

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY MARCH 24, 1972 ● No. 722 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## HARD CORE UNEMPLOYMENT SHOWS REAL TORY POLICY

# JOBLESS TREND STILL UPWARDS

BY ALEX MITCHELL

**FOR THE THIRD** month in succession, unemployment in Britain is over the million mark. And of the total figure, the number wholly unemployed in March was 959,455, a definite increase in the unemployment trend.

The monthly statistics issued by the Department of Employment put the overall total out of work at 1,014,511. This was a decrease of 606,758 over February when the Tory government locked out hundreds of thousands of workers in the miners' strike.

The figure of 'hard core' unemployment is the one which gives the lie to continuous Tory claims about mounting various 'packages' and 'mini-Budgets' to halt unemployment. The 959,455 wholly unemployed is an increase of 300 in a month when the figure usually drops by some 13,000.

Unemployment has now reached 4.3 per cent of the total number of workers. The number of school-leavers still without jobs is 7,035—but this is only the number that has bothered to register.

What is clear from the figures is that the employers used the power lock-out to camouflage further sackings and redundancies. Men who were laid off during the power shutdown did not get their jobs back.

The huge level of unemployment is directly related to poor investment in the engineering and textile industries which have borne the brunt of the slump. This week's Budget is an attempt to stimulate local investment; it may temporarily appear to reduce the number out of work, in the coming months but Barber's latest measures can make no major dent in unemployment. (See What We Think p. 2.)

The regional figures are:

Area	No.	Per cent
South East	188,228	(2.8)
East Anglia	23,248	(3.6)
South West	55,342	(4.1)
West Midlands	108,701	(4.8)
East Midlands	50,736	(3.6)
Yorkshire & Humberside	59,466	(4.8)
North West	149,566	(5.2)
North	89,779	(6.9)
Wales	55,015	(5.7)
Scotland	152,745	(7.2)
N Ireland	45,685	(8.8)

The statement also showed that the number of redundancies for February was 18,000—600 per day. This compared with 23,000 in January and 26,300 a year ago.

Commenting on the figures, Mr Dudley Smith, the parliamentary under-Secretary for Employment, said Britain had 'turned the corner' on unemployment. Making the same speech he has made on numerous occasions in the past, Smith declared:

'No one pretends that unemployment can be cured magically. It is going to take time to bring it down to an acceptable

level. But I think we have turned the corner and will make progress.'

And in the face of the Tory apathy about 'acceptable' levels of unemployment, what do the trade union leaders have to say?

Jack Jones, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday: 'This is very gloomy indeed. It indicates that the Budget measures are unlikely to do the job or to act fast enough.'

He goes on: 'We shall certainly be stepping up our campaign to cut working hours and win improved holidays to create more jobs.'

This reformist pipedream totally ignores the world economic crisis which forms the background to the Budget and Britain's huge unemployment. And it avoids the central political demand to force the Tory government, the job-snatchers, out of office.

After the figures were announced, TUC general secretary Victor Feather said he hoped the new Minister for Industrial Development and the Industrial Development Board would put great urgency into their tasks.

'I spoke to Mr Gordon Richardson, the new board's chairman, in Zurich earlier today and told him of the importance which the unions attach to rapid progress in industrial and regional development.'

'I told him, too, that he would have the fullest possible co-operation in this work.'

## Tories silent on Ulster initiative

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He said a statement would be made to parliament as soon as it was possible.

Meanwhile the Tory Cabinet held protected sessions yesterday. Early in the afternoon Heath left No. 10 Downing St to hold private talks with Opposition leader Harold Wilson.

Wilson who has fully backed every item of Tory policy in Ulster, is a crucial figure in any deal.

The Provisional wing of the IRA yesterday admitted responsibility for the Donegal Street blast, Belfast, on Monday in which six people were killed. 'Proper and adequate warnings have been given before all bombing operations that could cause loss of life or injury to civilians,' the statement said. 'This practice will continue.'



Royal group dockers vote for April 7 action

## Docks jobs—stewards angry

ROYAL DOCKS stewards in London yesterday expressed bitter disappointment with the attitude of their union leaders towards the fight against redundancy in the ports.

An afternoon mass meeting of about 1,000 men from the group of docks endorsed the stewards' call for strike action from April 7 if any men from T. Wallis Smith Coggins are placed on the unattached register.

Jimmy Carpenter, chairman of the Port of London Authority stewards in the group, described Wednesday's meeting between the stewards and leaders of the two docks unions.

'We got no direct answers when we asked what would happen if men go back to the pool on April 7,' he said. 'The union officials apparently don't consider that being in the pool means being made redundant.'

'Well, we do. And we

say these men should be brought back into the industry. I'm bitterly disappointed with the attitude of the trade unions.

'They should be using their industrial strength to back us up.'

Bernie Steer, a leading steward in the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers, assured the Royals men that dockers in most parts of the country were already committed to support the April 7 action.



# workers press

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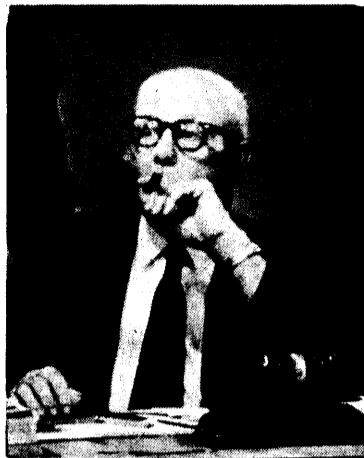
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AROUND THE WORLD

# MEANY QUILTS NIXON'S PAY BOARD



GEORGE MEANY

**THREE UNION representatives have walked off the United States Pay Board, causing a major crisis for President Nixon's wages policy.**

The Board, set up last year to hold wages to a 5.5 per cent norm, imposed a 30 per cent cut in wage increases on earlier this month by Pacific dockers.

This decision forced George Meany, head of the AFL-CIO, the largest US union, to call an emergency 'council of war' against the Nixon government.

With his two AFL-CIO colleagues I. W. Abel of the Steelworkers and Floyd Smith of the machinists, Meany has decided to leave the Pay Board immediately.

In a statement on their decision, the AFL-CIO council said: 'It is our duty to report now . . . that we have no hope for fairness, equity or justice on the Pay Board.'

Auto workers' president Leonard Woodcock will announce later this week whether he is quitting the Board.

This would leave only one union representative still sitting, the Teamsters' Frank Fitzsimonds.

Five of the other ten Board members represent business and five the 'public interest'. All

ten voted in favour of the dockers' wage cut. Meany and his colleagues are among the foremost advocates of class-collaboration in the US labour movement.

Their walk-out is reluctantly undertaken in the face of mounting pressure from the ranks.

But it robs Nixon of any cover for his wage-freeze policy.

The dockers on both coasts are pledged to strike action against the Pay Board decision, facing Nixon with the prospect of an all-out battle with the unions in election year.

## El Ferrol fines

FOLLOWING the strike of shipyard workers at El Ferrol, Spanish police have detained 45 people on charges of illicit association and dissemination of illegal propaganda.

Several of the detainees are believed to be members of the underground Spanish Communist Party. Others belong to the illegal Workers' Commissions.

Fines of about £300 have been imposed on 12 of them and heavier fines of up to £1,500 on 12 others.

The strikers returned to work on Monday after a dispute over sackings in which clashes occurred with the police who shot two workers dead and injured 50 others.

A SOVIET delegation headed by Leonid Ilyichin is holding talks in Peking about the Sino-Soviet border dispute. His arrival was not reported by the official New China News Agency.

The agency subsequently confirmed that separate talks in Moscow about river navigation had broken down and that no date had

been set for the next meeting.

The last meeting on the border was held in November and ended without agreement. The border dispute, which resulted in bloody clashes in October 1969, broke out after the ideological split between the Soviet bureaucracy and Peking.

While the Soviet Union has no illusions

about the time it will take to normalize relations with China, Brezhnev's recent foreign policy statement indicated a more conciliatory attitude. This reflects the strengthening of China's position following the Nixon visit and the difficulties which have arisen over the ratification of the agreements with W Germany.

# Allende strikes at the left

**WHILE HOLDING off a right-wing challenge to his rule, President Salvador Allende of Chile is striking blows at the left. And he is getting full support from the Communist Party.**

The Stalinists are using all their influence on the working class to prevent the development of the Chilean revolution. They called for a mass rally in the capital, Santiago, yesterday.

Allende banned a women's protest march similar to one last December which sparked off clashes leading to the imposition of martial law.

He also sacked the Socialist Party mayor of Santiago following accusations that excessive force was used against a march of 300 cripples on the Presidential palace calling for a relaxation of import controls on orthopaedic equipment.

Showing his 'impartiality', the President ordered an inquiry into the peasant occupation of big estates in the S.

The Popular Unity government, while deploring the illegality of the land seizures, maintains that the reports are exaggerated and that there is no threat to security in the area.

The right wing is screaming that a 'state of anarchy' prevails in the area and is calling for the forcible repression of the Maoist groups said to be behind the takeovers. Allende's Minister of the Interior, Herman del Canto has flown to the spot to make a report.

The allegations by Washington columnist Jack Anderson that the giant International Telephone and Telegraph corporation supported a plan to stop Allende being elected in 1970 has given the President a boost.

Secret conversations are going on with the Christian Democrat opposition to resolve the deadlock between the President and the two houses of Congress which led to their suspension until next Tuesday.

Allende is obviously working

for a compromise following the hold up of his nationalization proposals which are, in any case, of a mild character. This tactic will be welcomed by the Communist Party, which fears a revolution in Chile as much as he does.

## NEW OFFENSIVE IN INDO-CHINA

GUERRILLAS struck at a town in the Mekong delta, S Vietnam, yesterday, burning down a police compound and a housing estate for military families.

N Vietnamese troops continued their pressure around the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh following their biggest yet commando and rocket attack earlier in the week. Guerrillas have been hitting targets in neighbouring areas in a co-ordinated offensive.

In an attack in S Cambodia by the N Vietnamese on the command post of an enemy armoured regiment 35 S Vietnamese troops were killed. Rockets destroyed fuel tanks in a S Vietnamese staging area NE of Saigon. Two cargo ships were blown up in a harbour outside Phnom Penh.

TEN STUDENTS on trial in Saigon for opposing the war slashed their wrists in court yesterday, smeared messages in blood on the walls, accused

President Nguyen Van Thieu of being a dictator and sang anti-war songs.

The mother of one student said her son only wanted peace and an end to the war. The accused have already spent five months in prison awaiting trial.

## Church under bureaucracy's heel—Solzhenitsyn

THE RUSSIAN Orthodox Church's submission to the bureaucracy is denounced in a letter attributed to novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

Written from a Christian standpoint and addressed to the Moscow Patriarch, it says that the church has acquiesced in allowing Russian children to be deprived of their right to carry on their fathers' faith.

# WHAT WE THINK

## TORY FOOTMEN LAUGH THE BUDGET AWAY

THE STANDING ovation which Labour MPs gave Tory Trade and Industry Secretary John Davies in the Budget debate on Wednesday is an insult to the intelligence of the unemployed, the pensioners and the entire trade union movement.

'The Times' commented: 'Not for many years has a Budget been generally welcomed so fulsomely from the Opposition front bench.' The plain fact is that the so-called reflation so vigorously applauded by the Labourites will not work. It cannot work in a situation where the capitalist world is plunging into recession and the dollar is no longer convertible into gold.

The Labour MPs seem to think they are back in the Macmillan era of 'stop-go'. In fact the period of inflationary boom ended definitively with President Nixon's decision to close the 'gold window' on August 15 last year.

Barber's Budget is a calculated, cynical Tory manoeuvre aimed at putting the giant monopolies in the best position for Common Market entry so that they can then come back alongside the European cartels against the working class. The monopolies can now shift their capital freely into areas of cheap labour on the continent and in the sterling area. This gives them a powerful stick to beat their workers into accepting wage cuts and worse conditions.

The smaller businessman has been given just enough concessions to keep him out of the bankruptcy court so that the big boys can fleece him more thoroughly at a later date. The meagre sums doled out to pensioners and low-paid workers are simply icing on the cake. By the time they get their rise the pensioners will have watched it eaten away by inflation, which will also devour the workers' tax cuts.

No wonder, as the 'City Press' put it: 'The City are highly delighted with Mr Barber's 1972 Budget. . . . The paper went on to detail some of the juicy perks which will fall into the City money-shark's laps. As a result of the cut in capital gains tax, it says: 'Many trusts which have been sitting on large capital gains they dared not realize will become extremely active in the market.'

And again, this time as a result of the tax allowance on loan interest: 'Banks which have had money to lend and have been short of customers can expect queues of well-heeled clients ready to borrow money to the limit and take it back into the market place.'

For this, Davies passes among the liberal parliamentary ignoramuses as 'the best socialist we have'. The Labour leaders treacherously clown around in the Commons while the Tories ruthlessly sharpen their knives against the working class. They are clearly revealed as the servile footmen of the Tories and big business.

## ITALIAN POLL THREAT

A CAMPAIGN is being mounted in Italy to stampede electors into voting for the right-wing and neo-fascist parties by claims that urban guerrilla groups were planning to step up their activity.

Milan police claim that there is a link between the death of left-wing publisher Giangiacomo Feltrinelli in a bomb blast at the foot of an electricity pylon with plans for guerrilla warfare found in the flat of a man for whom they were searching.

They include plans for commando-type training, street-fighting and the kidnapping of 'enemies of the people'.

The flat belonged to Carlo Fiorini who is wanted, among other reasons, because he insured the van which was abandoned

near the place where Feltrinelli's body was found.

The press is being fed with a stream of such stories which bear the hallmark of a provocation to justify further police repression against the left.

The security police are being reinforced by 3,000 reservists called up by Minister of the Interior Mariano Ruor, as the election campaign gets under way in a climate of increasing violence.

Although the ministry said the police were being strengthened to make them more effective 'in the struggle against crime', the security police, like the CRS in France, are very much concerned with repression of strikes and demonstrations.

faiths by the crimes and arbitrary methods of the bureaucracy. Conditions of life, instead of leading to the disappearance of religious beliefs, have permitted them to survive.

For the believers, like Solzhenitsyn, who see the Orthodox Church as part of the Russian heritage, the corruption and time-serving of its leaders have long been a matter for disgust.

## Harlech calls off 'pop' festival

PLANS to hold a pop festival near the village of Tollesbury, Essex, have been called off by the organizers, Great Western Festivals Ltd.

The company is headed by Lord Harlech and actor Stanley Baker. Their effigies and those of two other organizers were lynched by villagers in a mass protest against the festival on Wednesday night.

Mr Baker said it was 'most unfortunate' that a number of local people assumed they would go ahead 'whether or not the site was suitable, especially as I have stressed that Tollesbury was only one of a number of sites which we had under consideration'.

He said the final venue for the spring bank holiday pop festival would be announced early next month. 'We are determined to demonstrate that festivals can be the good events that everyone would like to see.'

● See centre pages: 'Night Assemblies Bill: It's not just a question of pop.'



MICHAEL BETT

## EEF SHUFFLE

The Engineering Employers' Federation is losing its director of industrial relations to private industry.

Michael Bett is leaving the EEF to become personnel director of Sir Arnold Weinstock's GEC group. He takes up the appointment on July 1.

Bett's replacement is G. A. Peers, industrial relations director of Aberdare Holdings Limited.

From 1961 to 1967 Peers was with the Ford Motor Company at Halewood and from 1967 to 1970 with the British-Leyland Corporation at Longbridge, Birmingham.

BY IAN YEATS

TODAY 66 men at Omes Faulkner's Ltd Colnbrook, Slough, Buckinghamshire, factory, including AUEW convenor Frank Tomany — walk out of the gate for the last time.

Management claim a sharp fall in February profits aggravated by an AUEW overtime ban to counteract unemployment is to blame.

The factory shop stewards' committee and the AUEW Slough district committee say that no action could have been taken to fight the redundancies without jeopardizing every job in the factory.

But Mr Tomany (41) charged yesterday: 'I don't think Omes Faulkner's would have shut. They closed their Barnes factory in 1971 and geared up this plant to concentrate all production here.'

'The company has not made an absolute loss. Profits have just slipped back.'

Pratt Engineering Corporation, which owns the factory, grossed £500,000 pre-tax profits last year and paid out an 18 per cent dividend to shareholders.

On March 14 Mr Tomany led 62 men from the maintenance department where he worked on a sit-down strike against the sackings. Next day all the men were locked out.

The 11-man shop stewards' committee passed a resolution, proposed by Communist Party steward Derek Howes, alleging that opposition in the plant ruled out any possibility of backing from the remainder of the factory's 439-strong work force.

But, said Mr Tomany: 'Workers won't take any action unless they are given direct leadership.'

'The tactics of the Communist Party members on the shop stewards' committee backed by the district committee, which has about seven of its 15 members in the Party, was to give the minimum leadership and constantly stress the danger of the factory closing if we put up a fight.'

CP AUEW Slough district secretary George Currell denied Mr Tomany's claim that the decision not to fight the redundancies was influenced by the Party for political reasons.

'The maintenance department was isolated when they went out on strike,' he claimed. 'They took the action on their own and the other departments did not respond.'

And management yesterday refused to be drawn on Mr Tomany's other claim that he had been victimized for his principled record of defending workers' interests.



FRANK TOMANY

# Slough lay-off dispute

Omes Faulkner's personnel director Mr J. Lawther said yesterday: 'I can make no comment at all.'

But Mr Tomany alleges: 'The redundancy list was drawn up indiscriminately by management and no other trade unionist was on it except me.'

He added: 'The real tragedy of this situation is that when men see their convenor put out of the gate with no fight, they think if it can happen to him it can happen to me and they lose faith in the union.'

The 66 men leave the factory today amid a storm of accusation from workers, trade union officials and Communist Party members.

Next week Workers Press publishes an exclusive investigation of the facts behind the Omes Faulkner's sackings.

## AERO MEN FIGHT OFFICE PLANS

FOUR HUNDRED aero-components workers in W London are fighting proposals to shut their factory and build offices on the site.

Palmer Aero Products, Paddington, claim that if planning permission is granted more jobs will be created but shop stewards have lodged a formal objection to the conversion plans with the City of Westminster.

The stewards argue that the proposed development would be 'contrary to the public interest'. They say: 'It would deplete still further the number of engineering jobs available in the district, where many engineering workers reside.'

A subsidiary of the £25m BTR Leyland rubber and plastics group, Palmer's make filters and precision hoses for aircraft fuel and hydraulic systems.

The 420 workers at Paddington have the backing of the Westminster Tenants' Association in their fight to keep their jobs.

Last year, BTR made a net profit of almost £3.5m. Its 10,000 employees gave it a return on its capital of 15.4 per cent.

## Print lay-offs

A HUNDRED Leeds print-workers face redundancy in coming weeks from the city firm of James Petty and Sons Ltd, which has just had its first bad financial year in two decades.

## Profit drop for Tube Investments

TUBE Investments steel and engineering group's profits fell £3m in 1971; mainly because capital goods ordered 'failed even to meet reduced output levels'.

Overall pre-tax profits finished up at £200,073,000 and the company paid a 19-per-cent dividend for the year.

In their annual report, the directors say trading conditions were no better abroad than at home.

Key sectors slumped badly. Trading profits in machine-tools fell from £833,000 to £579,000 and steel tube profits were down from £9.3m to £5.5m. Aluminium returns dropped from £4.4m to £1.7m.

## Yarrow boilermakers reject offer

A THOUSAND boilermakers at Yarrow Shipbuilders on the Clyde have rejected an improved pay offer of 7p an hour more.

The men—who went back to work last Monday with the 2,000 finishing trades men after the latter had accepted a £3 a week rise — originally came out on strike more than six weeks ago at the start of the dispute.

They agreed to return to work to allow negotiations to take place, but were laid off when the finishing men struck.

The boilermakers, who have already rejected a £2 offer, are thought to be looking for a settlement similar to that obtained by the finishing trades.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS' NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-WORK CAMPAIGN PRESENTS

# 'The English Revolution'



Written by Tom Kempinski  
Directed by Corin Redgrave

AT THE YOUNG VIC THEATRE

The Cut, off Waterloo Rd, London SW1  
SUNDAY MARCH 26 7 p.m.



ADMISSION 25p (YS MEMBERS) & 50p

Followed by a lecture: 'The English Revolution today' given by G. Healy, SLL national secretary

## BOOKS



Moscow Trials Anthology Paperback, 62½p  
MAX SHACHTMAN: Behind The Moscow Trial Paperback 75p  
ROBERT BLACK: Stalinism In Britain Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2  
LEON TROTSKY: Death Agony of Capitalism (The Transitional Programme) Pamphlet 5p  
Class Nature of the Soviet State Pamphlet 20p  
In Defence of the October Revolution Pamphlet 15p  
The Theory and Practice of Revisionism Pamphlet 15p  
Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from: NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG.



# BUILDING THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Have you read the Draft Manifesto adopted by the All Trades Unions Alliance at the national conference at Birmingham last November? Have you expressed your views on the document in a letter to the Workers Press?

The Manifesto calls for the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party. This historic and vital task must be fully discussed and understood throughout the workers' movement: trade unionists, their families, students, the unemployed and people in the professions are invited to express their views on the Manifesto.

If you want a copy of the Draft Manifesto write to the Workers Press or contact your local ATUA branch. Today we present further correspondence in the Manifesto discussion.



**Jim Lundy's brief association with the Young Socialist movement has taken him through some pretty turbulent experiences.**

He's marched 500 miles from Glasgow to London, he's fought it out—politically—with a group of Labour MPs at the House of Commons and he's started to seriously take an interest in politics.

It's a far cry from the sweat and poverty of life in the vale of Leven. Jim and his three brothers live with their mother in a council house on a large estate. Jim was the only member of the family with anything that could be called 'a job'. His eldest brother, for instance, earns £9 a week working in a pub.

'You can't call that a decent job,' says Jim. Not that he was much better off. He worked for a wool-packing firm. For 90 hours a week he managed to earn £21. But to get this above-basic salary he had to work seven days a week and four nights late.

The employer has no problem extracting this form of cheap labour. If anyone wants to leave there are about 30 men queuing for the job.

In recent months the firm has been taking on more business, but simultaneously reducing the size of the labour force. Which makes for better profits, of course. But the workers are consequently subjected to super-exploitation.

'I resented being worked to death,' says Jim.

'It became such a terrible job, it was probably better having no job at all.'

In the plant Jim and some of his mates often approached the subject of politics. 'I always hated the Tories,' he said. 'Nobody has any time for them in our area.'

But it was the practical, living struggle of the Right-to-Work march which transformed his unformulated hatred into definite political objectives. The Manifesto is a document which Jim read avidly.

'Nobody can argue with this document,' he said firmly. 'No working-class bloke can disagree with the principles in it.'

'I think the building of a revolutionary party is the most essential thing facing the working class today. How else can capitalism be destroyed?'

'You can see what the capitalists are doing everywhere —

**Above: Jim Lundy (right) on the march from Glasgow**

trying to undermine the working class. On the Common Market, they're leading everyone up a blind alley. If you listened to the capitalist press you'd think the Common Market was the greatest thing that had ever happened to this country.

'But it's just the opposite. If they get away with the Common Market, the working class will be worse off than they've ever been.'

One thing that the marches and studying the Manifesto taught Jim is the distortions in the capitalist media.

'The other day I was looking at one paper and it had almost a full page on a bishop with an actress. It was just a load of rubbish.'

'We marched from one end of the country to the other and they never wrote a line about us.'

'Now I've started to see that most of what goes into the press is just bloody lies. It is deliberate too. It keeps workers in the dark about what's really going on. That's why I've come to respect the Workers Press. At least you know you're reading the truth.'



**ARCHIE THOMSON.** Unemployed since last July, is from Renton, just outside Glasgow. He was one of those on the Right-to-Work march from Glasgow to London.

I think the first point that has to be made about the Manifesto is that we're not only fighting the Tory government, but the traitors in the trade union and labour movement as a whole.

This is a very crucial point. You can get rid of Heath quite easily if those traitors were put away. These men bring middle-class ideas into the working class. They tell us peaceful co-existence with capitalism is fine and that you'll get socialism sometime in the future.

This came out clearly when you saw the miners' leaders retreating when they could have brought about the downfall of the Tory government.

Another thing brought out by the Manifesto is that it aims to unite workers not only here, but in every single country in the world in the fight for socialism. Yet the Communist Party fights for Britain and for Britain alone, and this cannot be right.

Another thing which is correct is the point about the role of troops in Ulster. They have to be withdrawn immediately. The troops are causing harassment and tension among all workers.

'The Tories try to make out it is a religious battle. This is rubbish and people are beginning to realize it's a class battle, and that the troops are in there to meet the needs of the Tories and the Protestant stronghold, which is not the same as the Protestant working class.'

As far as the Common Market is concerned, you can see the present cost-of-living and the Tory wage limit of 7 per cent when prices are going up 11½ per cent. My mother used to buy a 1 lb of butter at weekends and cakes and things like that. That's

all been cut out of her shopping list. And this is before the Common Market.

The Tory government was elected on false promises. Heath said he would cut unemployment, the cost-of-living and give big tax reductions. A lot of women were baited by these promises.

Now Heath could promise the moon and he'd never get these votes again. I've always thought any Tory government was illegal as far as the working class was concerned.

The Tories are not and will never be for the interests of the working class. In that sense they will always be an illegal government whenever they're elected.

I think the working class are beginning to see what will happen as the Tories step up their attacks. They know if they can ban one demonstration like the one in Trafalgar Square, they'll be moving to smash the workers altogether and impose slave conditions.

As the Manifesto says, the first thing we have to do is get rid of the traitors within the movement. The real thing we picked up from the miners' strike is that there had to be an alternative leadership built.

You just couldn't recall Wilson and Jenkins and expect them to carry out socialist policies. We don't want those men back. But if we can build the right leadership then the policy of returning a Labour government pledged to socialism is correct.

It is really and truly a great Manifesto and should be read and followed out by every trade unionist and worker who believes in the best interests of the working class.

It sets out the needs of the working class and it should therefore get a tremendous response.

Our party has to take up the fight the full road to get rid of the Tories and their capitalist system.



**'The troops are causing harassment and tension among all workers'**

# NICARAGUA: KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Washington has good reason to protect Anastasio Somoza, the fifth dynasty to rule the central American Republic of Nicaragua. They can be sure he will continue the family tradition of suppressing all opposition and of allowing US imperialism to exploit the country's wealth.

In the 19th century the US proclaimed as president one William Walker, a pirate who enjoyed the support of southern slave-owners.

In 1912 the US took control of the finances, trade and armed forces of Nicaragua.

During their occupation, American forces combined election-rigging with outright slaughter. Adolfo Diaz was elected with a total of 4,000 votes to the Presidency—out of a population of 800,000. In Leon, the second largest city, only 80 people were allowed to vote.

In February 1926, when Diaz faced a serious challenge from the Liberals who attacked the Pacific coast city of Chinandega, they were driven off by a US aerial bombardment which killed hundreds and burnt down half the city.

The troops were not withdrawn until Anastasio Tacho Somoza, chief of the National Guard, could announce the assassination of the liberation fighter Augusto Sandino on February 21, 1934.

In 1936, Somoza exchanged the uniform of the National Guard for the robes of the President of the Republic. The Somozas' fortunes quickly flourished.

Tacho made his elder son the director of the military academy and chief of staff of the armed forces. His second son became President of the Chamber of Deputies. Daughter Lilian was not forgotten: her profile appeared on Nicaraguan banknotes.

The family holdings were consolidated. Somoza soon owned a third of the estates in the country, 50 ranches, coffee plantations, gold mines and cement works.

Tacho held onto the reins of power until shot at a reception in 1956. Summary justice of the Somoza type was meted out to the marksman who was lynched on the spot by a Somoza bodyguard. President Eisenhower sent his private plane and surgeon immediately to save Tacho, but in vain.

The Somoza dynasty is still in power today. The latest manoeuvre was the announcement last year by Anastasio II that the country would be 'democratized' through elections.

The Nicaraguan Conservative and Liberal parties signed a pact on March 30, 1971, to guarantee the strong man's 'democratic opening'.

According to this pact, Conservative leader Fernando Aguero guaranteed re-election to Somoza, the leader of the Liberal Party and graduate of West Point, in exchange for 60 of the 100 seats in the legislature.

So the Conservatives and Liberals elected in the February 6 elections have to reform the constitution for the 13th time to insert an article facilitating the President's re-election.

Meanwhile, a triumvirate made up of two Liberals and one Conservative will govern from April 15 to September 1974 when Anastasio Somoza will once again be sworn in as President.

In the 'democratic' election the Liberals in many places whisked off ballot-boxes in order to hold the count in army garrisons.

The main obstacle to these ploys to maintain Somoza and US power is opposition from the exploited masses. The Somozas have amassed a fortune of some £150m. They do not pay any



Anastasio Somoza: Fifth member of the Somoza dynasty to rule Nicaragua

taxes on their many holdings.

US companies pay less than 1 per cent tax a year on the millions of pounds they extract each year from the exploitation of gold and timber resources.

In the midst of this plunder, the average Nicaraguan peasant and worker has a life expectancy of less than 50 years and 50 per cent of their children die before reaching the age of five. Only

5 per cent of boys and 0.5 per cent of girls receive secondary education.

To fight resistance to this oppression, the US provided \$11m worth of military aid between 1950 and 1960, as well as training in counter-insurgency for 4,000 Nicaraguans.

The US now maintains an estimated 40 military advisers in Managua.

These forces have been occupied in fighting the liberation front led by Carlos Fonseca, many of whose followers have been brutally tortured in Nicaragua's jails.

However, the opposition to Somoza is stubborn; the front has been fighting since 1958. And with all his American aid, Somoza has not been able to destroy this opposition.

# NORTH SEA GAS RAFFLE

Wednesday March 15 will go down as one of the greatest Tory giveaway days of all time—as far as the leaders of big business are concerned, that is.

For it was then that 66 companies and groups learned they were successful as applicants for 246 blocks of the North Sea where they could explore for oil and gas.

The cost of a six-year exploration licence? Just £12,500 per block covering 250 square metres of seabed! To all the companies involved, the amount was mere pin money compared to the riches they would soon reap.

More than 200 companies singly and in groups applied for the blocks and production is expected to begin in about two years time.

The North Sea scramble was truly fantastic. Newspaper groups, distillers, banks, shippers, mining finance houses, investment trusts, nationalized industries and, of course, the world's biggest oil companies were all successful in obtaining a piece of the action.

Canadian and American oil groups are strongly represented and even the Iranian Oil Com-

pany joined in the rush to the North Sea.

Take a glance at the map and you'll find some obvious newcomers to oil and gas prospecting.

For example, in the northern section the National Westminster Bank will soon be drilling in blocks 3/1, 3/6 and 3/19.

Not many miles from the bankers one of Lord Thomson's companies is preparing to move into action. Obviously newspapers are proving a little too dull and not at all profitable these days.

Monsanto Textiles have been granted a share in a W of Shetlands block. Others up in that part of the world will include the Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation and the Bankers Trust International.

In fact the prospects of large profits brought the big industrial companies running. Exploration groups include ICI, Courtaulds, Associated Newspapers and Dunlop.

And, of course, no operation these days would be complete without the appearance of the fast growing property group Trafalgar House. Only Slater Walker Securities seems to be missing.



It came as no surprise then to see mounting speculation in the shares of these companies before and after the announcement. The giant oil companies did very well out of the allocations. Shell have 34 blocks on their own and 11 with Esso. BP have 28 new blocks to search in, 19 of them on their own.

As a whole the allocations covered the western approaches to the Bristol Channel; an area north of Orkney and W of Shetland; and a scattering of blocks parallel to the NE coast of Scot-

land, mainly near the border with Norwegian waters.

The giveaway completed the fourth round of licensing which has covered 282 blocks in all. At last 224 exploration wells will be drilled in these areas over the next six months, involving expenditure of more than £200m.

But the revenues from the fields already discovered on the British continental shelf will be over £5,000m. The prospects for future discoveries are excellent. And with the marked upward trend in oil prices, total revenues

Jack Callard, ICI Chairman (centre) and the Board of Directors of ICI presenting their Annual Report to shareholders last week

could reach £50,000m at the end of the period.

Even after deduction of exploration and development expenses, the profits will be immense for the companies with the concessions.

As things stand at present, all the companies involved have been given a licence to print money.



# NIGHT ASSEMBLIES BILL NOT JUST A QUESTION OF POP

By means of the neutral-sounding Night Assemblies Bill the Tory government is preparing a heavy blow against the right of assembly which will hit hundreds of musicians and tens of thousands of their fans.

Put forward by Alfred (Jerry) Wiggin, Tory MP for Weston-super-Mare, the Bill will outlaw pop festivals and other gatherings of more than 3,000 people unless certain stringent conditions are observed.

Festival organizers will have to give four months' notice and financial security to the local authority, which has an absolute veto over whether the gathering can go ahead.

Wiggin's original proposals were even more far-reaching, but they have been modified after consultations with the Department of the Environment which has now agreed to back the private members' Bill.

Wiggin, a 35-year-old former army major, is the spearhead of a virulent Tory campaign to blacken the name of pop festivals and have them legally outlawed.

Wiggin is no fringe backwoodsman. After less than a year in the Commons on leaving the army, he was appointed parliamentary private secretary to the Minister of Defence. Like his Minister, Lord Carrington, Wiggin went to Eton, where such proletarian activities as pop festivals are regarded as beyond the pale.

The campaign has received extensive coverage from the Tory 'Daily Telegraph', which speaks for the outraged country gentry, who fear such festivals will shatter the expensive quiet of their select rural retreats.

The Tory government disclaims any such motive, of course. The Minister of Local Government and Development, Graham Page, has been quoted as saying: 'The government wanted to help the "pop" festival maintain its popularity by preventing it from becoming a nuisance to others or a health hazard.'

After taking in this bland solicitedness from the Tory official spokesman, readers are advised to turn open their 'Daily Telegraph' for March 7, where they can read the following balanced editorial comment:

What do these pop festivals mean? They mean that a horde of strangers, usually of alien and uncouth and sometimes of terrifying appearance and habits, descends on some small village, outnumbering its inhabitants perhaps 500 times over.

They mean a stentorian noise, to many vulgar and hateful, spreading night and day over a wide area. They may mean serious risks of fire, disease and pollution. They mean damage to property and, if Weeley last year be any guide (poor Weeley is threatened

again!), hundreds of tons of rubbish.

They mean violence: plenty occurred at Weeley and more may reasonably, where a hundred thousand or more, some armed, are gathered together in various states of chemical and auricular derangement.'

Quite clearly, these people hate the youth and want them corralled into the cities where they belong, leaving the countryside for the ex-majors and Tory landowners.

The savage ignorance of the Tory newspaper's editorial barely required comment. It is an attack, as one of the paper's correspondents put it, on 'the right of all law-abiding, hard-working and respectable people to gain harmless pleasure in hearing the music they enjoy, whether in their homes or in "live performance".'

True enough, but this is only part of the story. The Bill will apply to all kinds of night gatherings, not just pop festivals. In the words of its promoter: 'This is not a Bill to stop pop festivals, but to control large overnight assemblies.' Asked specifically about trade union gatherings, Wiggin said:

'It may be right to waive the requirements of the two main clauses of the Bill for certain assemblies of this type, even at some risk to public health, though not at any risk.'

Or again, it may not—just as the Tory government chooses to determine. Incidentally, neither Wiggin nor any of his co-thinkers have produced a scrap of evidence to back their extravagant claim to be protecting 'public health.'

The Bill will destroy the livelihood of many pop musicians, who rely on appearing at festivals to make a living and pay for their often extremely expensive gear.

Their prospects have already been savaged by another Tory measure of a similar type: the proposed law on student union finances. Many groups rely on the college 'circuit' for much of their income and fear that if finance is taken out of the students' control they will be unable to mount concerts and dances.

The sinister character of the Night Assemblies Bill is underlined by the latest Tory decision to ban all meetings on Irish issues from Trafalgar Square. There is now the unprecedented position where the Tories can shoot down workers in N Ireland and the British workers are denied the traditional right to demonstrate against them in the centre of London.

Major Wiggin's Bill is part of the same relentless trend towards a dictatorship of the Tory elite over the working class.

August 1970: five day pop festival on the Isle of Wight. The Tory Night Assemblies Bill will outlaw such gatherings.





# LIFE AND TIMES OF A WOBBLY

BY JACK GALE

William Dudley Haywood was one of the toughest fighters the American labour movement ever produced. He certainly frightened the life out of the more 'respectable' socialists, one of whom described him as 'a bundle of primitive instincts . . . useless on committee [!]'

That was probably true. 'Big Bill' Haywood was a leader of the Western Federation of Miners and they didn't go in for much committee work.

In 1901, for example, the WFM organized a strike in the gold and silver mines at Telluride, Colorado, for a uniform work-day with a minimum wage.

After a month the owners of the Smuggler-Union mines opened a mine with scabs who were sworn in as deputies and armed.

So the local union official promptly wrote out on official union notepaper an order for 250 rifles and 50,000 rounds of ammunition and sent it off to a firm in Denver. The firm obliged, and a few days later, as the scabs were returning from nightshift, the strikers attacked them from ambush. After several hours, the scabs raised a white flag.

The union secured possession of the mine and, as Haywood notes somewhat cryptically in his autobiography, the scabs were 'escorted over the mountains'.<sup>2</sup>

In 1903, the miners struck in the Cripple Creek district of Colorado for the eight-hour day.

The state governor pronounced Cripple Creek to be 'in a state of insurrection and rebellion' and declared martial law.

The militia, in fact, took over completely—miners were dragged from their homes and locked up in bull-pens for weeks on end.

In the course of the strike the Mine-Owners' Association hired thugs to blow up trains and stations and blamed it on the miners.

Two or three mine-owners were murdered and this was also blamed on the miners, possibly with more justification.

This strike was ultimately broken with the assistance of the American Federation of Labour miners' unions.

Three years later Haywood—together with two other miners' leaders, Moyer and Pettibone—was arrested and charged with planning 26 murders, including that of an ex-governor of Idaho. The prosecutions case rested entirely on the evidence of one agent provocateur, Harry Orchard.

Haywood and the others were held in jail for 18 months awaiting trial, and during that time the President, T. R. Roosevelt, openly pronounced them guilty.

The trial was set for May 9, 1907 and a verdict of guilty was universally expected. But labour organizations raised \$250,000 for the defence. And one week before the trial 100,000 workers marched down Fifth Avenue in New York and another 8,000 down the nearby Lexington Avenue.

The three accused were found not guilty.

It was from the Western Federation of Miners that the famous Industrial Workers of the World (the 'Wobblies') originated.

On January 2, 1905, a secret conference was held in Chicago. Haywood was chairman and he declared: 'The aims and objects of this organization shall be to put the working class in possession of the economic power, the means of life, in control of the machinery of production and distribution without regard to capitalist masters.'<sup>3</sup>

The IWW admitted workers 'irrespective of race, creed, colour or sex'. Above all it did not have big membership fees—a device used by the AFL to keep out the unskilled. It declared it was out to 'smash all labour fakers from Gompers and Mitchell down'. Mitchell was the AFL miners' union leader.

From 1906 to 1916, with Haywood as an organizer, the IWW engaged in some of the bitterest open fights between capital and labour ever fought in the US. It was frequently opposed not only by the capitalists and the state forces, but also by the AFL, which more than once supplied scabs during 'Wobbly' strikes.

In 1906 the IWW organized workers in every job at Goldfield, Nevada, and won a minimum wage of \$4.50 a day. In 1907, after a six-week fight of 3,000 saw-mill workers in Colorado they won the nine-hour day and wage increases up to \$2.50 a day.

In 1909 they led 8,000 Pressed Steel Car workers at McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. After 11 weeks and a pitched battle in which the constabulary was put to flight, complete victory was won.

In Fresno, California, the Wobblies succeeded in organizing the orchard workers, despite having over 100 workers arrested.

The biggest strike the Wobblies ever organized was the Lawrence strike in Massachusetts, from January to March, 1912. They led 35,000 mill workers in bitter battles with the police and won wage increases of from 5 to 25 per cent.

During World War I, the Wobblies mounted mass anti-war demonstrations, particularly after the entry of the USA in 1917. As a result they faced severe oppression which mounted in intensity in the post-war years when the American ruling class lived in dread of revolution. They faced this with characteristic courage, often out-facing those who jailed them.

One of them, John T. ('Red') Doran, addressed a five-hour speech to the jury which jailed him for six years. He concluded by saying 'It is customary with IWW speakers to take up a collection; but under the circumstances, I think we will dispense with it.'

This revolutionary spirit won the admiration of Lenin who sought the affiliation of the IWW to the Communist International as 'a profoundly proletarian and mass movement'.<sup>4</sup>

The leaders of the Communist International held the anarchist organizations that emerged from World War I in great respect and sought patiently to win them to Marxism. (See, for example, Trotsky's pamphlet 'Marxism and the Trade Unions' and Lenin's reports to the 2nd Congress of the CI.)

The IWW had gone through two major splits before the formation of the Communist International.

At its formation in 1905 it was influenced by the revolutionary developments in Russia. Indeed, at its foundation conference, Haywood declared that the IWW would grow until it included a great majority of the American working people and that 'those working people will rise in revolt against the capitalist system as the working class in Russia are doing today'.<sup>5</sup>

This conception of the role of the IWW led to a major split at its second convention in 1906, while Haywood was awaiting trial. Charles O. Sherman, the first general president of the organization, and his supporters were kicked out on the grounds that they were 'not in accord



Painting of striking coal miners, metal miners, steel workers and railroad workers. In the foreground, Bill Haywood facing the bayonet to the right, and Daniel De Leon, left, with Marx's writings.

with the revolutionary programme of the organization'.<sup>6</sup>

The second split of the IWW was the break with Daniel De Leon and the Socialist Labour Party at the 4th Convention in 1908. The SLP had an ultra-legalistic, restricted conception of 'ballot box' politics. But the break with the reformist trade unionists in 1906 and the narrow 'political' in 1908, while necessary, led in the case of the IWW to an abandonment of political action altogether.

Lenin tried to correct this, particularly at the 2nd Congress of the Communist International, held in 1920. There he dealt with the ultra-leftism of groups like the breakaway Communist Workers' Party of Germany and the Workers' Socialist Federation in Britain.

But in addition to these political groups, some of the best workers' organizations were also impatient of work in reactionary trade unions and with reformist parties. This applied, for example, not only to the IWW in America, but to the Shop Stewards' Committees in Britain.

Lenin declared this to be due to 'the political inexperience of proletarians who are quite revolutionary and connected with the masses'.

He urged friendly and patient work with them, while making no concessions on principle.

'The 2nd Congress of the Third International requests all communist organizations and groups

in the Anglo-Saxon countries, even if the Industrial Workers' of the World and the Shop Stewards' Committees do not immediately affiliate to the Third International, to pursue a very friendly policy towards these organizations, to establish closer contacts with them and the masses that sympathize with them, and to explain to them in a friendly spirit—on the basis of the experience of all revolutions, and particularly of the three Russian Revolutions—the erroneousness of their views as set forth above, and not to desist from further efforts to amalgamate with these organizations to form a single Communist Party.'<sup>7</sup>

In America, however, only a few of the IWWs came over to communism. Haywood was one. The raging witch-hunt of the post-war years in the US, however, forced Haywood to emigrate to Russia in 1921, where he lived until his death.

The attempt of the Communist International after 1919 to win over these militant workers was part of the urgent attempts of Lenin and Trotsky to build up mass organizations of the working class led by developed revolutionaries throughout the world, but especially in the advanced industrial countries. These efforts failed, despite the rapid growth of the Communist Parties in some countries, such as Germany, France and Italy.

The defeats of the Italian working class and of the Ger-

man workers between 1919 and 1923 were due to the betrayals of social democracy and the inexperience of the revolutionary leadership in those countries. After that, of course, came the development of Stalinism from a conservative instrument of the bureaucracy into a conscious counter-revolutionary force.

This involved abandoning the struggle waged by Lenin and Trotsky to build a trained cadre with roots in the masses in countries like Britain and America.

Today events like the recent miners' strike in this country and the dockers' struggles in the US represent a powerful upsurge of the working class once more. The key to this situation lies in the theoretical and practical preparedness of the revolutionary vanguard. History is again offering the revolutionaries the opportunities that it did in the years after World War I.

<sup>1</sup> Ramsay MacDonald 'Syndicalism'.

<sup>2</sup> 'Bill Haywood's Book'.

<sup>3</sup> Louis Adamic 'Dynamite. The Story of Class Violence in America', p. 157.

<sup>4</sup> James P. Cannon 'The IWW: the Great Anticipation', p. 29.

<sup>5</sup> Proceedings of the First Convention of the IWW, p. 580.

<sup>6</sup> Cannon op. cit., p. 12.

<sup>7</sup> Lenin 'Theses on the Fundamental Tasks of the 2nd Congress of the CI'.





After the revolution the Soviet regime employed a number of economists who had been associated with the Mensheviks of the Socialist-Revolutionaries (or Narodniks).

A few of them had spent short periods in the Bolshevik party before the revolution.

Simply because there were no supporters of the Bolsheviks able to deal with the technical problems involved, they actually played an important role not only in amassing and processing statistical and other data, but also in contributing to the technique of economic planning which was then in its infancy.

Although Soviet official sources in the 1920s accorded these men their due, they later passed into obscurity or died in Stalin's jails. A handful did re-emerge after 1956, by which time they were old men.

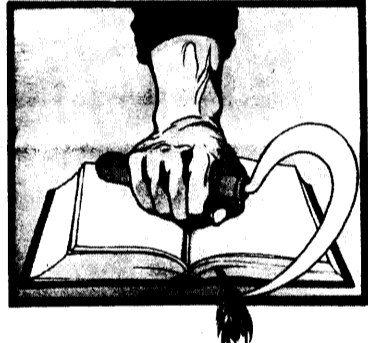
Lenin had encouraged some of the Mensheviks to leave the Soviet Union in the 1920s. Those who remained did so for motives which no doubt varied and cannot be known for sure. Did they serve the Soviet regime loyally? Did they believe that by staying on they could influence policy in the direction they desired? Were they plotting against the regime in league with their co-thinkers abroad?

Naom Jasny, himself a Menshevik, left the Soviet Union in 1933 and subsequently made a reputation as a bitter opponent not only of Stalinism but of the Soviet Revolution and the new regime as such. His own writings, while often revealing uncomfortable truths which the Stalinists preferred to have concealed—such as the crisis in agriculture which followed forced collectivization, are too full of prejudice to be trustworthy.

In this, his last book, he writes a kind of collective memoir of those Menshevik and Narodnik economists in the Soviet government's service whom he knew personally or through their writings and information supplied by others. To that extent it is a useful and unique contribution to Soviet history.

The Menshevik and other bourgeois economists played a leading role in the financial and economic branches of the administration during the period of the New Economic Policy when some features of capitalism were restored. They more or less made their peace with Stalin during this period, no doubt hoping that the Soviet Union would move permanently onto a more 'moderate' course with a mixed economy or even the restoration of capitalism.

## BOOK REVIEW



'SOVIET ECONOMISTS OF THE TWENTIES'. Names to be remembered. By Naom Jasny. Cambridge, 1972. Price £3.80.

## JASNY'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

BY TOM KEMP

In their preparation for planning, either on an annual or a five-yearly basis, men like Groman, Ginzburg and Bazarov, with whom Jasny deals in most detail, made an important contribution. They were close at this time to Bukharin and the 'right', upon whose support Stalin depended.

In 1931, after Stalin made his panic turn to forced collectivization and industrialization, on the basis of far-fetched targets, the Menshevik and Narodnik economists became an embarrassment. Most of the former were disgraced, arrested and put on trial in a case which made an international impact.

The trial was based largely upon confessions by the witnesses or the accused. The indictment was that the defendants had engaged in sabotage of the economy and had conspired with Mensheviks abroad. A serious error was made in the claim that a prominent Menshevik leader in exile, R. A. Abramovitch, had visited Moscow in the summer of 1928. He was able to establish in a German court that this was a lie.

However, even to Trotsky, who was then in exile, the charges seemed to be plausible, though in

Above: Bukharin, theoretician of the Bolshevik Party, and editor of 'Pravda'.

the light of the later trials of the Bolshevik leaders in 1936, he changed this opinion. The Mensheviks were let off fairly lightly—the heaviest sentences were for ten years in prison—and the purpose of the trial, for Stalin, was to throw blame for economic hardships on to these former high officials of the Soviet state who had supported his policy during the closing stages of NEP.

It is worth remembering that Menshevik and Narodnik economists did play an important role in determining economic policy in the 1920s and that Stalin only threw them overboard when they had served their purpose. After 1928 they certainly opposed Stalin's turn, just as they had previously been his firmest allies against the industrialization policy of the Left Opposition. Jasny, of course, shares their hostility to Trotskyism.

One defendant in 1931 was accused of being called upon by Dan, a prominent Menshevik leader in exile—who later, incidentally, came to accept the necessity for Stalinism after having rejected Bolshevism—to support the Trotskyist opposition. Like most of the evidence, this was no doubt invented.

Of the economists mentioned, the best known outside Russia is the theorist of the long wave, N. D. Kondratiev, a supporter of the Narodniks who was arrested in 1930, appeared as a key witness in the Menshevik trial the following year and then disappeared from view. His view of economic development as taking place in long cycles of expansion and decline sparked off a good deal of controversy, in which Trotsky joined.

Jasny also refers to Professor Tugan-Baranowsky, Kondratiev's teacher, author of perhaps the first scientific study of the trade cycle in Britain which is still awaiting a translator. Tugan-Baranowsky, who had been a 'legal Marxist', joined Petlura's white government in the Ukraine.

Stalin threw over the Menshevik economists not because they were traitors, but because they saw crucial flaws in the forced draught industrialization policy after 1929. They had become an embarrassment; he framed them and put them in jail because, after the defeat of the Left Opposition, there was no place for discussion and debate about economic policy.

Jasny's book is an interesting intellectual curiosity, unique of its kind, to which all students of Soviet economic policy in the 1920s will have to refer.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## COMPASSION

Now follows an excerpt from Edward Heath's 'compassionate society'. Mrs Rachel Rees (88) became seriously ill and unconscious after falling over at a welfare home in Dowlais, S Wales. Her doctor recommended that she be immediately admitted to St Tydfil's Hospital for emergency treatment.

But Mrs Rees lay unconscious at the home for three days. Finally, after some fuss, the old lady was admitted. Four hours later she died.

The Merthyr and Aberdare Hospital Management Committee says there weren't enough beds to admit her immediately. Dr Geoffrey Taylor, the local consultant geriatrician, said he had warned weeks ago of the 'great shortage of beds for geriatric cases in the S Wales valleys'.



Sir Keith: Health Minister.

We await to hear what the former building tycoon, Sir Keith Joseph, now Health Minister, intends doing about this—and the other several hundred thousand, old folk who are cast onto the scrap heap when capitalism has wrung out its last ounce of sweat and blood.

## PROPERTY

In 1958 Winchester city council paid Mrs Lucy Eames (74) just £78 for her three-bedroom detached house. Six neighbours were forced to sell similar properties under a compulsory purchase order.

The homes were demolished, but the land has remained unused until today. Now it is to be sold for private development.

The agent is . . . Coun David Sermon, 41-year-old mayor-elect who takes office in May. Talk is of the site fetching at

least £10,000. On that valuation, the Coun Sermon's commission will be £212.50.

How did the mayor-elect come to be appointed agent for a transaction involving his own council?

According to the council clerk Robin McCall: 'We have a roster of estate agents in the town, and it is sheer luck that he was picked to handle this particular sale.'

'It is the first time I have acted for Winchester corporation. It is obvious why they picked me—my offices are so close to the site.'

## PATTERN

News that Metal Traders, the ore-dealing firm, has gone bust has been treated with stiff upper-lip in the capitalist press.

All the City writers, with perhaps the exception of 'The Guardian', rushed to say it was a flash in the pan business. Nothing serious, old boy, just a £4m crash.

Of course, there is more to the bankruptcy. It cannot be understood without examining the world slump in mineral prices.

During the past year the company acquired large stocks of metals, particularly wolfram and antimony, on fixed contracts which were secured by bank borrowings.

As the prices deteriorated the company was unable to maintain the required level of cover for its financiers.

Already in crisis, the company took the fatal step of borrowing on an unsecured basis. But the price of wolfram alone slipped by more than 40 per cent while antimony's price slid 20 per cent.

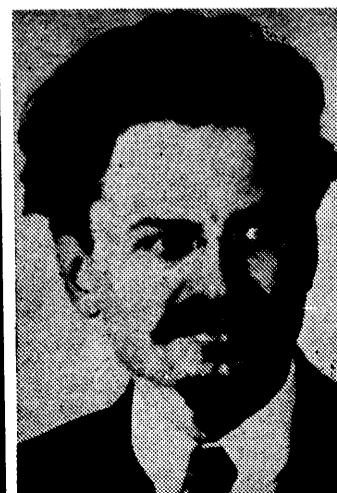
A spokesman for bankers Baring Brothers said borrowings were spread over a 'substantial' number of institutions. 'No one bank is up for a large amount,' he said.

The City of London reacted stoically to the collapse. A London Metal Exchange official said Metal Traders' total turnover on the exchange was 'negligible' when compared with the total amount of business.

Nevertheless, no one could explain why Metal Traders weren't baled out by the merchant banking fraternity.

A rescue operation was mooted. Nothing materialized, however, because the market is beginning to accept that bankruptcies and closures, much bigger than Metal Traders, are going to be the pattern rather than the exception in the coming period.

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# Contempt for Budget on the dole

THERE MIGHT have been glee in banking circles following Tuesday's Tory Budget announcement. But any sign of rejoicing was markedly absent yesterday for people on Britain's dole queues. They signed on as usual in the atmosphere created by the latest million-plus unemployment figures.

For 40-year-old redundant worker James Shears no Budget at any time has ever made much difference to his lot.

'It never does any good to a working man. How can it? It's only a small amount of money being pushed from one spot to another,' he said.

'One thing they will not do, of course, is to control prices. The Tories are not trying to do anything for the poor man. All they want is to make their own position safer.'

Twenty-year-old Joseph Steven from Brixton, London, said: 'The Budget is a gimmick. They want people to think they are doing this and that so they get the votes at the next election.'

'But one thing they can't kid anyone with is unemployment. It's going to go up and the Budget doesn't make the slightest difference.'

'They've tried to make a big thing out of the purchase tax reduction. But what can you buy with £5 a week anyway?'



## London as bad as Scotland for jobs

MARYLENE BARR (20) travelled from Scotland to London two years ago looking for work. Today she is looking for work again.

Marylène from Douglas, 35 miles from Glasgow, was trained by the GPO as a telephonist. In London she worked at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall for the magnificent wage of £12 a week.

'I left them because I just couldn't live on the money they paid,' Marylene said.

'I was living in Richmond at the time and it cost me £3 a week in fares to get to work and back. I was paying

£2.50 a week for the flat I shared. Then there was food at home and meals at work.

'I just couldn't live on it. I had to move into London because it was cheaper to travel.'

Marylène thinks the Tory government are the people to blame for high unemployment.

'The Tories should be thrown right out. I definitely blame all this on them. When I left Scotland I had tried to get work everywhere. Now it's just the same down here as it was up there.'

'When you are unemployed they act as if it was your fault. In Scotland they only gave

me £1.80 a week on the Social Security.'

Today, when we went to the Labour Exchange, they told me that we had until next Tuesday to find a job. But they're supposed to help find us work.

'We've been to two bureaux today and they have nothing at all to offer.'

Marylène's friend, Marlyn Buchan from Dundee, who is 19, is also an unemployed telephonist. She came to London about a year ago.

They met each other in the Labour Exchange when they were both looking for work before. 'I was unemployed

for two months before I left Scotland and when I first came here I was looking for a job for another four months.'

'At the moment I'm thinking of going back home. If we don't find work here, we definitely will have to go home.'

'The rents for flats round here are terrible. There's just no future for anyone at all and then they wonder how there's poverty in Britain.'

'They will hardly give you money on the Social Security. They want to put you down because you can't find a job.'

'I'd like to see this government cleared out,' Marlyn added.

## Delay in raising Glasgow rents

COUNCIL house rents in Glasgow will not be raised in advance of parliament enacting the new 'fair rents' legislation.

The Labour convenor of the corporation's housing committee has tabled a motion certain to be passed recommending no rent review takes place before the passing of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Scotland Bill.

Coun David Donnelly said the Bill was not yet law, so if a local authority were to operate it now, they would be doing the government's dirty work.

The Bill, similar to the Housing Finance Bill in England, plans for an increase in municipal rents during 1972-1973 of £24 which can either be achieved by a rise of 48p from June or an increase of 75p a week from October.

## Heath's seat in danger

PROMINENT local Conservatives have written to the Prime Minister backing Dame Patricia Hornsby-Smith for the new seat of Bexley-Sidecup, for which Heath's name has been suggested.

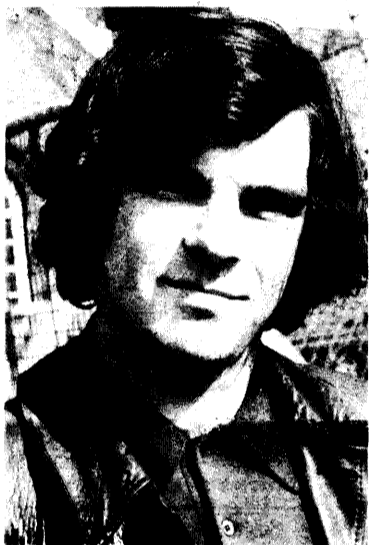
Heath represents Bexley and Dame Patricia, Chislehurst, both seats being affected by redistribution.

'The Friends of Pat' say that many local party workers consider that Dame Patricia has 'a just claim and moral right' to the new seat. Seventy per cent of the electorate in the new constituency were her constituents.

## Chemical workers' strike threat

ABOUT 300 chemical workers have threatened to go on strike today unless the management of their factory in Selby, Yorks, opens meaningful pay talks.

The men work for J & E Sturge Limited. In a statement yesterday, management said negotiations would not be started 'under duress'. The company called on the men to lift the strike threat.



JOSEPH STEVEN

## Teachers 'singled out for worst treatment'

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THE BURNHAM Committee on teachers' pay is attacked today for its 'cavalier treatment' of the 13.7 per cent claim for £250 a year flat-rate increase.

Teachers have been singled out for worse treatment than any other group of employees in the public sector, says Edward Britton, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

'They have been offered less than the government's own salaries norm; and second they have not been allowed the basic freedom to negotiate their own salaries like other employees,' Britton says.

He has sent an open letter to all MPs, chief education officers and chairmen of education committees in England and Wales

### President Morris

LEADING Communist Party member Max Morris will be next year's president of the National Union of Teachers. In the union's recent elections Morris was elected as senior vice-president. He is headmaster of Willesden High School, a N London comprehensive.



EDWARD BRITTON

attacking the attitude of the Burnham Committee.

'In the past, injustices of this kind have led to bitterness and anger among the teaching profession, and I do not recall an occasion when teachers had more cause for resentment.'

'We asked for a flat-rate increase on this occasion in order to help most those hardest hit by the cost of living, which has gone up 8 1/2 per cent in the past year. We drew attention to the increase of 13 per cent in food prices over the year and the phenomenal increase in housing prices,' says the letter.

'The management, instead of answering our reasoned case,

threatened arbitration even before making an offer, in an attempt to dictate the form as well as the size of our claim.'

Britton says after a series of meetings, which never approached serious negotiation, the issue has been referred to arbitration, a move with which the unions had no choice.

'Under present circumstances we have no confidence in an arbitration tribunal which is weighted two-to-one against the teachers,' he says in appealing for real negotiations and justice for all teachers.

### Farm teachers' pay raised

ABOUT 800 teachers employed in agricultural institutes have been awarded a 7.7 per cent pay rise by the Farm Institute Panel of the Burnham Committee.

The award — in line with recent settlements to university and technical teachers — will cost around £135,000. Agricultural teachers are paid from £1,375 to £2,355 a year.

A NEAR £500,000 improvement lifted profits of Associated Fisheries, the trawling and foods concern, to record levels last year.

An announcement earlier this month of a two-point increase in dividend to 15 per cent was followed up yesterday with news of big jumps in sales and earnings.

Turnover was up by over £11m, to more than £51m, during the

### ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

OLLERTON: Saturday, March 25, 5 p.m. 'The Plough'. The Right-to-Work marches.

SHEFFIELD: Sunday, March 26, 7.30 p.m. YS premises, Portobello, near Jessop Hospital. 'The engineers' pay claim'.

WILLESDEN: Monday March 27, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Rd., NW1. 'Right-to-Work Campaign and the fight to force the Tories out'.

W LONDON: Tuesday, March 28, 8 p.m. Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, off York Way, Kings Cross, N.1. 'Report back from Wembley Pool'.

SOUTHALL: Wednesday, March 29, 8 p.m. Southall Community Centre, Bridge Road. 'Report back from Wembley Pool'.

N LONDON: Thursday, March 30, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, Tottenham High Rd. N. 17 (off White Hart Lane). 'Report back meeting from Wembley and the Scarborough conference'.

S. EAST: Thursday, March 30, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, nr. New Cross Station. 'Report back from Wembley Pool'.

12 months which ended in September, while the pre-tax profit reached a new peak of £2,181,855 compared with £1,719,784 in 1970.

Until his appointment as Minister for Trade under John Davies, the chairman of Associated Fisheries was Michael Noble. Under parliamentary regulation Noble gave up his seat on the board on being made a minister, but he still retains an interest in the company.



# Tool up for pay and procedure fight CBI chief urges

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WITH THE passing of the Industrial Relations Act, the time is now ripe for 'managerial initiatives' on pay and procedures, says a CBI chief.

This recognition of the new times we are living in comes today from Richard O'Brien, who, as chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's employment policy committee, speaks as an eminent representative of big business.

O'Brien, who is also a director of the powerful Delta Metal company, elaborates a strategy to be used by big business management in driving down pay and conditions and shackling the unions with the Industrial Relations Act.

In fact the whole article has to be taken as a severe warning by trade unionists of the employers' intentions as they prepare for the Common Market.

Writing in the quarterly CBI Review, O'Brien opens with a blast at 'continuing amateurism' in dealing with workers.

'It continues to be surprising how reluctant directors are to give this function (personnel management) its due importance down the line,' he says.

O'Brien then asks what an employment policy must embrace. 'Pay must come first,' he replies emphatically. He then goes on to elaborate the case for speeding up the replacement of piece-work payments by Measured-Day

Work and other forms of productivity deals.

'The Prices and Incomes Board, in its 1968 report on payment-by-results systems, was amazed to find management so indifferent to unit labour costs, growth of earnings, differentials and so on.'

But he perceives a light in the welter of ignorance.

'All this is now changing; job-evaluation is spreading, measurement of effort has improved; manning is having attention; Measured-Day Work is becoming more popular [with whom?] as incentives fail to achieve expected results in many cases; anomalies are being brought to light as managements think in terms of job evaluated wages and salary structures,' his article continues.

O'Brien urges management to consider the many advantages of this strategy and why they should learn the lessons quickly:

'We are now able to produce more per head than we were a few years ago, and no doubt we shall make comparable improvements in the immediate future.'

He then openly admits that the enormous increase in the number of unemployed workers has been in large part because of management's 'new initiatives'.

'The present unemployment figures must only in part reflect lack of volume from a stagnant economy; they must also be a reflection of the improvement in managerial performance and the direct implications of this for output per man.'

In other words, O'Brien confirms that the intensified production drive has cost thousands of workers their jobs while those

working are producing more per man.

The other part of his article is mainly devoted to a call for management to get down and impose strait-jacket procedure agreements all round which can tie down the unions within the framework of the Industrial Relations Act.

'Procedures do not eliminate conflict; they make it easier to contain and therefore less likely to result in industrial action,' he says before revealing his true intentions in the following paragraph:

'They offer (procedures), through the process of discussing drafts word by word and sentence by sentence, the opportunity to involve shop stewards officials in meaningful discussions with management on their respective rights and obligations.'

In the remainder of his thoroughly thought-out article, the CBI man says management also has to get stuck into other aspects of industrial relations if they're going to make anything of their business prospects.

They have to launch a training programme, not just for themselves, but for workers on the shop floor as well.

'If new industrial relations procedures are required, supervisors and shop stewards will need in-company training (often with outside assistance),' he writes.

And another thing that has to be straightened out is the contract of employment. O'Brien calls for harmonization and consolidation of contracts by individual companies.

'Others may be able to advise us; they cannot do the job for us. With the passing of the Act [on Industrial Relations] and the issue of the Code [which accompanies the Act], the time is ripe for managerial initiatives in the employment policy field,' he concludes.

The preparations of big business to step up their attacks on the working class in preparation for Common Market entry which are outlined by O'Brien are confirmed in a different way by another article in the CBI Review.

It is by the managing director of a plastics firm which set up in Belgium last year. He writes enthusiastically over seven pages about the opportunities for British businessmen to make more profits in Europe.

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## G&MWU

THE 850,000-strong General and Municipal Workers' Union—the third largest in Britain—voted unanimously at a special congress in London yesterday to deregister under the Industrial Relations Act.

The G&MWU executive at one time favoured registration and yesterday's decision to back TUC policy was made alongside an 'escape' clause under which the union will 'watch the position carefully'.

The matter would be reconsidered if deregistration prevented the union giving members satisfactory service.

## Cadbury profits jump 22 p.c.

A 22 PER CENT jump in profits was reported yesterday by Cadbury Schweppes, the drinks group and foods and biscuits manufacturers. Profits for 1971 surged ahead nearly £4m from £17,220,000 to a new peak of £21,140,000. Sales jumped just over £18m to a record £296m.

Cadbury chairman Lord Watkinson was a former Tory Defence Minister and a member of the Macmillan Cabinet. He is a vigorous proponent of the Industrial Relations Act and a pro-Marketeer. Cadbury gives generously to the Tory Party coffers.

# TV

## BBC-1

9.38-11.55 Schools. 12.55-1.25 Canu'r bobol. 1.30 Mr Benn. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Crackerjack 72. 5.35 George Best. 5.44 Crystal tips. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 MAGAZINE.  
6.20 TOM AND JERRY.  
6.25 THE VIRGINIAN, 'Back to Methuselah'.  
7.40 THE LIVER BIRDS.  
8.10 THE BROTHERS. 'Confrontation'.  
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.  
9.20 GALA PERFORMANCE. Sadler's Wells Opera at the London Coliseum.  
10.20 COME DANCING. E Scotland v N England.  
10.55 24 HOURS.  
11.25 FILM: 'MACAO'. Robert Mitchum. Three Americans are on a boat headed for Macao.  
12.45 Weather.

## BBC-2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35-6.30 Open University.  
7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.  
7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.  
8.00 MONEY PROGRAMME.  
9.00 GARDENERS' WORLD.  
9.20 W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM. 'The Force of Circumstances'.  
10.10 PLUMB-LOCO.  
10.20 CLOCHERLE. 'The Scandalous Outcome of A Night of Destruction'.  
10.45 REVIEW. 'It's So Much Quicker With a Camera', 'The Needle's Eye'.  
11.30 NEWS ON 2 and weather.  
11.35 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

## ITV

10.20 Schools. 2.30 Racing from Doncaster. 3.10 Tea break. 3.40 Drive-in. 4.10 Scotland Yard mysteries. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Arthur! 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 News.  
6.00 TODAY. Eamonn Andrews.  
6.30 BEWITCHED. 'It's So Nice to Have a Spouse Around the House'.  
7.00 THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.  
7.30 FILM: 'TO THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI'. John Payne, Randolph Scott, Maureen O'Hara. US Marines.  
9.00 SPIDER'S WEB. 'An Almost Modern Man'.  
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.  
10.30 ALEXANDER THE GREATEST. 'Kicking the Filthy Habit'.  
11.05 THE BARON. 'The Long, Long Day'.  
12.00 COVER TO COVER. 'The Greatest Escape'.  
12.25 MUSIC MATTERS.

## REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.20-2.35 London. 4.05 Pinky and Perky. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Dick Van Dyke. 4.55 Robin Hood. 5.20 Ask Westward. 5.50 London. 6.00 News and weather. 6.10 Report. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 I spy. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weather. 10.32 Name of the game. 11.50 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 5.20 Ask Westward. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sport. 10.30 Report. 10.58 News. 12.20 Faith for life. 12.25 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 10.20 London. 3.35 Tea break. 4.05 Houseparty. 4.21 Heckle and Jeckle. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Out of town. 7.00 London. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weekend. 10.35 Film: 'Them!'. 12.15 News. 12.25 Weather. Discoverers.

HTV: 10.20 London. 3.50 Women only. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report. 6.18 Report. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: '13 Rue Madeleine'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Press call. 11.05 Skilful rugby. 11.35 Department S. 12.30 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.01-6.35 Report West.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15-4.30 Cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30-11.05 Outlook.

ANGLIA: 10.20 London. 3.55 News. 4.00 Tea break. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 Voyage. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 10.30 By-gones. 11.00 Film: 'The Magnetic Monster'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 10.20 London. 3.35 Stars. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 Jimmy Stewart. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'City of the Dead'.

ULSTER: 10.20-3.40 London. 3.40 Calendar news. 3.45 Holidays abroad. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Flintstones. 5.20 Tom Grattan's war. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 7.00 London. 7.30 It takes a thief. 8.30 On the buses. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Hysteria'. 12.10 Weather.

YORKSHIRE: 10.20 London. 3.40 Calendar news. 3.45 Holidays abroad. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Flintstones. 5.20 Tom Grattan's war. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 7.00 London. 7.30 It takes a thief. 8.30 On the buses. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Hysteria'. 12.10 Weather.

GRANADA: 10.18 London. 3.40 Yoga. 4.05 News. Odd couple. 4.35 Magic ball. 4.50 Captain Scarlet. 5.15 Rainbow country. 5.50 London. 6.00 Newsway. 6.20 Peyton Place. 6.50 Kick-off. 7.05 Film: 'McClud Encounter With Arles'. 8.20 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 10.30 Open night. 11.10 Danger man. 12.05 See our next thrilling instalment!

TYNE TEES: 10.20 London. 3.35 News. 3.45 Holidays. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Flintstones. 5.20 Tom Grattan's war. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 London. 7.30 Calling Dr Gannon. 8.30 On the buses. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Forbidden Planet'. 12.20 News. 12.35 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 10.20-3.15 London. 3.30 Kiri. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Mr Magoo. 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 London. 7.30 Strange report. 8.30 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 10.30 Conference report. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'Man Without a Body'.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 London. 3.38 News. 3.40 Simon Locke. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Flintstones. 5.20 Tom Grattan's war. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Mr and Mrs. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.35 It takes a thief. 8.25 Stuart Gillies Ceilidh. 9.00 London. 10.30 Conference report. 11.00 Film: 'The Fantastic Disappearing Man'. 12.25 Epilogue.



# INDUSTRIAL COURT'S FIRST UNION VICTIM —T&GWU

IN AN historic first judgement against a union, the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday ordered the Transport and General Workers' Union to suspend blacking action by Liverpool dockers against a transport company.

The order lasts until Monday morning when the case will be heard in full.

The T&GWU, an unregistered union, did not appear in court.

Previous NIRC orders have named individuals and shop stewards.

NIRC president Sir John Donaldson said the company, Heaton's Transport (St Helens) Ltd, had made out a prima facie case of unfair action by the T&GWU under Section 96(1) of the Industrial Relations Act.

This section deals with inducement of or threat to induce a breach of contract.

The company sought the interim order following action by dockers at Gladstone dock, Liverpool, on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

They turned back container lorries from Heaton's, demanding that all packing and unpacking of containers had to be carried out by registered dock workers.

# ENGINEER STRIKERS WANT RECOGNITION

AFTER a week on strike for every point of the official-engineers' wage claim, 350 workers at the Birmingham Battery and Metal Company are still awaiting official endorsement.

The Birmingham W district committee under the chairmanship of Communist Party member Dick Etheridge is not due to meet for another week, and pickets at the gates in Selly Oak in Birmingham yesterday were

looking to a shop steward's quarterly meeting last night to provide much-needed backing for the fight.

'This firm will follow any instructions from the Federation', said AUEW convenor Leonard Tisdell. 'We are fighting the whole Federation and we appreciate this.'

Figures of £16.15 basic for a mill-operative and £19.79 take-home pay for a skilled man, show that the firm is paying little over the nationally agreed minimum rate.

'Not fighting the claim nationally makes it a lot harder for the smaller firms,' said crane driver Frank Voice. 'We are fighting all the employers and the government.'

A mass meeting of the strikers is planned for next Monday. Mr Tisdell said he thought the district committee would be able to organize a sub-committee meeting before then to endorse their strike.

## Engineers ultimatum

ENGINEERS in Leeds have given firms there until March 31 to come forward with settlements of their claim.

Some of the 20,000 production workers involved have already been offered the unacceptable national figure of £1.50 on basic rates. The AUEW district committee claims offers of £4 and better holidays from others.

## Newport tube works reprieved

BRITISH Steel Corporation is to postpone closure of its Newport tube works, timed for the end of the year with the loss of 1,000 jobs.

News of the reprieve came yesterday from Newport's MP Roy Hughes (Labour) after he and the Shadow Welsh Secretary, George Thomas, had met Lord Melchett, the BSC chairman, and other corporation chiefs in London.

Hughes said: 'This will give us a breathing space. We must press now for capital investment at the plant to ensure the future.'

Yesterday's meeting was the climax of a campaign to save the works. News of oil-drilling off the Welsh coast was regarded as a crucial factor in the late stages of the campaign.

## LATE NEWS WEATHER

NEGOTIATIONS on railway unions' pay claim are to be resumed on Tuesday, it was announced yesterday afternoon.

STUDENTS at Lancaster university yesterday occupied the administration office and computer centre. This followed the announcement that the university authorities are to charge English lecturer, Dr David Craig, with 'disruptive activities'. A mass meeting of 1,000 students voted to occupy after hearing that Craig, a Communist Party member, faced dismissal.

For the past week about 1,200 students have been on strike over the termination of contracts of two other members of the English department.

NW Scotland, N Ireland, Wales and NW England will be rather cloudy with some local drizzle early and late.

E England and E Scotland will be mainly dry with some bright intervals.

S Wales and remaining districts of England will be dry with sunny spells after the clearance of early morning mist and fog patches.

Temperatures will be near or rather above normal.

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Dry with sunny periods and rather warm in most places with occasional rain or drizzle in NW Scotland and near normal temperatures.

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# STOCKPORT SIT-IN No. 2

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

THE ENGINEERING pay battle in Stockport escalated yesterday when workers at a second plant occupied their factory. One hundred and thirty workers at Davies and Metcalfe were told they would be suspended at 12 noon if they did not drop their ban on piecework reimposed after talks on the engineering pay claim broke down on Wednesday.

But the men had taken a unanimous decision earlier to meet a challenge and the occupation began at 4.25 p.m. yesterday afternoon.

Convenor Eric Wolridge made this statement minutes after the suspension notice was served:

'The action is certainly long overdue. The main point to us is that we have an honourable claim. We have never been as unified as we are now. This is despite the fact that many of us have had a rough time as far as short-time working is concerned. But this has not dampened our will to fight.'

The events leading up to the occupation began when the management representative approached individual workers asking them if they were prepared to work normally. He met with a total refusal.

Shortly before 12 noon the stewards were called to hear managing director Richard Metcalfe read a prepared statement on the suspensions.

After the meeting management closed all facilities to shop-floor workers. Canteen facilities and food was denied to the men and the heating and lighting in the plant was shut off.

Workers have drawn up a three-shift system to man the factory round the clock. All the shop stewards will be on the first shift in case of any intimidation.

Less than a mile away at Bredbury steelworks, members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union were waiting to hear whether their executive would grant them dispute money.

Official backing is expected after a decision by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers to make the Bredbury occupation official.

Next Monday more lock-outs are expected when 200,000 workers in the greater Manchester engineering industry join the 5,000 Stockport workers and ban piecework and overtime.

## Engineers condemn Square ban

SHEFFIELD No. 2 branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has condemned the banning of the Anti-Internment League's rally in Trafalgar Square this weekend as 'an attack on the basic right of people to assemble to voice their protest by this Tory government.'

'This can only be carried out by the Tories alongside the other attacks on workers' rights with

the consent of the trade union and Labour leadership and that section of the leadership which is prepared to participate in a corporate state and with the Industrial Relations Act.

'We demand that the EC of the union cease all collaboration through the TUC with this government and leads a national campaign to force the Tories to resign.'

Socialist Labour League  
**ULSTER AND BRITAIN**  
 Defend Right of Assembly!  
 Against Internment!  
 Withdraw British Troops!  
 Force Tory Government to Resign!  
**DEMONSTRATE**  
 SUNDAY MARCH 26  
 Assemble: 1 pm Clapham Common  
 March with Young Socialists and Socialist Labour League contingent.

**We demand the right to work!  
 Make the Tories resign!**

**YOUNG SOCIALISTS 12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
 SCARBOROUGH**  
 Saturday & Sunday April 8/9 Grand Hall, The Spa

Dance to 'BRAVE NEW WORLD' Saturday night 8 pm  
 also see a star-studded show  
 Cost approximately £4.50. For tickets apply to John Simmance, National Secretary,  
 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG

Please send me details/tickets of the Scarborough Conference.

I enclose .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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Workers Press  
 March Appeal Fund  
 186a Clapham High St  
 London, SW4 7UG.