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Sheffield Support

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'This branch calls on the DC to instruct the executive council to reinstitute the national claim and call national action in support of the brothers in Manchester and other areas.

'We call on the DC to organize a meeting of all members in the district who have reached the stage of failure-to-agree to co-ordinate the action of these factories.'

The only factory in the area engaged in action at the moment is Davy United, which is threatened with a lock-out this week.

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

MANCHESTER'S largest employer locked workers out of the AEI combine's giant Trafford Park factory yesterday.

And at AEI Openshaw, 800 workers began a sit-in in defiance of a management to lock them out.

The move, which comes at the start of the second week of the district-wide engineers' pay claim, shows there is still a powerful body within the Engineering Employers' Federation determined to resist a settlement.

The doors and gates at Trafford Park were barred and bolted to prevent 3,500 shop-floor workers from entering the plant.

Only a handful turned up because of a decision taken at mass meetings before Easter which decided against an occupation.

Sir Arnold Weinstock's AEI has been noted for its hard line action in the local federation and has resisted in particular the demand for a 35-hour week.

Today another combine, Guest, Keen Nettlefold, also noted for its tough approach, is expected to open negotiations with workers at the Bredbury steel plant who have been occupying since March 23.

Whether this is a genuine approach remains to be seen. One surprise move at Bredbury has been the removal of managing director Geoffrey Wilson. He is noted for his firm shop-floor tactics.

At the steel works, he was responsible for a productivity deal involving Measured-Day Work, speed-up and redundancies.

A GKN Bredbury spokesman, yesterday denied that the move had anything to do with the current dispute.

Wilson has been promoted to chairman of the company's N and Midlands bright steel division.

His successor is John Lamb, who is understood to be leading today's negotiations with two local union officials.

Lamb was formerly divisional director of Cold Rolling, S Wales.

Throughout the NW a total of 6,000 workers are now occupying 11 plants. Workers at Rushton Paxton in Warrington have lifted their sit-in, but are working-to-rule.



The few workers who turned up outside AEI, Trafford Park, Manchester, watched office staff go in

LONDON AEI THREAT TO CLOSE FACTORY

A MASS meeting of workers from AEP's Century Works in SE London will today discuss the machine shop strike and the threatened closedown of the factory.

The strike has been in progress since January and now the electricians have 'failed to agree' and they too might join the strikers.

The firm, previously managed by Elliott Automation, has been threatening to declare redundancies and move the work to Leicester.

TWO MORE SIT-INS EXPECTED IN MANCHESTER

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

JOHN TOCHER, the area secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said yesterday there would be at least two more sit-ins in the Greater Manchester area.

He said settlements had been reached with more than

20 firms and discussions were taking place with a number of others.

'Some firms have offered to settle on the money and holidays, but we have refused to do so because we want hours to be included as well,' he said.

'Our members are absolutely convinced of the justification of the claim.'

RAILMEN START WORK-TO-RULE

LOCOMEN'S leader Ray Buckton yesterday expressed disappointment that his members at British Rail's Stratford depot in E London had started an unofficial work-to-rule.

'I had hoped they would stand behind the executive', he said. 'Our policy is to try and get a united front at tomorrow's meeting.'

Today, the executives of all three rail unions discuss how they can force the BR board to increase their £30.8m pay offer to the railwaymen.

● See page 3 for work-to-rule story.

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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FORMS P. 11

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT

RELEASE JUAN FARINAS

JUAN FARINAS has been jailed. The decision of the New York District Court Judge to reject Farinas' motion for modification of sentence and his return to a Federal prison is a vicious attack against workers' rights and the revolutionary movement.

Farinas, a member of the American Workers League (Trotskyist), who has been framed on charges of violating the Selective Service Act, is to continue serving his sentence of two years' imprisonment in a Federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut.

The motion for modification of sentence asked that Juan be allowed to go into the army, or to work for two years in a court-approved job. His 'crime' is that he dared to distribute anti-Vietnam war leaflets in an army induction centre.

The rejection of this motion is fully in keeping with the policies of the Nixon administration. This is to stifle every expression of revolutionary socialist activity against the Vietnam war and the wage freeze, anti-union policies of the Republicans.

Farinas gets two years for expressing his opinions on the war whilst the organizers and perpetrators of the My Lai and Kent State University massacres go scot-free.

At the same time the entire Republican administra-



tion reeks with the stink of corruption and scandal as the monopolists scramble to gouge the exchequer by buying off sections of the state apparatus.

The court decision, far from deterring any further opposition to the war and the reactionary two-party system, will only stimulate the growing resistance—seen in the collapse of the Pay Board and the strike wave—to the Nixon regime and put an end to the Republican-Democrat political pendulum.

Farinas' courageous stand and his principled struggle can no more be smashed than Nixon's stooges in Indo-China can halt or defeat the victorious National Liberation Front offensive.

It is not Juan Farinas who is guilty, but the US capitalist class and its state machine, which is, trying to suppress, exploit and conquer the working class everywhere.

The International Committee of the Fourth International adds its protest to the thousands of US trade unionists and students who have supported the campaign of Juan Farinas and fought this unprecedentedly vicious example of class justice.

The IC urges European and British trade unionists to support this campaign and demand that Farinas be released immediately.

BIGGEST US BOMB RAIDS SINCE 1968

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE AMERICAN command was yesterday planning massive airborne retaliation against N Vietnam as puppet armies in the S fled before the advancing liberation forces.

Hanoi said yesterday that its forces had eliminated 7,700 enemy troops in a 'sledgehammer blow' against the US 'Vietnamization' policy.

Invading forces had eliminated 6,500 S Vietnamese in five days around the northern towns of Quang Tri and Thua Thien.

Another 1,200 were killed or captured around the town of Hue, it said. The radio also reported that the 56th Regiment of S Vietnam's Third Infantry Division at Tam Lam and Base 241 mutinied on Saturday and joined the liberation fighters.

The National Liberation Front yesterday broadcast over Hanoi Radio, appealing to all S Vietnamese army officers and men to act immediately to save themselves. It said they must desert their posts, hand over their weapons to the guerrillas and cooperate with them.

N Vietnamese troops were yesterday reported S of Quang Tri city and mustering for an advance on Hue as their opponents fled southwards in confusion.

In a desperate attempt to stem the advance, S Vietnamese marines, protected by US destroyers standing offshore, landed at a point called the 'Street Without Joy' close to Quang Tri city.

The N Vietnamese advance has already gone far beyond the landing area and only part of the city of Quang Tri is still in the hands of Saigon troops.

A fourth aircraft carrier, the USS 'Constellation', was on its way to the Tonkin Gulf from Japan yesterday to reinforce the three already in the area.

F-4 fighter-bombers from the carriers flew more than 260 strikes in the past 48 hours and the intensity of bombing was stepped up yesterday as cloud cover began to break up.

The biggest American threat now is that the B-52 heavy bombers stationed in Thailand will be unleashed on N Vietnam in an offensive unparalleled since the 'bombing pause' under President Johnson in 1968.

The White House claims such action is necessary to protect American forces still in S Vietnam, which have so far played no part in the fighting.

In reality, such a bombing offensive is now the only way the US can prevent the collapse of its Saigon puppet regime.

JAPAN'S SHIP BUILDERS CUT-BACK

A LEADING Japanese shipbuilding firm is to restrict production to meet an expected fall in new orders in the 1970s.

The Hitachi Company is to curtail supertanker production exceeding 200,000 tons deadweight at its giant Sakai yard in W Japan from six to four per annum.

Capacity of a new yard being built in Kyushu, the southernmost Japanese island would be reduced from eight to four per annum.

President of the company, Takao Nagata, said that the reduction was being made in an effort to avoid cut-throat competition among shipbuilders for a smaller number of orders.

Peasant leader slams Mujib's 'shoot-on-sight' order

LESS than four months after achieving independence from Pakistan, the new state of Bangla Desh is plunging towards civil war as the Awami League administration becomes increasingly discredited.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country's premier, has called for the restoration of 'law and order' in the countryside and directed his police to shoot Naxalites (Maoist left wingers) on sight.

In a speech at Jessore on Sunday, he attacked strikes and lock-outs, saying: 'There cannot be

any scope for such extremism after the nationalization programme announced by the government.'

Last week, Mujib's police shot seven hotel strikers demonstrating outside Dacca's Intercontinental Hotel demanding pay increases.

Repeated reports have reached Dacca of fatal clashes or political assassinations involving members of the ruling party and the left-wing Awami Party led by 92-year-old Maulana Bashani.

In the most recent, soldiers and Awami League members reportedly attacked Awami Party supporters on Saturday

at a public hall in Dinajpur.

Official reports say there were eight deaths, but on-the-spot reports say there were many more.

Maulana Bashani gave a stiff warning to the Awami League at a rally in Dacca on Monday. He told a 25,000-strong crowd: 'I warn the Awami League that if they don't follow the right course their dream will be shattered.'

Men who had nothing but a hut before independence were now living in five-storey houses, Bashani said, flaying the corruption of the regime.

Bashani also attacked

Mujib's 'shoot-on-sight' directive:

'Be careful, Mujibur Rahman,' he said. 'It is not written on a man's body that he is a Naxalite. There is no saying who is a Naxalite and who is not.'

'If there are bad elements, arrest them and try them, but no one should be shot without a trial.'

Bashani himself has been threatened by the Awami League, whose propaganda organ 'Bangla Bani', edited by Mujib's nephew, has accused him of conspiring with the US Central Intelligence Agency and China against the government.

'GUILTY' BEFORE JUDGEMENT IN S AFRICA

AFTER ONE of the longest trials in S Africa's history, 13 members of the country's Unity Movement were told yesterday they were guilty.

All the accused were found guilty of joining in a conspiracy to commit certain acts to endanger the maintenance of law and order in S Africa in furtherance of a common purpose to overthrow the government by force of arms.

They were all also found guilty of committing specific acts in a conspiracy to recruit persons in S Africa to

undergo military training in foreign countries.

Two of the accused, Kadir Hassim and Joseph Vusani, were also found guilty of helping known terrorists in S Africa.

Five others, Mogami Moeing, Mfolwane Mbele, Pindiso Zimabane, Dam Gideon Mahajana and Nckwika Vimba, were found guilty of the actual recruiting of people for military training to endanger the maintenance of law and order in the republic.

The other accused were Max Batwini

Tabata, Frank Anthony, Robert Wilcox, Albert Tshangana, Montford Mabuto and Surinarayan Venkatrathnam.

All had pleaded not guilty.

Delivering the verdict before making a judgement at Pietermaritzburg, Natal, Mr Justice N. James said:

'As judgement must inevitably take a long time to deliver, I feel it would be wrong to keep the accused in suspense any longer.' He said he would give the court's reasons for its decisions later.

The 13 were charged

under the notorious Terrorism Act, which presumes men to be guilty unless they can prove themselves innocent.

The Vorster regime made things as difficult as possible for the men's defence, calling over 100 state witnesses and spinning the trial out to make the expense prohibitive.

The men were arrested over a year ago in Cape Province, Johannesburg and the Transkei. Some were kept in solitary confinement for months before being formally charged.

Everyone else must pay for US crisis

BY JOHN SPENCER

PRESIDENT Nixon has demanded further international trade negotiations to restore 'a healthy trade surplus and a strong financial position for the United States'.

He was speaking on Monday night after signing into law a Bill which raises the dollar price of gold from \$35 to \$38 an ounce.

He described the Bill as a basic point of departure in working for international economic stability and said his action yesterday would be followed by continuing efforts to give US businessmen and farmers 'fair access' to foreign markets.

Such 'access' can only be

achieved at the expense of businessmen and farmers in other countries—above all in the main centres of capitalism outside the US.

Nixon's statement follows similar demands from his Treasury Secretary John Connally and Connally's assistant Paul Volcker, both of whom have called on European and Japanese capitalism to shoulder the burden of providing America with a balance of payments surplus.

After Nixon had spoken, Volcker told reporters that the dollar devaluation—agreed in top level talks on December 18 last year—did not solve all the US problems.

The next stage, he said, was agreement on trade to help the US improve its balance of payments.

In other words, Europe and Japan must accept increased unemployment, loss of markets and

slashed consumption to put the US employers back on their feet.

The urgency of Nixon's call for concessions from his foreign competitors underlines the critical character of the international economic situation since he ended the dollar's convertibility with gold on August 15 last year.

This action has precipitated a fundamental crisis in the sphere of capitalist exchange, because no one can any longer rely on the value of paper currency.

The monetary crisis now has a direct impact on production through the growth of recession and on the political situation throughout the capitalist world.

With only seven months to go to the presidential election, Nixon is terrified that the shaky international monetary arrangements will not endure long enough for him to scrape past the winning post.

An explosion on the monetary

markets, perhaps taking the form of a massive dollar devaluation, would cause an enormous rise in unemployment in the US and a wave of hostility to Nixon.

Nixon's 'solution' is to make the rest of the world pay for the crisis by waging all-out trade war against Europe and Japan.

The capitalists of these countries are unable to withstand the American trade drive. They are prostrate in the face of Nixon's threats.

This is the real significance of the Tory drive into the Common Market, which is nothing more than the alliance of European monopolists to meet the crisis as best they can.

European and Japanese employers now have no option but to go to war on their own workers—using unemployment, repressive legislation and right-wing dictatorship in a bid to crush the threat of revolution and maintain their bankrupt system.

Railmen's patience runs out over pay

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

THE UNOFFICIAL work-to-rule by British Rail's Eastern Region drivers began yesterday on the eve of talks between the three unions involved in the rail pay claim.

This action is an indication that some rail workers are fed up with the prolonged negotiations. They are the last major group in the nationalized industries to have their pay claim considered by the Tory government.

In London today the executives of the three unions—ASLEF, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport and Salaried Staffs' Association—meet to consider 'united action'.

Talks broke down last week when British Rail refused to increase basic rates by more than 9 per cent. The so-called 'new offer' was simply a juggling of the figures, one of the union negotiators said.

The unions are demanding a 16-per-cent increase.

A BR spokesman said commuter services were not disrupted by yesterday's work-to-rule, but he expressed anxiety about freight services in the Stratford area.

Other branches planning action are Southend, Shoeburyness, Ilford and Colchester.

There is also the threat of strike action by Southern Region and London Underground drivers unless there is a satisfactory conclusion to the negotiations by next Monday.

MDW plan at Albion

MANAGEMENT at the Albion motor works, Scotstoun, Glasgow, is proposing to introduce Measured-Day Work.

The scheme will increase basic rates by £1.50 with a total increase of £4 in the first stage of the deal which will include a grading system.

The proposal—part of British-Leyland's combine-wide MDW strategy—has been accepted by the shop stewards' committee to be recommended to a mass meeting of men, probably next week.

At present the Albion workers are on a four-day week.

BY IAN YEATS

BRITISH industry is in the grip of a 'creeping recovery', according to a special post-Budget survey of 50 firms carried out by the 'Financial Times'.

But with industry operating at up to 15 per cent below capacity and no sign of a downturn in unemployment, it is clear that the 'recovery' does not extend far beyond company ledgers.

Although order books are showing a marginal increase, employers have made no changes in their capital investment programmes, thus confirming the view that new orders will be met chiefly from excess capacity and not extra plant.

The persistent upward movement of prices and costs leaves export prospects pointing firmly downwards.

Inflation is still the number one threat to profit. Since Christ-

'Creeping recovery' means more profits from fewer workers

mas its pace has quickened, driving up the median forecast for unit cost increases a full 1/2 per cent in three months.

The Tories have fought inflation through a conscious policy of encouraging unemployment.

Unemployment is the very foundation of the present so-called 'recovery' and it is not in the least surprising therefore that the 'Financial Times' finds the prospect of any upturn 'discouraging'.

Ultimately unemployment is likely to rise close to the 3 million forecast by Chrysler's UK chief last week.

If anything has undergone a recovery recently, it is profits. Since the Budget, businessmen expect the return on capital to improve, there is jubilation at the new system of corporation

tax and satisfaction with the Value Added Tax.

Describing the 'recovery', the 'Financial Times' noted in an editorial yesterday: 'Profits for many sectors have risen and there are hopes that this trend will continue.'

The principal obstacle, according to the survey, is inflation and the Tories will be under heavy pressure to hold the line against inflationary wage settlements and to continue its policy of encouraging employers to shed labour.

Their hand has been strengthened now that the Industrial Relations Act can be brought to bear with full force on opposition from the trade unions.

As the slump worsens, bankruptcies among small firms must go on. And at the best big business will gain only a short respite from the twin policies of rationalization and raising productivity.

Conway's 'left' talk hides own union's role

OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UNIONS will not negotiate the terms of their own surrender to the Tory government, says Jim Conway, right-wing general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, in an article out today.

But if Conway has his own way, they won't fight it, either.

In an editorial in the April issue of his union's journal, he refers to 'speculation . . . in the press recently about the beginning of a dialogue between the government and the unions'.

He does not refer directly to the March 10 meeting between Tory premier Edward Heath and the TUC General Council, which led AUEW president Hugh Scanlon to speculate that the abrasiveness between unions and government might be softened. That would be too close to home.

Conway claims, however, in a militant-sounding passage, that 'the only subject the government would discuss with us . . . was the terms of our own surrender.'

'Having tried unsuccessfully to implement an incomes policy in the public sector and to divide the move-

ment with the Industrial Relations Act, the government is now trying a new approach.'

This, Conway says, will not work.

'How can we ignore the most vicious piece of anti-union legislation passed this century? How can we forget the Post Office workers, the municipal workers, and the miners—all forced into long and damaging strikes by the government's attitude?'

The AUEW secretary—soon to stand again for re-election to his post—is clearly quite capable of forgetting if not the events themselves, at least the role he and the other AUEW leaders played in them.

'Does the government believe that after such a programme of attack against the workers, the trade unions will not sit down and talk about ways we can assist in keeping the government in power?' he asks.

Well, the March 10 meeting indicates that the Tories believe they will. And they have good reason for their belief.

After all it was Conway and the AUEW executive who, on the eve of the miners' strike, cold-bloodedly abandoned the fight for their members' pay



claim at a national level.

'Our union', Conway goes on, 'is on record as being opposed to any incomes policy. The AUEW however, is not . . . against planning.'

The union secretary's plea for a planned society is, of course, strictly academic.

'If this . . . sounds like a plea for socialist

government, so be it', he says.

In other words, if the Tories should happen to fall from power, despite our efforts, we would hand our members over lock, stock and barrel to right-wing Labour.

Fortunately Conway's 1.5 million members are by no means in the same frame of mind.

Money in bank

BANK pay talks are to be held tomorrow. If they break down, union leaders will agree to their 30-per-cent claim going to arbitration.

The claim—presented last month by staff associations and by the National Union of Bank Employees—has already been rejected outright by the Federation of Bank Employers.

Ford lay-offs

ABOUT 200 men out of the 1,000-strong work force at the Southampton Ford plant have been laid off 'until further notice'.

In a circular to employees, the company says the lay-offs are necessary because of a strike at one of the suppliers at Willenhall, Staffordshire.

The Southampton plant makes vans and truck cabs.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

LIVERPOOL: Wednesday April 5, 8 p.m. 'The Swan', London Road. 'Tory attack on unions; engineers' struggle'.

SHEFFIELD: Thursday April 6, 7.30 p.m. New White Lion, The Wicker, Sheffield. 'Engineers' pay claim and the Industrial Relations Act: Halt the retreat'.

NOTTINGHAM: Thursday April 6, 7.30 p.m. Peoples Hall, Heathcoat St. Report - back from Wembley Pool.

Arm all Protestants says Chicago minister

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

AN AMERICAN minister raising 'missionary money' for Ulster said yesterday he would like to see all Protestant householders armed.

The Rev Paul Lindstrom, a minister of the 'Church of Christian Liberty' (non-denominational) at Prospect Heights, Chicago, is one of the organizers of the Friends of N Ireland Committee.

This body—formed last month—has about 500 members in and around Chicago.

Lindstrom spent Monday in Belfast—his first visit to N Ireland—seeing Protestant church

leaders, including the Rev Ian Paisley.

At a press conference in London yesterday on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral, he announced his organization would aid Protestant victims of attacks. The Catholics, he said, 'already are receiving aid from America'.

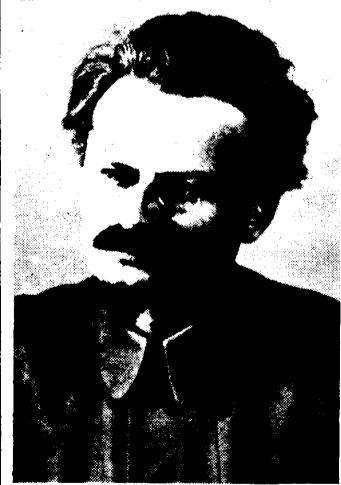
He would also seek to expose individuals in the Catholic Church 'giving aid and comfort

to terrorists'.

Lindstrom made it clear that he was not concerned that money he would raise might be spent on arms. He would stipulate that cash would not go to people who might use arms for offensive purposes. (1)

But he felt that 'Protestants should be armed so that they are better able to defend themselves when the situation deteriorates, as we feel it will as the months go by'.

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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.

BRIAN GAVIN

Victimized by employers all over the NW for his militant role in the Pilkington glassworkers' strike in St Helens. He has been on the dole for 19 months together with 70 other ex-glassworkers.

I think one of the main things that the Manifesto shows is that militancy is not enough. At one time I used to think that rank-and-file activity—just getting together at the base—could achieve what the working class is fighting for.

But it's the issue of leadership that is taken up in the final section of the Manifesto that for me is the most important message. Workers have to get down to some serious reading and try to understand Marxism and what it means. There is no short way round this problem.

This is what impressed me about the Socialist Labour League as well. We were in a big dispute at Pilkington's and a leading member said: 'Well the League is an organization that will ride this train all the way, whatever happens.' Now that stuck in my mind and its true.

Of course we had a lot of other organizations around us at the time. I learned a lot about the International Socialists for example—and this throws some light on this leadership question as well.

The IS would come round and give us advice on how to do this that and the other—all very practical. But then after we had been through that struggle and we all got victimized, they moved on—the scene had changed. Is this leadership? How can workers develop from a leadership if this is the kind of approach?

They came back recently when the Millingford strike near St Helens was on. They said: 'Ah, your mistake was that you didn't occupy'.

In other words they have got involved with another form of struggle. It's in fashion to them—but they learn nothing. They don't ask the basic question—what are we occupying for, what is the aim, to win a concession, or to take the power? Build a movement that can take the power, that is.

In other words, they sit on the coat-tails of the working class. When the Manifesto says it's going to build a REVOLUTIONARY PARTY—in capitals—this is a most important statement.

I was for a while in the Communist Party when I worked down the pit. The CP, of course, never trains you in any way. They just go along with any old militancy and of course this is what I thought it was all about.

When I left the pit and was in Pilkington's, I virtually became non-political in the active sense—this is how the Party left you. Then came the strike and the Tory government. These experiences forced me to start thinking.



Brian Gavin, victimized by employers for his militant role

One of the biggest lessons of the period has been the way the Labour leadership has acted. We know their record in the Common Market struggle—and it's mentioned in the Manifesto about how, on this issue, and on Ulster, they have virtually formed a coalition with the Tories.

But I would like to take a more recent example—that is the Budget. Here we have the government preparing to go to battle against the working class. The Budget trick is part of that. What does Wilson say—does he warn the working class? No he praises Barber's efforts and has a few attacks on Value Added Tax.

This is the real meaning of treachery—he really agrees with 'The Times'.

Sometimes you can wake up and you just want to stay in bed after being on the dole so long. But then you think—where can I go? There is no escape from this struggle.

I am confident that the working class will fight. Look at Stockport now; the whole town could be in occupation if the lead was given.

We have to have a party that thinks for the working class and lays down how the working class can fight. The Manifesto is the programme of that party.

JIMMY BOYLAN

Another veteran of the Pilkington struggle. Like Brian, he has been on the dole, victimized, for 19 months. He is 33, married and has two children. His council house rent is £4 a week and he gets £16.05 from the state to keep himself and his family.

I find it hard to criticize the Manifesto. It sounds a bit daft, but I just agree with everything it says.

I began in politics really just cynical about unions. You know, every time you had a just case you met a stone wall. There was always some reason they couldn't back you and Pilkington's was the biggest example of this.

You can hardly blame lads, after this kind of treatment, for just thinking they want to get out of the union—for saying that nothing could be worse than this.

What the Manifesto raises is why the unions are like this—because of the ideas of the men that lead them. Then it presents the question: 'How do we change them?'

Now this is really the centre of it. It faces you. You just can't sit around and be cynical; that would be failing. The remedy is there. It lies with you. This is



Jimmy Boylan, another veteran of the Pilkington struggle

what the Manifesto says.

The hardest thing to get over to workers is this: They say with a lot of truth that one party is as bad as another. They say really it doesn't matter who is in power, though they might vote Labour.

This disgust with politics is where the so-called Labour Party has led the working class. The Charter and the Manifesto should be the beginning of the fight to change this because you can say to workers, 'Well what do you think about this programme'. Then you have to convince them that here is a movement in the All Trades Unions Alliance that will fight for it and that means business.

There will be a lot of opportunity now. For example, the rent issue. I believe the Tory Bill is going to double rents. Well I know I just can't pay and there are over 1 million un-

employed like me. So we will get the means test.

Now I have been talking about this to the older people: They remember in the 1930s when they used to send the man into the house. He would say sell this and sell that, like as if you were slaves. Now they are not going to do this with me and I'm sure I speak for the rest.

Like the Manifesto says—all the building industry and the land should be taken off the people that own it now. It should be given to the working class.

There are hundreds of issues like this—prices, the Common Market, housing and health—where we will just be slaves for the monopolies. The Manifesto is the document where we can take every one of these up. It's a platform for banding people together in one revolutionary movement.

PAUL THOMPSON

A 24-year-old married teacher, with a baby-girl. He lives in Leicester.

As a teacher, I witness a day-in, day-out process of the attack by capitalism—through middle-class teachers—on the rights of the working-class children. Inevitably I participate in the process myself, in schools which exist primarily to condition children into accepting uncritically their humble places in the capitalist order of things.

It is quite clear that, despite the claims of fashionable bourgeois educational theorists, children's experiences of boredom and frustration in schools—which often result in 'pointless' violence—can only be alleviated by the overthrow of capitalism which degrades all human life.

Also as a teacher, I come into contact with many school-leavers whose prospects of employment

are virtually nil under this Tory government. Unless the working class is rapidly galvanized by a truly socialist leadership, there is a very real danger that such people will fall prey to fascist forces in our society, thereby unwittingly contributing to the smashing of their own class.

For already, even at their 'tender' age, several blame immigrants for unemployment, defend imperialist brutality in Ulster and condemn strikes, etc, thus falling hook, line and sinker for the lies and distortions of the capitalist media.

Thus I support wholeheartedly the Draft Manifesto of the All Trades Unions Alliance and the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League in their fight to defeat this illegal Tory government and in their struggle to build a revolutionary consciousness in and leadership for the oppressed and divided youth and working class.

M. J. WILSON

Rolls-Royce worker, Ansty, Coventry.

I think the Common Market decision is all wrong. A vote or ballot should have been taken by the public.

Obviously there will be more unemployment, increases in prices and the cost of living generally and wages will be unable to cope with this. Unemployment supplementary benefits are already becoming more difficult to obtain.

Prices are increasing now because of the economic situation throughout the world and I don't think this system, the capitalist system, can cope.

We must get this Tory government out and a Labour government in (without right-wing Labourites who voted with the Tories on the Common Market issue) to carry

out socialist policies. This is the only way.

I agree with the Charter of Basic Rights, especially the right to work. Our family have the experience of unemployment, there being three of us on the dole at the same time at one period. One is still unemployed.

We should fight to get rid of the Industrial Relations Act. This fetters the trade union movement and is for the benefit of employers in defeating the working class.

I think the union leadership should be removed and replaced by people who truly represent the working class. Until this is done we are going to be sold out right down the line.

I believe in building a revolutionary party as this system has outlived its usefulness.



West German Chancellor, Willy Brandt.

RUSSIA STARTS TO DEAL WITH BERLIN

After a lapse of eight years, the USSR is expected to sign a new trade agreement with W Germany which includes W Berlin.

In the past the Kremlin has always refused to include the divided city in any trade agreement and this has been a major stumbling block.

The new moves reflect an almost indecent haste on the

part of the Soviet Union to obtain ratification of the two treaties of reconciliation due for final signatures in May.

Russia appears to want to rush through the latest trade agreement in order to strengthen the hand of W German Chancellor Willy Brandt against mounting Christian Democrat opposition to ratification of the two other treaties.

The trade pact could well be

signed before the reconciliation treaties come before the Bundestag.

More trade with the Soviet Union is one of the benefits the Bonn government has said will flow from the 'goodwill' treaties and it is obviously felt that there is nothing like proving it in advance.

The change of heart by the Stalinist leaders over W Berlin mirrors the strength and urgency of their internal crisis.

TEACHERS OUT

The strike is being led by a national joint strike committee of the four teachers' unions. In Bogota and the 22 provincial capitals, local strike committees are organizing the stoppage.

It means that almost 4 million children are not going to school and many of them have organized demonstrations in solidarity with their teachers.

The strike, which has been declared illegal by the Ministry of Labour, comes in the middle of the campaign for local and provincial government. The Minister of Education has declared that teachers' salaries will not be paid.

The FEDOBE, the biggest teachers' union, has condemned the jailing of four of its members in Barranca Bermeja and six in the department of the Huila province.

President Miguel Pastrana,

with his eye on the election, is trying to cool the situation by stating that he is not opposed to co-opting more teachers onto the committee for reforming the academic statute—the low governing education organization.

There are great dangers that the strike leadership will be swung by such overtures. Although one of the main demands of the teachers is for a 40 per cent increase in wages, to keep up with the rapid pace of inflation, the union leaders have put great stress on the nationalistic slogan: 'A better future for Colombia'.

The government has claimed that it lacks funds to cover an additional outlay of about \$10m a year.

It is not opposed to more 'teacher participation' as long as the majority of teachers are on the bread-line.

In Colombia 70,000 primary school teachers have joined the strike started a month ago by teachers in secondary and technical schools.

THE SOVIET TENANT AND THE LAW

The Russian press is showing concern about the way justice is applied in some parts of the country.

The Soviet government daily 'Izvestia' has printed two accounts of justice being applied either ineffectually or arbitrarily in the country.

In one case, in Kiev, the law took nearly three years to catch up with a man who illegally occupied part of a house, although he never moved from the spot.

But in Alma-Ata, a police lieutenant was dismissed from his post within days of occupying a flat to which he believed he had a legal right.

In the first case, Kuzma Chernysh was dissatisfied with his living conditions so he moved into the house where his widowed daughter lived with her two children.

The other half of her house in the Ukrainian capital's Podol district was occupied by her two sisters-in-law, whom Chernysh drove out by making their life unbearable.

The Podol consists mainly of small old houses, often with a tiny garden, unlike most European Soviet cities where people tend to live in large blocks of flats.

Chernysh turned off the water, disrupted the electricity supply and cut down all trees in the yard, except the pear tree which he killed by pouring paraffin on it, 'Izvestia' said.

REFUSED

The two sisters turned to the authorities. But when officials arrived to investigate their complaints, Chernysh simply refused to let them in.

Finally, when an official came, accompanied by two police officers, Chernysh complained they had stolen a large sum of money and a gold watch.

The complaint was found to be untrue, but meanwhile Chernysh broke into the other part of the house and removed one of the women's belongings.

'Izvestia' reported the story last September, noting that it had taken place two and a half years previously and the two sisters, who eventually left the house, continued to lodge complaints.

But their case was passed from one office to another until they were referred back to people who had already dealt with it.

Two years after Chernysh moved into the sisters' quarters, a local court established that he had no right to live there, but Chernysh continued as before.

The newspaper criticized local officials for their reluctance to investigate further and take proper action.

CASE

However, six months later, 'Izvestia' reported, a criminal case had been prepared against Chernysh and the officials who dealt with the case were reprimanded.

The other case, which took place in the capital of Soviet Kazakhstan, showed the reverse—officials exceeding their powers and taking hasty decisions without proper investigation.

Senior Lieutenant Gennadi Markushin, who lived in one room with his wife and two children, heard about a flat which had been empty for six months, and his superiors in the police force made an application for it on his behalf.

Local accommodation officials confirmed he could move into the flat and told him not to hesitate, promising to give him the relevant document establishing his right of tenancy later.

Ten days later, a woman knocked at his door with a piece of paper asserting her right to the flat. Markushin refused to move and the affair went before the local court.

Markushin was ordered out and dismissed from the police force because of his 'illegal' tenancy.

When a 50-page dossier of documents and correspondence relating to the case had been collected, it was found that Markushin was guilty of nothing. He was reinstated in his former post and given a three-roomed flat.

The real issue was official 'failure to fulfil promises, broken guarantees and, finally, red tape roughness'.

The Soviet Union suffers from a chronic housing shortage and abuses of the system are usually subject to strict punishment.

LEON TROTSKY

LESSONS OF OCTOBER



Available from New Park Publications
186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

DISCUSSION ON INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

In preparation for the Fourth Congress of the International Committee of the Fourth International, the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League are publishing the four main documents of the International Committee covering the split with the French Organisation Communiste Internationaliste.

Manifesto of 1847: class against class. And this policy takes the form of the United Front of all organizations of the working class under conditions where the working class is organized and controlled by distinct organizations.

As the text of the OCI September 1969 document states:

'The policy of class struggle is identical to the strategic lines of the united class front of workers' parties and organizations. It is alien to "peaceful co-existence" between the traditional parties and organizations of the working class and the revolutionary vanguard which builds the revolutionary party. It is impossible to build the revolutionary party without concretely defining at each stage, a policy which opposes the class as a class to the bourgeoisie, its state and its government. Without building the revolutionary party it is impossible to fight for the united class front for the workers and peasants government, for the destruction of the bourgeois state and for workers' power.'

This conclusion perfectly sums up Trotsky's conception on the United Front in relation to Germany threatened by fascism and in France after the beginnings of the upsurge of the proletariat in the united demonstration February 12 1934:

'Why are the soviets necessary in the struggle for power? The answer to this question is the following: as the union is the elementary form of the United Front in the economic struggle so the soviet is the highest expression of the United Front under conditions where the proletariat is entering into the period of the struggle for power.'

(And now Leon Trotsky, 'Collected Works', Volume III): 'The natural apparatus of the United Front in the days of battle is the proletarian representation, the deputies of the factories and shops, of the workers' districts and the unions, the soviets. (It is France's turn. For the Fourth International! March 1934).

The SLL is opposed to this conception of the United Front by criticizing the OCI policies during the May-June general strike of 1968.

The October 24 text includes this sentence which deserves to be preserved for posterity: 'The leaders of the OCI trailed behind the working class, restricting the political scope of the strike by demanding a central strike committee. This was a complete evasion of the political responsibilities of a revolutionary leadership.'

Thus, to the profound dialecticians of the SLL, the national strike committee was not a political question. This is a confession which reveals the meaning of their hostile indifference to the Popular Assembly of Bolivia, the absence of any reference, in a text which claims to begin with the world class struggle, to the formation of workers' councils in Gdansk in December 1970, the scorn heaped on the Irbid Soviet.

Were the strike committees merely formed for immediate demands? Was this then the whole character of the general strike to the extent that it was not given a governmental formula? No, the general strike, 'the sharpest form of the class struggle' as Trotsky said, demonstrates 'the impossibility of separating the economic and political elements' as all those who are supposed to be Marxists know ever since Rosa Luxemburg wrote it in 1905. The general strike was inherently political because its demands led directly to the fight against the capitalist government and because the degree and form of the mass mobilization posed the question of working class power. As a political battle, the general strike could not achieve its goal unless it not only achieved its goal but also created the illusion that the general strike was enough in and of itself to win was overcome and unless a governmental solution, a road to the struggle for power was opened up.

All the bureaucracies linked to the bourgeoisie blocked this solution. The fight for the general strike committee was the political fight *par excellence*, at the heart of the general strike, because it was a fight for this solution by centralizing the strength of the working class in struggle against the bourgeois state.

The words 'in struggle' must not be forgotten. This is why the centralization of the strike committee born in this struggle; a step towards workers' councils, elements of the United Front,

was the concrete form of the perspective of a workers' government, a government of united workers' organizations.

But the SLL leadership, not content with understanding nothing about the dialectic of the mass mobilization in the general strike had another government solution—a CP-CGT government and not a workers' government. Or rather if the formula of a CP-CGT government could be considered synonymous with 'workers government,' then the Socialist Party, the CGT-FO, the FEN are not considered workers' organizations. The SLL has not yet written this. What then does the 'preferential' choice of the Stalinist bureaucracy over the reformist bureaucracy mean? Have not both of them gone over to the bourgeois order? Or is this a new analysis of Stalinism—not so new at that, for it has already been exposed in the theory and practice of the Pablos and Mandels who said that Stalinism, 'definitely, and despite its crimes, despite its counter-revolutionary aspects was the only political "delegation" of the proletariat.'

This discussion must be continued and is related to a number of other political oscillations in the SLL: its idealization of the leadership of the North Vietnamese Communist Party and the NLF, its serious uncertainties about the political evolution in Czechoslovakia where on the eve of the invasion, they gave the same importance as the demand for the withdrawal of the Warsaw Pact troops from Czechoslovakia, its discretion about the development of political revolution in Poland and its refusal to see the unity of the workers struggles in the USSR, China, and Eastern Europe against the bureaucracy with the struggle in the capitalist countries.

This discussion will also clarify the meaning of their criticism—which may seem minor and tactical—about the slogan of 'a single candidate of workers organizations' during the presidential elections. This criticism shows once again the SLL's indifference to facts. The OCI is criticized for not having denounced the Social Democrats who refused on the second ballot to call for a vote for Duclos. The French working class has enough well-founded accusations against the reformist leaders without having to invent them: Duclos was eliminated in the first ballot. To make everything clear—we are dealing once again with a tactical application of the strategy of the United Front—this is what the position of the Trotskyists was during the presidential elections.

'After the fall of De Gaulle the perspective of a working class solution to the government and of the regime necessitated development of great struggles by the proletariat. This could only emerge from the United Front of labour and political organizations which had called for a "No" vote in the referendum. A single candidate of workers' organizations meant that confronted with the bourgeois parties, proposing a candidate of a government of united workers' organizations. Immediately all the leaders of the workers' organizations and particularly the Socialist Party and the Communist Party managed to disrupt the unity established for a moment in the "No" vote on the referendum. The candidate Deferre—supported by Mendes-France popped up as if out of a magician's hat. The CP before putting Duclos forward as candidate demanded "the elaboration of a common programme" as a condition for a common candidate of "the left". The "programmatic" concerns of the CP who supported the bourgeois candidate Mitterand in 1965 without any concern for a "common programme" barred the road just as much as the Deferre candidacy to a united candidate of workers, not of the "left" organizations. The fight for the workers United Front, the proletarian front against the voluntary and deliberate division that the Socialist Party and the CP imposed on the working class meant the development of a political campaign around the theme: single candidate of workers' organizations against the bourgeois candidates. (...)

'But the programme? Wasn't this necessary to the single candidate of workers' organizations? Who had become of it? In these precise circumstances, the development of a programme of a government of workers' organizations flowed from this candidacy. The fight for the defeat of the



May-June 1968, the French workers on General Strike: at no time did the OCI leadership advance a socialist programme.

bourgeois candidates gave a class content to the single candidate of workers' organizations that the revolutionary organizations had a duty to develop.'

(Stephane Just), 'Defence of Trotskyism'.

To conclude

We are arriving at the end of this exposition. Its purpose has been to bring out the real differences, behind the petty manoeuvres, the blatant falsehoods and verbal terrorism.

These disagreements are serious and deep ones. They demand a clear discussion that the OCI is not in the least afraid to hold publicly before the international workers vanguard.

As the culminating point in its charges against the OCI the SLL leadership states that the capitulation to spontaneity had reached the point in this organization where . . . it did not even have a general secretary!

What can we say about the nerve and capitulation to spontaneity of a party like the Bolshevik party which dared to lead the proletarian revolution to victory without a general secretary and even without a political office?

This would be ridiculous—it is obvious that if democratic centralism is an integral part of the revolutionary party, the forms of the organization of the leadership is not a principled issue and the existence of general secretaries as well as their absence, is not a guarantee—if it was not related to something more serious. In the same paragraph the OCI is taken up for not seeing the

'Fourth International as truly existing'. This is a backhanded way of attacking the OCI's position that we must fight for the reconstruction of the Fourth International broken up as a politically centralized force internationally by the Pabloite liquidationists.

Therefore, on the one hand the revolutionary party exists by itself, a timeless metaphysical category, waiting to meet the class struggle and whose nature depends on whether or not one proclaims or one has attributes supremely deemed necessary to its functioning (a general secretary for example).

On the other hand there is the proletariat, its 'objective' struggle, its general strikes which are not 'political'. In defence of the Essen amendment the October 24 document states that: 'the fundamental struggle for dialectical materialism must be conducted against all the enemies of Marxism and developed in the fight against the spontaneous consciousness of the working class.'

The dialectic is most certainly missed. Independently of the fact that the idea of a 'pure' spontaneous consciousness of the working class is an absurdity; the conception—completely false—of proletariats consciousness at any moment is a historical result, this sentence sums up a whole relations between the construction of the revolutionary party (this is the fight for dialectical materialism) and the movement of the class.

The revolutionary party is not outside of or against the movement of the working class. The

construction of the revolutionary party proceeds from the whole development of the class struggle; based on the struggle of the proletariat, but it is not an automatic product of it. It only exists and can only be built as a conscious activity.

Marxism is 'the conscious expression of an unconscious process'. The revolutionary party is the organized form of this conscious expression in the class struggle, but the very conditions of the proletarian revolution give it the decisive role in accomplishing the historic tasks of the proletariat.

The inevitable subjectivity is accompanied by a mechanical objectivism. We are told that the years of the 'post-war boom' were unfavourable to the development of Marxist theory (one wonders how the Transitional Programme was developed in the years of profound defeat and what Trotsky meant when he said that the Fourth International was born out of the deepest defeats!) but that the 'new conditions' are favourable to us.

Subjectivity and objectivism indissolubly linked together were the methodological roots of the growth of Pabloism within the Fourth International. Today the SLL leadership is paying the price for its refusal to make a real assessment of Pabloism and of its origins which is impossible without analysing its own history, without relating the problems of reconstructing the Fourth International to the construction of the revolutionary party in England.

As S. Just pointed out in 'In Defence of Trotskyism': 'considered as a historical and organic process, the formation of the proletariat's class consciousness is drawn from the analysis of the development of the class struggle and puts an end to metaphysical discussions about

class consciousness brought in from the outside as well as those about the self-proclaimed vanguard.'

The dualism that the SLL creates between the party and the class is at the root of its incomprehension of the period that we are living in, of the dynamic of the advance of world proletarian socialist revolution expressed in the General Strike of May-June 1968, in the political revolution in Czechoslovakia, in the formation of the Irbid soviet, in the formation of workers councils in the Baltic, in the formation of the Popular Assembly.

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But this is not automatic. Today because of precise political

problems that the class struggles pushed to the forefront the problems of the struggle for power, these tendencies develop into a policy whose logic, through the break with the International Committee is the abandonment of the programme of the Fourth International.

Responsibly, we address ourselves to all the organizations and militants affiliated with the International Committee but particularly to the SLL: to its leadership, to its militants because of the special place of the SLL in the formation of the IC.

We say responsibly: the SLL is at the crossroads. The position of an organization, its political character does not depend on good intentions. Politically undefined organizations do not exist. The place the SLL holds in the British class struggle was won as a Trotskyist organization; the SLL is taking the path of a break with Trotskyism which does not exist outside of the Fourth International, that is the fight to reconstruct it today. It is thus taking the road to its own destruction.

In any case, because the struggle for the reconstruction of the Fourth International is an international process, organically linked to the world struggle of the proletariat, the conscious fight for the construction of the revolutionary party finds its expression within the SLL to its own liquidation as a Trotskyist organization. But, we say it firmly, political clarification is in the interests of the Fourth International and in the defence of its programme.

But this is not automatic. Today because of precise political

The International Committee must meet in plenary session at the earliest possible date with the participation of all the member organizations especially to reply to the legitimate request of Comrade Lora.

The real flight from political problems, the amalgams, the gross manoeuvres cannot go far. There must be an end to the false prestige of leaders who—like everybody—have made positive actions. There must be no retreat from the discussion within all the sections of the International Committee, from the questions that the class struggle requires the Trotskyist movement to resolve.

We say, in any case, that this discussion will take place: no one has the power to prevent it. In any case, the gain represented by the International Committee, the continuity of the Fourth International, its programme will be preserved, in the fight to reconstruct the Fourth International, by the preparation of the Fourth International Conference on the initiative of the International Committee associating according to the decisions of the 1966 conference all the organizations and groups who fight for the programme of the socialist revolution.

We repeat: For those who intend to defend the programme of the Fourth International it is a common demand: the International Committee must meet as soon as possible. The fourth document in this discussion, a statement by the Socialist Labour League, begins tomorrow.



DOCUMENT 3 CONTINUED

Declaration of the Central Committee of the International Communist Organization (For the Reconstruction of the Fourth International)

Fourth International and is a question of principle.)

'The defence of the USSR coincides for us with the preparation of the world revolution. Only those methods are acceptable which do not conflict with the interests of the revolution. The defence of the USSR is connected to the world socialist revolution in the same way that a tactical task is connected to a strategic task. A tactic is subordinate to a strategic goal and does not in any way contradict it.'

In this sense, the United Front is a tactic in relation to the socialist revolution which it prepares for as a way of mobilizing the proletariat. It is a strategic line in the sense that it is always (that is, independent of circumstances, relationship of forces, tactical considerations in the strict sense of the word) present in a revolutionary policy, taking of course different tactical forms without which it would only be an empty principle ('government of united workers organizations' in France today; battle for a workers party based on the unions' in the United States, slogan of a Labour government on a programme of defence of the working class' in England, slogan of 'a break with the coalition and with a homogeneous social-democratic government' in Germany).

The OCI's opposition to the implicit policy of the SLL, now explicit in the October 24 text, is therefore not a semantic quarrel.

No, the United Front, is not, as the SLL says, simply a 'temporary relationship between mass parties, in order to win the masses to the Communist Party'. To reduce the United Front to this is not the conception of Lenin and Trotsky as the SLL falsely claims. At best it is the conception of Zinoviev, or rather a caricature of it, a pale reflection of the way Zinoviev expressed the policy of the Communist International.

The axis of the Transitional Programme is the mobilization of the proletariat to overthrow the bourgeoisie. The United Front 'slogan' of this programme is at the same time central to it. What is involved is the mobilization of the whole class, its unity based on its political independence against the common enemy. It is the concrete expression of the starting point of any revolutionary policy since the Communist

The offensive against the workers' united front and its meaning

The trumped up charges against the OCI lead to a whole offensive against the workers United Front.

The workers United Front had already been a point of disagreement between the OCI and the SLL within the IC. But for the SLL, the differences seemed to be on one point (brought up again in the October 24 document) that the United Front is a 'tactic' while the OCI calls it a 'strategy'.

To counterpose strategy and tactics as absolutes is to ignore the dialectic that it is so much a question of. Of course, the terms strategy and tactics are not interchangeable; they are geared to different levels of revolutionary politics. But strategy only exists through tactics which are its expression. At the same time, each tactical move has meaning only as part of a general strategy.

When we speak, in Marxist terms, of a slogan, which under different forms (tactics) is a constant factor in the revolutionary struggle. For example, the necessity to defend the social conquests of the proletariat won in the October Revolution and by its extension, today controlled and threatened by the bureaucracy.

But for Marxists, strategy and tactics are relative terms. To the extent that we say that the strategic line of the Fourth International is the fight for proletarian revolution, the defence of the Soviet Union is only a tactic following from this objective. Trotsky said on the defence of the Soviet Union (while showing that this defence is a major expression of the programme of the

SOCIALISM AND THE STRUGGLE IN IRELAND

We are reprinting here articles by Cliff Slaughter which appeared in Workers Press on October 7 and 8, 1969. They explain the political background to the Labour government's dispatch of troops to the province in the summer of that year. They have a particular relevance today to the events surrounding Heath's declaration of Direct Rule.

PART 3

IN THE FIRST part of this article, the present situation in Northern Ireland was traced to the Unionist (Tory) conspiracy, beginning in 1912, to prevent national independence by armed force and terrorism.

Sir Edward Carson and the Northern Ireland capitalists, supported by the Tories, succeeded in preserving their own interests by partitioning the six 'Ulster' counties from the South and North-West.

Now, in 1969, the 'old' questions have come up in violent forms. History cannot be cheated. In the 20th century, the age of imperialism, only the working class and the socialist revolution can solve the problems of national independence, democratic demands and the land in backward countries.

In Northern Ireland, only a working class, socialist programme, with the working class organized for independent action behind a Marxist party, can finish the historic task of ending the rule of the Unionists, capitalist representatives of imperialism. Reformists and middle-class tendencies cannot do it.

In the Republic, the South, an aborted form of national independence, with various constitutional modifications since 1920, was established.

Since then the Irish native bourgeoisie has ruled the country in defence of its own and foreign capital. The working class of the Irish Republic, leading the small farmers, is breaking from the capitalist parties and moving into action in its own interests.

Prime Minister Lynch and



Prime Minister Lynch

the government party make a few speeches about the North and the need for unity of the nation 'in the long run'!

But this trick, of seeming to represent Irish independence as a way of keeping the people's allegiance, will not work any longer.

The more the struggle against the government in the South grows alongside the violent clashes in the North, the more the working class sees that its traditional 'nationalist' representatives use their nationalism only as a cloak for their class interests.

It is in the interests of the workers of Northern and Southern Ireland to unite against their own bosses, Unionist and nationalist, and against British imperialism which they defend: that means to aim at a united workers' and small farmers' republic, a Socialist United Ireland.

For the capitalists, North and South, this is the great threat.

They want the present connection with Britain, because they have no real economic independence from British capital and no strength of their own to keep down the working class.

This is what has just been proved in the North. The Unionists' police and 'Special' forces in the North, even when backed by the thousands of armed Orange 'irregulars', could not keep 'law and order', and 7,000 British troops have been called in.

The British Labour government used its troops to defend capitalist property and to defend the Conservative caretakers of British imperialism in Ulster.

These Unionists are part of the ruling class and the Tory establishment in Britain.

By supporting them the Labour government was providing strength to the British ruling class for its economic and political battles with the working class.

All those who do not oppose the sending of troops are collaborating in this imperialist war of intervention.

This raises the other side of the story which is necessary for working out a programme and strategy for the Irish working class: the connection between the struggle in Ireland and the class struggle in Britain. We shall return to this point.

In the first of these articles we showed how the crisis prospects facing the Protestant



Edward Carson reviewing Ulster volunteers: he succeeded in preserving capitalist interests in Northern Ireland by bringing about the partitioning of the six Ulster counties in 1923

majority of Belfast workers (in shipbuilding and engineering) were like a time-bomb underneath the present situation, in which the Catholic workers have been the first to move.

In the South, the situation is coming to a head with inexorable force. This year, despite frantic government appeals for wage-restraint, despite threats of legislation with the Criminal Justice Bill which could jail strikers, the maintenance electricians of the Electricity Supply Board fought a bitter struggle through to the end and won an increase of 25 per cent!

Within a few weeks, following their example, building workers won an approximate increase of 20 per cent, phased over nine months. Other sections are now moving into the fray.

In the West, the Tynagh mining company, having got its hands on very rich silver and other deposits with the prospects of gigantic profits, has been crippled by a two-month strike.

Already the men have refused a £4-a-week increase and the prospects grow of a long and bitter struggle.

In conditions where workers in the West of Ireland have in recent months gained confidence from a temporary spring and summer improvement in employment, these strikes are bound to increase the militancy of other sections.

Under the impact of this revival in the labour movement, and the recent General Election campaign, the government party withdrew its proposed anti-union legislation this year. It will certainly try to re-introduce it, and this will bring a political struggle against the legislation.

In the last three years, the small farmers have mounted considerable campaigns against the government.

After the partition of Ireland, definitively settled in 1923, the division of the land, despite the indemnity conditions attached to it, successfully took the heat out of the century-old agitation in the countryside.

But the pressure of finance capital and the big banks has put an intolerable squeeze on the small farmers. Like the small traders of the town, driven out by the supermarket investors, they are made bankrupt in their thousands every year.

On top of these basic problems in the class struggle sits the powerful Catholic church. Its economic strength and its political influence in high places continue, but the ruling class is fearful of the daily growing rejection of religious authority by the proletarian youth.

In the recent elections, the Labour Party of the Irish Republic was compelled to put on a 'left' face, talking about 'socialism' being restored to their programme.

Although their programme turned out not to be socialist at all, what they are doing is modifying their statements to comply with the pressure from the working class.

Recent recruits to their parliamentary party, like Conor Cruise O'Brien and other liberals, help them in this deception.

What they hope is this: the old nationalism, helped by Catholicism, will not be able to contain the struggle much longer; in these days of modern capitalism, we should drop the old nationalist myths, and form a truly modern reformist, social-democratic party for the Irish workers. (See Conor Cruise O'Brien in 'New Left Review', 37 May-June, 1966.)

In this way, they are very like the 'lefts' who formed

People's Democracy in the North, with their perspective of a 'rationalized' capitalism in the North and an opening for reforms in the shape of civil rights.

Now there is certainly plenty for reformists to get their teeth into (if they had any teeth) in the Republic of Eire.

The standard of living is, on official figures, less than 60 per cent of that in Britain and 20 per cent lower than that of the North.

Even if we consider only the town workers, who are better off than the small farmers and agricultural workers, we find average earnings about £3 10s. per week lower than in Britain.

As for the countryside, because of differences in State subsidies and pricing policies, added of course to the poor quality of land in the West, production per acre annually is £19 on grass and milk output, compared with £59 in the North.

It is worth giving a few other examples, because one big question comes up among Northern Irish workers, which will more and more be asked in the South also: what price a united Ireland under Lynch and the 'Green Tories' of the South?

When the Protestant worker in the North asks that question, he is not referring at all only (or even primarily) to the future of religious freedom or discrimination, but to the basic living and welfare standards of the workers.

The Catholic worker in the North asks the same question.

But when they both 'ask' this question politically, and fight for an alternative, jointly with the workers of the South — on that day the prospect of a united socialist Ireland opens up.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



ONE FOR THE MONEY, TWO FOR THE SHOW...

TV Review by Anna Tate

That yearly act of aggression, which goes by the name of the Eurovision Song Contest, was perpetrated yet again on 400 million Europeans who tuned in to their television sets.

The silent majority burst into song, or rather, their representatives in the world of pop burst into what, for lack of a better description, has been called song.

One could, of course, choose to deliberately ignore the whole masturbatory exercise, but given those 400 million who certainly do not ignore it, perhaps one should attempt a close look at one of the intrinsic elements in the pleasure principle of the psychically-lumpen middle-class.

Without in any way infringing on the pleasure principle, one can recognize that pop music and those who create it, reflect, in one way or another, the changes which go on in the world at large, and that they are subjected to the pressures of such change.

This was illustrated to some extent by the Thames Television programme 'Whatever Happened to Tin Pan Alley?' (Tuesday, March 28).

What the Eurovision Song Contest represents is the unctuous outpouring of the professional dream peddlers—a commercial euphoria which very well serves the devious romanticism of those who hold middle-class values and would like to pretend to themselves that all is for the best in the best possible of all worlds.

So much does this, the major stream of pop music, parrot the cultural norms of idiotic establishment. Content that all claims to creative music have long been lost, among their ranks, in sentimentalized drivel.

Entrants in the contest came from capitalist nations of Europe, plus, needless to say, Yugoslavia. Reflecting the hypocrisy of capitalist societies which have long since destroyed the possibility of valid human love by basing all relationships on competition, the Eurovision Song Contest placed an overwhelming emphasis on idyllic love. From the time that the first entrant, Mary Roos of Germany took the stage with 'Nur die Liebe lässt uns leben' ('Only Love lets us live'), the scene was set for the sentimentalism of the complacently vacuous.

Carlos Mendes of Portugal took up the fight for distorted emotionalism with 'A Festa da Vida' ('The Joy of Living') which, without wishing to stretch a political point, one felt the exploited peasants of the Algarve might not entirely feel at one with.

A spate of like-minded 'artistes' followed — Helen and

Joseph of Malta with 'L'Imhabba' ('Love'), Italy with 'The Days of the Rainbow', Monaco with 'How much we Love', Belgium with 'Madly or Not at All' and so on . . .

The prize went to 'victorious' Vicky Leandros of Luxembourg for 'Après Toi' ('After You')—an inevitable saga of unrequited passion in which the young lady claimed an absolute inability to live any longer after the departure of her loved one, all this on a loud and hearty up-beat which indicated that she was, in fact, only too alive and kicking.

As impresarios of the pseudo, this crowd took some beating. Second place went to the 'New Seekers' who came to fame with their aspiration to 'teach the world to sing in perfect harmony'.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes of all this 'love' and concern for the world, that usual brand of commercial-pop, internecine rivalry was raging as each singer's public relations man engaged in battle with the others. There is none so vicious as those who fight for column inches in the national press.

Coming as it did in the wake of this Eurovision song-mongering, 'Whatever Happened to Tin Pan Alley?' did, at least, convey a glimmer of the hard profit realities and massive upheaval (otherwise known as change of style) which runs through the history of pop.

Denmark Street was the pop highway with its own traffic-jam of sheet-music publishers in the pre-war and immediately post-war period, but it suffered a crash the like of Wall Street, when a new trend began to emerge in the 1950s and 1960s.

Denmark Street had been the launching-pad for such personalities as Ross Parker, Anne Shelton and Issy Bonn. Ross Parker had, in 1939, gained world-wide fame through his composition 'There'll always be an England', which he had written in the anticipation that Hitler would declare war in June of that year.

In the programme he seemed to be expressing some disappointment that the Fuehrer did not move till September, which would have been in the best interests of the song!

Anne Shelton also made it big as a result of the war with 'Lili Marlene', which was used to counter German propaganda! She saw Churchill as 'the great man' and was herself Churchillian not only in physical stature, but also in impact. After the war she continued the nice militaristic tradition with 'Lay Down Your Arms' — the opening line being—'My sweetheart is a soldier as handsome as can be . . .'

But they were soon over those halcyon days of Denmark Street

and Issy Bonn is to be found at gatherings of old folk singing, 'Let bygones be bygones'.

The post-war period ushered in an era of 'boom' and the children of that boom, in their turn, ushered in the epoch of the smash-hit. Songs climbed the charts with a speed that outdid even the climb of ICI up the share index.

The whizz-kids of inflation were on us—Adam Faith, Cliff Richard, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Paul Jones and the Mannfreds, etc.

Paul Jones who was interviewed on 'Whatever Happened to Tin Pan Alley?' put it to us that the benefits of the boom-hits were severely limited. The demand was not for good music but for commercial success in an easy market, the fruits of which went, not to the groups, but to the vast promotion racket.

Paul Jones, like many others, jacked in the rat-race in favour of trying to make his own music in his own way.

His predicament and that of groups such as McGuinness Flint, Vinegar Joe, The Who, etc., is both a personal and an objective one which mirrors the various layers of turmoil produced by the disintegration of the boom illusion.

Paul Jones could have been describing the mentality of the Eurovision Song Contest dream merchants in his latest record which begins:

'He wears a crucifix and a horseshoe,
Trying to get cover both ways.
Jesus Christ may not have approved,
But these are troubled days.'



Top: Paul Jones. Above CW Richard.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

EATS

'If you knew what was in it, you would not eat it' may be a truer saying than you think.

For the first time the US government has made public the amounts of contaminants it allows in processed foods.

If you have just eaten don't read on. The contaminants include rat droppings, mould, flies and worms and can be found in anything from a fish steak to a bar of chocolate.

The US government said the permissible limit of contamination—which it would strive to reduce still further — 'represents a level below which the defect is both unavoidable under present technology and presents no health hazard.

'Few foods contain no natural or unavoidable defects,' the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said. 'Even with modern technology, all defects in foods cannot be eliminated. Foreign material introduced into foods through the environment can be reduced only by reducing their occurrence in the environment.'

The 'defect limits' or filth tolerance cover minute insect fragments, rodent droppings and hair, mould, bacteria, worms, flies' eggs and rot.

The food in which they can be found in varying degree include chocolate, vegetables, fruit, eggs, fish, flour, spices, grains, coffee beans and jam.

Examples of the limits include: four rodent hairs in 225 grams (eight ounces) of chocolate; 100 million bacteria per gram of dried eggs; five rodent pellet fragments or two pellets and detached rodent hair per 50 grams (two ounces) of cornmeal; and one rodent pellet per pint (half litre) of wheat.

For many fruits, such as canned and frozen blackberries and raspberries, there was an insect level of four larvae per 500 grams (17 ounces).

A Government spokesman said:

'There is nothing new in all this, except that we are making them public,' the spokesman said. 'There will still be a lot of misunderstanding, of course, and we are bound to be asked "Why do you allow any sort of contamination?"'

'But the point is that if we put an absolute ban on all forms of contaminated food right now we'd probably starve to death,' he said.

BENT

As the election race starts to hot up, the Nixon administration starts to reek with various 'embarrassments'.

First of all there was the ITT affair in which it is 'alleged' the giant telephone company slipped money into Republican funds in order that anti-trust suits were withdrawn.

The allegation against ITT is, of course, a monstrous libel on a great and philanthropic firm—as Nixon's aides have been saying all along.

But now another case has come on the scene. It involves Mr C. Arnholt Smith, a long-time friend of Nixon and one of his most influential financial backers.

Smith has just come under investigation by the federal government for possible security laws violation.

The powerful Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is looking into certain transactions over the last three years involving Smith's Westgate-California Corporation.

The SEC is probing why Westgate entered into two transactions totalling £25m on the last day of 1970, but rescinded the deals in 1971. It is 'unusual' for a firm to undertake such a major transaction on the last day of its fiscal year and later reverse the decision.

Westgate has interests in banking, mining and fishing as well as taxi, bus and airline services. It has attracted attention in the financial community because it switched independent auditors for four consecutive years.

Smith, who controls Westgate with 52 per cent of its voting stock, is to testify before officials of the Civil Aeronautics Board. He will be a witness at a hearing on an application by Golden West Airlines, of Newport Beach, Calif, to acquire financially troubled Los Angeles Airways, a helicopter service.

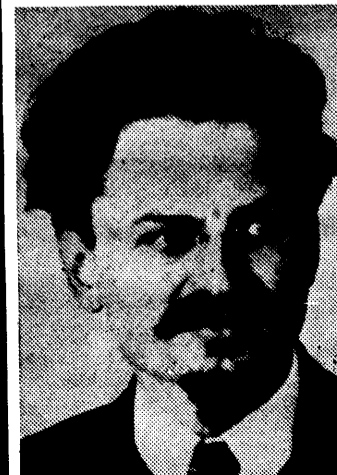
Smith has become embroiled in a growing controversy over alleged Justice Department favouritism toward the Republican party's financial backers in San Diego. 'Life' magazine has charged—and the Justice Department has denied—that the Nixon administration sought to neutralize criminal investigations involving Smith's friends.

The SEC probe into Smith's business interests started at the staff level some weeks ago, it was learned. More recently it has been formally authorized by a closed-door vote of the SEC commissioners.

There is speculation in the Californian press about whether President Nixon might be able to see his way clear to assist his embattled friend.

Mr Nixon is a devout Quaker.

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Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

Union action is vital to tenants' fight

BY PHILIP WADE

MANY TENANTS are quickly realizing that the struggle against the Tories and their 'fair rents' Bill must involve the mobilization of the trade union movement.

Some have already taken action through their trade union branches, demanding action from their leaders.

Charles Colquhoun lives on an estate in Chiswick near the Great West Road, London. He is also an AUEW shop steward at Addressograph - Multilith's Acton factory.

'We put a motion through my branch on the rents issue. It called on the unions to fight the Bill and to declare a national strike of the AUEW if any Labour councillors were prosecuted for refusing to implement the proposals.

'If the rent goes up £1 we'll be paying £5.62 a week. Of course the principle of this Bill is to destroy council housing. They don't want the working class to benefit from

the subsidies they've had throughout the years.

'Most people seem to be forgetting that private tenants are going to be far worse off when they are decontrolled next year. I can see their landlords shoving in a bathroom or a toilet and putting the rents up to £12 a week.

'I know what it'll be like, because I used to pay 8gns a week for a kitchen and one bedroom before I moved into this flat.

'As far as the rent rebates are concerned, it's like going back to the old means tests. Before you can get one they want to know what you've got in your house that can be sold.

'It happened to me once in Scotland when I applied for national assistance—and I swear it'll never happen to me again.

'The Tories will never climb down, that's for sure. The problem seems to be getting someone to lead the working class against them.

'We had a chance with the miners' strike. If Labour MPs had backed them all the way, instead of saying it would never have happened if we'd been in power, then I think the Tories could have been ousted.

'And TUC secretary Victor Feather found himself in America when the strike was on instead of being here to call everyone out.'

Charles is now being faced with another vital question: defending his right to work. In September his factory closes down with operation being moved to Hemel Hempstead.

'The Tories are beginning to get what they want, setting worker against worker with six chasing every job.

'But I think the working class has learned something from the 1920s and 1930s. They are not prepared to see those conditions come back.

'Now you've got all these sit-ins, something which has never happened before. It could lead to a big movement against the Tories.

'If all this hatred over rents, prices and the trade unions was brought to the surface, there would be a big fight against the government.

'Tenants' associations can't defeat the government on their own. They stand to become a bit isolated if they try.

'What we need is the backing of the trade unions and Labour MPs. Then we could get somewhere.

'In the 1920s we didn't have a lot to fight for. Now we have these so-called little luxuries like TVs, decent houses and cars. If the Tories mean to take these away, there'll be an enormous fight.

'The TUC never put up any fight against the Industrial Relations Bill and kept sending round petitions as if they would do any good.

'It's up to them. If they give a lead, workers will follow. If not, people tend to sit back and wait which is dangerous. And the Labour Party needs a shake-up. There don't seem to be any real socialists leading it any more.'



Charles Colquhoun: Passed motion in branch

Win confidence of 'grabbing' youth

THE BREAK-UP of British capitalism and the movement of youth against it brought a plea yesterday for support for 'the last bastion of responsibility' the school.

Ray Holden, new president of the National Association of Schoolmasters, warned his annual conference that unless teachers could win their pupils' confidence, 'inevitable anarchy will result'.

School was being shaken to its very foundations because it was the subject of 'ill-considered attacks from all sides'.

Holden made it clear that youth were moving away from old 'standards' and beginning to assert their independence.

'They are the victims of the acquisitive society, whose standards of success are measured by the two cars, the boat and the peacock on the lawn.

'They are preyed upon by the mass media operating largely on behalf of the advertising agencies. They are bombarded from morning until night with the simple message Grab!'

Consideration of other people's feelings and toleration of their views were conspicuously absent from the propaganda to which youth were subjected, he added.

Teachers are clearly worried about the changes among youth, many of whom are faced with no better prospect than the dole queue when they leave school.

But as far as the NAS is concerned, the answer is a more sympathetic attitude in schools.

All that remained was the school, claimed Holden.

'If we fail to understand the problems surrounding the boys and girls we teach, if we cannot offer sympathy and understanding, if we do not succeed in winning their confidence, inevitably anarchy will result,' he said.

Education chances don't improve—Short

THE WORKING-CLASS child's educational chances have not improved relatively in 30 years, Labour MP—and one-time Education Minister—Edward Short told the Guild of Teachers of Backward Children yesterday.

'We now know that the working-class child and the middle-class child whose measured ability is equal at three years begin to diverge at that age,' he said.

Social disadvantage and an educational practice which deliberately coaches for failure, were the twin causes of what had been euphemistically referred to by Education Secretary Margaret

Thatcher as 'slower learners' in the secondary school.

After correctly pointing out the class basis of the educational system, Short, of course, goes no further.

He came up with two reformist and Utopian 'solutions':

'First there must be a considerable tilt in favour of the disadvantaged child,' he said, referring to allocation of money on education.

Secondly, he called on higher educational establishments to cut down their costs so more can be devoted to the three-year-old child.

Not prepared to be shut out of gates—convenor

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

MIRRLEES engineering is one of the giant plants involved in the greater Manchester engineering battle for more money, shorter hours and longer holidays.

The 2,000 workers began the sit-in at this Stockport plant last Wednesday when management refused to pay them if the ban on piecework was not ended.

The Mirrlees men had begun working day rate the previous Monday together with engineers throughout the Manchester area. The day rate tactic is a very effective way of choking off production. Under the piecework system, time is money, and managements have spent huge sums on sophisticated costing systems, sometimes involving computers.

When workers go onto day rate, and therefore abandon payment by result, this elaborate costing equipment becomes totally useless. In addition, workers estimate their output on the current basic rate for a skilled engineer of £19 a week.

There are many men who consider this low rate is not worth any output at all! Others are content to produce a couple of components a day. Output slumps and in Stockport and Manchester employers have tried to suspend workers.

This is when the occupations occur.

Mirrlees convenor John Dougherty told me why the men had adopted this tactic and what he thought about the course this decisive struggle was taking.

'I think first one should realize that the occupations are not true take-overs. We are not trying to run the plant. But men are not prepared to be shut out of the gate. We don't want a repeat of the usual thing—the few old faithfuls in the cold and wet picketing at the gates.

'The way we are doing it is



John Dougherty: Mirrlees convenor

tactically better. The lads come in for a 24-hour stint every three days. They are together, in the warm and spirits are far higher. They can have a get together and sing—all these things keep their spirits up.

'Some of the scenes in Mirrlees have to be seen to be believed. If you had told me a few years ago this would happen I could not have believed it.'

But John admits there are more fundamental reasons for the occupations.

'I think obviously the miners' victory has had an effect on the whole mood of the working class. We saw the miners win a victory from this government and it encouraged workers everywhere.

'This and UCS has made workers refuse to sit-down and accept the gate as they might have done in the 1930s. And, of course, this is not altogether a token thing. So far the management has allowed us free movement in and out of the factory. If they stop this, we will have to seriously consider what steps we will take to restrict their freedom.'

John, who has worked at Mirrlees six years, believes the struggle has gone well.

He points to the 18 firms who have signed agreements involving all three points of the claim. The unions claim 12 of these

are in the Engineering Employers' Federation, which has specifically instructed its members to give nothing on hours and holidays.

Neither has he any strong criticism of the decision to abandon the claim nationally.

'I think at local level we will get more than we could have nationally. The main sticking point of the employers is on hours, but I think this is a vital part of the claim.

'Raging inflation will soon swallow up a £3 or even £4 increase. But a cut in hours stays for good. The employers are very worried about this demand. If we win this in Manchester, it will be the green light for every other area.

He is disappointed however, over one aspect of the fight—the retreat in Sheffield.

'There was one stage, I believe, when it looked as if Sheffield was cut in front. I think they even had a resolution forward for a district-wide strike. Nothing seems to have come of this. Obviously something has happened there. It is a pity; joint action by Sheffield and Manchester would have been a powerful blow against the employers.

'We have seen at Sharston's engineering that at least one employer is prepared to use the law against workers.

'All of them are using the threat of redundancies. This issue of unemployment is something I have thought about a lot. The employers say that they can only give more money if we pay for it in unemployment. This to me is a sham argument. I think if we got redundancy notices we should send them back en bloc and consider action.

'We are all expecting, anyway, the long awaited pick-up in the economy and the blossoming-out of business.'

But suppose this does not happen?

'Then we would be in for a slump. We would obviously have to look very seriously at how we fought it.'

Pub 'agency shop' challenge to T&G

TRANSPORT and General Workers' Union chiefs are to be challenged for the legal right to represent public-house managers in the Allied Breweries group.

The challengers, who have registered themselves as a trade union under the Tories' Industrial Relations Act, are the leaders of a two-year-old organization with a claimed membership of 10,000.

And within days of the T&GWU being fined £5,000 for contempt, they have taken the matter to the National Industrial Relations Court.

The National Association of Licensed House Managers wants a bargaining unit and agency shop under the unions Act for over 2,000 managers in the Allied group. It is a test case.

Having already negotiated a voluntary shop with a small S Wales brewer, S. A. Brain, the Association intends to establish its control throughout the industry.

In the Birmingham area, however, the T&GWU organizes a large number of managers, both in the Ansell's section of Allied and Mitchell's and Butler.

Since Allied want to negotiate on a national basis, it has refused to grant the Association a national sole bargaining unit and agency shop.

Bass Charrington, which owns Mitchell's, negotiates regionally. But it, too, has refused an

agency shop because of the pressure the T&GWU can bring to bear through its draymen members.

The case has national importance for three reasons:

- This is the first agency-shop application to come before the NIRC. Should the court refer the case to the Commission on Industrial Relations, trade unionists will watch carefully to see if the TUC advises the T&GWU to give evidence there.

- If the Association wins at

Allied, similar cases are expected to follow at Mitchell's and elsewhere. The floodgates could also open in other industries.

- The granting of an agency shop at Allied would pose the T&GWU with a difficult problem; defiance of a NIRC order by its members could lay it open to an unlimited fine.

Whatever the outcome of the case, it is one more example of the pressure piled up by the union leaders' refusal to defeat the Act before it became law.

CONSTRUCTION MEN FACED WITH ACT

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

TWENTY-THREE men have been sacked from the construction firm of Hill Construction Company (Engineers) Limited at Eastleigh, Hampshire, for taking part in a one-day strike for union recognition.

The AUEW (Constructional Section) is backing their picketing action.

The most significant aspect of this dispute is the management's insistence on the use of the Industrial Relations Act.

When approached by shop steward George Hendry over the question of union recognition, management refused the request. It insisted on the use of the Department of Employment and

Productivity to conciliate in the matter.

Further, the men have been presented with new contracts which list selected 'rights' of employees under the Act.

The men have refused to sign these contracts. Their union is not registered, following the TUC non-co-operation policy and the men gave notice of a one-day token strike for March 27.

On returning to work the following day they were dismissed.

The dismissal notices are believed to have been prepared before the strike. Within a day, the men saw their jobs advertised on local television.

The men have a meeting with their union's area official today to discuss further action.

Two claims at Smith's

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

SEVENTY AUEW toolmakers at Smith's Industries, Cricklewood, London, are in the third day of their official strike.

So far the company has refused to discuss their claim for a £6 rise, which has been under negotiation since last December, plus the national AUEW claim for £6 and a 35-hour week.

The strikers have agreed to negotiate on a minimum rise of £8.

By including the national claim into their local claim the men say they are attempting to bring their wages into line with those of other skilled workers in the area.

Smith's management have made an all-round offer which the men say would mean a rise of approximately 17 per cent for unskilled workers, but only about 6½ per cent for toolmakers.

The strike committee statement says: 'We have been forced into this position by management's own admission that the only way to maintain their quality of instruments and at the same time remain competitive is to depress wages.'

Bill Humblestone, strike committee press secretary, and Frank Jervis, a member of the press committee, were both agreed: 'Like the miners, we are having to deal with government policy.'

TV

BBC 1

9.45 Pogles' wood. 10.00 White horses. 10.25 Deputy dawg. 10.30 Swim. 10.55 Magic roundabout. 11.00 Boomph with Becker. 12.25 Nai zinadagi naya jeevan. 1.00-1.25 Disc a dawn. 1.30 Camberwick green. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 1.55-3.15 Out of school. 3.25 Sky at night. 3.45 Sights and sounds of Britain. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Magic roundabout. 4.45 Clangers. 4.55 Laurel and Hardy. 5.15 News round. 5.20 Before the event. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.50 TOM AND JERRY. 'Life With Tom'.

7.00 SPY TRAP. 'The Contact'.

7.25 STAR TREK. 'Catspaw'.

8.15 LORD PETER WIMSEY: CLOUDS OF WITNESS.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.20 SPORTSNIGHT WITH COLEMAN.

10.50 24 HOURS.

11.20 THE LONGEST WAVE. 'The Severn Bore'.

11.45 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play School.

7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED.

8.10 MAN ALIVE. 'It's Ours, Whatever They Say'.

9.00 KING—MONTGOMERY TO MEMPHIS. Martin Luther King.

10.20 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

10.25 MONTGOMERY TO MEMPHIS continued.

ITV

11.05-12.13 Out of school. 1.25 Outlook. 2.25 Motor racing. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Simon Locke. 3.45 Edgar Wallace. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 Get this! 5.20 Tightrope. 5.50 News.

6.00 CARTOON TIME.

6.05 THE SMITH FAMILY. State Witness.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 CADE'S COUNTY. A Gun for Billy

9.00 CALLAN. None of Your Business.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 MAN AT THE TOP. Change Partners.

11.30 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.

12.00 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. Bill Grundy.

12.15 THE WORTH EXPERIMENT.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 4.05 Paulus. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Tea break. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Towards the year 2000. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 10.30 Weather. 10.32 Both ends meet. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Epilogue. News, weather.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 11.05-12.14 London. 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.44 News, weather. 11.48 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 11.05-12.15 London. 2.40 Tea break. 3.10 Dangerman. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 10.30 Southern scene. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 News. 11.55 Weather, Inheritors.

HARLECH: 11.05-12.14 London. 2.40 Arthur. 2.55 Phoenix 5. 3.20 Talking Hands. 3.35 Enchanted house. 3.50 Ugliest girl in town. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Odd couple. 7.00 London. 10.30 Alexander. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Mad movies. 12.15 Weather. HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West. HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 3.50 Hamdden. 4.15 - 4.30 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.

ANGLIA: 11.05-12.13 London. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Sea beat. 3.45 Yoga. 4.15 News. 4.18 Cartoons. 4.30 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 10.30 Alexander. 11.00 Wrestling.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.05-12.13 London. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Ghost and Mrs Muir. 4.40 Grasshopper island. 4.55 Secret service. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 10.30 Alexander 11.00 Wrestling.

ULSTER: 11.05-11.54 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 What's on? 6.35 London. 10.30 Glen to glen. 11.00 Wrestling.

YORKSHIRE: 11.05-12.15 London. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Sound of . . . 3.15 Jobs in the house and garden. 3.40 Simon Locke. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 10.30 Alexander. 11.10 Wrestling. 11.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.05-12.15 London. 2.25 Edgar Wallace. 3.30 Yoga. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. What's on? 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 10.30 Alexander. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 What the papers say.

TYNE TEES: 11.05-12.15 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 Sound of . . . 3.15 Jobs in the house and garden. 3.40 Simon Locke. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 10.30 Tommy Cooper. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 News. 12.00 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 11.05-12.15 London. 3.30 Pinky and Perky. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 6.20 Cartoon. 6.30 Plus Tam. 7.00 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Sport. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Wrestling.

GRAMPIAN: 11.06-12.14 London. 3.41 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Jimmy Stewart. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.35 London. 10.30 Branded. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Accessible Arctic. 12.10 Epilogue.

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Dock steward urge Jones: Don't pay £5,000

DOCKS SHOP stewards yesterday sent a letter to Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, urging him not to pay the £5,000 fine imposed on the union by the National Industrial Relations Court.

The union now has exactly a week left to show the court why it should not pay the fine, which was imposed for contempt of an order to stop 'blacking' Heaton's Transport (St Helens) Ltd at Liverpool docks.

Harry Fairclough, Heaton's traffic manager, said yesterday that the company had sent no lorries to the docks since yesterday morning's post-holiday return to work.

No decision about when vehicles would next be sent had yet been taken, he said. 'We are waiting for Mr Heaton.'

The Liverpool row is over firms' refusal to sign an agreement with T&GWU docks and road-transport stewards making the packing and unpacking of cargo-containers dockers' work.

Next Wednesday, the NIRC will issue its final verdict on whether the blacking of the company is an unfair industrial practice under the Industrial Relations Act. Such a decision could lay the T&GWU open to an unlimited fine if the blacking continued.

In London, however, the threat of a national dock strike appears to have been postponed.

The stevedoring firm of T. Wallis Smith Coggins has given 40 dockers a month's reprieve from being returned to the port's unattached labour pool.

The national port stewards' committee, which was the body which wrote to Jones yesterday, had threatened prolonged strike action from Saturday if the return occurred.

Eire LP joins anti-IRA attack

IRISH Labour Party spokesman on Ulster Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, said in Dublin yesterday. 'I hope the men and women of Andersontown say to the IRA "Get out and stay out".'

'I believe this is the only way we will see any reduction in the killing in N Ireland.'

O'Brien supported Cardinal Conway's appeal for peace.

'I think the Cardinal was very wise not to talk to the IRA. A meeting would only make these people inflate their claims

Thatcher visit and pay retreat angers teachers

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

THE NATIONAL Union of Teachers' executive yesterday left it to their leading Communist Party member Max Morris to lead a vicious attack on opposition to the union's pay claim.

Morris made repeated personal attacks on the movers of an amendment to refer back executive's pay proposals.

'If the executive were to offer Utopia, Shangrila, or a pot of gold as a salary' it would be opposed, he claimed.

'It's a winner—help support the winner,' Morris concluded.

Rising feeling against the Tory cuts was reflected in the unprecedented protest meeting during the speech to conference of Education Secretary Margaret Thatcher.

Two hundred delegates left the conference hall to discuss Thatcher's blocking of reorganiza-

tion for comprehensive education.

As the delegates staged their walk-out, a counter-demonstration was staged by Tory elements in the union.

They stood and applauded as Thatcher appeared on the platform.

Union president Harry Allison told her: 'I think I can assure you that you must be in no doubt about the feeling of the vast majority of members of this conference.'

Allison said after Thatcher's speech that he was 'proud and grateful' for the way the majority of delegates had behaved.



Thatcher: Welcomed by right wing teachers

During the pay debate it was apparent from a remark by executive member Walter Crayton that the leadership was not putting forward any strategy to achieve even its limited pay demands.

He hoped a pay decision could be reached before Christmas, when there is 'a more generous spirit'.

Floor speakers attacked the executive's acceptance of derisive pay scales and its abandonment of a basic scale to unify all teachers.

Delegates referred to the executive's long history of retreat. This throws into serious question the leadership's professed determination to fight for a satisfactory basic scale benefiting all teachers.

ASTMS CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

A THREE-PRONGED campaign to recruit university teachers is to be launched shortly by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

Last week the 230,000-strong union held a planning conference in London to discuss the issues facing their academic members and potential recruits. An ASTMS policy statement is expected shortly.

At Lancaster, left-wing union member Dr David Craig has been suspended from his post as a senior English lecturer pending a meeting of the University Council on May 2.

If the council decides to sack him—for alleged 'disruption', violation of the university charter and breach of contract—the entire ASTMS membership at the college may strike. Backing is expected from staff and students elsewhere.

It is in this context that the forthcoming policy statement is expected to lay heavy emphasis on the links between the universities and the state.

It will offer teachers a trade union form of organization as opposed to the staff-association approach which has been more prevalent up to now.

The union's recruiting drive will stress:

- The need for more democratic control of both university government and finance;

- Universities' present elitist intake—only 27 per cent of students being drawn from working-class homes—and the need to change this; and

- Demands for big improvements in wages and conditions.

The union is thought to believe that academic salaries are at least £1,000 a year below what they should be.

EE assembly men back clerks' strike

MORE than 1,000 assembly-line workers at English Electric's E Lancashire Rd plant, Liverpool, yesterday declared support for 450 workers on official strike over a pay claim.

Lodged a year ago, the claim is for increases of £6 a week.

Production has been halted by the strike—now in its third week—and most of the 5,000 labour force have been laid off. 750 white-collar staff are still working, however.

The company's last offer to the

strikers was for £1.50 for the three higher grades and £1.75 for the three lower.

Ray Edwards, national executive member of the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union, told the assembly-line workers that he was trying to arrange a meeting with the management. The company had agreed to reopen talks which broke down in London a fortnight ago.

More than half of the clerical workers affected are women.

LATE NEWS WEATHER

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PRATT Engineering Corporation, owner of the Omes-Faulkners Ltd, Colnbrook factory, Bucks, which sacked 66 men on March 24, has announced 1971 profits before tax at £502,437.

The company claimed that deteriorating profits were forcing them to rationalize their plant and manpower.

Corporation chairman G. K. Galliers-Pratt announced that profits had 'recovered' last year after reaching only £257,739 in 1969-1970.

There will be a meeting for shareholders at the Dorchester Hotel, London, on April 28 at noon.

ENGLAND, except the SW, will have sunny periods and showers. SW England, Wales, N Ireland and parts of W Scotland will have isolated showers at first but later it will become cloudy with rain in places.

The rest of Scotland will have occasional showers, heavy in places, but also sunny periods. Temperatures will be near normal everywhere.

Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Rain at times. Strong winds. Temperatures near normal.

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