

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY APRIL 13, 1972 ● No. 738 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## Dockers pressed to stop 'blacking' containers

# COURT ORDER STAYS

From our industrial correspondent DAVID MAUDE

TWO MERSEYSIDE road hauliers were yesterday granted a permanent order by the National Industrial Relations Court telling the Transport and General Workers' Union to stop blacking their lorries at Liverpool docks.

But no move for further contempt proceedings will be made against the union during the next week in an attempt to reach a negotiated settlement of the containers row.

At a hastily-convened press conference after the hearing, the lawyer for one of the firms, Heatons Transport (St Helens) Limited, said:

'As an indication of its good faith, no further action will be taken by the company this week so that the dockers and their union can consider the situation created by the orders.'

Meanwhile, however, the necessary orders were given by the court chairman, Sir John Donaldson, for fining the Transport and General Workers' Union the sum of £5,000.

When the deadline for payment expired yesterday, Donaldson initiated the next stage of the machinery to get the money from the T&GWU — which is boycotting the Industrial Relations Act in line with TUC policy.

Early yesterday afternoon Donaldson reconvened the court to hear a new application complain-

ing of 'unfair industrial practice' by Liverpool dockers. Craddock Brothers, a Wolverhampton-based firm with a depot in Bootle, sought a temporary order against the T&GWU.

Counsel for the company, Andrew Abdela, told Donaldson criminal proceedings connected with the case were in progress. A hearing by the NIRC in these circumstances might be prejudicial. It was therefore adjourned.

(Last Friday two Liverpool dockers and a full-time union official appeared in a Bootle magistrate's court on blackmail charges.)

The orders against the T&GWU were made permanent at a brief public hearing of applications by the two companies — Heatons and Bishop's Wharf Limited of Warrington. Richard Yorke, for the two companies, said nothing had been heard from the union and the situation was 'unchanged'.

On Yorke's application leave was granted to Heatons to apply for compensation under the Act at a later date. He said the company was keeping the compensation 'as low as possible'. Bishop's Wharf waived any claim to compensation, he said.

Outside the court, J. S. Lawton, Heatons solicitor, read a statement prepared by managing director Robert Heaton which 'appreciates and sympathizes with the dockers over the problems they feel confront them'.

As the company would take no contempt action against the dockers this week, he hoped they would call off the blacking as a reciprocal gesture. But he said that Heatons' 'normal commercial activities' — which includes the packing and unpacking of containers at their St Helens depot — would continue.

What now happens in the dispute rests with the T&GWU's 'inner cabinet' which went into secret session at Transport House yesterday.

In another three weeks an order for seizure of assets of the union will take effect if the fine is still not paid.

The signs yesterday were that talks between Heatons and union officials might resume in Liverpool today.

The confrontation between the courts and the unions began when Heatons refused to sign a model agreement making the packing and unpacking of containers dockers' work.



Both Robert Heatons (senior on left)—joint owners of the St Helens container company—leave the National Industrial Relations Court in London yesterday after obtaining a permanent order against blacking of their lorries by Merseyside dockers.

## Fine: No T&G decision

A STATEMENT issued yesterday afternoon by the T&GWU's Finance and General Purposes Committee said that the question of payments or non-payment of the £5,000 fine would be further considered at the next meeting of the committee on April 27. That meeting will hear a report on the views of the

BY DAVID MAUDE

TUC General Council, which is to be consulted by the T&GWU at its meeting the previous day. 'Meantime', the statement continued, 'the union will continue to seek a solution of the current dif-

iculties in Liverpool and other ports through normal negotiating methods, while recognizing that the decision of the NIRC has made it extremely difficult for the union's officers to secure satisfactory solutions. 'The imposition of the fine was 'unfair and unjust', the statement added.

## A fight for jobs—Symes

JIMMY SYMES, chairman of the Liverpool shop stewards' committee told Workers Press after the court hearing. 'The only way out for talks with Heatons is if they result in them signing the agreement. We'll talk for any time on that basis.

FROM PHILIP WADE

'If we are taken to task for our stand, I think the stewards are prepared to take it on. 'This is a fight for jobs, the biggest one we've ever had. We've not shed all that blood on the docks to

lower our standards now. 'The men are with the stewards 100 per cent. We are united. If we lose this one we might as well pack our bags.'

● See p.12 for picture of Symes leaving Tuesday's abortive talks with Heatons.

## Two more sit-ins for pay rise

SIT-INS began at two more engineering factories in the Manchester area yesterday. One involved an engineering firm in Stockport, and the other a printing machine factory in Manchester city centre. And employees at a fac-

tory on the Trafford Park industrial complex walked out.

Union leader Bernard Panter said there were now 23 sit-ins, two strikes and three lock-outs because of the Amalgamated Union of

Engineering Workers' month-old work-to-rule and overtime ban.

The action is to back up the AUEW's pay claim, abandoned nationally by the union's executive and now fought for on an area basis.



# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY APRIL 13, 1972 ● No. 738 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## Dockers pressed to stop 'blacking' containers

# COURT ORDER STAYS

From our industrial correspondent DAVID MAUDE

TWO MERSEYSIDE road hauliers were yesterday granted a permanent order by the National Industrial Relations Court telling the Transport and General Workers' Union to stop blacking their lorries at Liverpool docks.

But no move for further contempt proceedings will be made against the union during the next week in an attempt to reach a negotiated settlement of the containers row.

At a hastily-convened press conference after the hearing, the lawyer for one of the firms, Heatons Transport (St Helens) Limited, said:

'As an indication of its good faith, no further action will be taken by the company this week so that the dockers and their union can consider the situation created by the orders.'

Meanwhile, however, the necessary orders were given by the court chairman, Sir John Donaldson, for fining the Transport and General Workers' Union the sum of £5,000.

When the deadline for payment expired yesterday, Donaldson initiated the next stage of the machinery to get the money from the T&GWU — which is boycotting the Industrial Relations Act in line with TUC policy.

Early yesterday afternoon Donaldson reconvened the court to hear a new application complain-

ing of 'unfair industrial practice' by Liverpool dockers. Craddock Brothers, a Wolverhampton-based firm with a depot in Bootle, sought a temporary order against the T&GWU.

Counsel for the company, Andrew Abdela, told Donaldson criminal proceedings connected with the case were in progress. A hearing by the NIRC in these circumstances might be prejudicial. It was therefore adjourned.

(Last Friday two Liverpool dockers and a full-time union official appeared in a Bootle magistrate's court on blackmail charges.)

The orders against the T&GWU were made permanent at a brief public hearing of applications by the two companies — Heatons and Bishop's Wharf Limited of Warrington. Richard Yorke, for the two companies, said nothing had been heard from the union and the situation was 'unchanged'.

On Yorke's application leave was granted to Heatons to apply for compensation under the Act at a later date. He said the company was keeping the compensation 'as low as possible'. Bishop's Wharf waived any claim to compensation, he said.

Outside the court, J. S. Lawton, Heatons solicitor, read a statement prepared by managing director Robert Heaton which 'appreciates and sympathizes with the dockers over the problems they feel confront them'.

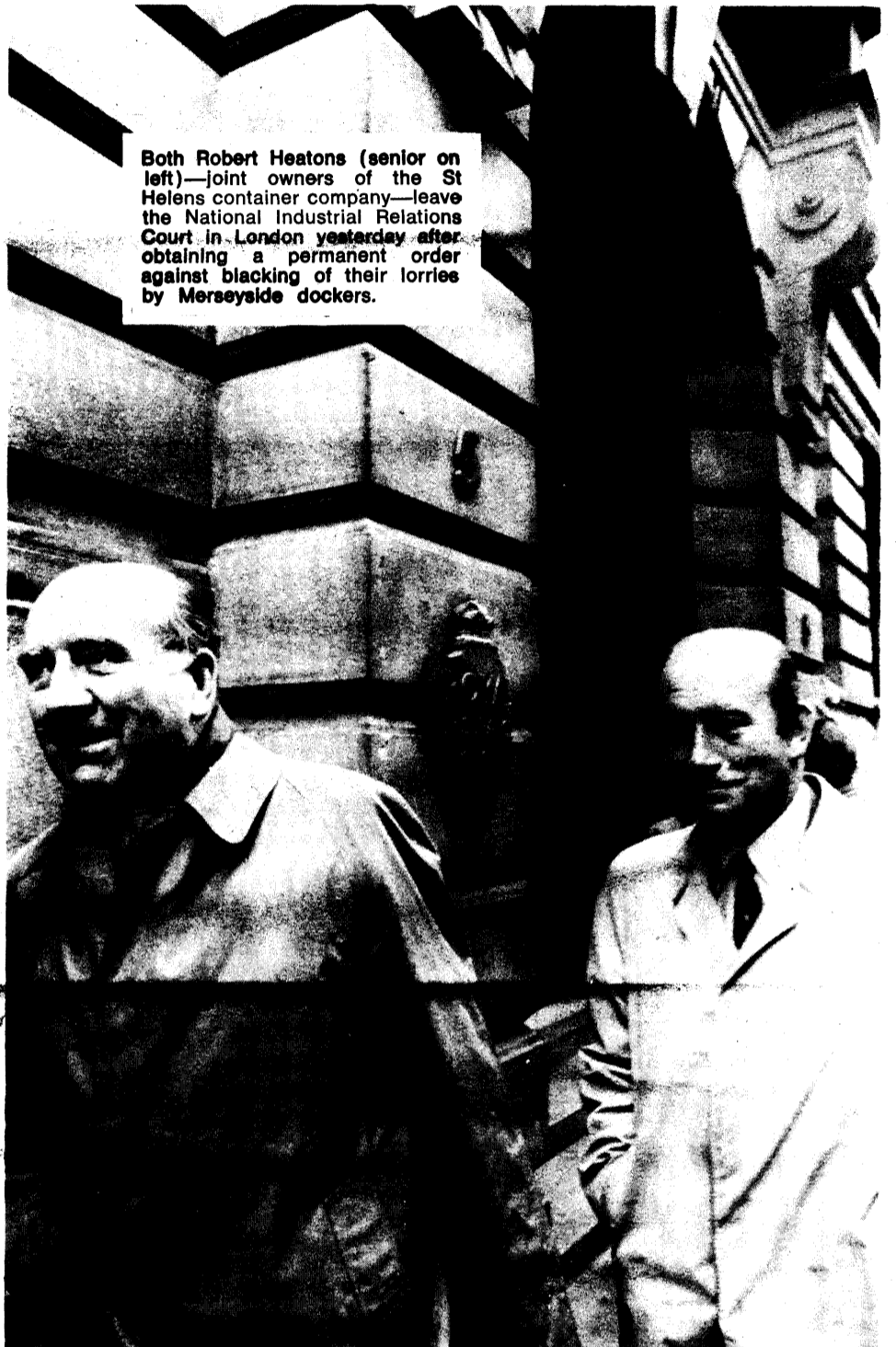
As the company would take no contempt action against the dockers this week, he hoped they would call off the blacking as a reciprocal gesture. But he said that Heatons' 'normal commercial activities' — which includes the packing and unpacking of containers at their St Helens depot — would continue.

What now happens in the dispute rests with the T&GWU's 'inner cabinet' which went into secret session at Transport House yesterday.

In another three weeks an order for seizure of assets of the union will take effect if the fine is still not paid.

The signs yesterday were that talks between Heatons and union officials might resume in Liverpool today.

The confrontation between the courts and the unions began when Heatons refused to sign a model agreement making the packing and unpacking of containers dockers' work.



Both Robert Heatons (senior on left)—joint owners of the St Helens container company—leave the National Industrial Relations Court in London yesterday after obtaining a permanent order against blacking of their lorries by Merseyside dockers.

## Fine: No T&G decision

BY DAVID MAUDE

A STATEMENT issued yesterday afternoon by the T&GWU's Finance and General Purposes Committee said that the question of payments or non-payment of the £5,000 fine would be further considered at the next meeting of the committee on April 27. That meeting will hear a report on the views of the

TUC General Council, which is to be consulted by the T&GWU at its meeting the previous day. 'Meantime', the statement continued, 'the union will continue to seek a solution of the current dif-

iculties in Liverpool and other ports through normal negotiating methods, while recognizing that the decision of the NIRC has made it extremely difficult for the union's officers to secure satisfactory solutions. 'The imposition of the fine was 'unfair and unjust', the statement added.

## A fight for jobs—Symes

FROM PHILIP WADE

JIMMY SYMES, chairman of the Liverpool shop stewards' committee told Workers Press after the court hearing.

'The only way out for talks with Heatons is if they result in them signing the agreement. We'll talk for any time on that basis.

'If we are taken to task for our stand, I think the stewards are prepared to take it on.

'This is a fight for jobs, the biggest one we've ever had. We've not shed all that blood on the docks to

lower our standards now. 'The men are with the stewards 100 per cent. We are united. If we lose this one we might as well pack our bags.'

● See p.12 for picture of Symes leaving Tuesday's abortive talks with Heatons.

## Two more sit-ins for pay rise

SIT-INS began at two more engineering factories in the Manchester area yesterday.

One involved an engineering firm in Stockport, and the other a printing machine factory in Manchester city centre. And employees at a fac-

tory on the Trafford Park industrial complex walked out.

Union leader Bernard Panter said there were now 23 sit-ins, two strikes and three lock-outs because of the Amalgamated Union of

Engineering Workers' month-old work-to-rule and overtime ban.

The action is to back up the AUEW's pay claim, abandoned nationally by the union's executive and now fought for on an area basis.

# Bangla Desh laws 'attack liberty' claim

THE OPENING session of the Bangla Desh Constituent Assembly was abruptly suspended on Tuesday night only 24 hours after it had begun discussions on a new national constitution.

A decree read out at the end of the Tuesday sitting simply stated President Abu Sayeed Choudhury had accepted the advice of Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to prorogue (suspend) the Assembly since there was no other business at hand.

Assembly members had previously been told officially that a draft constitution was ready

## Mujib suspends Assembly

and would be placed before the Assembly. Instead the draft is now to be considered by a 34-member committee hastily established as the Assembly broke up.

Sheikh Mujib apparently decided to suspend the session because of sharp political differences over the constitutional draft.

One top member of the ruling Awami League said an influential section of the party was strongly opposed to the draft because some of its provisions were 'blatantly' against individual liberty.

The emergence of these sharp differences raises the whole question of the status of the Con-

stituent Assembly. This body, composed of representatives elected under the old Pakistan constitution 15 months ago, is dominated almost entirely by the Awami League.

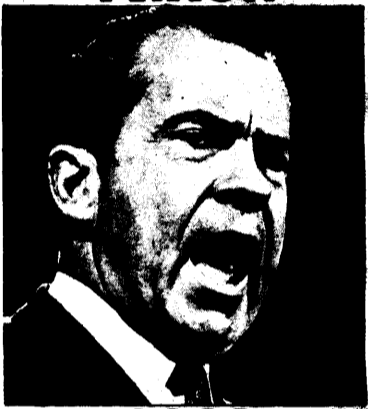
Out of more than 400 members, there are only seven outside the League, six independents and one representing the National Awami Party of Maulana Bhashani.

The opposition—together with an influential section of the Awami League itself—is demanding fresh elections to a National Assembly with a new mandate, but premier Mujib has so far given little indication whether such an election will be held.



Premier Sheikh Mujibur Rahman relying on old elections for majority

## Nixon



sees  
Trudeau



but not  
on trade

PRESIDENT Nixon flies to Ottawa today for talks with Canadian prime minister Pierre Trudeau, but is not expected to negotiate on the serious trade differences between the two countries.

Washington officials say his talks will be of a general political nature. But they are likely to be overshadowed by the trade issue which has brought a sharp frost to US-Canadian relations.

Canada was badly hit by the 10-per-cent import surcharge imposed on August 15 last year. At the Washington conference on currency realignment last December, its representatives refused to make any concessions in exchange for devaluation of the dollar.

US Treasury Secretary John Connally, who will not be with the presidential party, has provoked Canadian anger by demanding tough restrictions on Canadian exports to the US. His attitude provoked Trudeau to remark: 'With friends like Mr Connally, who needs enemies?'

The US is by far the biggest foreign market for Canadian goods and with unemployment already standing over 8 per cent, the Trudeau government is extremely reluctant to accept American terms that would ensure a sharp rise in the number out of work.

# Italy's CP chief: 'Saviour' via reform

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

COMMUNIST PARTY participation in a future Italian government would benefit all W Europe by making the country more stable, general secretary Enrico Berlinguer claimed in Rome on Tuesday night.

The Stalinist chief was speaking to journalists at the Foreign Press Association. He said Italy's instability stemmed from 'imbalances' in the country's development since the war.

These would be put right by 'economic and structural reforms', carried through by a broad-based popular government, he said. Such a government could help the democratic development of W Europe.

Berlinguer poses as the saviour of Italian bourgeois democracy, which is in mortal crisis as a result of the world economic recession and the growth of class struggle in Italy.

Bourgeois democracy is decaying in Italy because a growing sector of the employers is turning towards the fascists of the Italian Social Movement (MSI) to resolve the crisis by brute force.

Yet his Party advances the treacherous illusion that an alliance of the workers' parties with the 'left' wing of the employing class (disguised as 'left-wing Catholic political forces') can fight the threat of fascism. This type of 'Popular Front' is in fact nothing more than a reformist trap.

It is powerless to fight fascism and reaction because it ties the working class politically to the employers and lulls the workers' vigilance with phoney promises of reforms.

The CP leader made it quite clear his organization is firmly committed to preserving capitalism. To woo the middle class, it has even dropped its previous

OPPONENTS of Chilean President Salvador Allende marched in the streets of Santiago last night in an attempt to show that public opinion is mostly against his 'full speed ahead to socialism' policies.

Allende has accepted the challenge, and has called out his Popular-Front supporters for a counter-march next Tuesday.

The opposition parties, led by the powerful Christian Democrats, have a majority in both houses of parliament. For their 'march for democracy' they have chosen the eve of the major United Nations Conference on Trade and Development—the third since 1964—in Santiago.

insistence on immediate withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Instead, in line with Kremlin European Security policy, he said withdrawal from NATO could be achieved in stages through a broader policy of ending the whole system of military blocs.

One of NATO's leading Italian personnel, Admiral Gino Birindelli, is standing as an MSI candidate in Naples.

He spoke at an election meeting in Florence on Tuesday night



Enrico Berlinguer

which provoked large-scale street fighting. The clashes, which paralysed the centre of Florence for several hours, began when fascist strongmen attacked left-wing demonstrators who were jeering Birindelli and the MSI leader Giorgio Almirante.

## Feltrinelli leaflet: Left dragged into court

IN MILAN, ten members and supporters of the left-wing Avanguardia Operaia group went on trial on Tuesday charged with spreading 'tendentious news liable to disturb the public order'.

The charge, under a pre-war fascist law, followed publication of a leaflet on the death of Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, the left-wing publisher whose body

was found in mysterious circumstances close to an electricity pylon wired for sabotage near Milan.

The leaflet said: 'Feltrinelli was killed by fascist or police provocateurs and later taken to the place of the alleged sabotage which did not take place'. The charge carries a maximum penalty of three months' imprisonment.

## Yugoslavs seek new deal with EEC

YUGOSLAVIA has asked the Common Market to open preliminary talks soon on the enlargement of its trade links with the Community, according to sources in Brussels.

Boris Snuderl, Yugoslav representative in Brussels, has asked for a new trade deal with wider content than the present agreement, which expires in a

year's time.

The Yugoslavs are particularly concerned at their mounting trade deficit with the Market countries. Snuderl said imports from the EEC were rising far more rapidly than exports to the Six.

He said the trade deficit had risen last year to \$717m from \$615m in 1970.

## Shoot to kill and ignore hostages — jail guard

SAN QUENTIN prison guard, Sgt Joseph Murphy, told the Angela Davis trial in San Jose, California, that prison policy is to shoot to kill escaping convicts—regardless of whether they have taken hostages.

Murphy, was the senior prison officer on the scene in August 1970 when a small truck carrying three escaping convicts and their hostages, and driven by young Jonathan Jackson, made for the exit of Marin County courthouse.

The escape effort ended in a hail of gunfire, killing hostage Judge Harold Haley, two of the escaping convicts and Jonathan Jackson.

Miss Davis is accused of murder, kidnap and conspiracy by allegedly providing the guns for the breakout attempt.

Murphy, speaking of the official prison policy regarding escapes, said:

'We don't consider hostages as a means of escape. In other words, if hostages are taken, there will be no escape possible.'

The prosecution is trying to show that the first shots at Marin County came from the truck.

But Murphy's statement makes it clear the police were under orders to open fire in the event of a breakout.

## Solzhenitsyn faces World War I attack

THE Soviet press yesterday gave fresh impetus to its bitter campaign against the writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, printing letters denouncing him for his latest novel 'August 1914'.

The letters appeared in the weekly 'Literary Gazette', organ of the Soviet Writers' Union. One asked: 'What kind of Soviet writer is he if he digs in rubbish dumps and slanders his country?'

The chauvinistic attacks accuse Solzhenitsyn of glorifying German militarism and belittling the Slavs. His book is an account of the Battle of Tannenberg, in which Tsarist troops were heavily defeated by the German army in World War I.

The Stalinist leaders have turned the imperialist World War I into a 'patriotic' war. This was never the position of Lenin and the Bolsheviks, who called unequivocally for the defeat of the Tsarist armies in their struggle with German imperialism.

TWELVE HUNDRED Maxi and Marina workers at British Leyland's Austin-Morris car body plant at Cowley were continuing their sit-in yesterday after rejecting a final pay offer. The men arrived to find the power on for normal production. But they refused to lift their month-old restrictions, including an overtime

ban and work-to-rule and were formally suspended for the third time. So far, 4,000 production workers in the assembly plant have been laid off because of the deadlock. The men have turned down a pay offer raising basic rates to £44.20 for day workers and £52.73 for night workers.—Press Association.

# Sit-in at PSF body plant makes union history

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT  
DAVID MAUDE

**ALREADY** in serious financial difficulties, British-Leyland has been hit this week by an unprecedented sit-in at its Cowley, Oxford, car body factory.

The action involves 2,350 workers on the key Maxi and Marina production lines. It has shut down all work on these models at the neighbouring assembly plant.

Sitting-in started on Monday. It was preceded by a month of production restrictions which halved production for the two models of 1,000 bodies a day. Even now the dispute is being seen as the most serious confrontation since

the lengthy strike which organized the factory in 1934.

Ironically, the struggle takes place over the first annual review of a Measured-Day Work pay agreement which was supposed to bring industrial calm to Cowley. And it comes in a factory where successive owners have often held it up as a symbol of class peace.

At issue is a claim submitted by the powerful 5/60 Transport and General Workers' Union branch.

This calls for a £10-a-week pay increase on top of the present £42 flat rate, guaranteed earnings during any shut-outs, a new company pension scheme and—in line with the national engineering claim—a 35-hour week plus improvements in holidays and shift allowances.

Particular emphasis is being placed by shop stewards at this stage of the struggle on the guarantees. Now that Leyland has got rid of piecework and its sometimes very high earnings level, they say, it must also remove the insecurity that went with it.

First negotiations on the



Marina bodies are now halted between the ex-Pressed Steel Fisher plant and British-Leyland's assembly lines

review should have taken place early in December, but the company failed to meet union representatives from the MDW section of the factory until January 12.

Their opening statement was that they could not see themselves negotiating separately for the 2,350 workers involved. They wanted talks in conjunction with the assembly plant.

Yet in February 1971, Leyland had signed an agreement with the T&GWU as the sole representative of the workers on the two lines which stated specifically that 'the hourly rate and other benefits will be reviewed annually' between the parties.

Immediately the stewards scented that what the company was aiming at was an attack on their much-prized autonomy and the start of joint negotiations throughout the Cowley body-and-assembly complex. They insisted on separate talks.

At a further meeting on February 2 the company turfed out most points of the claim, but offered some improvements in the hourly rate, overtime and night-shift premiums.

If the whole claim was conceded and overtime continued at an average of

four hours a week, said the management men, their costs would be increased by 70 per cent over the next year. This would effectively put the firm out of business.

Stewards and local officials heard the same story time and again at a series of meetings during the following month. And so, on March 9 the work restrictions started.

On March 29, Leyland tabled its 'final' offer.

This was for increases of £2.20 for 40 hours for day-shift workers and about £5 for those on nights. Stewards say these rises amount to just 7½ and 13½ per cent respectively.

Also on offer was an increase in holiday pay, higher overtime premiums and an extra four days' lay-off guarantee at 80 per cent of average earnings.

New Year's Day was offered as an extra paid holiday if workers would agree to give up two other days' unpaid holiday. And acceptance of this was made a condition of settlement.

These terms had been accepted by workers at the assembly plant, despite fierce opposition from militant stewards, who

described them as a retreat from the national engineering claim.

But many body-plant pieceworkers had given up very high rates of pay for what they thought was the security of MDW. They were expecting to recoup some of their losses under the review.

Their stewards insisted that:

● The March 29 offer was in no way a real answer to their claim.

● Company insistence that they must accept the same offer as the assembly plant was a breach of the February 1971 agreement and would destroy the power of the 5/60 branch.

Last Thursday, works director David Simpson sent out letters to every worker on the two lines involved in the claim.

Their tone was sharp. The restrictions must be immediately lifted, he wrote. 'Unless there is an immediate resumption of full normal working, the company will have no alternative but to take action.'

Simpson is one of Leyland's hard-core recruits from Chryslers. The men did not have to wait long for him to act.

At 10 a.m. on Monday morning, they were told that if the restrictions were still in operation, they would not be paid and would be sent home. They refused to go. The sit-in had begun.

Despite the largely strike-free record of the body plant and its traditions of good attendance and sound workmanship, there can be little doubt about their determination to struggle.

All the votes to continue the action have been nearly unanimous. Each morning the men clock on and start work operating the restrictions agreed by their union branch. Management informs them they will not be paid and they stop.

At night they queue up to clock off.

On the wall of a nearby cafe, an old newspaper cutting is pointed out as summing up what they are fighting for.

Clipped from the September 1934 issue of 'The Conveyor', rank-and-file paper which led the recognition fight, it says that workers at the plant 'cannot be satisfied with the slightest infringement by the management of the [recognition] agreement'. They aren't.

## Daily picket at STC

A DAILY picket is being staged outside the Standard Telephone and Cables (STC) factory in N London by draughtsmen demanding more wages.

But only 11 of the 90 employed by STC have taken strike action as part of a 'gradual' campaign.

The wage dispute with management dates back to last September when the yearly pay review normally takes place.

The men are asking for a £7-a-week rise and £38 for workers over 30 years old.

In reply, management offered £24 at 21 years and £34 at 30 years and over.

In defence of their demands the men have engaged in a work-to-rule and even resorted to a sit-down strike.

A leaflet handed out by the pickets says:

☛ To the STC work force: Want to climb the ladder of success? Then:

- Work hard.
- Accept responsibility.
- Get promoted.

We tried it. And found we earned less than when we started. This is why we have withdrawn our labour. ☛

CBI president Sir John Partridge leads the British delegation at a meeting of the council of presidents of UNICEF — the union of industrial federations of the European Community—opened in London yesterday at the CBI headquarters.

### ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

**SE LONDON: Thursday April 13, 8 pm.** Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Rd (nr New Cross stn). Report back on YS conference.

**N LONDON: Thursday April 13, 8 pm.** 'Bricklayers Arms', Tottenham High Rd (nr White Hart Lane). Report back on YS conference.

**STOCKPORT Monday April 17, 8 pm.** 'Manchester Arms', Wellington Rd South. The Engineers' pay claim.

**E LONDON: Tuesday April 18, 8 pm.** 'The Aberfeldy', Aberfeldy St, Blackwall Tunnel, Poplar. YS conference and the fight against the Industrial Relations Act.

## Short-time Albion accepts MDW

OVER 2,000 car workers in the W of Scotland yesterday accepted the Measured-Day Work principle, despite a warning that it would lead to big redundancies.

The decision came at a mass meeting of British-Leyland workers from the Albion truck plant at Scotstoun, Glasgow.

After hearing sub-convenor Jimmy McKenzie say that he could guarantee no redundancies, the meeting accepted a £4 rise,

including £1.50 on the basic rate, in exchange for discussions on the details of the deal.

McKenzie — an ex-Communist Party candidate for Clydebank — said that after visiting two Birmingham factories he was sure MDW could benefit workers.

He attacked movers of an amendment which called for a rejection of the deal as 'disrupters' and 'Trotskyists'.

Redundancies at the Albion works are now very likely. The plant has been on four-day working for the last ten weeks—in

fact management's move to introduce MDW dates from that time.

Militants fear that the first to suffer will be time workers in the toolroom, inspection and maintenance departments.

The majority union in the plant is the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers whose official policy is now to oppose productivity dealing.

The Albion decision follows agreement on MDW at Rolls-Royce, Hillington, steered through by convenor George McCormack, a leading CP member in the Glasgow area,



# 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.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

National Conference

Including the Charter of Basic Rights

**DRAFT MANIFESTO**



**T. SAWYER**

A NUPE member, he says the main aim must be to force the Tories to resign.

We must not forget that there are dangerous enemies of the working class in the Labour Party.

The subtleness of Wilson and company should not hide the fact that they began many of the policies the Tories are now carrying out.

I think entry into the Common Market will be gained under Heath or Wilson.

The Industrial Relations Act was only a follow up of the last Labour government's efforts to bind and gag the working class.

Heffer has stated that the next Labour government will repeal the Act in its entirety, but can we really believe this?

The Tories have done the dirty work and sections of the Labour Party are well satisfied.

Let's also rid ourselves of the

so-called TUC leaders, men who have set out to gain personal glory at the expense of the progress of the trade union movement.

Let some of them have a knighthood if that is what they want. These union leaders, these friends of capitalism must be replaced by those prepared to carry out the wishes of the rank and file of the unions.

The miners have shown us that when the unions are organized they are unbeatable.

The Tories are now showing their teeth through the Industrial Relations Act.

A government dedicated to socialism must be elected, a party ready to make a rapid extension of nationalization under workers' control, a party with the well-being and the future of the working class as their main object.

The revolutionary party must and will succeed.

**P. T. SAUNDERS**

T&GWU member Southampton

Because of the crisis of capitalism the capitalist class are now out to smash the working class and take us back to the conditions of the 1930s, plus fascist dictatorship.

Their system is outdated and rotten through and through. All that they can offer us now is the destruction of mankind with pollution, starvation, war and the atomic bomb.

What is needed is an organization that will put an end to this system once and for all.

Over the last 50 years all of the working class leaders have proved that they cannot and will not do what is historically necessary.

The Communist Party and the Labour Party have long ago given up the fight and both are committed to the reformist parlia-

mentary road which will get us nowhere. The various middle-class groups like the International Socialists and the International Marxist Group can offer us nothing except Tariq Ali, the single issue politics of the Anti-Internment League, and the initial support of the IS for the British troops' attack on the Irish working class.

The trade union leaders and the TUC refused to fight the Industrial Relations Act and to call a General Strike. They only tell us to 'ignore' the Act.

The T&GWU have been fined £5,000 with the possibility of all their assets being taken over by the court, and they tell us to 'ignore' it.

All these people have two things in common — their contempt for Marxism and dialectical materialism, and their refusal to fight for the Tory government's resignation followed by the election of a Labour govern-

**Yorkshire miners picketing the Skelton Grange power station during the miners' strike earlier this year.**

ment pledged to socialist policies. Just at the time when mankind must make its greatest-ever step forward to world socialism you have all these organizations with their inane mumbling and utter confusion.

These people will only betray the working class, like they and their historical counterparts have always done.

The Socialist Labour League is the only organization with a clear record and clear-sighted views. This is because they are the only ones who continue the work of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky and the fight for the theory that will lead the working class.

The time has long been ripe for the building of a revolutionary party and when it is done victory will be certain.

# FRENCH CLAMP ON IMMIGRANTS

The famous Man in the Iron Mask languished for years in the Bastille on the personal orders of Louis XIV. He was a victim of the lettre de cachet, the private Royal warrant sentencing a man to indefinite imprisonment.

The Revolution tore down the Bastille and abolished the lettre de cachet. But today, 180 years later, Minister of the Interior Raymond Marcellin faces charges that he has revived the hated system in a new guise.

The victims this time are political refugees from Portugal who have fled their country to seek asylum in France.

Most are young men avoiding the military draft that could send them for four years to Angola, Guiné-Bissau or Mozambique to fight premier Marcello Caetano's colonial wars.

Since 1960, more than 70,000 young Portuguese of military age have taken refuge in France. Many are deserters, others left before their call-up papers came through.

At home they face five years in prison followed by eight years in a penal battalion for their 'crime'.

Until last month all they had to do was find their way to France, show their identity cards, and pay 40 francs for a residence and work permit.

But not any more. They still get a residence permit, but the magic letters MOE which allow them to seek a job are no longer written on it. The young refugees, many of them almost penniless, have to wait up to four months while the Interior Ministry decides whether they can work.

The new system was introduced following talks last year between Paris and Lisbon. The official excuse for the talks was to sign an agreement regulating immigration. In fact, the Portuguese asked France to help them stem the tide of draft-dodgers and deserters.

Portugal badly needs men to continue the African wars. By its own account, the Portuguese army is losing ten soldiers a week in the African territories. This figure is widely regarded as a gross under-estimate.

From now on, the French authorities will not accept deserters as political refugees. They will have to prove they are wanted for some 'political' offence as well.

If they don't get registration as political refugees, they can try and remain in France illegally. But then they can be handed over to the Spanish police for transfer back to Portugal.

In the last few weeks, several Portuguese 'illegal immigrants' have been handed back to Caetano in this way.

The fate of those who do manage to obtain registration as refugees is not much better, however. They have few legal rights, are specifically barred from playing any part in politics and can be shunted round the country on the orders of the Interior Ministry.

And even if their papers are in order, Marcellin still has the power, under so-called 'emergency procedure' to deport them without giving any reason.

He simply has to declare that the unfortunate refugee is 'not authorized by the Minister of the Interior to reside in France'. In other words, the lettre de cachet of good King Louis' golden days.

Marcellin's power was used in evidence in the aftermath of the May-June general strike of 1968. More recently, he has preferred to keep them in reserve, discouraging refugees from settling in France rather than expelling them once they are there.

But the Portuguese deserters are among the most vulnerable political refugees and Marcellin obviously feels free to push them around, especially as this cements French ties with the Portuguese dictatorship.



Above: Marcello Caetano. Below: Portuguese soldier training the Angolan army. Bottom: Portuguese soldiers leading an anti-guerrilla operation in Angola.



# BULGARIA TRIES NEW GIMMICKS

Bulgaria is to create a series of new titles such as 'Five-Year Plan Frontranker' and 'Five-Year Plan Collective Frontranker' in an effort to boost production.

They are part of a whole system of what are called 'moral incentives for labour' by the Communist Party's Political Bureau.

The Party claims they 'would function fully in keeping with the principles of material interest, socialist democracy and communist education of the working people'.

Title and award winners will be spotlighted by the press, TV and radio in order to stimulate others.

It is a further extension of the Stalinist device of 'socialist competition' which enabled the bureaucracy to single out a favoured few for reward for their hard work and faithful service.

Bulgaria has long had its titles, distinctions, orders and medals. It is now going into the business on a larger scale and in a more systematic way.

The principle behind the expanded system has little to do with socialism and reflects more properly the bureaucracy's outlook.

The Bulgarian leadership takes the new system of awards with deadly seriousness. A special body is to be set up 'to ensure the normal functioning and further perfection of the system'. It will work out criteria, assess results and select or approve the worthy candidates.

This dangerous nonsense emphasizes competitiveness, rewards according to norms set by the bureaucracy itself and is obviously designed to divide the working class.

It is very apparent that the 'moral incentives' will also have a definite material value. As the CP statement said: 'Additional opportunities are provided by the combination of moral awards with other incentives connected with social and everyday life acquisitions, opportunities to improve one's qualifications and so on.'

## JUST OFF THE PRESS - ORDER NOW

### TWO PAMPHLETS AND A MAGAZINE

'Fourth International' is the journal of international Marxism published by the International Committee of the Fourth International. 25p (post 3½p)

'We Demand the Right to Work' is a fully documented and illustrated account of the five Young Socialist Right-to-Work marches throughout Britain. 15p. (Post 3½p)

'The Social Security Swindle' by Bernard Franks. A useful handbook in the SLL pocket library series on state restrictions on social security. 5p. (Post 2½p)

All three available from: New Park Publications, 186a, Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG.

## WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO WORK



A YOUNG SOCIALISTS PAMPHLET

PRICE: FIFTEEN PENCE

## Fourth International

A JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL MARXISM PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

Volume 7 No. 3

Price 25 pence

Spring 1972

Editorial: Class War and the Mass Party

Draft International Perspectives of the Fourth International

Early-English Materialism

Lenin's 'Imperialism'

Lukacs

Disraeli

Bangla Desh

### TORIES ATTACK THE UNEMPLOYED

#### The Social Security Swindle







# SACKINGS AT OMNES FAULKNERS CASE HISTORY OF REFORMISM

By Ian Yeats. Part 1

**Omnes Faulkners Ltd, Colnbrook, Slough, factory was known as one of the best organized in SE England.**

But at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 24, 66 people, including an EPTU shop steward and an AUEW convenor, were sacked without anything being done to prevent it.

Communist Party members in the factory and on the AUEW Slough District Committee claimed that nothing could be done about the redundancies without endangering the entire works.

The CP's scare campaign finally paid off when, after one department at the factory staged a strike against the redundancies, the shop stewards' committee voted for a CP resolution and refused to back them.

Redundancies had been on the cards for some time and they

formed part of a continuous drive by the firm for production efficiency spurred by sharp recent falls in profits.

As late as 1970 union negotiators at the factory were able to sign an agreement with the employer they claimed was 'the best ever'.

Suddenly everything changed. As sacked EPTU steward Sam Roe put it to me: 'What we were getting from management was one big "No".'

Omnes Faulkners fitted into the national pattern. From Clydeside to Coventry economic crisis and recession was and is forcing the bosses—backed to the hilt by the Tories—on to the offensive against the trade unions and the working class.

The employers will now negotiate only on their terms and therefore the clear demand must be for the overturning of

all the old forms of dealing and compromise and the substitution of a revolutionary approach to trade union problems.

At this point of great crisis in the leadership of the working class, the insidious treachery of the principles and practice of the Stalinists' 'British Road to Socialism', with all its reverence for bourgeois democratic processes, is exposed for all to see.

At Upper Clyde Shipbuilders the Stalinists met uncompromising force with fawning belly crawling to the Tories. Result: hundreds of jobs lost, hundreds if not all the remainder likely to be lost and an opportunity lost to mobilize the working class against the Tory government and all its policies, including mass unemployment.

At Sheffield, instead of maximizing the strength of engineers fighting for a £6-a-week pay

claim, the Stalinist-dominated AUEW district committee recommended plant action.

And at Omnes Faulkners, instead of halting the employer in his tracks, the Stalinists preached the risk and ultimate futility of any fight against redundancies—result 66 people sacked.

Sacked AUEW convenor Frank Tomany led the fight in his factory against Stalinism. Because it shows graphically the betrayal constituted by the principles and policies of the 'British Road to Socialism', we publish a detailed, step-by-step account of how the redundancies came about.

Mr Tomany claims that CP policy, through its members on the factory shop stewards' committee and Slough District Committee (DC) of the AUEW, stifled opposition to Omnes Faulkners' policies over a considerable period leading up to the sacking of 66 men by:

- Stressing the firm's shaky financial position and the danger of a total shutdown.
- Stressing the futility of opposing management where the company's trading position left it no other choice.

CP members of both committees do not deny they urged caution in view of the alleged danger that the firm could close if pressed too hard by their workforce.

Mr Tomany levels three major charges against Slough DC.

- Failure to lead a fight against 66 redundancies at the factory effective from March 24.
- Failure to oppose work previously done by some of the

redundant men being sent out to a largely non-union firm.

- Failure to lead a fight against what he alleges was the victimization of a convenor.

Mr Tomany accuses Omnes Faulkners management of singling him out because of his consistent tough line in negotiations about pay and conditions.

Spokesmen for the firm and for Slough AUEW district committee deny the allegations.

In fact the management refused to comment on whether or not Mr Tomany had been victimized, but personnel manager Mr S. Eden told me he did not think the company was taking a tough line with trade unions.

At least once before the company has felt obliged to defend itself from charges of hostility to trade unions.

In October 1970 AUEW members at the firm's Barnes factory (now closed) staged a three weeks' strike after they claimed management attacked the union by unilaterally ending a nine-year practice whereby AUEW stewards represented clerical workers.

The dispute was settled, but during it, on October 15, the then Omnes Ltd put out a letter expressly pointing out: 'We are not anti-trade union.'

But Mr Tomany (41), married with three children, told me at his Stanwell council home: 'I realized right from the start I was being victimized. I've been what the management call a maverick because I've always gone up and represented the men.'

'Management told me that the

agreement reached during the year I was convenor (1969-1970) was disastrous for the company and I cost them at least £21,000 in legal aid settlements.'

'When Omnes Faulkners announced the 66 redundancies on March 13 the names were selected indiscriminately—not on the basis of last-in, first-out or of all those over 65, or any principle at all.'

'Although management deny it, in my opinion it was an act of victimization to put my name as AUEW convenor on the list.'

Mr Tomany's dismissal came only days after he was re-elected convenor by the 11-man factory shop stewards' committee after an absence of over a year from the job.

CP members hold three of the 11 seats and may influence one more.

## ELECTED

He told me: 'The stewards passed a vote of no confidence in CP convenor Derek Howes and his deputy and elected me by a majority of seven to three—two being CP members of the committee plus a third who always voted with them.'

'With redundancies in the air, men could see the skids were going under the factory and they wanted somebody to represent the shop floor.'

Mr Tomany claims the return to office of a man management

knew would fight tooth and nail against the redundancies made him a candidate for the sack.

He had established his reputation as a hard bargainer in 1971.

'In the two years I was not convenor, things were sliding back... What we had gained in 1970 such as the agreements on holidays at Christmas and throughout the year, on orange juice and on a suggestions scheme, were being knocked on the head by management.'

'The CP line has been that the company could not afford all these agreements, but the maintenance department fought alone to get them back and we did.'

At least since 1970 Omnes Faulkners has been noted throughout the SE as a highly-organized factory with some of the best pay and conditions in the area.

The maintenance department—completely dismantled after the March 24 redundancies—led by steward Frank Tomany was the core of this union organization.

With Mr Tomany's record of militancy before them and dissatisfied with the efforts of CP convenor Derek Howes, it was perhaps natural that once a major fight over sackings began to loom he should be re-elected convenor.

Redundancies at Omnes Faulkners Colnbrook factory in Slough, Bucks, had been rumoured for several months.

Management claimed profits were falling and that something

had to be done to slash their costs, which they said had risen steeply in the past four years.

On March 10 they met the factory shop stewards and AUEW district secretary George Currell telling them outright there had to be up to 80 redundancies or a 17-per-cent wage-cut.

Their hand was almost certainly forced by the fact that from January 24 AUEW convenor Frank Tomany enforced in his shop the AUEW Slough District Committee rule that because of the high level of unemployment no man should work more than 40 hours a week.

Mr Tomany claims overtime became an issue in his shop after Omnes Faulkners shut their Barnes factory in the summer of last year and moved a number of machines to Colnbrook.

He pressed for more men and improved facilities but instead the management began sending work out to Gay's of Hampton—also a member of the Pratt Engineering Corporation to which Omnes Faulkners belong—and almost entirely non-union.

Mr Tomany twice wrote to the district committee, on January 30 and on February 2, complaining that work was being sent out to a non-union firm. To date he has received no replies.

The Communist Party hold about seven of the 15 seats on the district committee and may influence one more.

George Currell, CP district secretary, told me: 'I can't answer questions on issues which are subject to DC meetings and decisions.'

Mr Tomany's view, expressed in his second letter to the DC

## KNIFE-EDGE

on February 2 was that... 'in view of union members being out of work and short of work we would have to insist that this work would have to go to a union firm...'

Although Currell would specifically not comment on the allegation, Frank Tomany claims he was told by DC not to make trouble about work going out because of the knife-edge state of the company.

Even with work beginning to go out of the factory to Gay's, there was still a substantial amount of overtime—in some cases up to 20 hours a week—when the DC clamped down.

Mr Tomany was now fighting on two fronts—trying to stop management sending work out of his factory by preventing all work normally done by his department from going out in favour of taking on more men and at the same time putting pressure on the DC to back him.

He claims his position was considerably weakened by the DC's insistence on his asking management for a daily estimate of overtime.

'The DC was deliberately putting me on the spot—with so much overtime being worked. If I hadn't done what they asked, they would have taken my card away. But the effect of it was

to make me very unpopular with management,' he told me.

His daily requests for overtime estimates eventually drew management's fire and he alleges he was told they couldn't spend all day acting as an office boy for him.

With the overtime ban biting hard, Omnes Faulkners were now faced with an urgent need to rationalize and at the same time find a way round opposition from the trade unions.

Talk of sacking was rife and Mr Tomany's insistence that this could be avoided by work-sharing served only to fix management's eye firmly on his department as the first victim of their emerging re-organization plan.

On March 7 at a meeting of factory shop stewards, a vote of no confidence was taken in CP convenor Derek Howes and his deputy and Frank Tomany was re-elected to lead the sackings fight.

Mr Tomany now began to draw the fire of the Communist Party as well as management.

He told me: 'After the vote of no confidence in the CP convenor at the factory, the Party could see they were losing control.'

On March 10 the blow fell. Omnes Faulkners issued their sackings-or-wage-cut ultimatum and a wave of fear shot through the factory.

**CONTINUED TOMORROW**

Left: Omnes Faulkners Ltd. Above, sacked AUEW convenor Frank Tomany, who led the fight against Stalinism in the factory.



# THE RISE OF JUAN PERON

Part 2 on Argentina. By our foreign correspondent.

The Argentinian proletariat was created out of immigrant workers — mainly from France, Italy and Spain—who brought the experience of working-class organization in Europe in the form of trade unionism and anarchism.

The Argentine rulers had to import labour to work the modern meat-packing plants as well as other industries. This process continued until the 1930s, when migration from the land provided new sources to build the working class.

The trade unions established by the immigrants had extended amongst craftsmen in the 1880s. They were encouraged by a visit of the Italian anarchist Enrico Malatesta. An exception to the influence of anarchism was the railway workers' union, the *Fraternidad*, founded after a visit by a delegation of American trades unionists.

These unions were the victims of splits and conflicts and were based on layers of skilled workers attracted by the wages to be earned in the Argentinian boom.

The anarchist federation FORA split in 1901 when a group founded the socialist-minded UGT (Union General de Trabajadores).

In May 1910 anti-trade union gangs burnt down the anarchist headquarters and publishing house of the anarchist daily paper, 'La Protesta' during independence celebrations. The anarchists had called an 'anti-patriotic' general strike.

There was a similar response to the militant struggles during World War I and after, as shown in the *Semana Trágica* of January 1919. Engineering workers had gone on strike for a wage

increase. Many were shot and wounded in battles with police and blacklegs.

The day after, solidarity strikes were called and a general strike for the day of the funeral. Police and troops were present at the funeral where they shot at the crowds of workers who had come to mourn the dead strikers.

The Socialist Party which grew together with the UGT was modelled on European lines in the reformist tradition of the Second International. The Communist Party was formed from a split in the reformists' ranks.

In 1922 the FORA 19 (so-called after the split at the 1915 Congress) formed the USA, the Union Sindical Argentina. In 1926 the railworkers' and other unions led by social democrats formed the *Confederación Obrera Argentina*. The Communist Party worked with the anarchist block until 1929, when they formed their own 'red' union in accordance with the policies of 'Third Period' Stalinism: the Committees for class unity.

In 1930 the USA, COA and some independent unions came together to form the CGT (*Confederación General del Trabajo*), along the lines of the French CGT. The CGT included railworkers, engineering, municipal, textile and building trades workers. The two railway unions had over half the membership and after 1935 the general secretary was always chosen from the Union Ferroviaria of railworkers. This was a source of friction, and in 1942 led to a further split in the history of the Argentine working class and the formation of CGT1 and CGT2.

The Stalinist ultra-left policy prevented the Argentine Communist Party from making any inroads in these sections of

workers. In 1936, with the swing in the Comintern to the policies of the Popular Front, the Argentine Stalinists entered the CGT.

As capital poured out of Europe into Latin America in the late 1930s, so industrialization intensified in Argentina and the working class increased in size. Trade union membership and new trade unions began to flourish and a wave of militancy swept through old and new sections of the working class.

The Union Obrera Textil (textile workers' union) expanded its membership from 45,000 in 1936 to 100,000 in 1941. The *Federación Obrera Nacional de Construcción* (FONC), founded in 1936, had 40,000 members by 1941.

The radicalization of the Argentine masses is well illustrated in the growth of this union. It was organized as a result of a general strike in the building trades in Buenos Aires in October 1935 incorporating some smaller trade unions.

The FONC was led by the Stalinists and was their first real penetration into the Argentinian trade union movement. In the first week of 1936 the union was involved in organizing another general strike in Buenos Aires in support of negotiations with the Department of Labour over conditions of work and union recognition.

During the strike, pitched battles between workers and police were fought out in the streets of Buenos Aires: four police were shot, one worker was shot and 200 workers were arrested. The union's leaders were finally bought off.

The employers were not in favour of this new unionism and the truce was short-lived: another strike was called on October 18,

1937. The police moved in immediately arresting the strike committee and closing down the union offices.

On October 30 the five strike leaders faced a threat of deportation under the infamous *Ley de Residencia* placed on the statute books in 1902 to rid Argentina of 'subversive and unwanted aliens' — a *carte blanche* to remove any member of the working class which was entirely immigrant in character.

A CGT commission intervened to get the men back to work with a slight wage increase and a statement that the conservative General Agustin Justo's regime had promised there would be no deportation.

On their return to work, FONC members found their leaders had been deported to Italy to be handed over to the tender mercies of fascist dictator Mussolini. An immediate strike was called, but came to nothing as the CGT refused to back the action.

The action of the CGT leadership reflects the growth of a very strong bureaucracy, especially in the old established trade unions which had devoted themselves more to co-operation with the capitalist state and the development of social welfare programmes than leading the working class in struggle.

The growing opposition between this bureaucracy is evident in the growing influence of the CP in the building trades, although the Stalinist leadership was only verbally to the left.

Thus, in October 1939, FONC called a strike for an across-the-table wage increase to counter the 10 per cent increase in the cost of living.

The employers and the gov-

ernment refused to negotiate with the FONC leaders and negotiated a 10 per cent increase with the CGT.

But it was to be distributed in the form of a family allowance and not as a wage increase.

This was rejected by FONC which issued a strike threat—only later to accept a compromise by fixing a minimum wage for different trades.

The overall radicalization was also expressed in the increase in the number of strikes: in 1942 there were 113, double the number of any year going back to 1936. In 1943 there were 85.

The Argentine military had ousted the representative of the Union Civica Radical, President Hypolito Yrigoren, in 1930 to strengthen Argentinian capital against opposition during the Depression.

The strike wave obviously worried the same military men.

General Sosa Molina commented after the mass working-class demonstrations in Buenos Aires on May Day 1943:

'An enormous mass, carrying red flags, fists held high, singing the International, augured a really tragic future for the Republic confronted with that danger...'

Molina called for a national revolution based on social justice.

The man to carry out this task — Juan Domingo Peron. Peron was to mastermind the next coup and, within the space of a few years, to refashion the Argentinian labour movement which is still dominated by 'Peronismo' and the shadow of Peron himself.

CONTINUED TOMORROW





# WORKERS NOTEBOOK



## A MODEL DICTATORSHIP

Liberals with lingering illusions about the Tories' intentions in the field of 'law and order' should pay more attention to the lessons the Tory press is trying might and main to rub home.

If they have any doubts left after Ulster and the Industrial Relations Act, they should turn to the 'Sunday Telegraph' for April 2, which ought to remove any remaining misconceptions.

If it doesn't, it's no fault of the 'Telegraph's' leader-writer, who gets his message across concisely and in the plainest of language. He is commenting on the shooting of ten Turkish guerrilla fighters and their three NATO hostages in the village of Kizildere.

If there was a Michelin guide for terrorists instead of for tourists, Turkey would be categorized as "worth a detour" to avoid. Nowhere else in the world do the state authorities give an impression of such decisive determination to resist blackmail and strike back without any agonized searching of the liberal conscience.

In the 'Telegraph's' view, this attitude of president Cevdet Sunay's barbarous military regime deserves the highest praise:

... what is significant is the extent to which decent, reasonable people here would wish to see more countries following the Turkish example, terrible and tragic as may be the fate of the innocent victims, such as the British radar technicians.

'This reaction is both inevitable and desirable. Western civilization today is far more seriously threatened by a supine indifference to the forces of anarchy and subversion, by a willingness on the part of lawful authority to cave into violence than it is by any danger of excessively brutal repression or tyranny.'

The editorial ends on a note of praise for the Sunay regime (its military president has just demonstrated his faith in democracy by demanding full dictatorial powers and threatening to consign the National

### TORY PRESS



Assembly to the dustbin):

'Who would have thought, a hundred years ago, that Turkey would ever have much to teach Britain about the arts of government? Yet today it is fast becoming the model to which many eyes are turned with growing envy and admiration. In a world challenged by anarchy, the mailed fist, alas, will always be more attractive than the bleeding heart.'

A franker statement of the increasing desire of the British employing class for a fascist-style strongman could hardly be found. The hundreds of trade unionists and communists currently languishing in Cevdet Sunay's jails are just where the Tories would like to put British militants and communists.

The 'Telegraph' is not speaking for itself alone. Six days after this editorial appeared, the 'Economist', another right-wing Tory paper, devoted two pages under the heading 'A Term to Violence' to the same theme as the 'Sunday Telegraph'.

The article gets off to a flying start by raising the bogey that 'fairly small criminal or psychopathic (cum -bogusly -political) groups' (like the Pentagon or the Paratroop Brigade?) could shortly be threatening to destroy 'large segments of some city's population' with modern weapons.

The blame for this situation apparently lies at least in part with the first Aldermaston marchers, described by the

'Economist' as 'the spiritual fathers of the brutal murders of three British technicians by Turkish political bandits last week'.

The reason is: 'The demo is almost always anti-democratic. It tries to replace judgement based on reasoned argument (which is what democracy has to be about) by judgements bullied by at least some degree of yelled intimidation.'

To protect democracy, in this Tory version of 'Alice in Wonderland', you have first to deprive people of their basic democratic rights. This includes not just the right to demonstrate, but ... demo or token strike or any other form of group togetherness'.

Those who want to organize these activities—which regrettably are still legal—should be asked 'to weigh the advantages that they think the world will gain from their indulging in this form of enjoyment, against the evidence that the main real consequence is to give society another imperceptible shove along the road at the end of which half-a-dozen Turkish psychopaths can say they consider it their "basic right and a debt of honour to execute the hostages".'

Having tried to induce people to abandon their legal rights, the 'Economist' moves on to stage two: it wants firm application of the law to deal with such offences as 'obstruction of the highways, refusals by local councillors or trade union leaders or other dignitaries to obey the law, illegal picketing, rent strikes'.

Finally, should it ever be menaced by Turkish-style terrorists, the government should put up 'total resistance'. Just like the regime of General Cevdet Sunay.

Or, for that matter, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

After all, why imitate the imitators when you can try and imitate the real thing?

But in Britain, where the working class fought down the centuries for the rights it enjoys today, certain people will find that writing articles is one thing, putting them into practice quite another.

### SUBMISSION

All good British Liberals love Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's smiling president. And so, apparently, do all his subjects. Witness the following item from Lusaka Radio last week.

The Executive Committee of the National Union of Zambian Students is to make a joint apology to President Kaunda for a circular written by the Union's secretary, describing the one-party state as an evil system.

'The Union's vice-treasurer said... that the Union's secretary had written the circular without the backing of the executive. The decision to

apologize to the President was made last night at a meeting of some members of the executive.

'Last night's meeting resolved that each member should give his views to the secretary who would then compile them for presentation to the commission during its sitting in June. The executive has also asked all college students throughout Zambia to submit their views on the one-party state to the Union's secretary.'

And he'll make sure it doesn't happen again...

### ILLUSION

General Praphat Charusathien, Thailand's deputy dictator and Director of National Security, is under few illusions about the Vietnam war.

He told a press conference last week that the S Vietnamese troops had been 'routed' and had sustained their heaviest losses since the beginning of the war.

However, he still cherishes the illusion that Thailand will stay capitalist if S Vietnam falls.

Bangkok Radio quoted him

to the effect that the Vietnam war would not spread to Thailand but had great significance 'for the free world and the people of SE Asia'.

Very reassuring, until one pressman asked if Thailand would agree to send troops to help S Vietnam if requested.

The National Security Director replied that Thailand was not in a position to send troops to help since the situation in the country itself was critical and needed troops to safeguard the country.

### BOOKS



**LEON TROTSKY:**  
Germany 1931/1932  
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½  
**Where Is Britain Going?**  
Paperback 37½p  
**Revolution Betrayed**  
Paperback 62½p—cloth £1.50  
**Problems of the Chinese Revolution**  
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £1.87½  
**Permanent Revolution:**  
**Results and Prospects**  
Paperback 75p  
**In Defence of Marxism**  
Paperback 75p  
**Lessons of October**  
Paperback 60p

Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from:  
**NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS**  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG.



# Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

## Homes: Tories out to destroy a basic right

BY PHILIP WADE

ONE OF the most powerful tenants' associations in S London is the one covering Coldharbour Estate in New Eltham. Out of 2,000 tenants, it has 1,600 members and has been active in the campaign against the Tory plans.

Chairman Derrick Wiles has been involved in the association for over ten years. He told me what he saw as the aims of the Bill and the way the struggle would develop.

It is an attack on council tenants to bring their standards of living down. It is also a blow against democracy, because all the rights are being taken away from the tenants and from the council.

If an elected council refuses to implement the Bill, the government can bring in a Housing Commissioner to take over all the housing powers.

What will also happen is that the price of property will go up as more and more people are driven on to the market.

Many people on this estate are like me, in their 50s. We've got our back to the wall. If we can't afford the new rents it would be impossible to find another house. No one would entertain us for a mortgage.

Yet tenants could be pushed out of their houses if the Tories think they have too many bedrooms. If you apply for a rebate, you could be offered smaller accommodation which will probably be sub-standard.

The Tories are turning the clock right back. Housing should be a social necessity—like a hospital bed. Council housing was supposed to be for people who couldn't afford to buy their own houses. It has given a lot of people a roof over their heads.

Now it's going to be £9 a week or get out. But where do you go?

What really lies behind this Bill? Well, it's Tory policy to sell council property. If you get Tory-controlled councils in the future I think you could see many of the houses we live in sold off to estate agents and the like.

This is a government which argues about nothing. They make a decision, like they did with Ireland, and then they carry it out.

And with Tory press censorship on things like the 'fair rents' Bill, many people have yet to realize what's happening. They're out of news.

We're losing all our rights in this country. And we're being pushed into a corner where we could lose a lot more. But the working class is not so slow as to give them up like that—it will be a hell of a job for the Tories to take them all away.

Tenants won't be able to fight this on their own. We have to have the support of the trade unions. It's got to be a common fight—after all, everybody's pocket will be hit.

Already the Bill has forced tenants' associations much closer together. Our association has gone out and set them up where they never existed before and revived the older ones which have fallen by the wayside.

In the past the vast majority of tenants' associations have remained non-political; that is, not giving full support to any political party. I don't think this will change completely.

Nevertheless, as a whole they will have to broaden their horizons, looking more deeply into things and becoming involved politically.

In my opinion, the return of a Labour government will be the only answer. But you have to admit the last Labour government was a big disappointment to a lot of us. The first thing tenants will expect is a repeal of this Bill.

They will also have to do something about the vast interest charges and land prices councils have to pay if they want to build new houses.

The Tory government has introduced to parliament the Housing Finance Bill which will double council rents. The hated Bill will destroy the right to decent housing at reasonable rents for millions of working-class families. Like unemployment, the Industrial Relations Act and the rising food price bonanza, the Bill forms part of deliberate Tory policy to drive down the standard of living of the working class.

**UNDER THE BILL:**

- EVERY local authority and new town corporation has to charge a 'fair rent' for the first time. Rents will be geared to market value—what an estate agent thinks a property is worth.
- AVERAGE RENTS will double on government's own estimate. In London rents of £3.50 (plus rates) will rise to over £7 (plus rates).
- RENTS FIXED by committee of property men and lawyers. No appeal. They have the right to inspect council houses. Penalty for obstructing them: £50 fine.
- LOCAL AUTHORITIES are obliged to begin raising rents on October 1, with a compulsory increase of £1 this year and 75p next year.
- COUNCILS REFUSING to raise rents and operate the Act can be deprived of all housing powers. These will be assumed by government Housing Commission. Refusal by councillors to supply Commissioner with information could mean fines of up to £400.
- MEANS TESTS will be imposed on tenants wanting rent rebates. Assessment will be made on gross income of the highest earner in the family. Changes in earnings must be notified every six months.
- HOUSING REVENUE accounts will move into surplus and half of this will be taken by the government. In three or four years tenants will be paying an extra £500 million in rents.
- PRIVATE TENANTS—1.3 million of them—living in controlled properties: Decontrol begins from next January and their rents will be raised to 'fair' levels.
- DISCUSSION on the Bill was cut short by the Tories on March 29. It has now finished its committee stage in the House of Commons. Three more days are left for the report and third reading stages before it goes to the House of Lords.

**Filmed Act**

THE Department of Employment is stepping up its campaign to promote the Industrial Relations Act. Four new films on the Act will be previewed at the National Film Theatre on May 2.

A departmental spokesman said that 290 copies of the first film, 'The Industrial Relations Act—An Introduction', had been sold. There had been 1,965 hire bookings since its release in October last year.

**Sudan aid**

SUDANESE Foreign Minister Dr Mansour Khalid, on a brief visit to Britain, has asked the Tory government for assistance in dealing with his country's refugee problem.

# Maxwell 'murder'

## He slams a writ on second Pergamon Press report

BY ALEX MITCHELL

MILLIONAIRE Labour MP, Robert Maxwell, has taken out a second writ against the Department of Trade and Industry. He says the department is carrying out 'business murder' against him.

The bitter legal wrangle

stems from the sorry financial history of Maxwell's family-owned company, Pergamon Press.

For three years Pergamon has been the subject of boardroom squabbles — Maxwell was once unseated—and litigation.

The publication on Monday of the department's second report on the Pergamon affair throws further light on how Maxwell ran the publishing operation.

It reveals a series of sharp business practices but there is scarcely a hint of criticism. Some examples:

● At one time Maxwell revalued his stocks which led to an overstatement of profits of £100,000. The report says this 'could have been a genuine mistake'.

● Referring to another overstatement of assets, it says: 'We think that the overpricing of "Pictorial Knowledge" by £36,000 was probably due to genuine oversight.'

● Another overstatement of profits by £45,213 on a project was described as being 'due to an error in bookkeeping'.

● The purchase of the Newnes publishing house is described like this: 'It was a commercial decision—albeit one which led to disaster—and we do not criticize Mr Maxwell for an unfortunate commercial decision.'

Although the department's inspectors give Maxwell a ton of leeway in many instances, the overall conclusions make damaging reading.

Maxwell is accused of making 'exaggerated' sales claims. 'We are of the opinion that the claims which Mr Maxwell made were exaggerated and that he knew they were.'

'In our view this is a serious



## Power strike hits Eire supplies

INDUSTRY was faced with total shutdown when power cuts hit all parts of Eire yesterday after 600 power station workers struck in support of a pay claim.

Less than a third of normal electricity supply was available after the government imposed rationing and domestic use was being restricted to three hours in 24.

Automatic power stations were being used to provide emergency power to hospitals and other priority services.

The Irish Republic government has banned the use of electricity for floodlighting, advertising, window display lighting and heat in commercial premises and places of public entertainment. Consumers have been urged to use electricity only for essential purposes.

**Subscribe!**  
**workers press**

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)  
£10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)  
£5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:  
£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)  
£8.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required	MONDAY	THURSDAY
(Please tick)	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) for ..... months.

Amount enclosed £

I would like information about

## THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4 7UG.

Name .....

Address .....



## Anti-pop show Bill nearly law

THE NIGHT Assemblies Bill which permits the banning of pop festivals and assemblies of more than 3,000 people took another step towards the statute books yesterday.

Mr Jerry Wiggin, the Tory MP sponsoring the Bill, said he would amend his Bill in view of the government's decision to introduce a code of practice governing pop festivals.

The capitalist press immediately seized on Wiggin's comment to suggest that the Bill will be watered down.

This is far from the case. Under the new amendments a clause granting leave for appeal will probably be included. But leave to appeal to whom? The Tory government, of course!

Wiggin moved the adjournment of discussion on the Bill until next Wednesday.

# BAC men want 'no strings' pay rise

MORE THAN 3,000 British Aircraft Corporation workers at Preston yesterday voted to continue their 10-week-old pay strike.

They accepted a shop stewards' recommendation and rejected BAC's latest offer of under 10 per cent wage increases with strings attached.

Only three hands went up in favour of acceptance.

The men, who work at the Preston, Warton and Samesbury plants, BAC's military division, are demanding 12½ per cent and a cost-of-living increase to give a £20 minimum.

AUEW convenor at Preston, David Creighton-Smith told the meeting: 'We want no strings

attached. They want to fix wages and do away with the factory average wage. This is completely unacceptable to us. If we accept fixed rates, our wages will be held down.'

Workers applauded in the packed City Hall at his ultimatum.

After the meeting a strike committee member told Workers Press: 'With the attitude of management, the men

are getting more determined every day. We shall stay out until we get a just settlement.'

Many feel that BAC's strings would be an introduction to Measured-Day Work at a later stage.

The men who are receiving financial support from other BAC factories plan a demonstration through Preston tomorrow in support of their strike.

## Detective jumps bail

A WARRANT was issued for the arrest of a detective yesterday after he failed to surrender to bail for trial at the Old Bailey on corruption charges.

Detective Sergeant John Symonds (35), of Thornton Heath, Surrey was charged after an investigation by 'The Times'.

Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, defending, said Symonds had sent him a letter on March 28 saying: 'I am still most unwell and not fit enough to continue instructing you.'

Mr Sherrard said it was believed Symonds' frame of mind might have been adversely affected by the strain of the past two and a half years since 'The Times' allegations.

Two other senior detectives were recently jailed for up to six years on charges relating to the same article on police corruption.

## AUEW executive blocks expulsion

THE EXECUTIVE of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has rejected a bid by the Edinburgh district committee to expel a leading militant from the union.

The union member, Ron Brown, is a Labour councillor and chairman of the union's Pilton branch.

He was accused of 'misrepresenting' the AUEW's position in regard to the miners' strike and also with 'interference'.

The original complaint came from the chief personnel officer of the S of Scotland Electricity Board.

The complaint was made to the union's divisional organizer, Ernie Leslie, who was principally involved in recommending

Brown's expulsion.

The collusion between electricity board officials and the right-wing of the union has angered local trade unionists.

They have noted that on April 7 Ernie Leslie was made a Justice of the Peace.

PORTSMOUTH Corporation was yesterday granted an order against ten named students in the High Court allowing it to repossess the administrative centre as Portsmouth Polytechnic—occupied for five weeks as a protest against serious overcrowding and 'undemocratic government' of the college. About 50 students picketed the hearing with placards demanding consultation.

# TV

### BBC 1

9.45 On the Farm. 10.10 Champion the Wonder Horse. 10.25 Parsley. 10.30 Canoe. 10.55 Magic Roundabout. 12.55 Tressarn. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 News, weather. 2.50 Good Sailing. 3.20 The Countryman. 3.45 Working with Youth. 4.10 Parsley. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Boss Cat. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 News, Weather. 6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.50 TOM AND JERRY. 7.00 SPY TRAP. A Visit from

Hamburg, Episode 2. 7.25 TOP OF THE POPS. 8.00 IT'S MURDER BUT IS IT ART? 4: Mr Drake has Visitors. 8.30 THE FRENCH WAY. New Wine and Hard Times. 9.00 NEWS, Weather. 9.20 THE LONG DISTANCE PIANO PLAYER. By Alan Sharp. 10.20 24 HOURS. 11.05 MISTRESS OF HARDWICK. Scenes from an Elizabethan life.

### ITV

12.10 Above the Horizon. 12.30 Stamps. 12.50 Woobinda. 1.15 House and Garden. 1.45 Racing from Newmarket. 2.15 Houseparty. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 2.55 Racing. 3.45 Marcus Welby. 4.40 Nuts and Bones. 4.55 Secret Squirrel. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 TODAY. 6.35 CROSSROADS. 7.00 FILM: 'LEGEND OF THE

LOST'. John Wayne, Sophia Loren, Rossano Brazzi. Search for treasure in remote African city. 9.00 LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR. New comedy series. 9.30 THIS WEEK. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 CINEMA. 11.00 SOMETHING TO SAY. 12.00 THE LAW IS YOURS.



Ray Davies of 'The Kinks' makes his acting debut as 'The Long Distance Piano Player' in tonight's repeat Play for Today on BBC 1. Lois Lane plays his wife.

### REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.45 Racing. 4.05 Yak. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Funny face. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. What's on where. 6.15 Farming. 6.20 Sport. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Diamond Wizard'. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weather. 10.32 Maverick. 11.30 News, Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 10.30 Report. 10.59 News, weather. 11.03 Theatre of stars. 11.55 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 2.05 Katie Stewart. 2.30 London. 3.45 Cartoon. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Sean. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Lionheart. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 Simon Locke. 7.00 Film: 'Gideon of Scotland Yard'. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Drive in. 11.40 Stuart Gillies. 12.20 Weather. Tower hill.

HTV: 1.00 Arthur. 1.20 Phoenix. 1.45 Racing. 3.20 Cook book. 3.50 Dr Simon Locke. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Huckleberry Finn. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the Limit. 7.10 Film: 'To Hell and Back'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Splendour falls. 11.00 Saint. 12.00 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.18 Sport West. HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15 Miri Mawr. 6.01-6.18 Y Dydd.

ANGLIA: 1.45 London. 4.05 News. 4.10 Jimmy Stewart. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Inspector'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Brian Connell. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Avengers.

ATV MIDLANDS: 1.45 Racing. 2.30 News. 3.15 Women. 4.40 Family affair. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 Get this. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the Limit. 7.30 Film: '99 River Street'. 8.50 Popeye. 9.00 London. 11.00 Marcus Welby. ULSTER: 1.45 Racing. 4.00 Yoga. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Tommy. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Dr Simon Locke. 7.30 Film: 'Casanova Brown'. 9.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Avengers.

YORKSHIRE: 1.00 Survival. 1.25 It's fun to be fooled. 1.30 Grasshopper island. 1.45 Racing. 2.15 Cartoon. 2.30 London. 3.40 Ugliest girl in town. 4.10 Calendar. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Lone ranger. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.15 Film: 'If Winter Comes'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive in. 12.00 Weather. GRANADA: 1.45 Racing. 3.55 Camera. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.50

Make a wish. 5.15 London. 6.00 News. Police file. 6.25 I dream of Jeannie. 6.55 Sky's the limit. 7.25 Film: 'McCloud—Fifth Man in a String Quartet'. 8.50 Sylvester. 9.00 London. 11.00 On the line. 11.30 See our next thrilling instalment.

TYNE TEES: 1.15 Bird's eye view. 1.45 Racing. 2.15 Disabled. 2.30 London. 3.40 Ugliest girl in town. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Film: 'Surprise Package'. 8.50 Popeye. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive in. 12.00 News. 12.15 Revolving chair.

SCOTTISH: 1.45 Racing. 3.30 Once upon a time. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Fireball. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Cartoon. 6.25 Stuart Gillies. 6.55 Film: 'The Pink Panther'. 9.00 Short story. 9.30 London. 10.30 Love thy neighbour. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Beagan gaidhlig.

GRAMPIAN: 1.45 Racing. 3.35 News. 3.35 Job Look. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Rumble jumble. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Lesley Blair. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Plus tam. 7.30 Film: 'The Mountain Road'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Viewfinder. 11.30 Golf. 12.00 Epilogue.



Arthur Lowe in his new gear for part 4 of 'It's Murder. But Is It Art?' on BBC 1 tonight.

### BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open University. 6.35 Working with Youth. 7.05 Open University. 7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather. 8.00 SWALLOW YOUR LEADER. Working-class children and members of a commune meet in the country.

8.30 FRANCIS DURBRIDGE PRESENTS. The Passenger. A thriller in three parts—part 2. 9.20 EUROPA. The Total Seduction—Adolf Hitler. 10.50 NEWS, Weather. 10.55 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.



# Vietnam GIs' tarmac mutiny

BY JOHN SPENCER

**SOME American ground troops staged a short-lived mutiny and refused to go out on patrol at the big US military installation of Phu Bai, not far from the front line of N Vietnam's offensive.**

'It's too dangerous . . . we don't know the area . . . this is not a defensive operation . . . the men shouted in an altercation with their colonel on the tarmac of Phu Bai airbase.

The heated argument began as GIs from a unit of ground troops flown to provide security for the base were being assembled into trucks to start patrol.

Some of the men from the 1961 Light Infantry Division told reporters nearby, including television camera crews, they had flatly refused to go.

The arguments grew angrier when Col Fred Mitchell ordered the men into the trucks. Eventually he drove them back to the camp and the group stood in a ring round him for several minutes as the arguments continued.

The convoy was then assembled again, with the colonel apparently winning the day and all the men seemingly on board. The journalists were not allowed near the camp.

Phu Bai is near Hué, which has been under pressure from N Vietnamese troops moving eastwards from the foothills near the Laotian border. The mini-mutiny there sums up the feelings of the remaining US combat troops, who have no stomach left for fighting the war.

Much the same goes for the S Vietnamese soldiers as well. Donald Wise, writing from Saigon in yesterday's 'Daily Mirror' said: 'I saw shaky S Vietnamese soldiers being hit over the head by their officers to keep them going. They were approaching the enemy cautiously to say the least . . .'

Collapse of morale, despite superior equipment and air supremacy, accounts for the failure of the S Vietnamese counter-attack north of Saigon.

Two days ago gung-ho US Maj-Gen Jim Hollingsworth was boasting that his forces had the N Vietnamese on the run:

'We're going to kill 'em all before they can get back to Cambodia where they came from. Our artillery and helicopters have

covered the ground with dead communists.'

But yesterday Reuter's reporter Jose Katigbak cabled from the strategic Highway 13 where the N Vietnamese are advancing towards the capital that the counter-attack 'appeared to be losing momentum'.

Katigbak himself was pinned down on the Highway by heavy

rocket, mortar and machine-gun fire from a N Vietnamese ambush.

The S Vietnamese column is still far short of its declared objective, the town of Loc Ninh, 68 miles from Saigon.

The Saigon regime has thrown its reserves, including cadet troops and the presidential palace guard, into the desperate counter-offensive.

## PILOTS GET BEA SACK THREAT

BRITISH European Airways yesterday warned pilots working-to-rule that they may face the sack.

The airline said that if it could not provide a satisfactory service to customers because of increased pressure by the pilots, then action would be taken to dispense with the services of those pilots not prepared to work normally.

## Referendum vote shows growth of Labour's right wing

BY A POLITICAL REPORTER

THE PARLIAMENTARY Labour Party yesterday opened the floodgates to give the government a handsome majority when the Tories oppose a referendum on the Common Market in the Commons next week.

Edward Heath is absolutely opposed to the referendum because it would mean a decisive defeat of his plan to railroad this country into Europe.

An anti-Market Tory MP, Mr Neil Marten, will propose the referendum amendment during the debate on the European Communities Bill next Tuesday or Wednesday.

Ex-deputy leader of the Labour Party, Roy Jenkins, and a coterie of his right-wing friends have already resigned positions in the Shadow Cabinet so they can vote with the Tories.

But despite the clear intentions of the Jenkinsites, no Labour MP demanded their expulsion at yesterday's PLP.

Nor did MPs demand that a three-line whip be enforced during next week's debate.

A hint of the size of the Labour right-wing revolt could be gauged from the PLP's voting on the referendum question.

The meeting decided by 129 votes to 96 to support Neil Marten's resolution.

Last October 69 Jenkinsites voted with the Tories for entry to the Common Market.



Chairman of the Liverpool shop stewards' committee Jimmy Symes leaving talks on Tuesday with Heaton's container company of St Helens, Lancs. The talks on the Merseyside dockers' blacking of Heaton's lorries broke down and the company yesterday went to the National Industrial Relations Court in London. See page 1.

## Student confusion on pollution

FROM SARAH HANNIGAN IN BIRMINGHAM

DELEGATES at the National Union of Students' conference said their union should 'take membership of the Movement for Survival'.

During the discussion at the Birmingham conference on environment and pollution an amendment was thrown out from Southampton and Reading Universities stating that deterioration in the environment is primarily a class issue.

Instead, delegates passed an amendment which instructed the executive to 'press for a government inquiry into patterns of employment and an alternative employment policy aimed at reducing needless production'.

This was part of an amendment proposed by Imperial College, London, which also gave full support to the 'basic principle' embodied in the reactionary 'Blueprint For Survival'.

Other amendments passed blamed damage to the environment on over-population and urged 'all governments' to give encouragement to anybody attempting to combat the over-expansion of population'.

Brian Prangle from Southampton University condemned the final resolution and urged delegates to throw it out.

'What this motion seems to say is that if capitalism is cleaned up we can leave it there to go on exploiting workers', he said.

'Our only objection to the capitalist system seems to be that it is dirty. This resolution doesn't talk about lead poisoning in workers' bodies from the conditions they have to work in, it doesn't talk about coal dust in miners' lungs or asbestos dust which kills off workers.'

'Pollution', he added, 'is a class question. It is not the fault of the working class—it is the fault of capitalism.'

## £1,250 APRIL FUND STANDS AT £264.78

THE EYES of trade unionists everywhere are, at the time of writing, focused on the decision being taken in the courts against the T&GWU.

Workers Press has always been in the forefront of the struggle against the anti-union laws. Our efforts must now be increased to force this government to resign.

Put all your support behind our paper. Go all out immediately and raise as much as possible for our Appeal Fund this month. Post every donation immediately to:

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

## LATE NEWS

NEWS DESK  
01-720 2000  
CIRCULATION  
01-622 7029

**RAIL ACTION:** The footplate-men's union, ASLEF, has asked the other rail unions to join them in a work-to-rule, overtime ban and non-co-operation policy from midnight on Sunday following the breakdown in pay negotiations with British Rail. Already Southern and Eastern Region go-slow action has created havoc with London's rush-hour traffic.

OCCASIONAL light rain on parts of the E coast will soon clear and most districts will have a mainly dry day with bright periods. Rain, however, is likely to spread to most W districts during the evening.

Temperatures will be near the mid-April normal.

**Outlook for Friday and Saturday:** Rain at times but becoming mainly dry in the SE with sunny periods. Temperatures normal and becoming rather warm in the S.

Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists

## MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION

Sunday May 7

ASSEMBLE: 1.30 p.m. The Embankment, Charing Cross

MARCH: via Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly, Regent Street, Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road, Euston Road

MEETING: 4 p.m. St Pancras Town Hall.

WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO WORK

MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!