

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● MONDAY MARCH 13, 1972 ● No. 712 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

8,500 GREET RIGHT-TO-WORK MARCHERS



YOUTH LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST TORYISM

SPEECH BY G. HEALY, NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

THIS GREAT rally serves notice on the Tory government and all those right-wing Labour and trade union traitors who serve its purpose within the labour movement, that the working class is determined to put an end to capitalism as soon as it possibly can.

In greeting the Right-to-Work marchers, we greet the most decisive section of the vanguard of the working class. For their courageous and determined march to London has demonstrated the power of the working class in four basic experiences.

FIRST, the marchers could not have reached London without the wholehearted support which they received from the rank-and-file members of the Labour Party and the trade unions.

SECONDLY, because the TUC, acting under pressure from the Tory cabinet, banned the marches through the introduction of the same 'black circular' with which they banned the 'Hunger Marches' of the 1930s, practically the whole of the full-time officials of the trade union movement placed one obstacle after another in the way of the marchers.

The mounting anger of the rank and file against the Tory government swiftly swept the 'black circular' aside and gave all-out aid to the marchers.

THIRDLY, the Labour Party NEC proscribed the marches and in a number of towns locked them out from accommodation. This was more than offset by the action of local Labour Parties who defied the proscription and came unstintingly to the aid of the marchers.

FOURTHLY, the Communist Party fully supported the TUC 'black circular' and instructed its right-wing members to join hands with the trade union bureaucrats and implement it. This did not prevent a large number of Communist Party members from

rendering the most valuable support to the marches.

The main lesson from all these experiences is that the British working class is breaking decisively from the stranglehold of bureaucracy and is striving to express itself politically as a class.

This was the great political gain from the victorious miners' strike. It proved that the Tory government can be defeated and this constitutes the highest point of political experience, which affects not just the miners, but

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Kremlin-Spain talks during shootings

WHILE Franco's police gun down shipyard strikers at El Ferrol, on Spain's NW coast, a delegation of Soviet officials is working its way round the country placing orders for the Russian merchant fleet.

The delegation comprises Koustov, head of the Soviet commercial offices in Paris, Morosov, chief engineer of Sudimport of Moscow, together with a Mr Valdivieso, joint director of Construnaves, a Spanish concern.

At the weekend, workers in El Ferrol buried one of two strikers killed by a police fusillade outside the state-owned Bazan Naval yards. Thirty others were wounded.

The whole town closed down on Saturday as a mark of respect for the dead strikers, despite the presence of three destroyers flying battle flags anchored offshore.

El Ferrol is the home town of dictator Francisco Franco, whose mounted statue dominates the town's main square.

Three thousand workers in the Bazan yards are on strike demanding higher wages and the right to choose their own union representatives.

Under fascist labour law, the workers are regimented into state Sindicatos and genuine unions are rigorously outlawed.

The Soviet delegation's visit at a time of mounting class struggle shows where the Kremlin stands with the fascists against the working class.

The delegation began their tour in Bilbao in the Astilleros Espanoles shipyards, recent scene of a bitter strike by 2,000 workers.

Bilbao, along with the rest of the Basque provinces, is enduring an almost permanent state of emergency as the fascist police attempt to break up the organization of the Basque nationalists.

A delegation from the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, and Hungarian and Rumanian delegations attended a conference recently held in Madrid of international airlines to sort problems about the distribution of profits when two companies have flights on the same routes.

Last December, the under-Secretary for Trade, Fernandez Cuesta, in a statement made in Bilbao, said that a trade agreement with the USSR was under discussion.

'We cannot ignore the size of the market nor the potential of the Soviet Union,' he said.

The Moscow Stalinists' enthusiasm for more links with fascist Spain is clear from the fact that the first ever 'mixed enterprise' established with another country by the USSR was 'Sovhispan' to aid the Soviet fishing fleets in international waters.

The British Communist Party's 'Morning Star' is silent about this

counter-revolutionary relationship, just as it kept sealed lips when Stalinist Poland shipped coal to break two key strikes in the Asturias coalfield.

The Communist Party's silence makes it an accomplice in the continuing betrayal of the Spanish working class by Stalinism.

Yugoslav economy in danger

DIFFICULTIES facing the Yugoslav economy have been highlighted in the latest report on the economic situation made by deputy premier Dr Sirotkovic.

After a cursory reference to the need to develop 'self-management' and improve living standards, he went on to emphasize that 1972 would have to end high inflation, stabilize markets and solve what he called 'the unfavourable economic position and the insolvency of the economy'.

All the contradictions of 'socialism' in a small, backward country are making themselves felt. The Tito regime's rightward course has led to concession after concession to the capitalist world while the economic crisis has grown worse.

US PRICES SHOW STEEPEST RISE

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

WHOLESALE prices in the United States last month showed the steepest monthly rise in a year, according to statistics released at the week-end by the Labour Department.

The February wholesale price index rose by 0.9 per cent on January's figure—equivalent to a yearly rise of nearly 11 per cent.

This makes a mockery of Nixon's much-vaunted Prices Board, which is supposed to keep price rises down to 5 per cent a year.

In fact, the figures conceal an even sharper increase in the cost of living, because the rise in retail prices is invariably higher than the wholesale price rise.

Herbert Stein, chairman of the President's three-man council of economic advisers commented: 'It will be a matter of concern to us if we don't see a decline in inflation fairly soon.'

Nixon is pledged to cut the rate of inflation to between 2 and 3 per cent this year in the run-up to November's presidential elections.

With his price policy in ruins, the president now has to face the prospect that the trade unions will smash his wage policy as well. The Wage Board is currently considering the E and Gulf coast dockers' pay rise, which amounts to over 40 per cent spread over two years.

The Wage Board is supposed to keep wage rises down to 5.5 per cent a year.

IN BRITAIN, average personal spending on food rose by 21½p—10 per cent—a week in 1971, according to a Ministry of Agriculture survey released today.

Increased prices accounted for most of the rise. Butter consumption declined to 5 oz per person per week, while margarine purchases increased to 3.7 oz.

Tehran executions

ARMY firing squads in Tehran yesterday executed nine left-wing opponents of the Shah of Iran, bringing the total executed this month to 19.

Thyssen cuts production

THE Common Market's largest steel concern, August Thyssen-Hütte, is to cut production following a 71-per-cent slump in profits for the last financial year.

Managing director Dr Hans-Guenther Sohl has warned that the pressure of cost increases was still strong. Dividend was cut from 14 to 7 per cent and only kept at that level by dipping into reserves and extraordinary receipts.

February's production was down 2.8 per cent on 1971. Sohl drew some consolation from a smaller fall than for the previous period and expressed the hope that a plateau would be reached. He did not hold out any hope that earnings for the current year would improve.

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the working class as a whole.

As our marchers were setting out from Glasgow on February 5, the working class was already poised on the threshold of a new stage of political development. Those of us who followed the marchers day by day could see it reflected in the growing political maturity of the young people themselves.

By the time the marchers reached London on Friday evening, the youngest and most immature of the marchers were already veterans of the revolutionary struggle. It was not just the SLL and Workers Press which had performed this transformation. It was the day-by-day contact with a working class which itself was and is visibly growing in political stature.

This new stage of mass political development is chiefly characterized by an enormous polarization of class forces. The working class is thrusting forward its demands for improved wages and living standards. The Tory government is in a deep crisis, with the Labour and trade union leaders engaging in secret coalition arrangements with the Heath cabinet.

This is especially the case over Ulster, prices and incomes, the Common Market and even the Industrial Relations Act.

Such a situation, while creating conditions of great promise for the revolutionary forces, will not last. The Tory government is playing for time while preparing the counter-attack. There is no time to lose. The working class is making a great political leap and we betide the revolutionary forces if they lag behind.

Never let us forget that the Tories are conscious that their class is in real danger. They are going to fight back like cornered rats.

Those Labour and trade union leaders who help them by disarming the working class are nothing more than the MacDonaldives of the 1970s.

The Stalinist leadership of the Communist Party, which in its attack on the marchers aided

such traitors, demonstrates once again that Stalinism is the most counter-revolutionary force within the international working class in these vital days.

And that is what is so powerful about the Trotskyist history of the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists. We are the only movement that can throw open the pages of its history to the tens of thousands, both young and old, who want to put an end to capitalism for ever. Our history is spotlessly clean in its struggle to preserve the traditions of Bolshevism alive throughout the long decades of defeat since the victorious Russian Revolution of 1917.

It is the leaders of our movement within the USSR who were murdered by Stalin in the Moscow Trials of the 1930s, the

YESTERDAY with the Right-to-Work rally under way at Wembley, fresh donations and messages of support were notified.

'Wishing you every success in your Right-to-Work campaign,' said the shop stewards' committee at Standard-Triumph (Liverpool) Limited. And they sent £20 on behalf of the whole factory.

The AUEW (Technical and Supervisory Section) Bristol No. 3 branch sent a collection of £27.96 with the message: 'Our thanks to those marchers who are leading the fight against the crime of unemployment.'

Electricians in Basildon have

same Stalin who was in those days supported by the arch-Tory imperialist Winston Churchill.

It is the leaders of our movement who have been expelled again and again by the Labour Party right wing for fighting for socialist policies. The Young Socialists who organized these marches were expelled by Wilson in 1964.

WE SAY today, loud and clear, that the greatest gain which the working class possesses is the struggle for Marxist principles personified by Leon Trotsky and the building of the International

Committee of the Fourth International.

Workers who want to fight the Tories need tools and those tools are the vital principles of Marxism. That is why we refuse to blunt these vital principles by engaging in middle-class protest stunts and fake 'unity' intrigues.

If we were to do this at such a critical turning point in the struggle against the Tory government, then we too would be guilty of betraying the working class.

Here is our authority for calling upon this great audience to make this Tory government resign.

WE SAY to those trade union members of the audience: the TUC has sold out to the Tory government. It has already be-

made a donation of £10 and the Loughborough branch of the National Union of Vehicle Builders has sent a collection totalling £12.

The Labour Party Young Socialist branch at Willesden E has passed a resolution expressing full support for the marches and the campaign to bring down the Tory government.

'We would like to assist in any way possible,' the LPYS branch said.

Men at the Becton sewage site works, who have previously voted support for the campaign, have now given £15 towards the campaign fund.

trayed as it did in 1926. You must act at once. Break the unions from the capitalist state and the Tory government, clear out the leaders who have betrayed, democratize the trade unions from top to bottom by electing new leaders who will be strictly controlled by the rank and file. Only in this way can the Industrial Relations Act be put an end to for ever.

To accomplish this great task you must join the All Trades Unions Alliance, which works consistently within the trade unions towards achieving these goals.

WE SAY to Labour Party members: You must engage immediately in the fight against the right-wing leaders of your party. Delay will breed disaster.

We will fight shoulder to shoulder with you to make the Tories resign and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

These policies must include nationalization of all the basic industries without compensation and under workers' control. Only in this way will the Right-to-Work campaign be victorious.

A Labour government must end internment and withdraw all troops from Ulster as well as from everywhere else overseas.

It must repeal the anti-union laws and restore all basic rights of the health and social services to the working class. It must repeal the Tory landlords' charter of the so-called Fair Rents Bill.

WE SAY to the Communist Party members. Your fight is even more fundamental. You must immediately study the history of the international workers' movement and the powerful vindication of Trotskyism against Stalinism. We stand ready and eager to help you to accomplish this. For Trotskyism today is the only real voice of Bolshevism and communism.

WE SAY to the youth whose stout political shoulders have borne the brunt of the preparatory work for this great rally—and with them we include the students and young intellectuals—the old parties of Labour reformism and Stalinism have betrayed. Only the programme of Trotskyism, the building of revolutionary parties organized within the International Committee of the Fourth International can liberate yourselves and mankind from the pauperization and bankruptcy of world capitalism and the enormous danger of the destruction of this planet in a thermo-nuclear third world war.

You must join us at once and help transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party. You must join the Young Socialists and help transit it into a mass revolutionary youth movement, the champions of the Right to Work, the

staunchest defenders of Old Age Pensioners, in a word, the vanguard of the working class, staunchly defending and extending its struggle to apply and learn from the great principles of Marxism.

We throw open the doors of membership of the Socialist Labour League to all those who will unite with us in action to fight for these principles.

In return we make here and now this most solemn pledge.

To the young marchers we say. You are our most treasured comrades. By your march you have roused decisive sections of the working class to action. You have dealt a mighty blow to the bans and proscriptions and to the Tory government.

You will occupy a place of honour for all time in our great movement.

We will leave no stone unturned in preparing you for the all-important task of participating and strengthening the leadership of the Socialist Labour League.

We call upon students and intellectuals in this audience to link arms in common struggle with our young marchers. Turn your backs on the corruption of capitalism. We pledge ourselves to aid you in every way possible.

Finally, we pledge ourselves before our adult audience of Labour Party and trade union members.

The history of the British working class is a history of unvanquished struggle against the capitalist and the Tory enemy. It is also the history of the most shameful betrayals by its leadership.

The Socialist Labour League is the only authentic voice of revolutionary Marxism in Britain today. We will not betray. We will march with you to final victory.

So don't delay—we need your support as much as you need the great traditions of Marxism which can only be attained through the construction of the revolutionary party.

Join us at once and help to accomplish this great historic task.



PORTUGUESE FEAR WARS IN COLONIES

BY ALEX MITCHELL

Portugal has begun an intensive diplomatic campaign to gain support for its vicious and cruel colonial wars in Africa.

Prime Minister Marcello Caetano was recently host at the Azores talks between Presidents Nixon and Pompidou and Portuguese Foreign Minister Dr Rui Patricio has just completed an official visit to Britain.

In Whitehall Patricio saw Prime Minister Edward Heath, Defence Secretary Lord Carrington, and the Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas Home.

Patricio's visit was the first to Britain by a Portuguese government official since 1960.

The amount of Portuguese diplomatic activity is unusual. Under the long reign of the dictator Salazar, Portugal refused to engage in world diplomacy. Salazar never travelled outside the country and frowned on his Ministers spending time abroad.

But the increased guerrilla activity in Portugal's African colonies—Angola, Mozambique and Guinea—has forced the Caetano regime to adopt 'an outward-looking' policy.

Relations between Britain and Portugal have improved considerably since the advent of a Conservative government. In particular, Portugal has received support—both moral and material—for her colonial wars.

On January 9, the Portuguese daily paper 'Diario de Noticias' announced that one of the major topics to be discussed at the London talks would be 'events that will follow the agreement on the independence of Rhodesia'. (The Pearce Commission had not even left London at that time.)

The same report also stated that Home had pledged Britain's support for Portugal's entry into the Common Market, despite the existing escudo zone free trade area comprising Portugal and the colonies.

A further item was undoubtedly the strengthening of the collaboration within the NATO alliance to help equip Portugal's 170,000 troops fighting the forces of African liberation in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea—FRELIMO, MPLA and PAIGC.

Repression within Portugal and its African territories has usually been associated with Salazar; but in fact there has been no change under his successor, Marcello Caetano. The colonial wars are being intensified, with chemical warfare now used in Angola and about to be introduced in Guinea.

The army terror is backed by massive white settlement schemes. General Kaulza de Arriaga, military commander in Mozambique and candidate for the Presidency of Portugal, has explained the colonial policies as 'Firstly, growth of the white population, then secondly, the limitation of the black population'.

In Portugal itself, repression of all democratic activity continues: the dismissal of the leaders of the metal workers' union, the imprisonment of the bank employees' leader, Daniel Cabrita, together with deprivation of Antonio dos Santos, the journalists' union leader.

The Foreign Minister is not, however, the only Portuguese on an important diplomatic mission. Recently Admiral Pereira Crespo, Minister for the Marine, headed a delegation to an international fishing conference in Russia. This move was reportedly welcomed by officials in Lisbon as an example of the 'open' attitude Portugal has to world affairs.

Not content with canvassing support from the Tories and the Stalinists, Portuguese diplomacy is casting an even wider net to include the Washington State Department. Agreement has been reached on the future use by the US Air Force of a vital military base at Lajes, on the island of Terceira, in the mid-Atlantic Azores archipelago.

On the strength of this, Portugal has been promised loans totalling nearly \$430m, which will undoubtedly find its way into the Portuguese colonies where it will be used in an attempt to smash the guerrilla movements.

Top: Prime Minister of Portugal, Dr Marcello Caetano with Nixon (left) and Pompidou (right). Below: Minister for the Marine, Admiral P. Crespo.



FREIGHT FIRM SETS PATTERN OF WAGE CUTS

Workers at a Lincolnshire freight firm are having their take-home pay slashed by a new management wages scheme.

What's taking place at the firm in Grantham is particularly important because it represents a definite trend in wage relationships.

As Britain slips further into recession, employers throughout the country will take similar measures to protect their profits.

Details of the wages scheme are revealed in a memorandum sent by Marshall's Freight Limited, an express transport and haulage firm, to all staff.

Marshall's hold the national contract for distributing Ben Sherman shirts. Ben Sherman Limited is the parent company and is itself part of the Trubenized Group of holding companies. Marshall's Freight was bought by Sherman's in December 1970 and almost at once, says one of the workers, 'the winds of change started to blow through the company'.

During the past year five drivers have been sacked and London depots of the firm closed down.

Sackings included the Transport and General Workers' Union shop steward. He was

retrieved only after unofficial industrial action.

The conflict in the premises came to a head last week when a circular was issued. This stated that men's basic rates would be cut by 2½p per hour. The circular says that if the deal is not acceptable, 'I shall automatically cut out your dinner money, cut down on night out money.'

The management further explains in the following rambling sentence that has no punctuation at all: 'So you had better all make up your minds what you want as the longer it goes on the longer you are losing [sic] £2.15 per week you just cannot have it both ways.'

One Marshall's worker told Workers Press: 'The average wage at Marshall's is approximately £25 plus expenses, such as night allowances etc. A man with three children would find that with a food bill of about £11, rent of £5 and television rent etc, the £25 is worth very little.'

He claimed expenses barely covered the outlay needed to eat and sleep properly while out of the depot.

'Yet now we are told that even this meagre salary is excessive.'

PROTEST AGAINST NIGHT BILL

A protest march against the Night Assemblies Bill is being arranged for March 24 in Trafalgar Square.

The Bill, sponsored by Jerry Wiggins, Tory MP for Weston-super-Mare, is designed to prevent pop festivals being held. It seeks to prevent meetings out of doors of over 1,000 people for three hours after midnight.

But, once law, it could be used against any working-class demonstration involving over 1,000 people at night.

The Bill enables local authorities to control festivals, and ban them if they consider the site unsatisfactory, or if they think the festival does not reach the proper health or fire standards. Organizers would also have to pay a deposit for clearing-up expenses.

If a promoter's application to a council is rejected, he can appeal to a person nominated by the Minister of Environment.

The National Council of Civil Liberties is against the Bill



Peter Walker

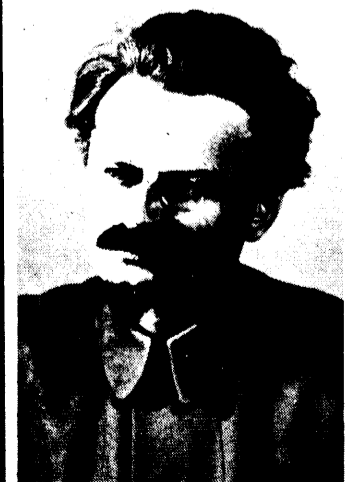
because it 'impinges on the basic right of assembly.' Protest meetings, night rallies and even the traditional New Year's Eve celebrations in London's Trafalgar Square would become subject to the Bill's clauses.

Former Beatles' press officer Derek Taylor, now with Kinney Records, is also fighting the Bill and has enlisted the aid of Labour MP, Arthur Davidson.

Mr Davidson, MP for Accrington claims: 'This Bill would be unnecessarily restricting, and impose draconian punishments for anybody taking part in a pop festival—not just the promoters. It could go a long way to killing pop festivals.'

'But it would also be an infringement of the traditional right of assembly or protest.'

BOOKS

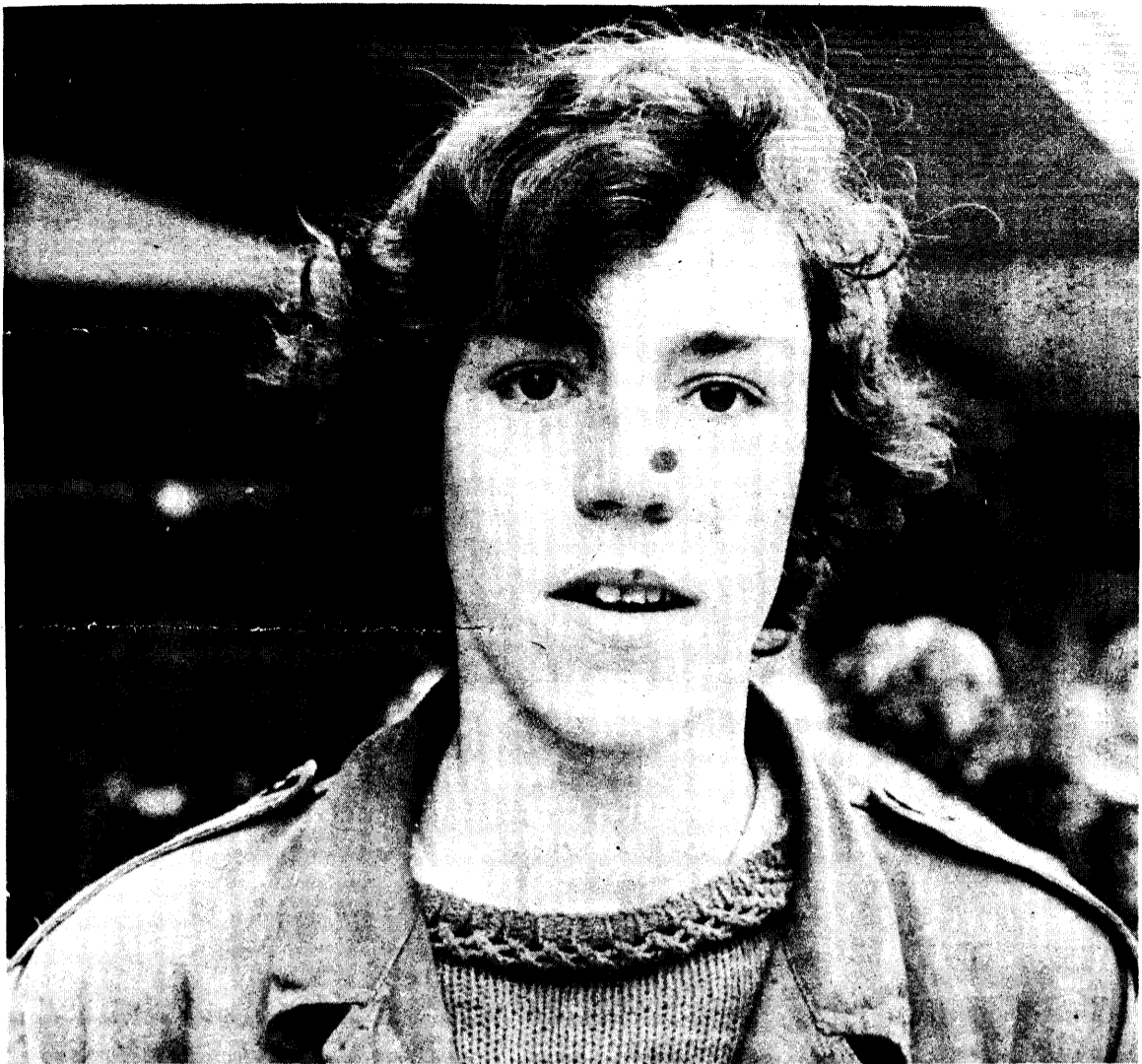


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THE MARCH GOES ON

The five Right-to-Work marches organized by the Young Socialists have climaxed their fight against the Tory government by a massive rally at the Empire Pool, Wembley. Now a new stage of the fight opens up. All the determination and political consciousness raised during the nationwide marches is today turned towards making a huge success of the YS annual conference at Scarborough on April 8 and 9. Scarborough becomes the next signpost on the march to build the revolutionary party in 1972.

In the coming weeks this page will be devoted to interviews with the young marchers.



As we walked through Woolwich 17-year-old Tony Dawson, who owns nothing but what he stands up in and keeps himself by running errands, tugged at my arm.

'Look at all those clothes', he said with astonishment at London's packed shop windows. 'They don't half dress well up here don't they? It really annoys me though. There are all those clothes in there and I've got to walk along like this.'

'I was at school when these Tories were elected. I used to get milk until they took it away and then they put the price of

meals up and my dad couldn't afford it.

'I had to go up to a mate of his for a meal at lunchtime and it made me feel rotten. I never let people buy me food now—not without thinking about it a long time.'

Tony was brought up in a twilight world shuffling between separated parents.

'I was in rags at school, there were even patches on my trousers and they were always telling me to get new gear but my dad couldn't afford it.'

'Now, when I see people who look a bit scruffy, I feel I should do something about it.'

'I'll keep with the YS now. To

walk off the march would be silly. It's letting the Tories do what they like and they're to blame for everything.

'If I can, I want to stay in the YS. Their campaign for work is right. I don't think I've got any chance of a job with the Tories in. If the YS are marching again I'll be all for it.'

'If I do something I do it right through to the end.'

'When we went to Northampton it was great when they all cheered us on. I didn't think they would because the Kent march hadn't walked far. When we walked down the road everybody shouted for us. It was really great.'

'I never realized there was such a division between the upper class and the working class until I went on this march' said miner and the Deal march committee member John Strand, 17.

Since the miners' strike John admits he has made giant strides politically.

'Before I went to the pit (Snowdon, Kent) I was against people striking but I went to a few meetings and found out what it was all about and I changed my mind. Before I was just in my own little world.'

'I've spoken to so many people



The plight of Liverpool-born Steve Dixon, 24, is a clear warning that however hard he tries no worker can escape capitalism's death agony.

Said Steve: 'I left London university and I had high hopes of getting a job but things have really changed in the last year or so.'

'Nobody wants arts graduates and if you don't want to go into industry you've had it. I know quite a lot of graduates who've had to take jobs they didn't really want.'

'I haven't had a proper job since I left university, just makeshift things, and I moved down to Kent in the hope of getting something in the social work line but it's impossible.'

'This march has opened my eyes to the wider problems involved in unemployment. I see now it's the deliberate policy of the Tories to cut back on jobs. It's made me want to go out and do something instead of sitting at home wallowing in self pity.'

'Before I joined the march at Chatham I just had vague anti-

Tory ideas but they've been crystallized by the meetings we've had and by the sense of being in one cause together.'

'I've been very impressed with the whole thing. There is a unity, a drive, a spirit that hasn't happened for quite a long while in left movements.'

'I was associated with RSSF at university (Revolutionary Socialist Students' Federation) but they were hopelessly impractical and doing nothing at all.'

'The YS marchers are going out and showing people that somebody is prepared to act—instead of the vague theorizing other left groups go in for, they explain the situation in straight terms and offer a programme.'

'It's about time somebody did something practical against this government which is taking away all our basic rights and after the miners' strike the time we've chosen couldn't be better.'

'It doesn't matter that there are only a few of us. People will remember this march and that we're doing something concrete.'



John Quilty, 21, stresses that he was not picked up on route—he actually came out to the Kent march under his own steam after reading about it in the Workers Press.

'It has been the greatest political experience I ever had', he told me. 'I will definitely join the YS and try to turn it into the kind of mass movement it's got to be.'

John is an electrician and he's been unemployed on and off since last June.

'I've got a sore throat from shouting and sore feet from walking but they are going to get better whereas the Tories will still be there.'

'This march is absolutely necessary. It shows the Tories they've got opposition. It doesn't matter how many of us there are, so long as we're marching

for a principle dozens will have the same impact as thousands.'

'The effect we've had during the whole length of the march is incredible. We've pulled people out who would normally be sitting at home and we've created havoc in the Labour movement.'

'Look at the number of people who disregarded their leaders in the CP, the Labour Party and the unions to come out and support us. And we're making people in the street know more about what the YS is all about and what this fight with the Tories is all about.'

'The national press hasn't taken much notice of us because they're terrified of us but they'll have to say something about Wembley.'

'It's very important to show the Tories how we feel and the YS are the only people doing it.'



that are as I used to be. But I think the marches are having a devastating affect. The average bloke is not bothered provided he's got a job but if you prove to him what's going to happen in the next few years and get him roused you could get a fair old force together.'

'I saw what they were trying to do to the miners and I was out on the pickets and on this march I've seen the Tories beating the unemployed like a dog you don't like. I worried about the situation. I didn't want to just sit back like the Labour Party and the TUC and do nothing.'

'I'm going to join the YS and see what I can do in Snowdon pit to help. When I go back I'm really going to plug it.'

'When I first joined the march I thought it was a lark about but then I started getting serious. When we got to Woolwich and we saw how the Labour council gave way I thought, they're really frightened.'

'We're just a small group but we can do something.'

SGT YOKOI BECOMES A MILITARY SYMBOL

On September 3, 1945, Japan surrendered in a ceremony on board the American battleship 'Missouri'. The subsequent Constitution imposed on Japan by the Americans declared that the country should never rearm. But as JOHN SPENCER reports Japanese militarism is surging back. The spectre of Japanese militarism is once again haunting Asia, 27 years after the defeat of the fascist regime.

Big business in Japan, greedy for lucrative war contracts and eager to back its overseas trading policy with powerful armed forces, is bent on giving the spectre flesh and blood.

The government of Eisaku Sato has advanced plans for a massive military build-up over the next five years. Its so-called 'Fourth Defence Build-up programme' envisages a 20-per cent increase on this year's military outlay and would give Japan armed forces far superior to any in Asia outside China.

The sudden turn of Japanese capitalism towards military expansion is a consequence of the developing world recession. The devaluation of the dollar has hit particularly hard at Japan's main industries.

These are heavily-oriented towards exports. The steel industry, core of the 'economic miracle' during the boom years, has already stopped all new investment plans up to 1975.

Other industries — textiles, electronics, motors — are equally hard-hit by the recession. The United States is pressing Japan to rearm and the big industrialists are fully behind Sato's plans.

Inside the ruling Liberal-Democratic party there is fierce in-fighting for control of the lucrative military contracts associated with the build-up of the armed forces.

OBSCURE

Japan is constitutionally forbidden to rearm, but this has in no way inhibited the Sato government. Military leaders are making open calls for Japanese troops to be sent abroad to places like Taiwan and the Philippines, ostensibly for 'training'. What they would be training for is deliberately left obscure.

At home a deliberate campaign is being waged to obliterate the memory of war-time suffering and glorify the army. In recent weeks much of the campaign has centred round the person of Shoichi Yokoi, the Imperial Army sergeant who lived 28 years in hiding on the Pacific island of Guam.

Yokoi, who survived in the jungle on a stone-age diet, declared on his return that 'I had confidence in the emperor and I held out with the Japanese spirit. I feel ashamed that I failed to serve the emperor to the best of my abilities.'

This kind of talk is grist to the militarists' mill. Minoru Genda, a far-right Liberal-Democrat MP declared: 'Only with great moral support has Mr

Yokoi been able to survive in his isolated jungle life. The support came from the Emperor in the form of national policy.'

Another right winger, Shintaro Ishihara, contrasted Yokoi's attitude with 'the absence of mind common to our contemporary youth in fulfilling their mission and duties to the state'.

PRAISE

Big businessmen, anxious to reinforce the paternalist corporate spirit in their workers were equally full of praise for Yokoi.

Junji Ito, president of Kanebo Ltd, declared that he would like to invite Yokoi to lecture to his employees. Yet among the mass of people, despite the efforts of the right-wing press, the incident has revived terrible memories of the war years and reinforced their determination to put paid to the militarists' plans.

A 20-year-old driver quoted in 'Asahi Shimbun' said the news of Yokoi's return was 'terrible':



Shoichi Yokoi in 1941

'I didn't know the war, but the news left the horrors of war in my mind. Returning home after being held prisoner, anyone would be punished in Japan. I hate the militarism that inspired the Japanese with such wrong ideas.'

Writer Shoji Yuki warned people against the danger they would again be 'forced to make sacrifices in the name of the emperor' and a 55-year-old man from Yokohama was quoted as saying: 'Look at the 1972 budget and you can see people compelled to pay taxes only in order to furnish funds for the arms build-up.'

Official circles have heaped big sums of money on the returned soldier. The Ministry of Health and Welfare presented him with 100,000 yen pocket-money and a collection among cabinet ministers raised an additional 1,240,000 yen. There are plans to legislate a special pension for him amounting to anything



Top: Emperor Hirohito. Bottom: Yokoi after 28 years of hiding

between 5 million and 10 million yen.

This is in sharp contrast with the treatment meted out 12 years ago to Yokoi's two comrades Bunzo Minagawa and Tadashi Ito, both of whom were discovered hiding on Guam in 1960. They received only a meagre 10,000 yen apiece in homecoming allowances. (There are about 1,000 yen to the pound sterling).

BELIEF

It alienated official 'sympathy' by his forthright denunciations of Japanese militarism. A month after his return, he said: 'One thing I thought about in the jungles was the question whether there is God. We were short of everything in Japan but we started the war with belief in God.'

'Another thing is that once enrolled in the army we can never get out of it. I was under orders and was forced to go into

the jaws of death. Is this the right thing to do?—I was short of wisdom, knowledge and learning.'

'At the end of the war Mr Tojo would be the first to be punished with death. I thought the emperor could have no reason to escape capital punishment.'

'Many soldiers had been killed in the war. I thought, therefore, that the emperor and Mr Tojo must have been punished with death under Japanese penal code at a Japanese military tribunal. I had never imagined that the Americans would hold a court to probe into the war.'

In fact, of course, Emperor Hirohito is still very much alive, as his recent visit to the United States and Europe proved.

It is not hard to see why the Japanese establishment gave such different treatment to Yokoi when he emerged from the jungles with his militaristic views intact 12 years after Ito.

TROUBLE IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has singled out the Party leadership in the town of Tiflis in Stalin's home state of Georgia for a lengthy and sharp criticism.

Behind the screen of overall targets fulfilled, the local Party has been found guilty of a whole series of detailed failings. 'It occupies itself little with the organization and checking of the fulfilment of Party and government directives', runs a lengthy CC resolution published in 'Pravda' on March 6.

The town's industry is falling behind in the fulfilment of production targets for goods such as footwear, knitted underwear and outer garments. 'In 1971 at every fourth enterprise the volume of marketed output decreased and productivity of labour was lower in comparison with the preceding year.'

Capital construction plans were systematically unfulfilled. Catering and other services were inadequate and 'working people are lodging complaints about the work of the medical establishments'.

Something is obviously rotten in the state of Georgia. Incompetent people hold responsible positions, the resolution complains, and measures are not being taken to raise the level of criticism and self-criticism on the part of Party members. No wonder that the local bureaucracy prefers not to stir things up.

The Central Committee does not venture to suggest why the local bureaucracy should have become so slothful—it simply wags a disapproving finger in a way which is intended to bring the equally lax and comfortably-living apparatus men in other towns all over the Soviet Union into line.

In Georgia the cult of the late-lamented Josef Stalin is very much alive and the stinging admonishment from the Moscow leaders is likely to cause as much resentment as improvement in Tiflis. No doubt 'the misappropriation of socialist property' and other discreditable practices to which the resolution calls attention are more than an old Georgian custom. They are endemic wherever the bureaucracy rules.

From the standpoint of the Kremlin, the blatant way in which the local bureaucrats, not satisfied with their normal perquisites, neglect their duties and dip into the till, is very dangerous and has to be stopped.

It threatens to bring down onto the heads of the rotten bureaucratic caste which rules the Soviet Union the just vengeance of the working class.



Stalin: the cult continues



We shall march throughout the country

EMPIRE POOL

WEMBLEY

SUNDAY MARCH 12



RED FRIDAY: HOW THE TORIES PREPARED

BY JACK GALE

Workers Press has repeatedly made the parallel between the settlement of this year's miners' strike and 'Red Friday' of July 31, 1925, which preceded the General Strike.

We have pointed out that the Tories have decided to make a settlement now in order to buy time for a renewed onslaught against the working class in the future.

What exactly happened on Red Friday, 1925, and how did the Tories make use of it?

In 1925 coal-mining was Britain's largest industry, with a labour force of just over 1 million. It was in a chaotic state, with 2,500 collieries operated by 1,400 different owners.

Cheap Polish and German coal flooded the market after 1923 (partly as a result of the conditions imposed on Germany by the Versailles Treaty) and this forced world prices down.

Then in April, 1925, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Winston Churchill, returned Britain to the gold standard. In effect, this was a revaluation of the pound and it forced up British export prices. Coal, then relying heavily on the export trade, was priced out of the world market.

The miners and their families were thrust into poverty. As J. M. Keynes declared: 'They represented in the flesh the "fundamental adjustments" engineered by the Treasury and the Bank of England to satisfy the impatience of the City Fathers.'

POVERTY

In June 1925, the coal-owners informed the Miners' Federation that the existing wage agreements would be terminated at midnight on July 31, 1925.

Simultaneously, they announced new conditions of work which cut miners' wages by 10-25 per cent, abolished the national minimum wage and lengthened the working day. Men were not to be allowed into the pit to work under the old agreements.

In reply, the TUC called a strike and ordered a complete prohibition on the movement of coal from midnight on July 31, when the lock-out took effect.

Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin appointed a court of inquiry.

Throughout June and July, Baldwin sought to bring the coal-owners and the TUC to-

gether, always insisting, however, that the government would not give the coal industry any kind of subsidy.

On July 29, the court of inquiry found in favour of the miners and this was immediately rejected by the owners.

And still—as late as Thursday, July 30—Baldwin again emphasized that a subsidy was out of the question. That afternoon, the TUC issued the orders to stop all transport from midnight, Friday.

SUBSIDY

A stormy Cabinet meeting was held on Thursday evening and it finally decided to grant a subsidy of £23m, to maintain both wages and profits.

This subsidy was to operate until May 1, 1926, while a Royal Commission investigated the coal industry. This Commission was headed by Sir Herbert Samuel, one-time Home Secretary and former Governor of Palestine. The other members were Sir William Beveridge, an economist, ex-civil servant and Director of the London School of Economics; General Sir Herbert Lawrence, a partner in the banking firm of Glyn, Mills; and Kenneth Lee, a Midland Bank director and chairman of Tootall, Lee, Broadhurst, the cotton manufacturers.

There was not a single trade union representative on the Commission. What the workers got on 'Red Friday' was a temporary subsidy and a commission consisting of an establishment politician, a liberal economist, a financier and a banker-manufacturer.

Even so, the Labour Party leader, Ramsay MacDonald, voiced the reaction of many of the less far-sighted supporters of capitalism when he declared:

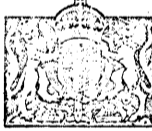
'The government has simply handed over the appearance, at any rate, of victory to the very forces that sane, well considered, thoroughly examined socialism feels probably to be its greatest enemy.'

Others knew better. Winston Churchill declared in December, 1925: 'We decided to postpone the crisis in the hope of averting it or, if not of averting it, of coping effectually with it when the time came.'

In his memoirs, Baldwin records, laconically, 'We were not ready.'

Even some of the trade union leaders had a premonition of what was to come, but nevertheless remained paralysed. Herbert





REPORT
OF THE
ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE
COAL INDUSTRY (1925)
WITH MINUTES OF EVIDENCE AND APPENDICES.
VOLUME I
REPORT.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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BRISTOL STRIKE LEAFLET No. 2

Why a General Strike?

Because the organised Trade Union Movement resents the glaring conditions sought to be imposed upon the Miners.

The Government declares that it will only reopen negotiations provided the Miners AGREE BEFORE HAND to reduced wages or longer hours or both.

THIS IS NOT FAIR.

Wages in the coal industry are lower than those in other industries. The Government proposes to reduce them further.

Scotland	9.1	Latest 6.8
Northumberland	10.4	7.7
Derbyshire	10.8	7.0
South Wales	10.0	8.0
Yorkshire	10.7	9.0

The Bristol rates are lower than those in other industries.

Latest of Derbyshire 8.11s. 6d. per ton. Latest of Yorkshire 8.11s. 6d. per ton.

Latest of Derbyshire 28s. per ton. Latest of Yorkshire 28s. per ton.

and an increased working week of five hours. Latest of Derbyshire 10 d. per hour as basic wage for 1925.

IS THERE MONEY IN COAL?

290 Million Pounds sterling. Capital cost £1,000 Million. 340 Million Pounds sterling. Capital cost £1,000 Million.

additional £100 Million. Capital cost £1,000 Million. 340 Million Pounds sterling. Capital cost £1,000 Million.

second period of 12 years.

THE MINER DEMANDS

THE WAY OUT.

The State must OWN the Coal Industry.

Top: Churchill. Left: Sir Herbert Samuel. Right: The Samuel Commission; rejected nationalization

Smith told a national delegate conference of miners as early as August, 1925: 'We have no need to glorify about a victory. It is only an armistice.'

The capitalist press was clear about what was wanted. The 'Star' reflected this in a cartoon published in August 1925 showing Rothermere and Beaverbrook standing by an advertisement which read: 'Wanted, within nine months, respectable Tin God to take over job now held by Baldwin. Must be able to pick trouble and smash unions.'

Despite these clear indications of what was to come, the TUC did nothing. Between October 1925 and the eve of the General Strike the TUC did not meet once to plan its strike strategy, although its Special Industrial Committee was supposed to hold 'a watching brief'.

It made no plans for feeding strikers and their families, prepared no system of communications or transport, arranged no form of publicity for the strikers'

case of any kind, let alone a newspaper.

ESSENTIALS

These are basic essentials for winning a prolonged strike, but the TUC clearly had no intention of winning a prolonged strike. It placed all its hopes in the Royal Commission. If that did not deliver the goods, the TUC knew what it would do—capitulate.

The Samuel Commission reported on July 10.

It rejected nationalization, despite the glaring inefficiency of the coal-owners. It said the 'Red Friday' subsidy was 'indispensable' and 'never to be repeated'.

Most important of all, it recommended that the miners should take a cut in wages or work longer hours for the same pay. The miners' seven-hour day, bitterly fought for over many years and supposedly guaranteed by parliament, was to go.

One Cabinet Minister—Lord Birkenhead—wrote: 'It would be possible to say without exaggeration, that the miners' leaders were the stupidest men in England, if we had not had frequent occasion to meet the owners.'

But this was a representative of the more timid wing of the Tory Party. Baldwin was certainly prepared to give the owners their heads.

The government was, in fact, pledged to carry out the recommendations of the Samuel Commission, but Baldwin wriggled out of this by saying that they had to be accepted by both sides to this dispute.

In doing so, he gave the 'go-ahead' to the owners. They were ready. So was the government. The miners and their 'allies' were not.

¹ J. M. Keynes 'The Economic Consequences of Mr Churchill.'

CONTINUED WEDNESDAY



J. M. Keynes



Stanley Baldwin

POPULAR FRONT MISLEADS THE CHILEAN WORKERS

BY TOM KEMP

Keenest supporters of President Salvador Allende's regime in Chile are the Communist Party Stalinists who are pursuing a typically popular-frontist policy of moderation and conciliation of the middle class.

This policy, which invites the right-wing to move in for a kill with the backing of the Central Intelligence Agency, is fully backed by Sam Russell, 'Morning Star' foreign editor, in an article on February 28.

He claims that the recent cabinet reshuffle and new moves by Allende represent the launching of 'a major political offensive against those who seek to hold Chile back'.



Matthews: 'Morning Star' editor

The Allende regime certainly faces grave dangers at the present moment. Everything possible is being done by the copper companies, whose properties in Chile have been nationalized, to mobilize international opposition to the regime which urgently needs further outside financial assistance to prevent economic breakdown.

Encouraged by electoral successes, the right-wing parties are intensifying their efforts to mobilize the middle class and to scare off the more timid supporters of the Popular Unity government. Further nationalization measures have been blocked by the Congress, which has a majority hostile to Allende.

If Allende fails to overrule Congress, the government will have lost the power to carry through the measures necessary to implement the parliamentary road to socialism.

Like his Chilean counterparts, Sam Russell underestimates the dangers facing the government and the power of those aligned against it. The real question, however, is the failure of Allende to inspire and mobilize the great mass of the people, including the poor peasants and urban sub-proletariat, and to prepare them for revolutionary struggle.

Russell points out that the Christian Democrat and nationalist parties, supported by the neo-fascists, are engaged in a vigorous campaign against Allende's nationalization plans. He says: 'The battle is on and the coming months will be



STALINIST CRISIS



President Salvador Allende of Chile.

decisive.' That is true. But to hold out the hope to Chilean workers that they can defeat the reactionaries and their imperialist backers without a struggle is to leave them disarmed.

Chilean negotiators seeking ways of obtaining credit to pay off existing foreign debts from European bankers are finding the going tough. A loan from the International Monetary Fund will only be granted under severe conditions which would restrict government economic policy.

Chile suffered under IMF supervision in the years after 1955 when the Ibanez government allowed its policy to be dictated by international capital in return for a miserable \$50m loan. The Allende regime declares that it will not accept such terms, but the foreign bankers can demand that there should be no more nationalization.

Thus, the Chilean ruling class

and its international allies are closing in on the Allende regime, preparing for the kill.

With the Communist Party as his most devout supporter, Allende is manoeuvring to strengthen and broaden the eight-party Popular Unity Front which is essentially an electoral coalition. Notwithstanding what Sam Russell says, this means a shift to the right and concessions to the patriotic capitalists.

In the face of the preparation and arming of the reactionaries, Allende plods steadfastly along the parliamentary road to disaster, with the full support of the Stalinists.

There is plenty of evidence, even in the Chilean Communist Party press, that the working class is prepared to fight. Only its mobilization on a policy of nationalization and agrarian revolution, striking a mortal blow at the ruling class, can save it from defeat.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

BAIT

Anybody read the recruiting blurbs lately?

Royal Navy: 'The world is a great place, when you've got the right mates.'

Royal Marines: 'Commandos train for the tough jobs.'

Air Force: 'When you join up, you join in.'

Army: 'We'd like you to know what you're missing.'

But it seems that most young men know what they're missing and want to go on missing it—even with 1½ million unemployed.

Not that the bait isn't tempting. A recent advertisement in 'Navy News' advertised shoulder-length 'trend' wigs at £6.25.

RECRUIT

The war against porn started by Moral Re-Armament, Mary Whitehouse, Lord Longford and Mickey Mouse goes on!

The latest recruit to the campaign is Ald Sir Ron Ironmonger, Labour leader of the Sheffield City Council.

Sir Ron said he backed the Festival of Light because it 'attempted to bring back people to the principles that count'.

Sir Ron did not say whether one of the principles that



Mary Whitehouse: one of the starters of the war against porn.

'counted' was the use of Hells Angels—complete with swastikas—as standover men at Festival of Light rallies.

Other members of the newly-formed group in Sheffield are the university vice-Chancellor, Professor Hugh Robson, the Post Office telephone manager, Mr R. H. Thompson, two headmasters, Catholic and Baptist ministers, a city councillor and an estate agent.

SUITABLE

The great Spassky-Fischer chess tournament will be staged in two months' time.

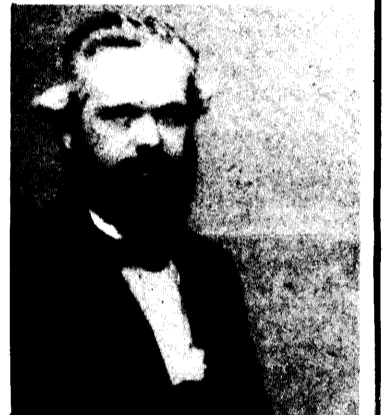
Everything possible is being done not to disturb the masters' temperaments.

In fact, one match is being played in Belgrade where the temperature agrees with Fischer. The other is being played in Iceland which suits the particularly frigid play of Spassky.

OUTCRY

Further to our note about the press outcry over the sentence passed on Timothy Davey for pushing dope in Turkey (Workers Press, March 3) here are a few sentences that the freedom-loving British papers weren't bothered about.

Last October 18 young people were sentenced to death for 'attempting by force to alter, or to modify or abolish, in whole or in part, the constitution'. This is one of the



15 years' jail for publishing Marx's 'Communist Manifesto'.

23 offences punishable by death in Turkey—of which 15 relate to 'felonies against the state'.

In December two others were sentenced to death on the same charge.

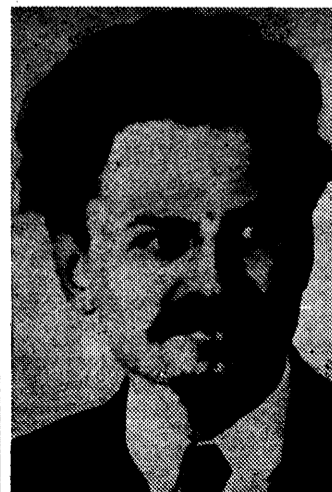
At the same trial three girl students got life imprisonment, another two got 15 years, and two others were jailed for ten years.

Towards the end of last year publisher Suleyman Ege got 15 years for publishing Marx's and Engels' 'Communist Manifesto' and Lenin's 'State and Revolution'.

Abdullah Nefes got 7½ years for translating Mao Tse-tung's 'Selected Writings'.

Evidently considered more dangerous than dope-pushing.

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ACTORS' UNION TURNS ITS BACK ON WORKING CLASS

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

On March 2 'The Stage', a weekly newspaper covering events and non-events in the entertainment industry, announced in a front page article that the Council of Equity (the actors' union) was to meet within a fortnight to discuss 'the most dramatic dilemma to confront the association since it was founded 42 years ago'.

The source of this information was clearly 8 Harley Street, the union's headquarters, and the 'dilemma' which confronted the gentlemen at headquarters was how to defy the TUC, turn their backs on the other entertainment industry unions and overturn their own policy of 'total opposition' to the Industrial Relations Act.

A week later they had resolved their dilemma. By a small majority the Council voted to go back on the register. Within hours an application was lodged.

The timing of this betrayal, in the immediate aftermath of the miners' strike, is highly significant. The miners' victory, bringing forward whole sections of the working class with a heightened determination and consciousness of their own strength, also accelerates developments within the professions.

A FOOT IN THE EMPLOYERS' CAMP

In Equity, where 92 per cent are unemployed, more and more actors, singers and dancers are turning to political solutions to their problems. In so doing they are recognizing that the only way forward from the apparent hopelessness of their situation is to ally themselves in struggle with the working class.

And when the struggle intensifies — as now — their leaders, bureaucrats and privileged highly-paid performers whose position depends on keeping the right foot firmly planted in the employers' camp, are driven to any lengths to avoid it.

They try to confuse the rank and file first with a façade of militancy, then prey upon their insecurities with anti-communist scares and slanders, and finally

use naked, unequivocal collaboration.

This process can be traced most clearly in the conduct of the Equity leadership over the Industrial Relations Act. Soon after the Bill was drafted, they published a pamphlet — 'Our Profession in Peril'.

It offered no political analysis of the Bill whatever. On the contrary it asserted that Equity's strength lay in the fact that as a non-political union it could somehow assert its opposition more effectively. In other words the leadership felt free to run along to the Department of Employment and beg for a special dispensation.

The pattern for retreat was thus set from the start. By narrowing their opposition to the single issue of the Bill's effects on Equity's closed-shop and casting agreements* they ruled out any principled fight against the Tories and cleared the way for abandoning their opposition as soon as the government offered anything which could be made to look like a concession.

At the first Special General Meeting called by the Council, it was announced that no concession had been forthcoming. Equity was therefore 'totally opposed' to the Bill.

The following month the Council, with some assistance from pro-Tory elements, ex-Stalinists and moral re-armers, defeated a members' resolution calling for Equity to support the one-day General Strike on January 12, 1971.

A strike at this stage, it was argued, was premature and would divide the membership. Instead members should sign the TUC petition and write to their MPs. But if these constitutional measures should prove ineffective, Equity would then use every available measure, including strike action, against the Bill.

Over 2,000 members signed the petition. Six hundred marched on the TUC demonstration on February 21. Meanwhile negotiations with the DEP continued and produced the wholly spurious concessions — 'the approved closed shop'. In the editorial of the Equity letter's March edition a faint semblance of militant opposition was maintained. The government's concession 'fails to meet our case. Unless, therefore, the government finds it possible to meet that case by changes introduced while the Bill is in the House of Lords, the Council and members of Equity will be forced into an "agonizing reappraisal" of the means we must adopt for the protection of our



June 1971, the Equity AGM where actors re-affirmed their total opposition to the Industrial Relations Act

fundamental right to defend both the livelihood and the standard of work of our profession.'

In the Annual Report, published two months later, these vague, rhetorical threats are abandoned. The concession is still said to be 'of little value'. But some hope is to be found in the results of the petitioning and letter writing.

'The response to this was very great. One MP told the House of Commons that he had received 54 different letters from actors living in his constituency. In this way friendly interest in the problems created for us by the Bill was aroused in MP's of all parties.'

The report omits to mention that the MP in question was Geoffrey Finsberg, Tory MP for Hampstead, and that what he actually claimed in the House of Commons was that actors in his constituency supported the Bill.

POLICY OF TOTAL OPPOSITION

At the Annual General Meeting following publication of this report the Council narrowly defeated a rank-and-file resolution demanding that Equity call on the TUC to organize a General Strike. Once more, however, the membership re-affirmed the union's policy of total opposition.

Now the retreat began in earnest. In the September Equity letter editorial, the question of the Industrial Relations Act was dropped altogether. Instead the whole article was given over to a vicious reds-under-the-bed attack on 'an organized minority determined to use every procedural device to ensure that its particular philosophy shall be advocated without regard to the

wishes of the majority'.

These rogues, not the organized group in Westminster determined to smash the working class and its unions, are the main danger Equity has to face, it appears. To meet the danger, Equity's rules must be revised. Which means of course an end to open membership meetings with their attendant danger that Council's policies might be defeated by the rank and file. And which also means registration.

In October the Council issued a bulletin announcing that in accordance with TUC instructions it had de-registered. It made it clear that this step was in no way related to a real fight against the Act, simply a matter of 'duty' to the TUC.

'Under the Act Equity can re-register on 24 hours' notice. The Council has made it clear to the TUC that its final decision about the future of our registration has not yet been made. We have asked for an early meeting with the General Council of the TUC to discuss our particular position. After that discussion... the Council will make the final decision in the light of the best interests of our membership.'

What clearly motivates this announcement is not the best interests of the membership, but the panic of the leadership. Two months before, Nixon's August 15 measures had spelled out the end of the inflationary boom, and with it the end of that period in which trade union leaders could function as mediators between the capitalists and the working class, able to extract some gains and concessions without upsetting the applecart. Now, five months later, the Council of Equity has re-registered.

Equity was founded in 1929 on the single popular platform of trade union recognition. Left and right came together on the unprincipled agreement that trade unionism was simply an economic issue which could override and

shelve any political differences. This alliance has been the basis on which the bureaucracy has rested ever since.

In 1935 the right to a closed shop was established. But it was bought at the price of a no-strike clause written into the standard theatre contract.

STRENGTH TO FIGHT

Today the bureaucracy, still defending that bargain as 'the foundation of the stability of relations in the theatre ever since' (Annual Report 1971), seeks to buy the government's closed-shop agreement at the price of dissolving the union into a state-approved staff association, stripped of all independence, all strength to fight for decent wages, decent conditions and full employment.

It would have no more function than that of a friendly society.

In order to maintain their position, and to defend themselves against the rank and file, which is more and more lining up with the working class in struggle against the Tory government, the leaders are entering into an agreement to police the rank and file and tie the union firmly to the employer's interests.

The lessons are clear. Class-collaboration is over. A leadership that will not fight, that is prepared to surrender its members completely, must be thrown out and replaced by a new leadership from the rank and file, one which is prepared to fight to the end against this legislation and against this government.

* Equity uses casting agreements to restrict entry to the union.



The executive of Equity on stage at the 1971 June conference

No time to prepare for industrial court

MR GEORGE GUY, London district secretary of the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers, is to report to his executive and the TUC on the use of the National Industrial Relations Court over a strike involving his union members.

The strike, by 150 men at Kaymet metal goods factory in Peckham, S London, was called off last Friday after talks between Mr Guy and company

metalworkers' official

manager Mr Sydney Schreiber. The strikers were given 20 minutes' notice to appear before the NIRC on Thursday, the first day of their strike.

One of the strikers was given a lift to the law courts by the agent who served the subpoena on him.

Mr Guy said his members were given no time to prepare a proper case and no chance of legal representation. 'The manner in which our members were dealt with by the court is nothing short of disgraceful,' he added.

The sheet metal workers' union is unregistered and is committed to the TUC's policy of non-co-operation.

The Kaymet workers will meet today to decide future action on the company's 7-per-cent offer.

It was this offer last Wednesday which prompted the men to walk out.

Mr Guy said: 'If the men reject the company's offer again, they will give one week's notice of termination of contract.'

'As far as the industrial court is concerned, it does not concern us in the least. We are not a registered union.'

TORY MEASURES WORSEN SCHOOLS

UNDER THE guise of secondary reorganization in Hackney, London, the Tories are making vicious attacks on the education of working-class children.

The Hackney population is decreasing at the rate of 2 per cent per year. This could be an opportunity to reduce the size of classes by maintaining the existing schools and employing the same number of teachers.

Instead, 18 secondary schools are to be contracted to 13. One school to be run down completely is the Edith Cavell comprehensive, which now has 900 pupils. So class sizes will be kept large and teachers will be made redundant.

This is in an area where there is grave need for small classes and advanced educational methods.

At the same time as these closures are proposed, the ILEA has announced its intention of returning maladjusted children to the secondary schools from their small care units.

No provision whatever has been made to prepare for these children in the secondary schools, nor for that matter, to prepare for the pupils who will remain in school when the leaving age is raised.

In this way, extra burdens are loaded onto the teachers.

This skimping and starving of secondary education in Hackney is a pattern for Tower Hamlets, Islington, Southwark and Camden.

But while inner city areas are contracting, the surplus population is spilling into SE Essex. No resources are made there to cater for the growing number of pupils.

For example, Rayleigh Sweeney school was built for 1,000 pupils and now has 1,600.

Stripped of cash

STRIP CLUB owner James Humphreys, central figure in the controversy surrounding the suspended police chief, Commander Kenneth Drury, is to face a petition for bankruptcy.

The court action is being brought by a firm of London solicitors over the alleged non-payment of a £1,500 bill.

Building contractors Courtney Building Company Ltd., of Lancaster Place, Strand, claim that the bill is outstanding for work carried out on Mr Humphreys' Queen's Club, in Berwick Street, Soho.

Clyde talks in Texas

A TEAM from the Department of Trade and Industry will return to London today after holding week-long talks with Texas corporations about taking over the bankrupt Clydebank yard at UCS.

A statement said the Marathon Manufacturing Company of Houston, which is interested in building oil rigs on Clydeside, will apply to the department on Wednesday for financial assistance.

'Both sides agreed that our visit here has been well worthwhile,' commented James Darragh of the department's shipbuilding section.

Pearce back

LORD PEARCE said at Heathrow on his return from Rhodesia that his Commission's report to Sir Alec Douglas Home would be finished by the second half of April. Asked if his inquiry had received full co-operation from Ian Smith's regime, Pearce replied 'Yes'.

Provisionals learn nothing from 300 years' history

THE 72-HOUR truce offer by the Provisional IRA is a clear retreat before the Tories.

This 'gesture of sincerity for peace' accompanies a Provisional

statement of the conditions for a lasting settlement. These are:

- The immediate withdrawal of British army forces from the streets of N Ireland, coupled with a statement of intent as to the actual evacuation date of HM Forces and an acknowledgement of the rights of the Irish people to determine their own future without interference from the British government.
- The abolition of the Stormont parliament.
- A total amnesty for all political prisoners in Ireland and England, both tried and untried, and for those on the wanted list.

So, after playing into the Tories' hands by the policy of indiscriminate killings, the Provisionals don't ask for the immediate withdrawal of all British troops from N Ireland, but merely for their withdrawal from the streets!

The move from pure terrorism to a plea for 'sincere negotiations' is politically consistent. The Provisionals have always ignored the British working class and have made no call for the bringing down of the Heath government.

As opposition to the Tory government mounts in this country, the Provisionals present negotiations with the political representatives of the ruling class as the way to peace in Ireland.

They have learnt nothing from the last 300 years of Irish history.

TV

BBC 1

9.38-12.30 Schools. 1.00 Paul. 1.30 Fingerbobs. 1.45-1.53 News, weather. 2.05-3.55 Schools. 4.00 Boomph with Becker. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Aeronauts. 5.44 Crystal Tipps. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 MAGAZINE.

6.20 YOUNG SCIENTISTS OF THE YEAR. Lincoln v Ogmire v Abingdon.

6.45 THE WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

7.05 SPY TRAP. Paul Daneman in a story in four episodes.

7.30 SONG FOR EUROPE.

8.00 PANORAMA.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.20 STEPTOE AND SON. 'Live Now PAYE Later'.

9.50 THE REGIMENT.

10.40 24 HOURS.

11.15 SOUNDING OUT. 'Lindisfarne'.

11.40 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35-7.00 Open University.

7.05 CHILDREN GROWING UP.

7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 FILM: 'THE MARAUDERS'. Dan Duryea, Keenan Wynn, Jeff Richards, Jarma Lewis. Western.

9.20 FACE THE MUSIC.

9.50 HORIZON. 'What is Race?'

10.40 THEATRE: 'THAT TIME OF LIFE'. By David Cregan.

11.10 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

11.15 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

10.20 Schools. 2.33 This week. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.10 Tea break. 3.45 Danger man. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.50 Land of the giants. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. Bill Grundy.

6.20 CROSSROADS.

6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.

8.30 BLESS THIS HOUSE. 'Another Lost Weekend'.

9.00 HOME AND AWAY. 'Partners in the Crime'.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 FILM: 'SARDONICUS'. Oscar Homolka, Ronald Lewis. Horror film.

12.00 CHURCH AND REVOLUTION.

All regions as BBC-1 except:

Wales: 1.30-1.45 Ar lin mam. 6.00-6.20 Wales today, weather. 6.45-7.05 Heddiw. 11.15-11.40 Croesi'r bont. 11.42 Weather.

Scotland: 6.00 Reporting Scotland. 6.20-6.45 Se ur beatha. 11.15 Scope. 11.55 Sounding

out. 12.20 News, weather. N Ireland: 6.00-6.20 Scene around six, weather. 11.42 News.

England: 6.00-6.20 Look North, Midlands today, Look East, Points West, South today, Spotlight SW, weather. 11.42 News, weather.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 10.20-2.33 London. 4.05 Once upon a time. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Yoga. 4.50 Rovers. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.15 Pursuers. 6.45 London. 10.30 Weather. 10.32 University challenge. 11.02 Marcus Welby MD. 11.55 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sports desk. 10.59 News. 11.55 Faith for life. 12.00 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 10.20-2.33 London. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Tea break. 4.05 Houseparty. 4.16 Hounding the hares. 4.20 Lucy. 4.50 Richard the Lionheart. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Beloved enemy. 11.00 Marcus Welby. 11.55 News. 12.05 Weather. Discoverers.

HTV: 10.20-2.35 London. 3.45 Women. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Superman. 4.50 Tom Graton's war. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Criminal'. 12.15 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.

HTV Wales as above except: 4.15-4.30 Cantamil. 6.01-6.22 Y dydd. 10.30 Other half. 11.15 Edgar Wallace. 12.10 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 8.00-8.30 Yr wythnos.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00-2.33 London. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Nanny and the professor. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Aquarius. Weather.

ULSTER: 10.20-2.33 London. 4.00 Yoga. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Joe 90. 5.20 Bright's

boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Lucy. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.35 Film: 'The Devils Daffodil'.

YORKSHIRE: 10.20 London. 2.34 Out of the shadow into the sun. 3.00 Pied piper. 3.05 Yoga. 3.35 News. 3.45 Farmhouse kitchen. 4.15 Dick Van Dyke. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 HR Puffnstuf. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. weather. 6.25 Country calendar. 6.45 London. 10.30 Untouchables. 11.30 All our yesterdays. 12.00 Weather.

GRANADA: 10.58-2.33 London. 3.40 Yoga. 4.05 News. Odd couple. 4.35 Hatty town. 4.50 Spiderman. 5.15 It's fun to be fooled. Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Evil of Frankenstein'.

TYNE TEES: 10.20 London. 2.33 Out of the shadow into the sun. 3.05 Pied piper. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 News. 3.45 Making of milk wood. 4.15 Dick Van Dyke. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Love, American style. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the press. 11.00 Seaway. 11.55 News. 12.10 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 10.20-2.33 London. 3.30 Origami. 3.45 Dr Simon Locke. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Arthur. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Smith family. 6.45 London. 10.30 Aquarius. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Last stand.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00-2.55 London. 3.37 News. 3.40 Junkin. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 HR Puffnstuf. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Country focus. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 McQueen. 11.30 Epilogue.

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RALLY MARKS NEW STAGE IN FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

THIS RALLY throws down the gauntlet to the trade union leaders', declared Clive Norris, national secretary of the Right-to-Work campaign. 'Either mobilize working-class action to force the Tory job-destroyers to resign, or make room for those who will. And tomorrow, when we lobby parliament, we will take the same message to the Labour MPs.'

Clive, who led the march from Swansea, told the Empire Pool audience that they were there initially to defend the basic right of the working class—the right to work.

Figures just released showed that nearly 40,000 people under 18 were out of work last autumn—a 75 per cent increase over the same period in 1970. 23,000 young people had been jobless for more than eight weeks.

In some of the areas the march from Wales had passed through, there were 29 wholly-unemployed workers chasing each job.

That was the figure in Tonypanyd, where Churchill had sent the troops against the miners. Today Churchill's heirs were killing 1,000 jobs a day.

But the trade union leaders were chatting amicably with the Tory top brass, who were using the Industrial Relations Act to hold down wages and push up profits at the expense of jobs.

'What we have been doing over the last five weeks is campaigning throughout the country against the Tories and the Tory agents in the working-class movement', declared comrade Norris.

In the Rhondda an old miner had told the marchers: 'You are like the pickets who won our strike and I wish you the same success.'

All over the country the marches had established a direct political relationship with thousands of workers.

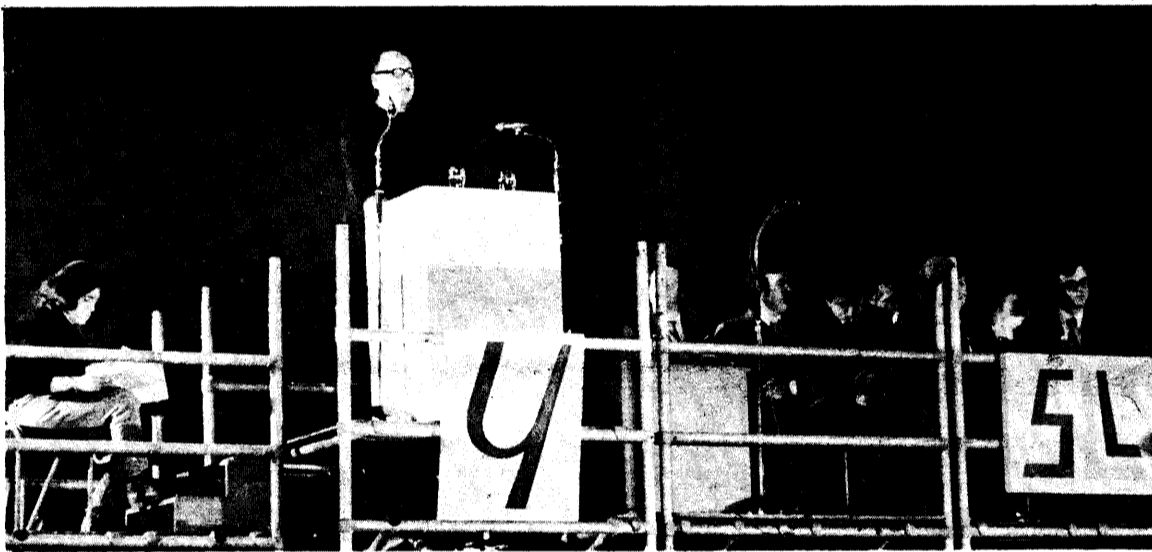
Long, serious discussions on the policies of the marches had been held, particularly with Labour Party members who had expressed bitter hostility to the right-wing traitors, and the Communist Party leaders, who had tried to obstruct the campaign.

An important aspect

of the marches, Clive Norris stressed, was that the experiences encountered, including the difficulties that had to be overcome, had laid the basis for a whole new layer of new working-class leaders in each area.

A devoted self-sacrificing fighting force had emerged from the marches.

Clive, who lost his job as a draughtsman at Vickers in Swindon on the day he finished his apprenticeship, told the mass audience that the Empire Pool rally was not the end but the beginning of a new stage in the fight for socialism.



Rank and file looking for leadership

THE WORKING CLASS is moving to defend its basic rights and will not accept the poverty of the 1930s, Christine Smith, leader of the Liverpool-London march told the rally.

While the so-called leadership of the working class refused to fight back against the Tories, thousands upon thousands of rank-and-file workers had supported the Right-to-Work campaign.

'Their support showed us that the working class is looking for a new leadership in the fight against the Tories.

And the need for that leadership is there,' said Christine.

'Many trade unionists, Labour Party and Communist Party members who spoke on our platforms throughout the country have said they were proud to support the campaign, the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League.'

'These workers knew our march was not part of a protest march and that we were rallying the working class to force the Tory government to resign.'

She bitterly attacked the TUC and Labour Party leadership for

trying, unsuccessfully, to sabotage the Right-to-Work campaign.

'The economic crisis which drives the Tories to smash up the unions forces the Labour leaders to make up their minds as to whose side they are on.'

'And that is why the Labour leaders attack us. We expose them for what they are. They know if the working class had a revolutionary leadership it would demand these men either fight or get out,' she said.

'This march begins the building of this leadership based on

Marxism. A movement that will understand the needs of the working class and the economic crisis that capitalism is now in.'

'On this march we have had to learn from our experiences and become conscious of what we are doing. We shall go back and build big YS branches in preparation for the launching of the revolutionary party that has the leadership the working class needs to take it to victory over this rotten and corrupt capitalist system. That is what the right to work means,' she concluded.

A movement to make Tories tremble

'WE'VE turned Kent upside down politically and now we are going back to build the YS into something that will make the Tories tremble,' Deal march leader Les Pankhurst, 23, told the rally.

'There has never been a march like this before in Kent and people were still talking about it a week after we passed through,' he said.

'One of the things that struck the youth on the march was the way the Tories really hate the working class.'

'It was really brought home to them when an old man stood on the

pavement waving his stick, a woman threw eggs, police and motorists tried to drive us off the road or people shouted "join the army".'

'Despite the lack of a tradition of trade unionism or class struggle in Kent, once the youth saw the hatred of the Tories they came forward politically very quickly.'

'When the Kent miners marched with us from Deal and promised to send a coach to this rally we really felt the strength of the working class behind us.'

'None of us are the

same as we were when we set out and we are determined to go back and fight tooth and nail to build a YS in every town on the Kent coast—right in the heart of Toryism.'

'Since the Tories came in we're lucky to see one job a week in the Kent newspapers. I went for two jobs before I came on this march—one was as a barman at a place on Ramsgate seafront. Forty people answered the advertisement for it.'

'There is no work in S Kent and at nearly 10 per cent unemployment is almost at Ulster

levels in Heath's own backyard.'

'I went into the army for three years because there was nothing to do, but when I came out in October, despite the fact that I had a knowledge of nursing, I still couldn't get a job.'

'When I went into the army there were a few unskilled press button jobs around, but now even they are gone.'

'It is no good going home and forgetting about these marches. The Tories have got to be fought all the way and we must go back determined to build up the YS.'

Our one mighty ally — workers

THE RIGHT-TO-WORK marches had written an 'imperishable' page of working-class history by reaching London and confounding their political enemies.

This was the message yesterday from John Barrie, leader of the Glasgow march which reach the Empire Pool rally on schedule.

He said formidable physical and political obstacles were ranged against the march. The TUC and the Labour Party bureaucracy organized with 'desperate determination' to keep the youth off the road.

'I speak with joy when I say the hopes of our enemies were confounded . . . every mile of the way we have had one mighty ally, greater than all these hostile forces—the working class of Britain,' he said.

John Barrie said it was the good trade unionist, the faithful Labour voter and the working-class housewife and pensioner who had come forward to give the march such selfless support. And he paid particular tribute to the miners.

'These men, with little or nothing in their pockets, dug deep and gave us what they could to keep us on the road. Indeed there were occasions when, without the help of the miners, the march would have been in serious difficulties.'

This kind of support was the real voice of the working class. Workers backed the march not just out of sympathy, but because the fight for the right to work by turning the Tories out of office corresponded with their own desires.

Comrade Barrie said that contained within the five weeks on the road were all the political developments that had occurred at national level.

They began the march in the midst of the miners' offensive and saw the miners win their victory. The ruling class had been shaken by this, yet determined to regroup for a new offensive.

'It was with a sense of irony, but not surprise, that as we entered London we read of the great dialogue the TUC — so-called left and right—had opened up with the Tory government.'

'We in the Young Socialists are utterly opposed to this treacherous alliance . . . for us there is no common interest between those who produce value and those who live to exploit.'

He said while this dialogue went on the employers were preparing for class war. They would use the Industrial Relations Act, greater unemployment and productivity and the Common Market to 'enslave' the working class.

But the Labour Party had already passed up one great chance to turn the Tories out

over the Common Market. 'It was these same Labour traitors at a local level who organized to keep us out of towns like Carlisle and areas like the North East,' he said.

The Stalinist Communist Party leaders at the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders had also launched a slanderous campaign against the march, claiming they were not aware that their £100 donation would be used in a campaign organized by the Young Socialists.

'This was despite the fact that the delegation to UCS explained carefully before the co-ordinating committee that the march was organized by the Young Socialists who were a Trotskyist youth movement, and despite the fact that the members of the delegation were well known to every Stalinist at UCS as supporters and sellers of the Workers Press outside the yards.'

Comrade Barrie said it was these same Stalinists who were now trading jobs at Clydebank, selling conditions at the other yards and making agreeable noises to the US tycoon Wayne Harbin who wanted to buy part of Clydebank and implement the Industrial Relations Act.

'These were not the forces to fight the Tories' offensive, he said.

'The forces are here in this great rally. They are there in the artists who performed their play to the marchers, and will give their services free tonight.'

'What other movement can mobilize such a galaxy of support? If any can, I lay down this challenge—let them come forward and do it. There is more to revolutionary politics than exaggerated and deliberately inaccurate articles in "The Guardian".'

But above all, said Comrade Barrie, the new forces were on the marches themselves.

'Here were youth, untested in politics, with only their hatred of the Tory regime, police oppression, the continued poverty of the dole to build on. But they fought and fought on, through all weathers and political opposition, to reach their goal, the Empire Pool.'

Comrade Barrie appealed to the audience to join the great task that lay ahead—the immediate construction of a revolutionary party in Britain.

'If I can paraphrase that leader of the bourgeois revolution, Oliver Cromwell—We will build an army of workers, so inspired by the socialist future for all mankind, that it will never be defeated.'

WEATHER

ALL DISTRICTS will have a fine, dry day with periods of sunshine but in S England it will later become cloudy and there is likely to be a little rain or snow in places. Wales and S England will be cold with strong to gale force winds, but temperatures will be near normal in N Ireland and Scotland.

Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Some rain or snow at times, but remaining dry in Scotland. Becoming less cold.

£1,250 FUND NOW £200.83

AT THE time of writing, we are almost at the Empire Pool, Wembley after a magnificent five weeks since the first march began.

All the support of Workers Press is fully behind the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work campaign. The centre of this campaign is to build an alternative revolutionary leadership to the Stalinists and the reformist trade union leaders, which is essential in the fight to defeat the Tories.

Workers Press is in the forefront of this struggle. We urge you, our readers, to join the Socialist Labour League and help us build the revolutionary party. So, give everything you can to our March Appeal Fund. Post all your donations immediately to:

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