japan and gave this exclusive interview to Workers Press.

I asked him how the show came about.

"It was asked for by GIs about a year and a half ago. Thousands of letters came into USSF and



VVAW, which is the Vietnam Veterans' Against the War, requesting Jane Fonda if she could set up a show and the initial show began in Fort Bragg in February 1971.

The purpose of the show was to provide them with funds and to reach GIs who are interested and invigorated to the point where they come and begin to organize. In essence the show was an organizing tool. In terms of audience response it was incredibly successful, overwhelmingly so. In terms of our performance as performers in relation to an audience, it was for myself personally and for almost all of the people there, the best experience that one had ever had because it was the first time that the combination of social, political and theatrical work were all combined in one concrete moment.

The organizing that happened afterwards, the rap sessions [discussions after the show, BM] were in the main successful. "They introduced many GIs who had perhaps not recognized their numbers in numbers. The real effects of that kind of show have to rest at this moment with the GI organizers."

What did he think the morale of the troops was like?

An ironic smile. "It's really terrific. Last year they fraged [blew up, BM] 45 officers, 318 were wounded and another 127 attempted fraggings.

"The troops are beginning to realize: I mean the Vietnam war has been a disaster for the American government economically, bureaucratically, in every respect. They're not stopping the war, they're not slowing it down. They've had the heaviest bombing raids ever. They're using 15,000-pound concussion bombs which wipe out an area like that. They're so close to nuclear weapons, the only difference is the lack of radiation. They're called cheeseburgers or daisy-cutters.

"The point is they are using the navy now and pulling the ground troops out. They're laying aircraft carriers off the coast and those aircraft carriers have all been refitted—the 'Constellation', the 'Coral Sea', the 'Hancock'—they cost \$1m a day to operate in dry dock, they cost \$2m a day to operate on the Gulf of Tonkin. They carry 85 planes, 45 nuclear weapons, 4,200 men and they fly missions all the time. They don't need ground troops to conduct that kind of war.

"And the reason why the ground troops are being withdrawn is because they recognize more clearly the nature of what imperialism is all about.

"The experience of black soldiers in Vietnam was described to us quite simply in that they went to Vietnam to fight for the Defence Department to bring 'democracy' to the Vietnamese people and freedom, and all that the black soldiers could say was how can America, who never gave third world people within its own confines freedom or democracy, how can they bring that kind of thing to SE Asia?

"Now that's why troops are withdrawing. Because you cannot any more put people through that kind of schooling, you cannot send 500,000 more people to Vietnam and have them come back anti-imperialist, because that makes the groundwork for the overthrow of the American government."

The trip provided Donald Sutherland with an opportunity to see at first hand the impact of American imperialism. He is full of accounts, which appall him; of the violence of the military police; the degradation of prostitutes wearing watches

round their ankles like identity tabs, provided at the bases to keep dissent down; the oppression of the local people; the low wages they receive for working on American bases; the whole degrading working of the American war machine and American capital.

One account he told me seems typical of the attitudes of the American government and military.

"We had the opportunity to meet the American High Commissioner of Okinawa, Japan, High Commissioner General Lambert and his information officer Lt Woodside. And Woodside was explaining how terrific his job was. And this was in the lushest, most magnificent offices you've ever seen. I mean it was like the set of the 'Dirty Dozen'. I mean I'd never seen anything like it. All wood panelling and beautifully done. We were sitting in his office and he said he had been all around the world, in every military establishment.

"I said: 'Is there any place you haven't visited?'"

"And he said: 'Well oddly enough the only place I haven't been is where the war is now.'"

"I said: 'You're joking. You



Anti-war GIs at a protest rally in Washington last year



Unlike Bob Hope's (below) patriotic circus tours that jolly up the American GIs in Vietnam, Donald Sutherland (left, as he appeared in the anti-war film 'MASH') and Jane Fonda (above, in 'Klute') devised their tour in support of the GIs' movement against the war and for their basic rights.



haven't been in Vietnam?" And he said, "Of course I've been in Vietnam. I've never been in Pakistan."

"And I said, 'Now hang on,' because the war had only been going on for two days.

The reference to the Indo-Pakistan war was not an arbitrary one. Sutherland commented: "When we were in Okinawa, men were on readiness to go to Pakistan. They were on 12-hour readiness to go. These aren't warships that are designed to go in and carry people off, like the British did for the French after Dien Bien Phu. These are flights of Phantom F-4s; you know, our little dive bombers that we've got there. And you have to figure out why they were also on readiness for N Korea because some trouble was coming down there."

"And he said: 'No, not at all. After 20 years in the army you get used to it.'"

"The reference to the Indo-Pakistan war was not an arbitrary one. Sutherland commented:

"When we were in Okinawa, men were on readiness to go to Pakistan. They were on 12-hour readiness to go. These aren't warships that are designed to go in and carry people off, like the British did for the French after Dien Bien Phu. These are flights of Phantom F-4s; you know, our little dive bombers that we've got there. And you have to figure out why they were also on readiness for N Korea because some trouble was coming down there."

"But there's a pattern that emerges with drugs in the army. The pattern is that heavy marijuana comes in, which is really good and stays in for anywhere up to three months. And then it's taken off the market and

We went on to discuss the use of drugs in the American army. I'd read various reports on the extent of it and Sutherland certainly confirmed this. But he had an interesting interpretation:

"The army has a programme called the Drug Amnesty Programme, which means that if you turn yourself in they won't ask any questions.

"And they'll give you all the help you need. In reality if you turn yourself in, they ask you question after question and don't give you any help. The kind of help they give you is cold turkey. [Just stopping the supply of drugs and letting the addict sweat it out. BM.]

"The army also re-hires men with drug convictions. The reason is two-fold. Partly because the army recognizes that drugs exist and the use of them, and the other thing is that soldiers who have picked up a heavy habit cannot live in America. A \$9-a-day habit in Vietnam is a \$900-a-day habit in America. That's why they re-enlist.

"But there's a pattern that emerges with drugs in the army. The pattern is that heavy marijuana comes in, which is really good and stays in for anywhere up to three months. And then it's taken off the market and

there's nothing but heroin and Kool-Aid, you know. And everybody says it's not addictive because it's such good scag that you snort it or you smoke it, and you can give it up when you get back to America, right.

"Now there's a reason why it's going in and coming out. When we went into Okinawa, everybody knew we were coming in because the announcement that we were coming in and the grass came at the same time. It's like a palliative, you know. You're not going to get a lot of riots when guys are really strung out on dope.

Did he think it was deliberate army policy?

"No you can't say that. I certainly would never be able to prove it, and it's hard even logically to believe that a government would pursue any kind of dope policy. It's also hard to believe that they'd fight this kind of war."

And as a footnote. Donald Sutherland: "There's a way that GIs get rid of being on active duty. It started about a year ago. What you did was you signed over your insurance papers to the Angela Davis Defence Fund, and the minute you did that you didn't see active duty again."

FIAT MEN FIGHT FRANCO

By our Spanish correspondent

On October 18 last year the Seat factory, the Fiat subsidiary in Barcelona, was involved in a total strike and occupation.

It was the culmination of three months of warfare between the state-backed management and the militant car workers.

The occupation took place after a series of furious meetings which began outside the factory gates.

The main impetus for their action came when some of the men unjustly sacked the previous June turned up for work.

The men entered the plant and went to their places of work.

Shop No. 1 was the first into action. Faced with the knowledge that the management were preparing to call in the police and army to oust the 'trouble-makers', Shop No. 1 voted to set forward the whole factory's demands.

A deputation went to Shop No. 2, Shop No. 3 and eventually to the foundry.

Then followed a mass meeting of 8,000 workers directly in front of the management headquarters. Under the circumstances of Spanish fascism, such a meeting represented a courageous show of militancy.

Police guards surrounded the management block while further contingents began to draw up in the nearby streets. Tension was further heightened when police helicopters arrived overhead.

The workers replied to these intimidatory moves by taking up the chant: 'Reinstatement! Reinstatement!'

From illegal documents and leaflets produced by the workers we have been able to construct a rough diary of what happened next.

DISCUSSION

At 10 am a mass meeting started. After a discussion, a vote was taken on the outline for the agreement, and a delegation sent to explain the workers' case to the police guards and the management. The management said there could be no dialogue and that they were clearing the workers from the factory. Police entered the factory and the workers returned to their shops.

The workers tried to neutralize the police politically by explaining their case to them, including the Chief of Police and Minister Croix of the political police. Some workers disagreed with this attitude and wanted a confrontation with the police, but this was rejected by the mass meeting.

By midday 5,000 to 6,000 workers had gathered in No. 1 shop. At 4 pm they were given an ultimatum that the police would attack if they were not out in a quarter of an hour.

At 5 pm the battle of Seat began. A police squadron with mounted police entered No. 1 shop. They attacked with tear-gas bombs. Some canisters were thrown back at the police before they exploded.

The workers took iron bars from the stores and went to No. 4 shop where they thought the police would not be able to use tear gas because of inflammable materials. En route to No. 4 shop the workers fought the mounted police with iron bars. The police opened fire. Antonio Ruiz Alba was shot in the stomach and later died. Two others were wounded.

In No. 4 shop, a mass meeting was staged. But it was broken up by a new tear-gas attack by the police who demanded that the workers come out and identify themselves. They refused to leave on these conditions.



Top: the outskirts of Barcelona showing the Bota slums. Bottom: the daily newspaper 'Madrid' which gave extensive coverage to the Seat strike was shutdown by Franco. Here workers on the paper hold a mass meeting when they heard that negotiations for its reopening had broken down.

After a 13-hour occupation workers began to leave the factory, avoiding identification and arrest.

On arriving at the gates night-shift workers were told that the factory was not working. About 3,000 went on the streets after hearing rumours that the night-shift had occupied.

Tuesday October 19: Morning-shift were told they were locked out for six days. At 10 am a demonstration of car workers was

joined by young girls and women who worked in the Lamparas Z factory. About 3,000 marched to the centre of Barcelona where they were attacked by the police.

APPEAL

When they heard of the day's events, 2,500 of the night-shift marched down the middle of the main street in Barcelona. The 3,000 to 4,000 who went to work staged a go slow, held shop meet-

ings and decided on an all-out strike. The management then locked out both shifts. Groups of workers from Seat began to visit factories in Barcelona and Sans, appealing for solidarity action.

October 21 and 22: More demonstrations and meetings. Police attacked a mass meeting of workers from different factories outside Lamparas Z. About 100 Seat workers entered the yard of Hispano-Olivetti and

held a meeting with 300 workers.

Friday, October 22: The night-shift decided to return to work. After meetings, they decided on strikes within the factory; they were moved out of the factory by the management.

The Workers' Commission of Catalonia and Spain published a leaflet calling for support for Seat workers and for a General Strike to liquidate the fascist dictatorship and establish a transitional regime where workers would have freedom to get better conditions for the struggle for full emancipation.

Meanwhile 150 women held a meeting in the Lamparas Z factory in San Baudilio to discuss the Seat struggle. Several women whose husbands work at Seat took part.

In Barcelona University students organized meetings, demonstrations and strikes. In the Faculty of Law, the professors and teachers voted for the strike.

Tuesday, October 26: Hispano-Olivetti's 1,000 workers struck for an hour. Maquinista workers struck for half an hour after a meeting with Seat pickets. More than 400 workers in the Pegaso factory met at break time. In the San Andres factory they demonstrated around the factory. In the Zona Franca factory, there was a one-hour stoppage.

By then 13 of the arrested Seat workers had been set free. Eight remained in the hands of the Public Order tribunal and 19 in the hands of the military tribunal. Six were in the torture chamber of the political social brigade.

SYMPATHY

Friday October 29: General Strike of 100,000 in the province of Barcelona, as a result of the call by the Co-ordinating Commission of the province. This included 5,000 workers at the Roca factory who on October 25 had called a four-day strike in support of Seat and for a series of demands for their own factory.

Throughout the week sympathy strikes and demonstrations continued. More than 10,000 workers were involved in the town of Bajo Llobregat.

November 1: More than 80,000 workers took part in actions including a stoppage in the RENFE railway workshops in Madrid.

November 2: the Seat workers returned to work and continued their struggle with go-slows and short strikes. Towards the end of November, the police stole the funds that the Seat workers had built up during the strike and also much of the material for the next edition of their bulletin.

But by the end of December through factory collections within the different shops in the Barcelona factory a total of 46,257,500 pesetas had been collected; big donations also came in from different factories in Spain and Europe. The accounts set out in a bulletin by the Workers' Commission in the factory revealed in themselves many of the problems of organizing a strike under Franco's regime.

Expenditure from December 5 to 23.

Help to sacked workers... 21,450 ptas (£120)

Fines ... 32,000 ptas (£180)

Help to arrested workers ... 4,000 ptas (£24)

Bail 25,000 ptas (£150)

Propaganda 1,850 ptas (£11)

Help to workers sacked in

Josa factory in Rubi 2,400 ptas (£14)

Packets and food to those

held in the 'model' prison in

Barcelona ... 3,559 ptas (£21)

By the end of December, the continuous fight of the Seat workers had forced the reinstatement of the 149 workers sacked as a result of the strike and the release of 70 of the 74 in prison. One of the released was Carlos Vallejo who was on two charges, for one of which the public prosecutor was demanding at least ten years' imprisonment.

These workers have entered the New Year fighting for the release of the four who remain in prison and for a new series of demands. These include a £7-a-week increase for all workers and a 40-hour week, the right to strike and the right to hold meetings and elect their own representatives.



MAN OF STRAW. (New series). Starring Derek Jacobi.

As world events shift increasingly towards riot and defiance, the tendency in television is to regress into the serial, into the comfort and stability which a continuing (sometimes everlasting e.g. Peyton Place) production affords in a changing and unstable world.

Apart from the never-ending sagas of police heroism (doughty Dixon and burly Barlow, to name but two aberrations), the British Empire series and its ilk provide another fair example—nine more safe weeks to go, and after that comes the rest of the £2m deal between the BBC and 'Time-Life'.

Revolutions may happen, the British embassy may go up in smoke, but destined with some certainty for your screens are the following series—'History of America', 'The Ascent of Man', 'The Mind of Man', 'The History of Exploration' and 'Planet Earth'.

They might even devise an award for further serial ideas such as 'The Ascent of the Son of Man', 'Mind of Man Junior', or how about 'The Continuing Story of Planet Earth'.

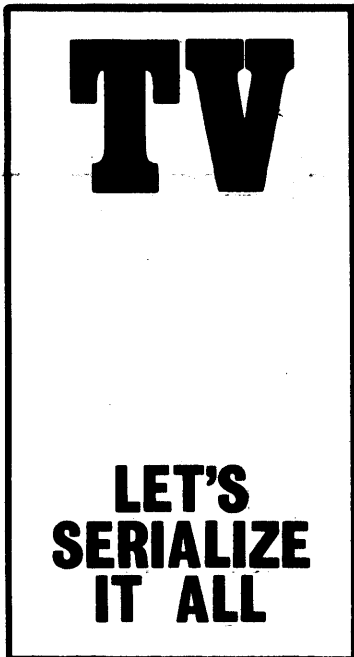
All such programmes will then be delivered with the true self-confidence of that particular brand of media-men who always contrive to exist just beyond the reach of everyday realities.

For those television producers and writers who do attempt to steer clear of the morass of opportunistic thinking which surrounds them, there is then the pitfall of pressure and censorship. This will, for instance, mar the fifth part of the British Empire which goes out tonight — 'In Darkest Africa'.

It was written by Stuart Hood—at least that section of it which escaped the progressive elimination process. It was to have begun with a quote from Hegel, but apparently Aubrey Singer, Head of Features, 'hadn't heard of Hegel', so we shall not be hearing of him either.

Then, it seems, a line which detailed the number of Zulus dead in the Zulu war was whipped out sharp — sharp as the devious paths of so-called objectivity allowed.

Mind you, one had suspected that might possibly happen, especially on Africa, for gracing the wall of the BBC 'Empire' production office, during preparation, was a large poster portrait of Kenyatta—someone's homage to that reactionary African head of state.



BY ANNA TATE

But while some serials are bad, others are interesting and therefore go out on BBC-2 — a channel which many of this country's citizens do not as yet receive. In fact, to take things one step further, a new and important six-part drama serial 'Man of Straw' not only began its run on Sunday, January 30, on BBC-2, but the repeats of each episode go out every following Saturday — again, on BBC-2.

To them that hath shall be given and to them that hath not shall be given the 'Dick Emery Show', and then we will be told that the average man in this country wants the Dick Emery Show.

Anyway, if you are lucky enough to have BBC-2, 'Man of Straw' is well-worth watching. Written in 1914 by Heinrich Mann, it was promptly banned by the German authorities, predicting as it did the rise of Nazism.

As a study of fascist psychology, the growth of militaristic thinking and the atmosphere prior to World War I, it is a compelling piece of work. It saves BBC drama from the cultural graveyard into which it has sunk.

Diederich Hessling, the central character, is perfect Nazi raw material. His deep dedication to his family consists of nothing more than fear and respect for a father whose 'sense of honour and true authority' sound more

like sadism put to socially-respectable ends.

Especially compelling is Heinrich Mann's portrayal of the Kaiser-loving, beer-drinking ('through beer you find God') duelling student fraternities, with their appalling emphasis on ritual and form. Thus Hessling is sustained by the fervid belief that 'form is no formality'.

Herbert Wise who directed this adaptation succeeded in conveying the frightening, fascistic quality of the fraternities — those songs sung with military bawl around the beer-table, the toasts to the Kaiser, the duelling scars on each face as a membership badge to the in-group.

And the writer shows very clearly the wealth of cowardice and insecurity which lies behind patriotic 'heroism'. He also manages to convey how the fake courage of the upper-middle-class, Kaiser-worshipper rested on a contempt for the working class and a reverence for aristocracy.

'My only fear is that we are dealing with working-class raff', says Hessling, at a point when it looks as if he might have to engage in a real fight rather than in his phantasies of war.

If the British Empire series provides one example of television frontiership, then this serial provides another. It's all very well to do a probe of fascism as long as it's over in outer-Bavaria and set some decades ago, to boot. But to the more discerning, it must have seemed obvious that the fascist psychology of the Hessling clan has quite a direct parallel over here.

The rituals, the elite-clan behaviour, the patriotism and endurance tests, all these exist throughout England in those pernicious institutions known as public schools. Of course, you don't necessarily get the duels and flying swords—what you get is polo-ponies with their elite riders whacking the daylight out of an inanimate object.

But the sadism, the emphasis on honour, authority, taking-your-punishment-like-a-man, not-letting-the-side-down, and the rest of the reactionary philosophy is there all right.

And when socio-economic conditions demand it, out they come to play their role. After all, one cannot help noticing that 99.9 per cent of all officers serving in N Ireland who are interviewed on TV have that clipped, stiff-upper-lip, slightly nasal tone which England's public schools are so adept at producing . . .

Where are the frontiers of fascism?

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

BACKDOWN

James Reid's, Clydeside's leading Stalinist and darling of the capitalist press, gave a talk to Glasgow journalists recently on the freedom of the press—a thing that Reid naturally supports.

Our staff man Stephen Johns was most amused to hear Reid's defence of free expression.

We recall the day he was left standing outside the gates of the Govan yard while members of the entire capitalist press marched past to a mass meeting. Johns and the Workers Press were excluded from the meeting because of the attacks we had made on the Stalinist leadership of the UCS struggle.

He was the only journalist in the country to be banned.

James Airlie, the other Stalinist leader at UCS, was responsible for depriving Johns

the Aristotelian theory of nature; the classical moment as the transposition of an historical into a cosmic order. Oscillations between nostalgia for archetypes and revolutionary eschatology in romanticism; Blake's songs of innocence and experience.'

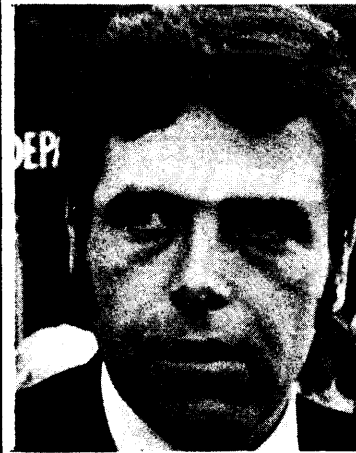
It promises to be a truly mind-blowing experience, eschatologically speaking, of course.

ORDER

Never let it be said that the fighting Heffers are not there when the fur is flying!

After Bernadette Devlin had denounced Maudling as 'a murdering hypocrite' and physically had a go at him, Eric Heffer—the 'left' from Liverpool—was on hand to do his bit.

What did he do? He moved a point of order, that's what he did. By Gad, that shook 'em!



James Reid



Eric Heffer MP

of his notebook on a previous occasion.

To justify this action Reid said Johns sneaked into a mass meeting, took notes and printed them the next day in the Workers Press.

In fact, Johns openly took notes at a meeting, surrendered his notebook when asked and did not print any information from the meeting in the next day's paper.

The Stalinists eventually backed down when the powerful Central London branch of the National Union of Journalists sent a strong protest over the treatment of Johns. The shop stewards' coordinating committee apologized over the incident.

Reid believes in a free press—but it seems he would like some papers to be freer than others.

BIZARRE

Human nature is currently occupying the trendies at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. They have assembled a bizarre array of speakers to deal with the topic.

Today enthusiasts can hear all about the concepts of nature and nature's relationship with man.

Enlightening the ICA audience is Cornelius Ernst, a former member of the Ceylon Communist Party turned Dominican priest. Ernst describes himself as a social anthropologist.

His lecture is called: 'The classical movement in Christian Theology in the 13th century and its integration into

And then he shook 'em even more. He called on god and country. Is nothing too much for this man?

Without flinching, he asked for 'AN EXTENDED DEBATE', in these immortal words: 'There are many of us here, both Englishmen and Protestants—I am one of them—who feel a great sense of shame at what happened in N Ireland.'

BOOB

Jeremy Thorpe and his band of Liberals are to start picketing low-wage firms during an 'Action on Hardship' campaign, launched this weekend.

Says Thorpe: 'Our campaign has become even more pressing because of the Tory government and now that inflation is taking its toll.'

He's unlikely to be received with open arms by trade unionists fighting inflation, however. The Libs' minimum-wage target announced the other week was £18.50—£1.50 less than the TUC's!

HOT OXO

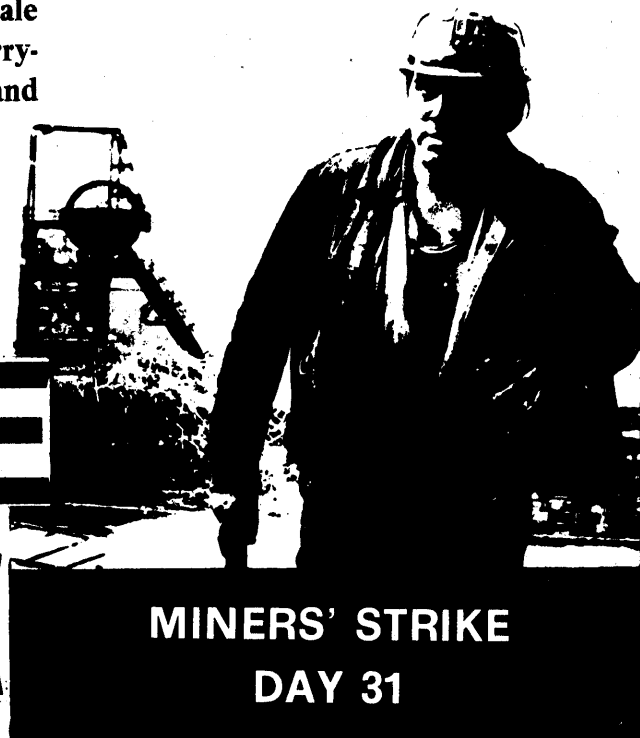
Somebody pulled a valuable but rather strange job of thievery from the Surrey docks the other day — a warehouse full of meat-extract cubes.

They unloaded a nearby lorry of eggs. Then they put their 975 cartoons of boodle on board and drove away.

Enterprising, but fraught with distribution problems one would think. You can't exactly shift £15,000-worth of hot Oxo from street corners.

On Monday, January 24, we carried an article 'Miners and the Tory government' by Wheldale pit worker and Socialist Labour League member Brian Lavery. Since then we have been carrying the comments of other strikers on this article. Today we have interviews from the NE and S Wales coalfields.

THERE'S NO DOUBT WE'RE A TEST CASE



MINERS' STRIKE DAY 31

PHILIP WADE
talks to
Eppleton lodge
chairman
ALAN BLAIR



THERE HAS been a big change in Durham's 35,000 miners. For years they were dominated by pit closures which forced thousands of them to travel S and others to go on the dole. And of course, as the closures stepped up, the NCB and NUM leaders warned of the dangers of fighting for higher wages: 'It will lead to pit closures,' they said.

But this time the threats and blackmail have been answered by Durham miners. Alan Blair is lodge chairman of the NUM at Eppleton colliery on the S side of Sunderland.

His branch voted 100 per cent against the final NCB offer, showing a unity not seen for many years. A mass lodge meeting has also voted to join the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work march as it comes through their area.

'There is no doubt that we are a test case. Behind us stand the engineers, railwaymen and many workers wanting a wage increase. I agree with the article when it says the only way we can win is to get the Tories out. It is a political fight and the government can't afford to give in to us, so they must go. I would like to see Daly make a speech calling for action to that effect.

'If we could unite the unions and get the Tories out it would be a step forward in the right direction. It is not just the rise that's at stake here, but a victory for the whole of the working class.

'Even if we did get the money, it would soon be eaten away in prices which have gone up 10 per cent since the election. It seems to me prices have been going up so fast that inflation will burst soon and there will be a big clash between the working class and the Tories.

'Look what happened in France in 1968 when they occupied all those factories. That was caused by price rises and I think it is a certainty that it will be repeated here.

'These price rises have been a political move. The Tories knew we were going into the Common Market, which will have no

benefit for the working man, so they forced up prices to such a level that when they finally went in, the prices were the same everywhere.

'But the union leaders are not playing the game as far as miners are concerned. They could join us now with more support. The T&GWU gave us £1,000, but that's no good; we want support, the only way we'll win this fight.

'Some leaders are sitting on the fence. Yet the Middlesbrough dockers are giving us support and those car workers in the Midlands are having one-day strikes for us. Why should we have to go picketing when the T&GWU could call their men out.

'I think they're scared to bring out 3 million engineers with the miners. All miners were under the impression before the strike

began that we would get some real support from these leaders and we've all been disappointed.

'There is no getting away from the fact that these leaders are slightly on the "left", but that is all you can say about them at the moment.

'What we want is one big amalgamation of workers that can say to the government: "Out—we've got a General Strike". But yet they fetched in Vic Feather.

'The article is right when it says he's running about with messages between us and the government. The TUC could put it forward that everyone comes out; they have the prerogative to do it.

'We've been misled for too long by our local leaders as well. Yet they helped close all the pits down. So we're now looking to our national leadership.

'I admired Daly when he first kicked off, but he seems to have eased off now. I only hope these fellows are not leading us up the garden path.

'We have to get the Tories out. All workers must unite and fight for socialism. Look at what the Tories did in Londonderry when they killed 13 men. I say the Tories are always warmongers and the workers always have to pay for them.

'The next Labour government has to be different from Wilson, who carried out too many capitalist policies. I think these old fellows at the top of the Labour Party should be slung out and young people put in their place.

'The last Labour government put the pressure on us with the wage freeze and we helped them

out. Now it's their turn to do something for us.'

Alan works in a coalfield with some of the worst conditions in Britain. Many of the faces are running with water and the seam he works in is only 14 inches high and the coal is difficult to cut. On nationalization he has this to say:

'I had always thought that miners would run the NCB, especially when they told us they were our pits. We've got solidarity among the men, but not yet the benefits of nationalization. It is proved by the way we have fallen down the wages' scale. Profits have been made under the NCB, but we haven't got them, so someone else has.

'In my opinion the old coal owners are still running the pits. Why should they get compensation any more? It's our industry, we dig up the coal so we should get the profits.

'I agree with the idea of workers' control. We've got good men in our union, educated men. And I'm sure we could train some to run the NCB and shove all these Tories out once and for all.'

Alan says finally why he is supporting the Right-to-Work march:

'The Labour Party has done nothing except have a two-hour strike in the House of Commons against unemployment. Workers Press is a paper for the miner and everyone should buy it if they want the truth. That is why our lodge is supporting the march.

'Only the Young Socialists are doing anything about unemployment. The Communist Party won't do it, nor will the Labour Party leaders. Only the YS is putting up a fight.

'Durham miners are now fighting after being frightened by the NCB for a long time. All the talk in the world about pit closures doesn't bother us any longer.'

MINERS

Your thoughts on the strike and its relationship with the Tory government are welcome. Any letters should be sent to: The Editor, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

ALL OUR BASIC RIGHTS ARE UNDER ATTACK

IAN YEATS talks to Blaenserchan face-worker JACK CLARKE

'I AGREE with 90 per cent of what Brian Lavery says because it's got to come about', Blaenserchan face worker Jack Clarke told me.

While pickets were demonstrating their determination only a few miles away at Penrhwi-ceiber storming police lines and preventing NACODS (overmen, deputies and shotfirers) officials leaving the colliery Mr Clarke said: 'It's the government we are fighting. Gormley and Daly [miners' leaders] must not go cap in hand. They must go to the TUC and demand the support of every trade union in the country.

'Feather should support us without having to be asked. The trouble is that these union leaders get out of touch with the

rank and file. It's not the leaders in the coal industry who are forcing this strike, it's the men.

'The Tories want to make us knuckle under: I think Lavery's right about a recession. You can see it now and that's why they won't give us a penny.

'When Carr went to meet the TUC and the NCB, he had no intention of settling anything. All he went for was to show the strength of the Tories. He made absolutely no offer. He went there just to say: "I'm here and you're getting nothing."

'If we can't get our claim, we should call a General Strike and clear this Tory government right out.

'The TUC's policies are milk and water. They've been far too timid and docile.

'Without any fear of contradiction all our basic rights are under threat from this government, particularly the right to a decent standard of living and the right to strike.

'They'd like to force us back to the 1920s when miners stood in a line—hundreds of men—waiting to see which two or three men the manager would pick not knowing if they would work or not.

'Why are they keeping the nationalized industries down and letting private enterprise come up?

'But they are not going to ill-

treat us again as they did in the past.'

Mr Clarke is a staunch Labour supporter, but he claims the Party is not standing up to the Tories enough.

'The Labour Party should put more pressure on the Tories than they have done. This is of sufficient importance to call a General Election and get them out.

'But if the Tories resign, the next Labour government will have to be a bit to the left of the last one. It would have to nationalize more industries and see that workers get more control.

'Workers' control in the mines is something we've been advoca-

ting at Blaenserchan for a long, long time. You get officials coming in with no experience telling you what to do—this is a thing we've got to stamp out.

'Nationalization is a good thing if it's worked right. If we had more control in the matter, morale would increase and we wouldn't have this trouble with wages and unemployment.

'Our main weapon now is a General Strike. I think things will start to move in the TUC and the Labour Party very soon now because this strike has got to the stage where they've got to act.

'And because of the extreme inconvenience, the Tories will have to act. But if they declare a state of emergency we're ready to meet it.'

JOBLESS VITAL FOR HEATH

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PREMIER EDWARD HEATH has told the Overseas Bankers' Club that firms will not re-engage all those who have been made redundant. Through his crocodile tears

about the 'human and social tragedy' of 1 million on the dole, he told the bankers dining at their annual City of London Guildhall banquet just what they wanted to hear—a permanent pool of unemployment.

SPARKS FIGHTING WAGES BOARD

SUPPORT is building up nationally for the 15-week struggle of 20 contracting electricians in Liverpool who are fighting the industry's notorious Joint Industrial Board agreement.

The sparks are on strike from three firms on the site of a new Inland Revenue Office computer centre at Bootle.

Two of them have just returned home after a trip to seek support from London branches of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union.

'Everyone there was right behind us,' one of them told Workers Press. 'The response was terrific.'

Although the strike is unofficial, it is regarded as a key issue by many hundreds of workers in the trade who regard the JIB as a stumbling-block to their struggle for a decent wage.

And, ironically enough, the men's claim—£1 an hour, the right for stewards to negotiate at site level and an end to blacklisting—have now been submitted officially by the union despite its hostility to the strike. The Bootle dispute is, in fact, more than a year old.

In February last year, 14 electricians earning 58p an hour,

went on strike for parity with other trades on the site getting £1.15. They had been talking about the claim since the previous October.

Widespread backing was won from sites in the area, but in June union leaders forced a return to work on the strength of threats to the jobs of other trades at Bootle.

On October 25 sparks employed by James Scott and Co Ltd walked out. They were followed on January 10 this year by those working for Lee Beesley and Co Ltd, while on the same day maintenance electricians from Duncan and Watson refused to cross picket lines.

The firms' argument is that the men's demands are above the nationally-agreed JIB rate.

But the men point out that this rate has already been breached by contractors N. G. Bailey at the Alcan smelter site in Lynemouth, and that £1 an hour is official policy of the EPTU's national contracting conference.

Right-wing union secretary Frank Chapple's branch in London has backed the strike. Unemployed electricians in Liverpool have unofficially 'blacked' the IRO site, although they could take jobs

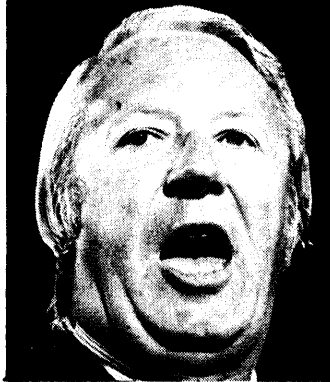
For the Tories plan close relations with the European capitalists in the Common Market in the hope of being able to stand up against the Americans. That is why Heath undertook to repay immediately the £415m owed to the International Monetary Fund, if the 'technical difficulties' concerning convertibility of the dollar could be overcome.

The purpose of this is to reassure the international bankers that the figure of 1 million unemployed—described by Heath as 'large by post-war standards' (our emphasis)—only encourages the Tory government to press on with its attacks.

'Continuing the fight against inflation therefore remains vital to our success and to the lasting prosperity of industry.'

By 'continuing the fight against inflation' Heath, of course, means 'continuing the fight against wages'.

The purpose of the Common Market was made clear: 'We must be ready now to pool the



HEATH: WHAT THE BANKERS WANTED TO HEAR

resources of the member-countries so that Europe can establish viable industries which can compete with any country or trading bloc.

'In the past the nations of a disunited Europe tended to allow American power and influence to protect Europe in all essentials If the New Europe wants to take the lead to pursue policies on trade and money, we will have to work out a new balance with the Americans on all these matters.'

In other words, the crushing of the working class ('establishing viable industries') must be carried through if European capitalism is to survive in the trade war launched by Nixon last August.

The question of value, however, remains at the centre of the crisis.

Formerly, the dollar was accepted as an international trading currency because—unlike any other currency—it was convertible into gold.

NO GOLD

Since Nixon's August measures, dollars have remained inconvertible and European countries—particularly France—have been unable to convert into gold the large amount of dollars they have collected in their central banks.

The European bankers want international liquidity placed under international control, so that it would no longer be dependent on the external position of any one country (i.e., the US).

There is little chance, however, of the Americans agreeing to this. The trade war will go on, and with it attacks on working-class standards and organizations throughout the capitalist world.

Thus Heath declares for continued war against the working class. As he does so the trade union leaders settle for what is, in real terms, a wage-cut for the power workers.

But the working class is ready and willing to fight.

This is proved beyond any doubt by the nationwide trade union response to the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work campaign.

TV

BBC 1

9.15 Schools, 10.45 Boomph with Becker. 11.15 Schools. 12.25 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 12.55-1.25 Disc a dawn. 1.30 Chigley. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.50 Schools. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Frog prince. 5.20 Unsolved mysteries. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News and weather.

6.05 **NATIONWIDE**. Your region tonight.
6.50 **TOM AND JERRY**.
7.00 **OWEN MD**. 'It Never Rains'.
7.25 **STAR TREK**. 'The Naked Time'.
8.10 **SOFTLY, SOFTLY: TASK FORCE**. 'The Big Tip Off'.
9.00 **NINE O'CLOCK NEWS** and weather.
9.20 **SPORTSNIGHT** from Sapporo.
10.10 **TALKBACK**. Michael Barratt.
10.40 **24 HOURS**.
11.15 **A CONVERSATION WITH THE DUKE**. Duke Ellington, jazz composer and conductor.
11.50 **Weather**.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35-7.00 Open University.
7.05 **MAN IN HIS PLACE**. 'The Suburban Continent—Camberwell'.
7.30 **NEWSROOM** and weather.
8.00 **MAN ALIVE**. 'Ball Refused'.
9.00 **LOOK, STRANGER**. 'The Tin Miner They Couldn't Kill'.
9.20 **FILM: 'THE BLACK SWAN'**. Tyrone Power, Maureen O'Hara.
10.40 **NEWS ON 2** and weather.
10.45 **LATE NIGHT LINE-UP**.

ITV

10.20 Schools. 2.32 Living writers. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.10 Tea break. 3.40 Edgar Wallace. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Get this! 5.20 Tightrope. 5.50 News.
6.00 **TODAY**. Bill Grundy.
6.35 **CROSSROADS**.
7.00 **THIS IS YOUR LIFE**. Eamonn Andrews.
7.30 **CORONATION STREET**.
8.00 **CADE'S COUNTRY**. 'The Mustangers'.
9.00 **A FAMILY AT WAR**. 'The Old Order Changeth'.
10.00 **NEWS AT TEN**.
10.30 **TREASURES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM**. 'The Study of Mankind'.
11.00 **ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL**.
11.55 **WHAT THE PAPERS SAY**.
12.10 **THE MEDIUM AND THE MESSAGE**.



MAUREEN O'HARA and TYRONE POWER are in BBC-2's vintage Hollywood film 'The Black Swan' tonight.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 10.20-2.32 London. 4.05 Paulus. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Tea break. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Towards the year 2000. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.25 Wrestling. 11.55 Epilogue. News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.55 News. 11.58 Faith for life. 12.03 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 10.20-2.32 London. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.40 Tea break. 4.10 Houseparty. 4.23 Terry bear. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.25 Wrestling. 11.55 News. 12.05 Weather. The discoverers.

HARLECH: 10.20-2.30 London. 3.50 Katie Stewart. 4.15 Tinker-tainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 London. 11.25 Wrestling. 11.55 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.01-6.30 Report West.
HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 3.50-4.15 Hamdden. 6.02-6.15 Y dydd.

ATV MIDLANDS: 10.20-2.32 London. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Ghost and Mrs Muir. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.25 Wrestling. Weather.

ANGLIA: 10.20-2.30 London. 3.55 News. 4.00 Tea break. 4.30 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 8.00 Mannix. 9.00 London.

ULSTER: 10.20-2.32 London. 4.30

Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 What's on. 6.35 London. 11.25 Wrestling.

YORKSHIRE: 10.20 London. 2.33 European journey. 3.00 Pied piper. 3.05 Jobs in the house and garden. 3.35 News. 3.45 Women. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.25 Wrestling. 11.55 Weather.

GRANADA: 10.18-2.30 London. 3.40 Yoga. 4.05 News. From a bird's eye view. 4.35 Rupert Bear. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. What's on. 6.25 Peyton Place. 7.00 London. 11.25 Wrestling. 11.55 What the papers say.

TYNE TEES: 10.20 London. 2.32 European journey. 3.05 Pied piper. 3.10 Jobs in the house and garden. 3.35 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Grasshopper island. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.25 Wrestling. 11.55 News. 12.10 Troubled water.

SCOTTISH: 10.20-2.20 London. 3.30 Winter of enchantment. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Pop-eye. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Department S. 9.00 London. 10.30 On the buses. 11.00 Sportspost. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Wrestling.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00-2.55 London. 3.38 News. 3.40 Smith family. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Tuktuk. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.35 London. 8.00 Department S. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. 10.30 Perspective. 11.15 Harvesting. 11.25 Wrestling. 11.55 Epilogue.

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Longbridge talks on MDW

SHOP STEWARDS at the big Austin-Morris car plant at Longbridge in Birmingham are demanding a full meeting of all piecework stewards to discuss proposals for a new Measured-Day Work pay scheme.

Works-committee chairman Dick Etheridge failed to persuade the joint shop stewards' committee to endorse the proposals so that negotiations with management could start immediately.

Almost 5,000 workers were laid off yesterday at Longbridge and its Castle Bromwich body-supply plant by a strike of car-assembly workers. The 1,000 strikers want an interim pay award similar to that given to women sewing machinists and engine-assemblers pending transfer to MDW.

Many Longbridge stewards are now seriously worried that their MDW negotiations may be undermined by a 'prairie fire' of demands on the same lines.

In York tonight, Pat Lowry, industrial-relations director of British-Leyland, which owns Austin-Morris, will hand union leaders new proposals for a combine-wide procedure agreement.

Lowry, the main architect of the company's recent MDW strategy, hopes to get agreement on a plan which could become a blueprint for the entire engineering industry following the scrapping of the 50-year-old York Memorandum.

And Leyland stewards at combine level, already bitterly opposed to their leaders' abandonment of the national engineering pay claim, are sending a seven-man delegation to lobby the York talks.

FEBRUARY £1,250 FUND NOW £211.51

FOLLOWING a good start, we must do everything possible to keep up this fight for February's fund.

As unemployment soars in district after district, support for the Right-to-Work marches comes pouring in. Trade unionists everywhere are concerned at the mass unemployment created by the Tories.

Workers Press is fully behind the Right-to-Work campaign. More and more support can and must be won. Use the paper in this fight. Immediately help us step up the campaign for February's Fund. Collect as much as you can and post it to:

Workers Press February Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London, SW4 7UG

LATE NEWS WEATHER

NEWS DESK
01-720 2000
CIRCULATION
01-622 7029

DOCKS BAN DISCUSSED

PORT employers are to hold an urgent meeting to discuss the effect of an overtime ban by London dockers protesting against the threat of redundancy. At present 2,000 of the port's 16,000 men are being sent home each day because of the shortage of work. The dockers say they will stage token stoppages each time any employer tries to return a man to the unattached labour pool.

● See What we think, page two.

EMERGENCY WILL ENCOURAGE MINERS

IMMEDIATE reaction of the Ayrshire miners to the state of emergency was one of defiance and anger.

New Cumnock strikers heard the news in the village working men's club and began immediate discussions on how

to meet the threat.

Tom Breckney, treasurer and secretary of the local strike committee, warned the government move would only encourage the miners.

'If they send troops in here, more miners will only come

forward into the fight. So far in Scotland picketing has been peaceful, but if they start using violence they will be met in kind. The miners will not be defeated.'

Jim Hart, the craftsmen's delegate for Cairnhill pit, said:

'Our strike is against the government now. The NCB is only a third party. All the unions have got to pull together and defeat this government.'

'The power workers' leaders have weakened our fight.'

Carworkers at depot picket

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

POLICE AGAIN roughed up miners' pickets and arrested two of them outside the W Midlands Gas Board coal depot yesterday.

About 300 police linked arms to hold back 500 pickets trying to stop the movement of lorry loads of coke from the 100,000 ton stock at the Saltley depot. On Monday police arrested 21 outside the depot.

The scene outside the gates reached near-riot proportions yesterday when a scab lorry injured a miner from Stoke and a policeman. Both went to hospital.

The injured picket is believed to have had both his legs broken.

The 500 miners at the depot were joined by strikers from British-Leyland's SU Carburettor and Transmission plant, Thorn Lighting Ltd and drivers from Autoferry Transport Ltd.

Factory workers in overalls, students and school children massed with the miners at the gates.

Fighting broke out at about 10.30 a.m. as scab drivers ignored the pickets. SU Carburettor convenor Joe Iredale was involved in angry scenes with the police as a miner chasing a scab was tripped.

'This is appalling,' said Mr Iredale later.

'I've never seen anything like it. I see a man knocked flying, I protest about it and I'm accused of being planted here to cause trouble.'

Officials from the Transport and General Workers' Union 5/35 (lorry drivers) branch were checking licence plates and union credentials of drivers.

Stan Tucker, branch official, said that the Birmingham Trades Council executive was meeting on Thursday night to discuss what support could be given to the miners.

'They should close the whole of Birmingham down,' he told me.

Tony MacDonald, labourers' shop steward at SU Carburettor said:

'If the whole of British-Leyland in Birmingham came out, we would be on the way to winning the strike.'

DENABY MAIN
Thursday February 10, 7.30 pm
(The Drum)
DONCASTER
Sunday February 13, 7.30 pm
'The Nelson'
(near Southern Bus Station)

S WALES MEN TO TOUGHEN STRIKE TACTICS

FROM IAN YEATS IN S WALES

S WALES miners yesterday condemned the electricians' leaders' acceptance of a 7½ per cent pay rise for their 115,000 members.

'It's not us that's been sold down the river, it's the power workers,' Taff Merthyr lodge secretary Reg James told me.

'It's absolutely disgusting. They were told not to be influenced by the miners. They've been sold down the river and we have lost the greatest opportunity we had of fighting together with the power workers.'

Soldiering on alone and now with emergency powers hanging over them, Mr James made an urgent appeal to the labour movement to support the miners.

'The NUM and the TUC must call for a General Strike to defend the miners as a matter of urgency. The Tory government is our enemy and we'll fight them to the last.'

'We cannot win without industrial support from the other unions.'

A meeting of the 3,000-strong combined lodges of the Merthyr vale will be held today to discuss toughening up the strike by banning all safety men from the four pits involved.

SECOND PHASE

Said Mr James: 'We are moving to second phase of the strike. We withdrew our own NUM safety men on the first day. If the safety men don't come out, they will be heavily picketed as they were at Penrhwi-ceiber.'

NACODS (overmen, deputies and shotfirers) safety officials have agreed not to go in to Deep Duffryn colliery near Mountain Ash following mass picketing by miners and officials at Tymawr-Merthyr Lewis near Porth got in only after a police escort had been summoned.

Commenting on accusations in the Tory 'Western Mail' describing pickets as 'animals', Mr James retorted angrily:

'How can they possibly justify this. It's the Tory press trying to whip up public opinion against us.'

'The truth is the converse. Non-unionists drive over and kill our members. They are the real animals.'

Mr James said: 'As far as we are concerned the Tories can do what they like. If they try to use the Industrial Relations Act or to force us to accept arbitration, we will defy them. We'll defy the NUM if they try to get us to accept the 60-day cooling-off period.'

'If the Tory government tries

to use troops to move coal now that they have declared a state of emergency, they will be inviting trouble. There'll be riots.

'They are talking about us committing industrial suicide, but it is the Tories who are doing this by refusing to settle our claim.'

CONFUSED ULSTER DAY

PROTESTS marking six months of internment started in Ulster at midnight. In Londonderry the demonstration against Stormont is being called D (for disruption) Day.

About 10,000 people are expected to gather in Londonderry's football stadium opposite an army observation post where they will hear local MP John Hume.

The exact form of today's protest is confused. Although the civil rights movement is seeking a 'General Strike', the Alternative Assembly—the MPs who pulled out of Stormont late last year—say it would put men's jobs 'at risk'. Instead the assembly executive will hold a fast today at Free Derry corner.

ANOTHER NIRC CASE

DATE of the next employers' bid to break a closed-shop agreement through the National Industrial Relations Court will be February 29, NIRC president Sir John Donaldson announced yesterday.

C. A. Parsons Ltd wrote on January 24 to the technical and supervisory section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers drawing attention to Section 5 of the Act.

It claimed that under this section, a 1970 agreement that its 1,800 technical staff must be members of the union could leave it open to charges of 'unfair industrial practices'.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETING

Londonderry massacre

A new stage in the struggle of the Irish working class

Thursday February 10
CONWAY HALL
RED LION SQUARE, WCI
8 p.m.

Speaker: G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

Young Socialists
National Right to Work Campaign

Right-to-Work MARCH

from Glasgow to London
arrives in
CARLISLE
Saturday February 12

COME TO OUR RALLY
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13

City Hall
Carlisle, 7.00 p.m.

see our documentary play
'THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION'
Directed by Corin Redgrave
Written by Tom Kempinski

followed by a meeting
Speakers:
G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)
VANESSA REDGRAVE
JOHN BARRIE (YS leader of march from Scotland)

Admission 25p

ENGLAND, Wales, N Ireland bright day with sunny spells and perhaps isolated showers. Rain is expected to reach SW England late in the day, spreading to other southern counties during the evening.

N Scotland will be cloudy with occasional rain, but brighter conditions with sunny or clear intervals will spread from the SW later.

Temperatures will be marginally above normal.

Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Continuing mild and unsettled with rain at times, especially in the N and W. Winds reaching gale force in places.

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