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FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN GLASGOW

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**workers press exclusive**

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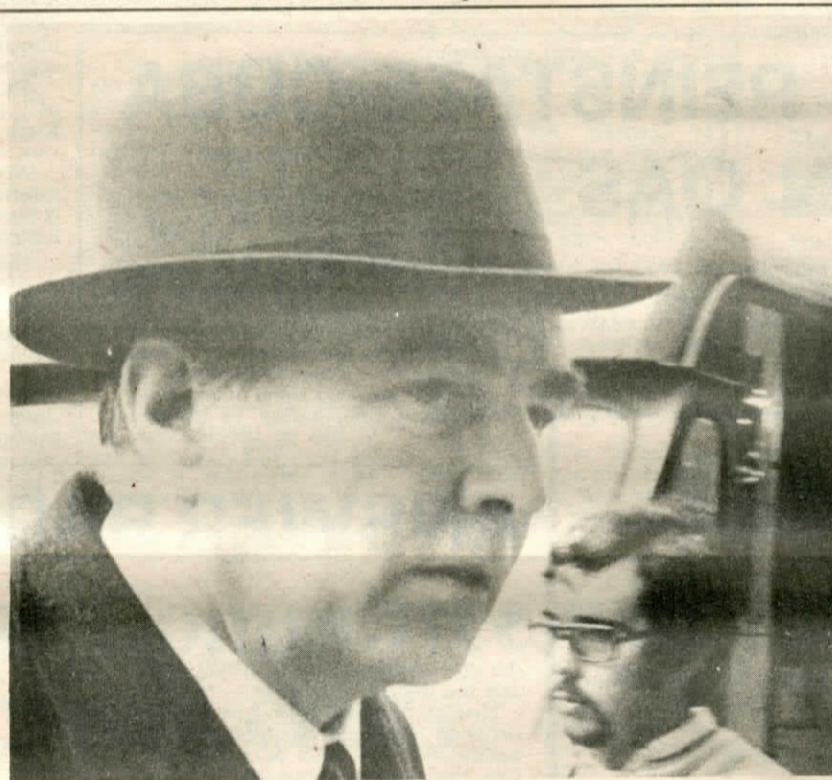
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This mounting tension between the class forces exposes the bankruptcy of reformism and Stalinism. Right up to this late hour they fight resolutely against every proposal of the Socialist Labour League to mobilize the industrial and political strength of the working class to create the conditions which will make the Tory government resign.

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**SHEPPERTON: To be or not to be?**  
See centre pages



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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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## Rolls men delay strike

A DANGEROUS element of delay has been introduced in the struggle for better wages at the Rolls-Royce factory at E Kilbride.

Notice of strike expired yesterday and the 1,400 employees were due to walk out. But convenor of shop stewards, Alastair McCullough, said the strike would be postponed for a week because of further talks with management.

McCullough added: 'The works committee will re-tender the strike notice at 9 o'clock on Monday morning. This notice will take effect from normal stopping time next Friday.'

Last week the Rolls-Royce men rejected a management attempt to introduce Measured-Day Work.

McCullough said: 'We have been told by management it is Measured-Day Working—take it or leave it.'

'It is blatant blackmail', he said, 'and we can react only one way and that is counter blackmail. It does not bode well for Rolls-Royce of Scotland if this is the pattern.'

Rolls-Royce three other Scottish factories—at Hillington, Blantyre and a smaller one at E Kilbride—recently agreed to accept MDW.

## Airport engineers out for a day

BRITAIN'S two main airlines, BOAC and BEA, will be hit by a one-day strike of engineering and maintenance workers at Heathrow airport on April 28.

Also joining the strike will be stewards and stewardess members of the Transport and General Workers' Union. The 5,000 BOAC and BEA workers decided on the strike action almost unanimously at a mass meeting called to discuss their 15-per-cent wage claim.

Apart from more pay the workers also want higher shift-work premiums and longer holidays.

Officials of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the T&GWU called the strike after rejecting a £1-a-week cost-of-living rise.

Mark Young, national officer of the electricians' union told the meeting:

'We are infinitely worse off than most other airlines in the world.'

'BEA captains can actually have the luxury of turning down £17 a week and yet the corporations offer us just £1.'

On Thursday British Caledonian Airways' and BEA Air-tours' workers at Gatwick pledged their unanimous support for the BEA and BOAC men.

# Scanlon piles on excuses for abandoning national claim

FROM PHILIP WADE IN LIVERPOOL

**HUGH SCANLON**, president of the AUEW, has once again tried to cover up his abject capitulation both to the employers and the Tories over the engineers' wage claim.

Almost his entire speech to over 400 shop stewards from the Manchester area in Salford on Thursday night was spent defending the decision to abandon the national claim in favour of plant bargaining.

Coming straight from the York meeting of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions Scanlon offered no perspective for a fight either to the workers involved in the Manchester sit-ins, strikes and lock-outs or the rest of the union's 1.5 million members.

One after another, the excuses were piled up for the ending of the national claim.

'It is our view that the purpose of national negotiations is to form a skeleton for the shop stewards to put as much meat on as possible,' he told the meeting.

'There has been a growing demand for more power at shop-floor level which is a recognition that the real conflict is in the end borne by the shop stewards,' said Scanlon.

He revealed that discussions with the Engineering Employers' Federation had broken down not for want of concessions by the AUEW leaders.

For during the second round of talks, the employers had asked for the negotiations to go 'off the record'.

'We agreed and I can now tell you what happened. The employers asked us if we were serious on all aspects of the claim and if there was a basis at all for agreement at national level.'

'We told them we were prepared not to abandon, but to defer discussion on all the questions except those of rates and holidays.'

The admission that he was prepared to leave out the question of the 35-hour week provoked one demand from a shop steward that the issue should be included in any future national negotiations. Scanlon told him he could give no categorical assurance on the matter.

What other reasons did



Scanlon put forward for abandoning the claim?

'In the case of the miners and the railwaymen the public is absolutely inconvenienced by action. But in the case of the engineers much more damage is done to the economy but the public is little inconvenienced.'

He said the employers were probably trying to provoke a strike in a situation where the economy was weak and the conditions therefore favourable to them.

The engineers' leader also warned the shop stewards that money for strike pay was limited because of the steps the union had taken to protect its funds from the possible effects of the Industrial Relations Act.

'Faced with the intransigence of the EEF, we discussed the situation within the unions and we finally came down to a simple conclusion.'

'If after all our efforts we were refused we had to say that the EEF was no longer a reasonable body with which to negotiate. Those who say it was a retreat are wrong given

the things that have pushed us along this road.

'We have rejected the EEF and come back to you. And we have gone further by saying that when you take on an employer it will receive official backing,' said Scanlon.

The dispute had to be widened into three other areas and members had to support financially those involved in disputes over the claim.

The sooner it spread nationally, he said, the quicker it would be to get round the table and make a settlement on a national basis.

After the meeting he told reporters that circulars would be going out to the areas asking districts to select a factory or factories where the claim could be pursued.

Asked directly by Workers Press if he thought the decision to abandon the national claim was a retreat in face of the Tory government he said:

'I have never thought it was other than the correct decision in the circumstances. The proof of it is here in Manchester.'

AUEW President Hugh Scanlon answering questions at a meeting in the union's Salford, Lancs, headquarters on Wednesday night. With him is AUEW divisional organizer John Tocher. See p.10 for news of Scanlon's other activities.

## Grants threat by Lancaster vice-Chancellor

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THE ADMINISTRATION at Lancaster university has threatened striking students that they will be reported to local authorities and have their grants taken away.

The threat is made in a circular sent by vice-Chancellor Charles Carter to the 2,600 student body.

The Lancaster campus has been in turmoil for several months because of the victimization of several members of staff. English lecturer David Craig is under suspension and charged with 'incitement' and two other lecturers will not have their contracts renewed later this year.

In support of the staff, the students have been occupying campus buildings.

In his letter Carter says: 'We shall have to ask all those required to register at the beginning of next term to confirm their undertaking to observe the rules which include the requirement to observe the charter and statutes as well as rules about attendance.'

'This must be done before any grant cheque is claimed. If, therefore, any student breaks the understanding by joining in a deliberate boycott we must, in addition to action called for under the university rules, report the facts to the grant-giving authority. This could result in action to recover part of the term's grant.'

In a cynical jibe at the militants at the university, Carter remarks: 'It is, of course, a normal consequence of a "strike" that "pay" ceases.'

The new binding contracts will come into force from the start of term on April 24.

Delegates at the National Union of Students' conference in Birmingham yesterday voted for their executive to work with the Association of University Teachers, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, the Council for Academic Freedom and the National Council for Civil Liberties to run a nationwide campaign against the attempted dismissal of Dr Craig.

# AUEW National Committee will face major pay crisis

IF UNION leaders are disappointed with the first three months of plant bargaining on the engineers' pay claim, they have only their own policies of retreat and class-collaboration to blame.

Their call for pressure now to be stepped up on employers at local level is a further pathetic attempt to avoid their responsibilities.

AUEW president Hugh Scanlon arrived in Manchester on Thursday night hot-foot from the executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

'We decided to ask everyone to follow your example,' he told a meeting of shop stewards, 20,000 of whose members are already in action on the claim.

He said: assuming anyone listens to us we may succeed in forcing the Engineering Employers' Federation back to the negotiating table at national level.

Nowhere in his speech is there the slightest apology for the confusion and dangers to which Britain's 2.8 million engineering workers have been laid open by the abandonment of the national claim in January.

Yet the results of that decision—taken in the light of a claim by Scanlon that for the unions to take on the Tory government united was not 'realistic'—are only beginning to be seen.

Had the engineers not been stopped from fighting alongside the miners, the defeat inflicted on the Tories would have been permanent.

Their own claim would have been won. The Transport and General Workers' Union would not face a £5,000 fine. The government would be in no position to resist the railwaymen's pay claim.

With the railwaymen now on the brink of an all-out clash with the Tory government, the CSEU's Thursday decision is totally inadequate.

Needless to say it got a terrific boost in yesterday's

BY DAVID MAUDE

'Morning Star', the disreputable organ of the totally misnamed Communist Party. 'Scanlon's dash with the big news' was its headline.

And 'Star' writer Jim Arnison, in a feature on the Manchester sit-ins, invented the fantastic theory that the employers' hard line may prove 'in the long term...damaging to their own interests'.

Like Scanlon, Arnison would like to abolish the class struggle. Tory Chancellor Anthony Barber unfortunately doesn't see things quite the same way.

What is needed at next week's key National Committee of Scanlon's Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is not more 'pressure' in the area, but the complete reversal of January's decision to abandon the claim.

The railwaymen must not stand alone.



# TEACHERS' BLACKPOOL ROUNDABOUT

The recent annual conference of the National Union of Teachers served to reveal the dangers and abject weaknesses of the leadership. In this first article Croydon delegate DAVID FINCH explains the role of the International Socialists group and its 'Rank and File' faction. On Monday Reading delegate Peter Read will examine the Communist Party's manoeuvres inside the union.

**Tory government attacks on the trade union movement have resulted in a marked swing to the right by the Communist Party and the International Socialist-dominated 'Rank-and-File' group in the National Union of Teachers.**

At the Easter 1971 conference the Communist Party was responsible for a policy of retreat on salaries and on the Industrial Relations Act (then a Bill). But from time to time they made a few militant noises.

This year there were not even militant noises. Instead there was a complete unanimity between CP members on the Executive and the right wing.

At the 1971 conference the 'Rank-and-File' group covered up for the CP (see Workers Press June 18, 1971). This year they showed an even more marked tendency to capitulate to the CP and the right wing. It is of importance, not only to teachers, to sketch what happened at this year's conference.

## Salaries

In 1970 and 1971 the NUT's policy (in theory) was to fight for a basic scale for all teachers, with additional payments for positions of responsibility.

At last year's conference a motion reiterating this policy was put by Executive member Max Morris who leads the CP faction, and this was carried in the face of right-wing opposition. But this was a policy in theory only. For at the same conference Morris and the CP, with the aid of 'Rank and File', enabled the right wing to carry four other contradictory salary motions designed to pave the way to arbitration.

This led in August 1971 to a government-inspired management-dictated scheme introducing a complex salary structure in place of the existing basic scale. This scheme, with its five scales having over 3,000 possible positions, has since acted as a divisive weapon in the profession.

This new salary structure was introduced without a single demonstration or stoppage being called by the NUT executive.

It did call a special salaries conference in November where it formulated the demand for a flat-rate £250-a-year increase. There has been absolutely no campaign or struggle to achieve this demand, in spite of the fact that the maximum offer made by the management has been only 7 per cent.

This figure was rejected by the union negotiators, but with some hints that a percentage increase might after all be considered, provided that it was a little higher. The issue has now gone to an arbitration committee which will meet later this month.

This was the background to this year's debate. A touching unanimity prevailed between the CP and the right wing on the executive in their document on salaries. In effect, this accepted the management-imposed salaries structure, with modifications to give higher and simplified scales. The policy of an improved simple basic scale—a motion moved by Max Morris in 1971 which also called for industrial action—was abandoned by the CP without a shot being fired.

'Rank and File' speakers opposed the executive salaries memorandum presented to the Blackpool Conference. Fred Scott, a leading member, moving the reference back. However, Morris for the executive, quoted Scott arguing in his journal 'Rank and File' that it was not possible to revert to the original policy of a basic scale, but rather to reduce the number of scales from five to four.

Scott's greatest weakness, which flowed from the whole attitude of 'Rank and File', was that he posed his scales against the executives rather than tackle the central question—what strategy does the NUT require to win any real improvement in teachers' salaries?

Earlier that week, at a 'Rank and File' sponsored meeting, I had suggested that Scott's conference speech should expose the role of the government in current and future negotiations and should outline the need for a strategy of struggle against the government and the employers, to involve NUT members and to gain the support of other groups of workers, as the miners had done.

## Industrial Relations Act

In discussion Scott agreed to this line. But in the salaries debate he and his seconder did not once refer to the government, to the executive's failure to mobilize the membership, or to the fact that the executive's memorandum contained no strategy even to win its own limited proposals.



Education Secretary, Thatcher; the motion against her visit got about 30 per cent of the votes

Scott instead stuck out his chin for Morris to hit, and Morris obliged, thus discrediting 'Rank and File' and, in the process, strengthening Morris's position with the delegates who were dissatisfied with his role.

CP and 'Rank and File' 'policy' became even clearer in the industrial relations debate.

The executive submitted a memorandum titled 'Registration under the Industrial Relations Act'. This document had been unanimously agreed by the executive, yet nowhere in it is there one phrase which states that the union is opposed to the Act.

It contains phrases such as '... the matter (of registration) might have to be re-examined ...' (p.10) '... the matter might have to be reviewed' (p.8) '... if at some future time the circumstances change, further consideration might have to be given ...' (p.8) and so on.

In short, the memorandum is the result of an unprincipled combination of the CP and right-wing executive members to reach unanimous agreement.

There were a number of proposed amendments to this memorandum. The first, which I had tabled, was to refer back the memorandum 'because it is not unambiguously opposed to the Industrial Relations Act'. Members of the 'Rank and File' had unsuccessfully pressed me to withdraw this amendment. They made it quite clear that they were opposed politically to its line. They wanted to move the Hackney amendment asking for the deletion of the words 'at the present' from the concluding sentence of the memorandum: 'The executive therefore recommends to conference that the NUT should not seek registration under the Industrial Relations Act at the present time.'

Two other amendments need mentioning, in view of what happened: a motion from Greenwich which stated that there should be no alteration in the executive policy 'without reference to conference' and an

amendment in the name of Wandsworth, to be moved by 'Rank and File' members, to add to the memorandum 'and shall accept the Trades Union Congress call not to co-operate in any way in the implementation of the Act.'

And what happened?—Abject capitulation by 'Rank and File' delegates. My reference back amendment was ruled out of order by the President with the obvious support and approval of 'Rank and File'.

There was then no obstacle to their moving their amendment to delete 'at the present time'. Instead, conference was informed that this amendment together with the Wandsworth amendment, had been withdrawn.

They had done a deal with the executive in which they withdrew their amendments on the assurance that the executive would accept the Greenwich amendment calling for a conference before alteration to executive policy. This is a valueless concession because the executive would hardly dare to register without a special conference anyway.

Workers Press of April 6 was mistaken in reporting that the Hackney amendment was withdrawn in a manoeuvre to permit the Wandsworth amendment to be taken. In fact the Wandsworth amendment was also withdrawn in the shameful horse-trading that occurred.

History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, then as a farce! At the 1971 conference the CP withdrew an amendment demanding opposition to the Industrial Relations Bill and opposition to registration; in 1972 'Rank and File' withdrew similar amendments, again preventing conference from defeating the right wing over the Industrial Relations Act!

Their final treachery in this debate was unsuccessfully to try to prevent me from speaking against the executive and its memorandum by a procedural manoeuvre.

## The Thatcher visit

At a meeting of delegates on Sunday April 2 it was agreed, despite some opposition from the 'Rank and File' group, that an attempt be made to suspend standing orders in order to debate a motion opposing the visit of Education Secretary Margaret Thatcher, because 'she represents a government which is opposed to our union and its policies'. It was agreed that I should move this on Monday afternoon of the conference.

On the Monday morning Eric Peagam, a leading 'Rank and File' member made a hash of a motion asking for the suspension of standing orders in order to provide a debate on the Industrial Court threat to the T&GWU. Incredibly, Peagam managed to antagonise conference on this subject by not speaking to the terms of the motion.

In this hostile atmosphere, and immediately after the discomfiture of Peagam, four 'Rank and File' supporters came to me one after the other, asking me not to press the motion against the Thatcher visit because, they said, 'conference is now hostile to the left'.

Of course, it was not necessary to retreat. The Thatcher motion, although not carried, received about 30 per cent of conference votes and shifted the mood of conference against the executive.

Later that afternoon the executive was heckled and on one issue, albeit a minor one, they were defeated.

The evolution of the 'Rank and File' group over the year has been to the right. Their opportunism and retreat at the 1972 conference were viewed with abhorrence by some of their erstwhile supporters—those who do want to fight.



# KREMLIN'S FRIEND NUMEIRY SHOT CP LEADERS

Part two of a three part series by John Spencer on Stalinism and the Numeiry regime in Sudan.

**The Soviet Stalinists were not alone in their support for President Numeiry. They faced stiff competition from the Chinese Communist Party leaders, to whom Numeiry paid a special visit in August 1970.**

The joint statement issued at the end of the visit said: 'The Sudanese revolution's policy of strengthening relations with the socialist states has been embodied in our recognition of E Germany, N Vietnam and China . . . and in chairman Numeiry's visits to the Soviet Union and the European socialist states.'

'The visit to China comes as a natural extension of this activity and a reaffirmation of the revolution's loyalty to its principles.'

From that day to this, the Peking leaders have not wavered in their backing for the Numeiry dictatorship, despite the wholesale butchery of communists and trade unionists.

## DESPERATION

The coup d'etat which briefly toppled Numeiry on July 19 last year was an act of desperation by the more radical wing of the Communist Party and left-wing officers.

They faced a situation in which the Soviet Union and China were both backing a regime which had arrested their leaders, purged their cadres from the armed forces and was threatening to destroy them physically.

Their coup was carried out without the knowledge or approval of the Kremlin, which later bitterly attacked them for 'sectarianism' in attacking Numeiry.

The Moscow leaders-supported those CP members who had taken seats in the Numeiry cabinet and collaborated with the regime in disciplining the trade unions and preparing the Federation with Egypt, Libya and Syria.

Numeiry was overthrown on July 19 in a bloodless 20-minute coup. Government ministers, including CP member Mauwiya Ibrahim, were placed under arrest.

Ibrahim was in charge of the Ministry of Labour, responsible for administering the decree of May 26, 1969, which prescribed the death penalty for strikers.

The coup leaders denounced Numeiry for having 'brandished a sword of terrorism over the heads of the people'. There were popular demonstrations of support in the streets of Khartoum.

The Soviet Stalinists did not share this view, as their journal 'New Times' made clear. It tried to defend the Numeiry regime, saying the president had achieved 'much in the way of economic and social reforms'.

The ousting of Numeiry was short-lived. His allies in Libya

and Egypt sprang immediately to his assistance. Lt-Col El-Nur was on a British airliner returning from London to Khartoum when the plane was forced down at Benghazi airport and he was taken into custody by the Libyans.

They handed him back to Numeiry who began the bloody 'restoration of order' in the Sudan. The restoration followed a high-level conference in Cairo between Egyptian and Libyan chiefs . . . and Soviet ambassador Vladimir Vinogradov.

Numeiry went on the radio to call on 'everyone and every member of the armed forces' to stand alongside his government and 'against every accursed renegade belonging to the Communist Party and arrest him or report him to the nearest police station'.

Mohamed Idris, Minister for Economic Affairs, described the communists as 'traitors and outlaws'. The regime's firing squads went into action without delay. Their victims included the coup's military leaders, including Maj Hashim al-Ata, Col El-Nur and Major Hammadallah.

They were shot without trial. The Communist Party and trade union chiefs were given summary treatment by court-martial—and hanged. Thus died Shafie el-Shiekh, general secretary of the Sudan TUC and a Lenin Prize-winner, Joseph Garang, Minister for Southern Affairs and one of the CP members who had stayed in the cabinet to the end, and Abdel Khaled Mahgoub, the Party's general secretary.

Mahgoub conducted himself with great heroism at his farcical trial. Given only one hour to prepare his defence, he told court president Colonel Ahmed el-Hassan:

'You are well-known to be one of the Arab nationalists in conflict with the progressive forces of this country. I have nothing against you personally, but I think you are not suitable to judge me.'

Mahgoub denied having taken part in the coup preparations, but the verdict was a foregone conclusion.

The Soviet government made no immediate protest itself over the Sudan butchery. It left that task to the Sudan trade unions, which duly registered their disapproval of the execution of Shafie el-Sheikh.

The official Tass news agency issued a statement only ten days after the coup hoping 'national unity' would be restored.

It piously called on the Sudan regime to 'find the strength to return to the road of consolidating the unity of all patriotic forces'—i.e. the unity of victim and executioner!

Numeiry, displeased by the mild Soviet protests, asked the Soviet and Bulgarian ambassadors to pack their bags. The Soviet leaders were piqued by



Top: Numeiry confronting Mahgoub with evidence of guilt. Above: Communist under arrest

this unforeseen move into condemning the 'lawlessness' of the Sudan regime, which they said was 'being exploited by imperialist and reactionary forces against the interests of the Sudanese people.'

The Stalinists' real attitude was well illustrated when the Czech authorities flushed out 60 Sudanese students who had occupied the Sudanese embassy in Prague against Numeiry.

As for the British Stalinists, the coup finally jolted them into ~~belated and half-hearted protest~~—but they pointedly avoided criticizing the Kremlin's consistent backing for Numeiry and the collaborationist policy of the Sudan CP.

## DELEGATION

Yet Gollan, the British CP leader, had attended the 25th CP congress in Moscow four months previously, where Numeiry's Revolutionary Command Council was represented by a fraternal delegation!

The Hungarian Stalinists were indignant at the ingratitude of Numeiry: 'Few Arab politicians enjoyed such a good press as General Numeiry had in the socialist world and therein in Hungary,' Radio Budapest complained.

The Chinese Stalinists were less hypocritical than their Soviet counterparts. They didn't stop to weep any crocodile tears for the victims of the Sudan counter-revolution.

New China News Agency simply reported that the President had crushed a 'coup clique'.

In return, Numeiry lavished some thanks on Peking:

'The excellent relations linking our two governments and people will continue to strengthen thanks to our mutual understanding [sic] and co-operation and our joint struggle for the dignity of mankind against aggression.' (Telegram to chairman Mao, July 29.)

With this competition, it could not be long before the Soviet leaders fell into line. An imperialist observer, Brian Crozier,

wrote in the 'Sunday Telegraph' on August 4 that:

'If General Numeiry, restored to power after the communist coup that briefly unseated him on July 19 and having removed the leading Sudanese communists from this world, wants business with Moscow to continue as usual, any tears still lingering in Russian eyes will be swiftly brushed away.'

His cynical prediction proved only too accurate.

CONTINUED ON MONDAY

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# SHEPPERTON: TO BE OR NOT TO BE

Tomorrow the Federation of Film Unions has summoned a mass meeting at the Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus, to launch a fight against the threatened closure of Shepperton Studios. The major union participating, the Association of Cinematographic and Television Technicians (ACTT), has a policy, endorsed by the TUC at Blackpool last year, which calls for the nationalization

of the film industry without compensation and under workers' control. The other unions participating will be Equity, the actors' union, the musicians' union, the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, EPTU, the electricians' union, NATKE and the Film Artists' Association. In this article film critic TIM HORROCKS outlines some of the history of management's profiteering at the studio.

Shepperton Studios have a colourful history. The original Manor of Littleton, the site of the studio, was a monastery for the Westminster monks throughout the eighth and ninth centuries. It was sold to a certain Robert de Winton in 1209 for a pound of pepper. Its present value to a property developer is something in excess of that—probably more like £10m.

The prize land, in the heart of Middlesex, has attracted the attention of Jim Slater, the country's leading property man. He has been increasing his stake in the studio's controlling company, British Lion.

No one in the City of London seriously believes that Slater has suddenly been motivated to become a patron of British culture. His conglomerate, Slater Walker Securities, is Britain's fastest-growing financial house with tentacles in just about every industry you think of. Until he was made Edward Heath's Minister for the Environment, the other partner in this high-flying partnership was Peter Walker, the ex-insurance salesman who became a millionaire by 35.

To the Walkers of this world, Shepperton is simply a prime piece of real estate. It lies outside the green belt—which makes it lucratively placed for residential or light industrial development—and has a 60-acre open park studio lot.

British Lion chairman Lord Goodman modestly puts the value of the land at £6m and only this week the board attempted to scotch rumours of a land grab. Goodman, lawyer to everyone from Harold Wilson to Sydney Bernstein to Sir Max Aitken, is the architect of the Tory sell-out on Rhodesia.

The ubiquitous peer is also chairman of the 'Observer' newspaper, chairman of the News-

paper Publishers' Association, which last year locked-out thousands of Fleet St print workers, and ex-chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain.

The threat of hiving off to the property developers is not new. It has been hanging over the studios since 1954. But this is only part of Shepperton's history which, since the war, has been a good deal more bizarre than when the Westminster monks were in residence.

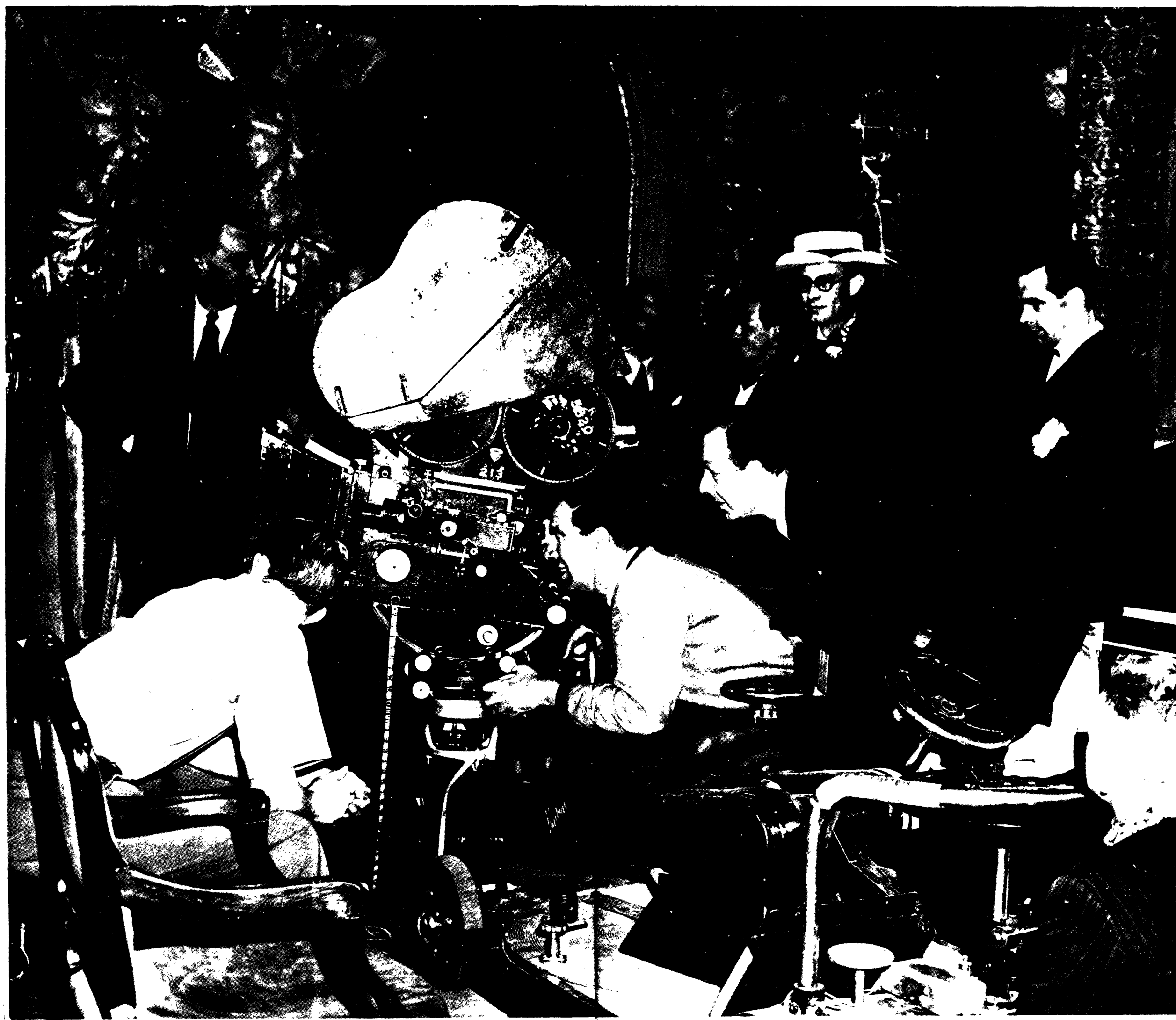
The Manor of Littleton was first used for films around 1928 by Norman Loudon, who made the early Flicker films there. The first actual feature, 'Doss House', was made in 1933, and 1934 brought the first big hit, 'Sanders of the River'.

In those days the enterprise was known as Sound City Films. In 1946 British Lion acquired the controlling interest, and, in the subsequent years under Alexander Korda's direction, proceeded to lose approximately £41m. This same period saw the closure of the Rank Studios at Denham, and massive lay-offs in the industry generally, totalling 1,500 in the last half of 1949 alone.

On instructions from the Treasury and the Board of Trade, the National Film Finance Corporation loaned £3m to British Lion, but eventually the situation became so bad that in 1954 the NFFC took over British Lion's interests and formed a new company which, though continuing to run the studios, would not itself produce films.

Shepperton was and is a 'letting' studio, that is a studio not controlled by any of the distribution or exhibition companies. It is thus subject to every fluctuation in the industry, being dependent on producers who have no guaranteed outlet for their films.

The NFFC wrote off the £3m debt in exchange for the controlling interest in the new company (600,000 shares at £1



each). They provided an additional injection of £569,000 for modernizations.

Two points come out of all this. First, the rickety financial state of the NFFC throughout the 1950s and 1960s was caused almost entirely by this £3m write-off and the interest accumulated on it in terms of debt to the city. This burden was

only lifted from the NFFC in the Labour government's 1970 Films Act. Thus, while keeping Shepperton open was an 'encouragement' to the independent British film industry, this burden on NFFC prevented the 'encouragement' being effective, especially given the massive influx of American money up to the early 1960s—an altogether more significant and profitable source of business for Shepperton.

Secondly, though the management declared the expansion of Shepperton to be a means of replacing studio space lost by the closures at Isleworth, the actual rationale turned out to be quite different, as will be seen later.

Even in 1954 there had been the strong possibility of Shepperton being turned either into a housing estate or an aircraft factory. In 1958, when the enlarged studios with their seven sound stages (including the largest in the world), were opened, the Tory government tried to get rid of the NFFC's controlling interest and hive the whole thing off to private enterprise. In this they were unsuccessful and were to remain so until 1964, when three merchant bankers, fronted by the film industry's Sir Michael Balcon,

2001: was begun at Shepperton but completed at MGM studios



Films made at Shepperton: Left, the shooting of 'The Colditz Story' in the Shepperton studios. Top to bottom: Olivier in 'Richard III'; Lawrence Harvey and Heather Sears in 'Room at the Top'; Edward G. Robinson in 'Sammy Going South'; Ian Bannen in 'Macbeth'; Dirk Bogarde in 'King and Country'.



ing Sunday's meeting at the Criterion.

The Shepperton issue cannot be separated from the whole of Tory policy. Entry into the Common Market will affect NFFC, Eady money, the British quota (which guarantees that of the total number of films released per year, a fixed percentage will be British made), employment, wages, conditions, and indeed every right the unions have won through organization in trade unions, quite fundamentally and destructively.

This is entirely in line with Rank-EMI policy, which is linking cinema development with property development as flats, offices and shops (beginning with the Kings Road next year). In fact multiple cinemas are leading not to an increase in the number of films required for distribution, but to a 25 per cent decrease.

American money will continue to go where the profitable grass is greenest, as will that of the monopoly capitalists in this country—into property and into Europe.

There can therefore be no fight for the future of Shepperton without the fight to remove this Tory government from office.

several large discotheques) with British Lion.

Earlier in the year neither side admitted any intention of closing Shepperton. The Eckarts said: 'Our policy is to make the most profitable use of the facilities in British Lion in order to produce films of wide box office appeal.'

On February 19 they stated definitely that Shepperton would be kept open.

It seemed at that stage their main interest in the merger was in the money to be made from selling British Lion's film library to television. British Lion was ostensibly interested in the distribution outlets afforded by the 107 cinemas, and very much in a £91m merger with a company whose other interests have raked in £11m in profit in 1971.

Goodman, commenting on the merger, stated: 'If there had been [a whisper of breaking up Shepperton] we would not have played'.

In this context it is very difficult to see how the project for hiving off Shepperton to property developers can have come from any other source but the Slater Walker group. Though not directly represented on the board, they have acquired interests in British Lion sizeable

the American no longer wants to finance films made in Britain) the present spring, a time when normally business is picking up and set building is proceeding apace on most of the stages, sees only one major project, 'Alice in Wonderland', in preparation, and one low budget horror film in the dubbing studios. (These are reputed to be the best studios in the world especially for stereo, and winners of three Oscars.)

The recession in the film industry and the fundamental crisis of international capitalism as a whole following Nixon's August 15 measures are, it seems, nothing to do with it. If the unions would accept a massive unemployment level and low wages as well, the Shepperton crisis would be solved! This is, at any rate, Sydney Gilliat's idea.

The Board of Directors as a whole had other ideas, however. First was to merge with Pearl & Dean in 1969. Due to disastrous dealings in Thailand by Pearl & Dean, this merger proved more of a liability than an asset for British Lion.

Since then the Eckart brothers based in Leeds have started the merger of their enterprise Star Associated Holdings (which owns 107 cinemas, 150 bingo halls and

of duty in order to safeguard to some degree the ever-decreasing number of jobs available.

But even as early as 1964, 110 technicians were laid off at Shepperton.

If under the management of Kingsley from 1958-1964, Shepperton was 'improved' financially sufficiently to interest the three merchant bankers who backed Balcon, it was at a price—big lay-offs, increased casualization of employment, and a 66 per cent (!) increase in productivity.

In 1964 £1.6m was lent to Shepperton by the merchant bankers. Some of the former directors had been handsomely paid off in tax-free tens of thousands, but either remained on the board or returned to it soon afterwards. Until 1969 Shepperton increased its profit margin yearly (though this margin was never a particularly significant fraction of the total turnover), but in 1970 the withdrawal of American money began to take its effect and disaster quickly followed.

Since then, things have gone from bad to worse. After a catastrophic 1971 (blamed by director Sydney Gilliat on the militancy of the unions as the main reason why

took over the British Lion holdings. But back in 1958 the Utopian dream of an independent British film industry was being used as a smokescreen to hide the real facts of the crisis.

The enlarged studios opened in the middle of a euphoria based on the idea that the key word 'independent' meant independence from the crisis in the film industry internationally. Sydney Gilliat, opening the studios, said: 'For those with faith in the cinema as a medium and a belief in the importance of Britain's contribution to it, Tuesday September 23 (1958) is a day of reaffirmation.' This statement came barely a week after a disaster report from Rank's studios at Pinewood.

A typical management statement of the period 1958-1964 was: 'My ideal of studio management is that we should all behave as much as possible like the managers of a Swiss hotel.' (Douglas Collins, Chairman of the British Lion Studio Co.)

The fact is that the increasing casualization of the industry, with its attendant insecurity of employment, the massive lay-offs and closures, were forcing the unions to rigidly enforce rules on closed shop and demarcation

# PERON BIDS FOR POWER AGAIN

Part 4 on Argentina by our Foreign Correspondent

The Argentine regime of Alejandro Lanusse is faced by two prospects—either a military coup or an alliance with the exiled Peron.

President Nixon's August 15 measures mean the US is demanding Lanusse carry out policies favourable to American investment. At the same time it encourages the spread of the power of the Brazilian dictatorship in Latin America to the detriment of Argentine influence. Argentina's overseas debt stands at some \$750m. Two devaluations of the peso in the last four months have knocked the currency by almost 20 per cent. This depreciation has been accompanied by a growth of unemployment and massive price increases, and by enormous flows of capital out of the country.

The Argentine working class has been forced to bear the brunt of the economic crisis and has reacted with militant strike struggles, despite the collaborationist bureaucracy of Peronistas which still heads the trade union movement.

This militancy was expressed in a wave of strikes in the car industry last year in the Citroen, Peugeot, Fiat and Chrysler factories. These reached a peak in the major Fiat plant in the outskirts of Cordoba, 750 kilometres from Buenos Aires.

Fiat tried to solve the problem by sacking strike leaders and getting the government to outlaw the plant's two most militant unions, Sitrac and Sitram. However, the two unions have continued to work clandestinely and have forced the CGT to give a certain amount of protection.

The huge potential of the working-class threat to imperialism emerged again in a two-day General Strike which the CGT bureaucracy were forced to call at the beginning of March against the government's anti-working policies.

## The working class response was enthusiastic

Although the strike was immediately declared illegal and the army prepared to defend 'freedom of labour', the working-class response was enthusiastic.

Printworkers backed the strike, and the only two papers which did appear in a limited edition, 'La Prensa' and 'La Nacion', were not distributed. Neither was the army able to stop crowds of strikers and pickets from attacking blacklegs and trying to bring bank employees out—their union would not support the strike.

The militant Cordoba car-workers and engineers, who had led at least 12 major strikes in 1971, came out solidly despite the armoured cars which patrolled the streets. At the regional CGT plenary, syndicalist militants opposed the compromise between CGT secretary José Rucci and Lanusse—Rucci saw the strike as a method of letting off steam in the working class rather than the beginning of the start of a challenge to the Lanusse government.

The Cordoban militants demanded 'an action programme and an open struggle which would give meaning to the strike.'

Threatened by the working-class, Lanusse and company had to look to Madrid where Juan Peron is living in comfortable exile in the residential area of Puerto de Hierro. Since the beginning of the year the airlines between Buenos Aires and Madrid have been full of diplomatic pro-Peron passengers working towards a 'national agreement'. The telephone lines have also been over-taxed.

Already Lanusse had declared at a press conference in Paraguay: 'It's not up to me now. It's up to Juan Peron. I'm not deaf, but until now I've not heard anything.'

In the annual CGT message to the country Rucci declared: 'They are trying to compromise what can never be compromised; the free, unrestricted candidature of the natural representatives of the people...'

For its part, the right-wing English language spokesman for foreign interests, 'The Review of the River Plate', has revealed a powerful group within the Foreign Ministry for giving Peron his Argentine passport back.

## The need for a civic front for national liberation

Peron himself has declared the need for a civic front for national liberation, a regroupment with Peronista forces of all 'democratic' tendencies within Argentina, and has had published in the magazine 'Las Bases' what virtually amounts to an election programme. He calls for the re-adjustment of interest rates, the protection of local industry and agriculture, support for the iron industry and a catering for the 'economic aspirations of the workers'. The front was founded on February 14.



Juan Peron: Leader of the largest popular movement

On March 3 Peron and the sister of dictator Franco, Pilar Franco, were at Madrid's Barajas airport to welcome Peron's wife Isabel from her three months' holiday in Argentina. Peron was as reticent as ever about his return, but his wife said:

'The General must return to Argentina; the country needs him. He must return in 1972. I worked a lot and had contacts with all social classes.'

Isabel was shortly followed to Madrid by ex-President Frondizi on March 15. Frondizi was President of Argentina from 1958



Alejandro Lanusse: 'It's not up to me now. It's up to Juan Peron'

to 1963 and received the electoral support of Peron's movement. He declared he was completely in agreement with Peron's programme for a civic front and emphasized that although he had not discussed candidates for the presidential elections with Peron, 'there will be no solution without the presence of the largest popular movement and its leader, General Peron'.

Representatives of this 'popular movement' had not delayed in paying their respects to Peron. On the 9th a delegation of four union leaders flew into Madrid: Casildo Herrera, Estanislao Rosales, Alberto Campos and Nestor Carrasco, representatives of the textileworkers, glassworkers, engineering workers and meat packers.

Officially they were to debate 'urgent aspects of the developments in the CGT and Peronista-controlled unions'—in other words the recent general strike and growth of militancy.

The fear of the working class felt by the Peronistas soon became clear. While rumours of a military coup to prevent elections were being circulated in Buenos Aires, Peron sent a telegram to the malleable CGT leadership advising it to act with 'prudence and wisdom'.

The CGT leaders were about to call a meeting of their co-federal committee to vote on new strike measures against the government's economic policies when they heard Peron's message read out by José Rucci:

'The time still has not come to throw ourselves into anything which might imply exaggerated violence.' It was decided to postpone the committee meeting.

So Peron and Peronismo appear once more in their true colours as anti-union strike-

breakers, subordinating the working class to the Lanusse regime and to fraudulent elections which may or may not attract the great Peron from the comfortable cafés and casinos of fascist Spain.

## Peron: anti-union strike breaker subordinating the working class to the Lanusse regime

What is true is that such interventions as this will quickly dispel Peronist influence in the working class which is forced to confront the employers' and generals' government.

However, any challenge to the crisis-ridden union bureaucracy is severely restrained by revisionists of various tendencies.

One such tendency which has gained much publicity through its recent kidnapping and execution of the head of Fiat is the Pabloite urban guerrilla band, the Peoples' Revolutionary Army (ERP). The individual terrorism practised by this group is no more than a deliberate and conscious turn in the fight for a new leadership in the Argentine trade union movement, a turn which can only strengthen Peron and the union bureaucracy. To tell the car workers in the Cordoba and Rosario plants that the solution to the repression of militants is the institution of 'people's courts' and 'people's prisons' and urban guerrilla warfare is as reactionary as 'Red Mole's' uncritical devotion to the IRA in Ireland.

Another tendency fighting against Marxist development among Argentine workers is the

tendency organized around the paper 'Politica Obrera'.

By its enthusiastic support for Guillermo Lora's betrayal in Bolivia it shows that it has learnt nothing from the capitulation of Moreno to Peron.

Lora's support for populist General Torres was a continuation of that policy which enabled Moreno to support Peronismo. Although 'Politica Obrera' has published both criticisms of Moreno and Peron, the support for Lora and the programme they develop shows their firm adherence to middle-class centrism.

Their idea that Peron is essentially trying to change his working-class base for a base among the petty bourgeoisie is a figment of their imagination.

Peronismo is now an essential instrument for the Argentine ruling class to restrain and demoralize the working class and prepare its destruction.

In other words, Peronismo is called upon to finish the job it started years ago.

Their programme of an anti-imperialist front for a constituent assembly and a popular government is no basis for challenging Peronismo, whose adepts have for years churned out book after book on the fight against imperialism and for popular democratic government.

Juan Domingo himself has not been averse to the odd word of praise for such anti-imperialist fighters as Mao and Fidel Castro.

What is needed now in Argentina is a leadership which can fight for an understanding of the gains of the Fourth International's unswerving struggle for Marxism against all those who want to make concessions to populism and petty-bourgeois nationalism.

CONCLUDED



# GERMAINE GREER SUPER-STAR

BY ANNA TATE

Germaine Greer has, for some time, been the darling of the media—the establishment media, the underground media and all points left, right and centre of the communications compass. Her engaging spate of liberationist philosophizing has weaved its ever articulate way from the 'Sunday Times' to 'Oz', from 'Playboy' to 'Suck', with careless abandon.

She would seem, therefore, to constitute the high point at which counter-culture and ruling culture converge. This confluence of self-proclaimed anti-bourgeois ideology with its avowed opposite, bourgeois ideology, indicates the extent to which the 'counter-culture revolutionists' remain politically complicit with the capitalist system. They are merely at verbal war with certain characteristics of that system which infringe on their own personal, emotional and sexual freedoms.

The basis of this complicity resides in their rejection of dialectical materialism in favour of facile impressionism.

This was already evident in the selection of quotes used by Germaine Greer in her book 'The Female Eunuch'. Rather less a selection than an amalgam of abstractions, which embraced all contradictions from John Stuart Mill, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche to the 'News of the World'.

The absence of Karl Marx was notable, if predictable, while the presence of Friedrich Engels was a lamentable distortion. He was quoted from 'The Origin of the Family' thus:

**'The modern individual family is founded on the open or concealed slavery of the wife ... Within the family he is the bourgeois and his wife represents the proletariat.'**

What Germaine Greer cannot comprehend, and does not seek to comprehend, is that one cannot posit the above statement outside the context of the following analysis:

**... that all past history with the exception of the primitive stages was the history of class struggles; that these warring classes of society are always the products of the modes of production and exchange—in a word, of the economic conditions of their time; that the economic structure of society always furnishes the real basis, starting from which we can alone work out the ultimate explanation of the whole superstructure of juridical and political institutions as well as the religious, philosophical, and other ideas of a given historical period.'**

**Friedrich Engels, 'Socialism, Utopian and Scientific', (1882).**

In all her writings to date, Germaine Greer has manifested the opposite tendency i.e. she begins and ends with the individual. She is, after all, on her own charming admission, an anarchist, but what she seems to ignore is the extent to which her 'anarchy' serves to titillate a bored bourgeoisie.

Liberalism in crisis has need of this exponent of outrage to lend an image of immoderation to their politics of extreme moderation.

Many of Germaine Greer's ideals, when put to the test of political reality, emerge as extremely reactionary, misguided and sectarian. Let us take, for instance, her statement that '... to begin with women should labour to be genuinely disgusted by violence, and at least to refuse to reward any victor in a violent confrontation, even to the point of casting their lot on principle with the loser'.

The government of the United States of America and that of President Thieu of S Vietnam can take heart from the fact that,



if they lose the massive battle which the N Vietnamese and National Liberation Front are at present mounting against them, they will, at least, have Miss Greer and her disciples on their side.

But the lady is, nevertheless, honest: 'The only thing I'm sure of, is that I'm confused,' she admitted, endearingly, in her 'Sunday Times' column of November 21, 1971. The confession was made in relation to India and Bangla Desh, and indeed, in spite of a truly gifted literary style and an aptitude for the most profound speculation based on the most superficial impression of entire histories and cultures, Miss Greer does manifest abysmal confusion.

On November 21, she compared Indira Gandhi to Kali, the Hindu deity of blood-thirsty destruction, saying: 'The mother who has taken untold millions of refugees to her bosom may prove to be their destroyer if she continues to excite war-hysteria at the present rate.'

Almost exactly one month later, Germaine Greer went 'haring back' to India to write in praise of Mrs Gandhi's intervention in Bangla Desh. Inconsistency is undoubtedly the mother of impressionism.

But then Miss Greer does warn us, from time to time and with admirable candour, that she does have a tendency to jump to spurious conclusions. It is a new form of game-playing, this candour, current in various circles of New Left sophisticates. It is a game which Germaine Greer plays expertly to the detriment of herself, of the women for whom she purports to speak, and of humanity.

While constantly propounding conclusions, solutions, attitudes, ideologies and political programmes, she disclaims any final responsibility for such activity.

In a lengthy interview in 'Playboy' magazine in January, she claimed: 'I don't advise people what to do. It's a waste of time.' This was followed by pages of advice on various matters.

'I'm an individualist,' she added, 'but I'm not proud of my individualism.'

This form of acknowledgement reduces the political arena to a confessional box, with admission becoming unconsciously the path to absolution, the entire process then turning toward self-satisfaction.

But the basic premise of Germaine Greer that 'the key to the strategy of liberation lies in exposing the situation, and the simplest way to do it is to outrage the pundits and the experts

by sheer impudence of speech and gesture...' is an even more misguided example of the impotence of the 'politics of candour'.

Her 'Playboy' interview illustrated the methodology of 'balling' one's way toward revolution. She is not alone in this notion that the citadel of bourgeois morality will crumble under the onslaught of vociferous 'obscenities'—the precedent had been set by the hippies and Yippies.

Bourgeois morality, which will only end when the bourgeoisie has been eliminated in a social revolution, seems to be taking the politics of crudeness in its stride.

Being a child of the technological age, of jet-setting realities, of instant foods, Germaine Greer espouses the politics of impatience, the doctrine of the instantaneous. In her book she stated: 'Women's revolution is necessarily situationist; we cannot argue that all will be well when the socialists have succeeded in abolishing private property and restoring public ownership of the means of production.'

When she seemingly emerges from this fantasied sensual world of impossible 'possibilities', her pronouncements retain the tingle of dangerous, almost lunatic naivety. 'Oh,' she cries, 'I feel so sorry that it's all gone wrong. The American dream really has turned into a nightmare...'

It was, of course, always a nightmare that dream, compounded on the supremacy of the dollar and the fight for 'the exclusive right to expropriate the wealth of weaker countries—the kind of 'group grope' which US monopolists get on with.

And when she arrogates to herself the right to speak for the people, she is at her political worst and most dangerous, talking down from the middle-class pedestal of an idealist theoretical void.

Similarly, in a theoretical somersault of quite breathtaking liberal dimensions, when speaking of the essentially bourgeois movement of Women's Lib, she asserts:

**'And we must have the poor on our side. In other words, for our own purposes, we must be part of the general pressure for revolution in a capitalist society.'** (My emphasis.)

The purposes of Germaine Greer are, however, not an aid but an obstacle to the poor in their struggle for a consciousness of the history of class conflict which will equip them to face the crisis of capitalism.

Germaine Greer merely provides the rich icing on the stale cake of liberalism.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## Stinker

With all the hullabaloo about Charlie Chaplin, it is worth recalling his great venture in launching United Artists. The original charter of the studio had passages which had a fine ring of the socialist future.

When he fell into political despondency, the company became simply a money-maker for Charlie.

But to this day, he is re-

garded as a little tight with money.

Well, Mary Pickford, a co-founder of UA, seems to remember the old man pretty clearly. While they were all weeping about his return to Hollywood, she told the press: 'He's a stinker.'

Mary Pickford and Charlie Chaplin in the 1920s



## The Krays

When you're behind bars, it's difficult to stop people taking advantage of you.

The Kray twins have been the source of a huge amount of Fleet St mythology. I hear that Reginald Kray has finally decided to put an end to it.

He is proposing to sue a well-known strip magazine which recently gave an amazing description of how the Krays tried to murder a little girl lost.

Only trouble is, the twins have never heard of her!

## Legal aid

Another inmate of HM Prisons is also quite irritated. Dennis Stafford, convicted murderer, has just been granted legal aid to sue the Home Office.

Apparently certain docu-

ments relating to his trial have gone missing. Stafford has always maintained that he was wrongly convicted.

Last year a television documentary was made which tended to suggest that Stafford was not the murderer.

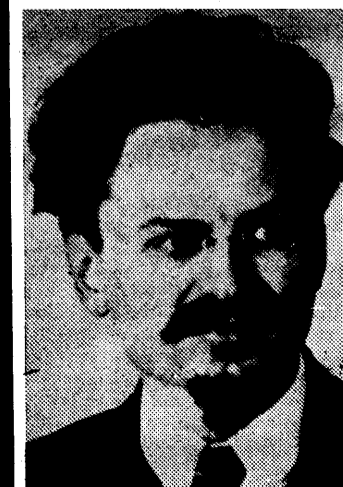
## Red Hot

A great new showbiz career has opened up for Maureen Reagan, daughter of some-time actor Ronald, now the hanging governor of California.

At 30, Maureen allows herself a few deviations from the Reagan line: 'I'm not as conservative as my father. I'm what I call a militant moderate. I don't believe in the Welfare State, but I support the Vietnamization plan.'

The radical Miss Reagan is appearing in a stage production of 'The Last of the Red-Hot Lovers' in Dallas, Texas.

# BOOKS



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## Storemen work to rule at CAV

A GROUP of militant storekeepers at Lucas's CAV factory in W London have begun a work-to-rule and withdrawal of co-operation over jobs.

The men, who control supplies to the machines factory, goods-inwards department and the raw-material stores, are demanding replacement of personnel lost as a result of a productivity deal signed last year.

Last week toolroom workers at the factory also started working to rule.

The storekeepers who are taking action were outvoted by the rest of their grade when they opposed the 1971 productivity deal.

Now they are challenging the company's right to push up its profits through redundancies.

A strike at CAV's Sudbury plant has ended.

# Scanlon advises 'Ignore the Act': Then discusses it with bosses!

HUGH SCANLON'S motto on the Industrial Relations Act is 'Know the Act, then ignore it'. Or so he tells us. But on May 17, the engineers' union chief will be topping the bill at an exclusive gathering of managers and union officials at the Cafe Royal in London.



### THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT AT SHOP FLOOR LEVEL

HUGH SCANLON  
President AUEW

Professor JOHN WOOD CBE  
Member of CIR



ALAN FISHER  
General Secretary NUPE

EDDIE ROBERTSON  
Director of Research EEF



At this one-day seminar, the speakers will, from their different standpoints, identify and discuss those problems which are most likely to arise in the application of the Act at shop floor level. The seminar will be concerned with practical problems such as: 'What would you do if a dismissed man appeals to an Industrial Tribunal?' 'What are the implications of the Act for the employer?' 'The seminar is designed not only for industrial managers but also for local Personnel Officers and Trade Union Representatives, even though they may disagree with it. It will need to be understood.'

Brochure for the £25-a-head seminar



BUSINESS STUDIES CONSULTANTS LTD

S. Bingham

42 Park Road, London W4 3HH 01-994 6823/5367

I am writing to let you know about the B.S.C's Spring Series of seminars.

First: 'THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT AT SHOP FLOOR LEVEL' with Hugh Scanlon, Professor John Wood, Alan Fisher and Eddie Robertson. As you will see from the brochure, this major seminar is very much concerned with those specific shop floor problems which are likely to arise in the application of the Act.



NUPE's Alan Fisher joins Scanlon on platform

The precise venue is the Cafe's plush Louis Suite. Anyone wishing to attend must first cough up a cool £25. But most interesting of all is the title of the seminar: 'The Industrial Relations Act at Shop-Floor Level'.

Organizers of the get-together are an outfit known as Business Studies Consultants Ltd, whose headquarters lie in the heart of middle-class Chiswick.

Among the companies who sponsor their seminars are BP Chemicals, Barclays Bank, Bass Charrington, British-American Tobacco, Esso, Ford Motor, GKN, IPC, Joseph Lucas, Plessey, Unilever and Watney Mann.

Besides these giants of capitalist monopoly are the state boards of the British Steel Corporation and the British Airports Authority.

The platform Business Studies Consultants will bring together in five-and-a-half weeks' time is a real eye-opener to the style of class-collaboration that is involved.

Scanlon will speak for the trade unions in the private sector of industry. Giving the viewpoint of the public-sector unions will be Alan Fisher, another so-called 'left' who is general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees.

### LEGAL

Legal and management opinions will be given by Professor John Wood CBE and one E. J. 'Eddie' Robertson.

Wood, Tory professor of law at Sheffield University, chaired the government Courts of Inquiry into the Standard-Triumph and Pilkington disputes and is now a member of the Commission on Industrial Relations.

In line with TUC policy, Scanlon's Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is 'not co-operating' with the CIR. But it seems this does not prevent its president appearing on the same platform as one of its stalwarts.

Eddie Robertson is research director for the Engineering Employers' Federation, against which the AUEW is supposed to be currently stepping up its pay battle.

Formerly with Standard Oil Inc and the Avon Rubber Co, Robertson was said by EEF president Denby Bamford in February to play 'a valuable part in our work by providing a wide range of information that is essential in enabling us to formulate policy'.

Bamford has earlier in the same speech outlined one of the policies Robertson's information helped formulate.

'The prospect that confronts us is a round of costly pay claims backed up by the threat of disruptive action', he said. 'If the unions are out to test the fibre of our unity, we should leave them in no

doubt as to its durability.'

And Robertson himself is no slouch when it comes to union-bashing.

The September 1971 report 'Wage Inflation and Unemployment', for which his department was directly responsible, provided 'information' of the following character:

'The real improvements needed in the wage-bargaining situation will not come about unless and until the government is prepared to take action to reduce the bargaining strength of certain advantageously-placed trade union groups.

'Such action would certainly have to include yet another look at the cushioning effects for the individual strike of social security and tax arrangements.'

-These, then, are the people Scanlon and Fisher have agreed to appear and eat a gourmet luncheon with on May 17.

Their fee for appearing is undisclosed. What they will say irrelevant.

What is certain is that their participation in no way squares with a policy of ignoring the Act.

## Eire power strike still biting

THE THIRD day of the Republic of Ireland's power strike brought further chaos and disruption to industry.

Industry remained at a standstill and the amount of power to domestic users has been restricted to three hours a day.

The Electricity Supply Board announced that the situation might ease with the recruitment of board staff to do the strikers' jobs.

Some strikers had also returned to work following an appeal by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

The Post Office reported that thousands of telephones were put out of action by the power shortage.

## Hull dock stewards step onto reformist quicksand

TRADE could be lost to the port of Hull by an all-out strike against redundancy, Hull dockers' stewards claim in a leaflet distributed this week.

The leaflet was drawn up to explain the stewards' proposal for the formation of a stevedoring company run by the dockers themselves. It highlights reports that 700 of the port's 2,800 dockers may be returned to the unattached labour pool by the end of the year. If the existence of a pool at all is to be accepted, the stewards say, 'then we have the right to determine who will be the ones to be returned to the pool'. They set out five courses of action to get the unattached men reallocated, with a comment on their respective effects and costs.

The formation of a company would, according to the leaflet, cost only £104 per man in a full year to raise the necessary capital. It would help create confidence in the port, attract new trade and 'ultimately lead to all the men being reallocated'.

On the other hand a total stoppage would probably last from three to six weeks and cost the men £120-£240 each, the leaflet says.

An all-out strike, a series of token strikes or an overtime ban would all 'destroy whatever confidence there is in the port'. Trade could be lost resulting in a further loss of wages.

Nothing could better illustrate the dangerous, reformist quicksands into which the stewards have stepped.

The Hull dockers have a fine record of principled struggle.

In 1966, they struck in support of the seamen who were then on strike. That strike was sabotaged by Communist Party stewards in London who refused to call out dockers there.

Hull also played a leading role in industrial action against both Labour and Tory varieties of anti-union legislation.

Dockers there also stood out in refusing to handle Pilkington glass following the victimization of glassworkers in St Helens, Lancs, and Pontypool, S Wales. They have also fought hard against the use of non-registered labour to pack and unpack containers.

But that record is now in serious danger.

## 'Desert' leaflets in Ulster: Soldier jailed

A SOLDIER who distributed pamphlets among British soldiers asking them to desert has been jailed for two years.

Cork-born Michael Anthony Tobin (38) of Hoo, near Rochester, Kent, was found guilty at Maidstone Crown Court of possessing documents likely to seduce soldiers from their duty.

One of the pamphlets seized at his home asked the Green-jackets: 'Working men of the Greenjackets—leave your regiment and come over to us in this fight.'

'Let us together destroy the corruption of this fascist state. You will be received with honour and may choose either the safety of Eire or remain

with us to drive the fascists into St George's channel. Come on, I invite you, John—soldier in the army of the Provisional government of all Ireland.'

When the case ended at Maidstone on Thursday afternoon, the judge referred a guerrilla manual to the Director of Public Prosecutions for consideration.

Just as Michael Tobin is jailed for distributing leaflets against the war in Ulster, Juan Farinas is jailed for two years in New York for distributing anti-Vietnam war leaflets.

By these savage sentences the ruling classes in both countries reveal the extent of their crisis and the desperate measures they are prepared to resort to in suppressing those who oppose them.

## Prisoners' rights must be protected

MEN and women in Britain's jails should have civil and legal rights protected by a prisoners' charter.

Ald Charles Irving, a penal reformer, said Prisons Department civil servants were like 'James Bonds and operating as official outlaws—not licensed to kill, but to extinguish human and legal rights.'

Speaking at the W Midlands probation and after-care conference yesterday, Mr Irving said taking away a man's liberty was the most severe punishment available.

But once in jail prisoners were deprived of the right to vote, sexual rights, the freedom to write letters.

### Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists Meeting

#### DUNDEE

'Working class unity and the fight against the Tory government'.

AUEW Hall, 26 Southward Rd. Sunday April 23, 8 p.m.

#### Speakers:

G. Healy, SLL national secretary

David Barclay, YS Glasgow—Glasgow-to-London Right-to-Work marcher

### ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

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

OXFORD: Sunday April 16, 8 pm. 'Cape of Good Hope'.

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

BANBURY: Wednesday April 19, 8 pm. 'The White Hart'.



# TV

## SATURDAY

### BBC 1

10.00 Wie bitte? 10.30-10.55 Zarabanda. 11.55 Weather. 12.00 Double deckers. 12.25 Pink Panther. 12.45 Grandstand. 12.50 FA cup semi-final preview. 1.10 Fight of the week. 1.25, 1.50, 2.20, 2.50 Racing from Newbury. 1.35, 2.35, 3.05 Badminton horse trials. 3.45 Rugby league cup semi-final. St Helens v Warrington. 4.40 Final score. 5.05 We want to sing. 5.35 News, weather, today's sport. 5.50 Dr Who. 6.15 **WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY.** Inside Donald Duck. 7.00 **FILM: 'FLIGHT OF THE LOST BALLOON.'** Marshall Thompson, Mala Powers. Balloon journey to rescue a missing explorer. 8.30 **TARBUCK'S LUCK.** Jimmy Tarbuck. 9.15 **THE BEFRIENDERS.** Wedding March. 10.00 **NEWS and weather.** 10.10 **MATCH OF THE DAY.** FA Cup semi-finals. 11.10 **BRADEN'S WEEK.** 11.45 **Weather.**

### BBC 2

9.35-12.30 Open University. 3.00 Film: **'Rose of Washington Square.'** Tyrone Power, Alice Faye. Musical. 4.25 King Alfred. 4.50 Tutankhamun's Egypt. 5.10 Animal people. 5.35 Television doctor. 5.50 Man-alive. 6.40 **WESTMINSTER.** 7.00 **NEWS, SPORT & weather.** 7.15 **HARAMBEE—THE STORY OF THE AWARD.** Narrated by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. 7.45 **SOUNDS FOR SATURDAY.** Oscar Peterson Trio.

### ITV

10.45 Joe 90. 11.15 Sesame street. 12.15 Jackson Five. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of sport. 12.55 On the ball. 1.20 They're off! 1.30, 2.00, 2.35, 3.10 Racing from Thirsk. 1.45, 2.15, 2.50 Racing from Ayr. 3.20 International sports special. World Light-Heavyweight boxing championship. Bob Foster v Vincente Rondon. 3.50 Results, scores, news. 3.58 Wrestling. 4.50 Results service. 5.10 Sale of the century. 5.40 News. 5.45 Ken Dodd. 6.15 **FILM: 'FORT APACHE.'** John Wayne, Henry Fonda. Western. 8.30 **SATURDAY VARIETY.** Val Doonican with Beryl Reid, Noel Harrison and Design. 9.30 **HAWAII FIVE-O.** Which Way Did They Go? 10.30 **NEWS.** 10.40 **THE SCIENTISTS.** The Flesh Harvesters. 11.25 **STRANGE REPORT.** Report 5055: Cult: Murder Shrieks Out. 12.25 **THE LAW IS YOURS.**

8.30 **RUGBY SPECIAL.** London Welsh v Swansea. 9.15 **DOCUMENTARY: ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT.** The Stanley Setty murder in 1949. 10.05 **THE CRAFTSMEN.** At a Printmakers' Workshop. 10.20 **SUNSET SONG.** Seed Time. 11.05 **NEWS ON 2 and weather.** 11.10 **FILM NIGHT.** 11.45 **FILM: 'ONE FOOT IN HELL.'** Alan Ladd, Don Murray, Dan O'Herlihy.

**CHANNEL:** 12.45 London. 5.10 Ken Dodd. 5.40 News. 5.45 Sale of the century. 6.15 Film: **'Cast a Giant Shadow.'** 8.28 Weather. 8.30 London. 9.30 Champions. 10.30 London. 11.25 Weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 11.40 Gus Honeybun. 11.45 Rupert Bear. 11.55 Lone ranger. 12.20 Bugaloos. 11.25 Faith for life. 11.30 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 11.15 All our yesterdays. 11.45 Thunderbirds. 12.42 Weather. 12.45 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 5.45 Ken Dodd. 6.15 On the buses. 6.45 Film: **'The Plunderers.'** 8.30 London. 9.30 Jason King. 10.30 London. 10.40 Scientists. 11.25 News. 11.35 UFO. 12.35 Weather. Road to Tower hill.

**HARLECH:** 10.05 Tennis. 11.15 Sesame St. 12.15 Farming diary. 12.45 London. 6.15 Film: **'The Devil at Four O'Clock.'** 8.30 London. 9.30 Avengers. 10.30 London. 11.25 Prisoner. 12.20 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 5.10-5.40 Sion a sian.

**ANGLIA:** 11.20 All our yesterdays. 11.50 Cowboy in Africa. 12.45 London. 5.10 Flintstones. 5.40 London. 5.45 Sale of the century. 6.15 Ken Dodd. 6.45 Film: **'Hell Below Zero.'** 8.30 London. 9.30 I spy. 10.30 London. 11.25 Theatre.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 12.10 Stars. 12.15 Captain Scarlet. 12.45 London. 6.15 Film: **'Caravan.'** 8.30 London. 11.25 Dick Van Dyke. 11.55 Who knows?

**ULSTER:** 12.30 Enchanted house. 12.45 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 5.45 Sport. 6.15 Ken Dodd. 6.45 Film: **'Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea.'** 8.30 London. 9.30 O'Hara, US Treasury. 10.30 London. 10.40 Scientists. 11.25 Dick Van Dyke.

**YORKSHIRE:** 11.00 All our yesterdays. 11.25 Make a wish. 11.50 Skippy. 12.15 Lidsville. 12.45 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 5.45 Ken Dodd. 6.15 Film: **'Dunkirk.'** 8.30 London. 9.30 Saint. 10.30 London. 10.40 Scientists.

11.25 Edgar Wallace. 12.30 Weather.

**TYNE TEES:** 11.00 All our yesterdays. 11.25 Clapper board. 11.50 Arthur. 12.15 Lidsville. 12.45 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 6.15 Film: **'Tycoon.'** 8.30 London. 9.30 FBI. 10.40 London. 11.25 Avengers. 12.20 Epilogue.

**GRANADA:** 11.50 Play the game. 12.15 Secret service. 12.45 London. 5.10 On the buses. 5.40 London. 6.15 Bugs Bunny. 6.20 Film: **'Mister Moses.'** 8.30 London. 9.30 Jason King. 10.30 London. 11.25 Danger Man.

**SCOTTISH:** 11.40 Beagan gaidhlig. 11.55 Clapper board. 12.15 Tom Grattan's war. 12.45 London. 5.10 Roadrunner. 5.40 London. 5.45 Ken Dodd. 6.15 Film: **'Tycoon.'** 8.30 London. 9.30 Randall and Hopkirk. 10.30 London. 10.40 Sport. 11.10 Late call. 11.15 Seaway.

**GRAMPIAN:** 12.15 Batman. 12.45 London. 5.10 His and hers. 5.40 London. 6.15 Film: **'The Three Musketeers.'** 8.30 London. 11.25 Strange report.

## SUNDAY

### BBC 1

9.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 9.30 Wie bitte? 10.00-10.25 Zarabanda. 10.30 Morning service. 11.30 Boomph with Becker. 11.45 Mistress of Hardwick. 12.10 Belamy on botany. 12.35-1.00 Profit by control. 1.25 Farming. 1.50 Hammer it home. 2.15 Made in Britain. 2.24 News. 2.25 Going for a song. 2.55 Film: **'Follow the Sun.'** Glenn Ford, Anne Baxter. Golfer Ben Hogan's life. 4.25 Badminton horse trials 7.2. 5.10 British Empire. 6.05 **NEWS and weather.** 6.15 **HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?** Pete Townshend, leader of The Who. 6.45 **APOLLO 16.** Lift off. 7.10 **PRAISE THE LORD.** 7.25 **THE GOOD OLD DAYS.** Old-time music hall from Leeds. 8.15 **'THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.'** Maggie Smith, Frank Finlay. 10.25 **NEWS and weather.** 10.35 **OMNIBUS.** The Great American Dream Machine. 11.25 **BATTLESHIP BISMARCK.** 12.15 **Weather.**

### BBC 2

9.35-1.00 Open University. 6.15 **APOLLO 16.** Countdown and lift off. 7.00 **NEWS REVIEW and weather.** 7.25 **THE WORLD ABOUT US.** The Lure of Tahiti. 8.15 **UP COUNTRY FESTIVAL.** Fourth International Festival of Country music.

### ITV

10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 Morning service. 12.05 Farmhouse kitchen. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Out of town. 1.15 Stingray. 1.45 University challenge. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Jason King. 4.10 Shirley's world. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Pre-tenders. 6.05 **NEWS.** Apollo 16. 7.00 **STARS ON SUNDAY.** 7.25 **DOCTOR IN CHARGE.** The Research Unit. 7.55 **FILM: 'SEVEN DAYS IN MAY.'** Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, Fredric March, Ava Gardner. An American general thinks peace between the USSR and the US is leading to national suicide. 9.50 **POLICE FIVE.** 10.00 **NEWS.** 10.15 **THE ORGANIZATION.** Mr Pershore and Ken Grist. 11.15 **MUSIC IN THE ROUND.** Virtuosi of Trafalgar Square. 11.45 **SHORT STORY.** The Grill. 12.15 **THE LAW IS YOURS.**



BBC 1's Play of the Month is Shakespeare's 'Merchant of Venice' on Sunday at 8.15. Frank Finlay plays Shylock.

**CHANNEL:** 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 1.58 Weather. 2.00 Big match. 3.00 Film: **'Please Turn Over.'** 4.35 Date with Danton. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: **'The Boss.'** 9.30 Cinema. 10.00 London. 11.15 Aquarius. 12.10 Epilogue. Weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 12.55 Settlers. 1.35 Farm and country news. 12.10 Faith for life. 12.15 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 11.00 London. 12.00 Weather. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Farm progress. 1.25 Heckle and Jeckle. 1.30 Stingray. 2.00 Big match. 3.00 Film: **'The Bandit of Sherwood Forest.'** 4.35 News. 4.45 London. 7.25 Doctor in charge. 7.55 Film: **'Life With Father.'** 10.00 London. 11.15 Something to say. 12.15 Weather. Road to Tower Hill.

**HARLECH:** 11.00 London. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.45 London. 3.15 Film: **'Finders Keepers.'** 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: **'The Spy With A Cold Nose.'** 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 11.15 Biafra. 12.15 Weather.

**HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales above except:** 12.05 Dan

syw. 12.40 O'r wasg. 12.55 Lluern.

**ANGLIA:** 11.00 London. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.20 University challenge. 1.50 Weather. 1.55 Farming. 2.30 UFO. 3.25 Dick Van Dyke. 3.55 Football. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: **'Breakfast at Tiffany's.'** 10.00 London. 11.15 Saint.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 11.00 London. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.40 Stars. 1.45 All our yesterdays. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: **'Murder Ahoy.'** 4.45 London. 5.35 Forest rangers. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: **'Warning Shot.'** 9.40 Cartoons. 10.00 London. 11.15 Dangerman.

**ULSTER:** 12.05 London. 3.15 Film: **'Lassie Come Home.'** 4.45 London. 7.25 Doctor in charge. 7.55 Film: **'Funeral in Berlin.'** 9.30 Jimmy Stewart. 10.00 London. 11.15 Saint.

**YORKSHIRE:** 10.45 Talking hands. 11.00 London. 12.30 Camping and caravanning. 1.00 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Farming outlook. 1.55 Calendar. 2.20 Soccer. 3.15 Film: **'Dual Allibi.'** 4.45 London. 7.25 Doctor in charge. 7.55 Film: **'Mrs Miniver.'** 10.00 London. 11.15 Biafra. 12.15 Weather.

**TYNE TEES:** 10.15 Farming outlook. 10.45 Talking hands. 11.00 London. 12.30 Camping and caravanning. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Farming outlook. 1.55 Out of town. 2.15 Where the jobs are? 2.20 Shoot. 3.15 Film: **'Circle of Danger.'** 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: **'Mrs Miniver.'** 10.00 London. 11.15 Anatomy of Aid. 12.15 Epilogue.

**GRANADA:** 11.00 London. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Yesterdays. 1.55 Football. 2.50 Film: **'Ulysses.'** 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: **'VIPs.'** 10.00 London. 11.15 Aquarius.

**GRAMPIAN:** 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 All our yesterdays. 1.55 Farm progress. 2.25 Prisoner. 3.20 Film: **'The Pot Carriers.'** 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: **'The Spy With a Cold Nose.'** 9.30 Odd couple. 10.00 London. 11.15 Yoga. 11.40 Job look.

**SCOTTISH:** 12.05 London. 12.30 Something to say. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.22 Zingalong. 1.45 All our yesterdays. 2.15 Scientists. 3.00 Film: **'Cone of Silence.'** 4.45 London. 7.25 Doctor in charge. 7.55 Film: **'Under Ten Flags.'** 10.00 London. 11.15 Late call. 11.20 Baron.

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# AEI LETTER WARNS ABOUT JOBS

THE 3,500 workers locked out from the GEC-AEI plant in Trafford Park, Manchester, were warned yesterday that the dispute could cost jobs.

A management letter also said the longer the men were out the less likely the firm would be able to meet any claim.

The threats came just 14 days after the men were locked out from the factory which is part of Arnold Wienstock's giant combine.

The men had refused to call off an overtime and piecework ban imposed in support of the district claim on wages, hours and holidays.

Yesterday's letter was the first contact between management and the locked-out workers.

At the latest count there are almost 30,000 workers in the Greater Manchester area locked in bitter battles with engineering employers.

Workers are sitting-in at 24 plants, are on strike at two more, and have been locked out at a further two.

Union officials say that 24 settlements have been reached on the district's claim for £4, a 35-hour week and another week's holiday.

These include both federated and non-federated firms.

Over 1,500 GEC-AEI workers yesterday held a mass meeting to discuss their lock-out.

John Tocher, AUEW divisional organizer, told them their struggle had been vindicated by 'the magnificent support' they had received from the York Confederation meeting the day before.

Backing up Hugh Scanlon's decision to go for district settlements, he said: 'With the type of unity and solidarity we have, there is no doubt of the final outcome - a victory for the engineering workers.'

Fellow Communist Party member Bernard Panter, AUEW district secretary, claimed that the CSFU decision had brought engineers to the brink of a national confrontation.

But neither man referred to Tory threats made in the last few days of a showdown with the working class.

Meanwhile, the 22 workers made redundant by the closure of Sharston Engineering Works, Cheadle Hulme, were still outside the factory gates yesterday.

'Nothing will move from this place at all if they decide to open the factory on another basis,' works committee chairman Ray Evans told me.

On Wednesday morning workers turned up to find the factory shut and the gates locked. The managing director Mrs Isabella Dubost said the union had forced her to sell the factory and its machinery.

Sharston workers ended a sit-in on March 30 and suspended a work-to-rule when they were promised their jobs back.

Mrs Dubost had obtained a court order to clear the factory. 'I don't think she wanted another sit-in so she closed the plant,' added Ray Evans.

## LATE NEWS

NEWS DESK  
01-720 2000  
CIRCULATION  
01-622 7029

UNION officials representing Britain's 54,000 merchant seamen yesterday rejected an increased pay offer from the British Shipping Federation. Leaders of the National Union of Seamen said the offer - just over 9 1/2 per cent - was 'unacceptable'. A further meeting has been arranged for April 20.



Bernadette Devlin on a previous demonstration outside No 10 Downing St

## TRADE £80m IN RED: EXCHANGE PRICES DOWN

BRITAIN'S trade with the rest of the world slumped £80m into the red last month, according to figures issued yesterday by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The deficit, which compared with a £33m deficit in February, showed that exports had slipped back £31m to £720m last month. Meanwhile, the import bill went soaring to a massive £600m, the highest since November 1970 and £16m higher than in the previous month.

Imports for the first three months were 6 per cent higher than in the last quarter of 1971.

The department pointed out that March's import bill included payment for delivery of two Boeing 747 Jumbo jets.

The trade deficit sent prices lower on the London Stock Exchange. Government securities fell by 50p or more in the first initial reaction, but later recovered about a quarter of this.

Leading industrial shares dropped by 1p to 2p.

On the foreign exchange market, the pound fell about 25 points at one time, but later recovered to \$2.6070. This was 20 points down on the opening price of \$2.6090.

Dealers said there was more inquiry going on than actual dealing, but they were being kept 'fairly busy'.

## WEATHER

W SCOTLAND and N Ireland will start bright, but it will become cloudy with some rain later. Remaining districts will be mostly dry with sunny periods after the clearance of some fog patches. Temperatures will be near the seasonal normal but it will be rather warm in E Scotland. Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Some rain in the N. Mainly dry in the S but perhaps some rain in E England later. Temperatures normal, becoming rather cold in the N.

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# ULSTER MPs TO

MISS Bernadette Devlin and Mr Frank McManus, both Westminster MPs from Ulster, intend defying the law 'to test the impartiality' of Tory supremo, Mr William Whitelaw.

Mr Michael Farrell announced the three-point action by the MPs at a press conference of the Northern Resistance Movement.

First, he said, the three of them would not attend court at Enniskillen on Monday when they are due to appear on charges of taking part in an illegal march.

Then, next Saturday, April 22, they will march and rally outside Long Kesh.

On the following Saturday, April 29, they will march on Armagh jail where other detainees and internees are being held.

The three moves are 'a deliberate test', Farrell said. 'We want to see just how much change there has been since direct rule.'

Miss Devlin admitted she knew that boycotting the court might mean jail.

## DEFY WHITELAW

# RAIL UNIONS REJECT TRIBUNAL

BY IAN YEATS

BRITAIN'S three rail unions voted against taking their 16 per cent pay claim to arbitration yesterday making certain the national work-to-rule due to start at midnight tomorrow.

ASLEF and the TSSA executives reached their decisions after a morning of talks with Tory Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan.

During 100 minutes of discussions at the Department's London headquarters, Macmillan told them the Rail Board would not offer them a penny more.

His uncompromising response to the unions' 11th-hour arguments followed hard on the heels of Tory Chancellor Anthony Barber's warning that the public would not surrender to blackmail.

Macmillan told the unions that the only course open to them was to submit their claim to the Railway Staff National Tribunal for arbitration.

ASLEF, NUR and TSSA negotiating teams put the position to their respective executives yesterday afternoon.

Sir Sidney Greene, NUR general secretary, told reporters:

'I am going to put to my executive the request of the Minister that we go to the Railway Staff National Tribunal for arbitration, but I don't think there is any hope that they will.'

'The Railway Board is saying there is £30m and that is the end of it.'

Criticizing Barber's blackmail speech, he said: 'Our people work very close to the general public and calling us blackmailers is almost inciting people to violence.'

TSSA general secretary Percy Coldrick said if the public took Barber's statement seriously, it would only be because they were unaware of the unions' case.

'They have not been told that since 1960, with our voluntary co-operation staff have been reduced from 60,000 to 39,000. We are being asked to save £10m a year, but they say we cannot have a penny more.'

And ASLEF general secretary Ray Buckton said he was sure arbitration would not be acceptable to his members.

The night before, a stormy meeting of ASLEF officials and workers from the London area voted unanimously to back the nationwide work to rule due to begin at midnight on Sunday.

S Region axed 59 peak hour trains yesterday.

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WE MUST have a great effort this weekend for our April Fund. As the Tory government is driven into a major confrontation with the working class, a very serious political situation faces workers everywhere.

Workers Press is vitally necessary to prepare trade unionists for this decisive battle. We have not a moment to lose. We urge you all - spend this weekend in the best possible way. Help us in a major effort to raise as much as possible for this month's Fund. Send every donation immediately to:  
Workers Press April Appeal Fund  
186a Clapham High Street  
London, SW4 7UG

# GREAT RESPONSE TO BAC MARCH

OVER 3,000 Preston BAC workers marched through the town yesterday to clapping and shouts of support from workers throughout the area.

Carrying banners saying: 'We want a living wage', 'Force the Tories Out', and 'Tories Out, Socialism In', the men marched in support of their ten-week-old strike for a 20-per-cent pay increase.

Also on the march was a delegation of workers from Brannon's in Cumberland who have been on strike for ten months.

Marching ten-abreast down Preston's Strand Rd, completely blocking it to traffic, the marchers called out English Electric workers who downed tools to cheer and clap the BAC strikers. Along the route they were greeted by

# Students 'note' direct rule

DELEGATES at the final session of the National Union of Students in Birmingham yesterday 'noted' the Tory government's imposition of 'direct rule on N Ireland', but refused to condemn it.

Out of a total of five resolutions on direct rule, only a resolution tabled in the name of Magee University College, Londonderry, N Ireland, condemned the imposition of direct rule and pointed out that to end it the Tory government must be brought down.

The executive resolution, which was finally passed, stated: 'Tory rule from Westminster is little different from Unionist rule from Stormont.'

The final session was also marked by a complete refusal of the Communist Party and right-wing executive to allow time for emergency discussions on the Industrial Relations Court decision to fine the Transport and General Workers' Union £5,000.

Since four emergency resolutions had failed by a small number of votes to be discussed on the emergency priorities ballot, delegates asked for time during the session to discuss the situation. This was refused by the executive.

## Another order against T&GWU

THE National Industrial Relations Court yesterday granted an interim order to Craddock Brothers, a Wolverhampton-based road haulage firm, telling the Transport and General Workers' Union to stop blacking its lorries.

A further hearing of the case will be held on Monday, at which the T&GWU, which boycotted yesterday's hearing, will have the opportunity to appear.

NIC president Sir John Donaldson warned the union that if it wishes not to be responsible for the actions of its members in the case it must 'positively dissociate' itself from them.

Two days ago the court made permanent orders against blacking by T&GWU dockers on the application of two other transport firms, Heaton's Transport (St Helens) Limited and Bishop's Wharf of Warrington. The court has already fined the T&GWU £5,000 for contempt of court for failing to lift the black.

400 engineers from Goss. Shop steward for the Brannon's workers, Muriel Hillor, told Workers Press: 'With unemployment so high in the whole country, they've managed to bring in scab labour. What they're really trying to do', she added, 'is to get the unions out.'

Len Wilkinson, convenor at the Leyland works, Leyland, near Preston was also on the march. He said: 'It's disgraceful for the management to leave these men out for ten weeks.'

'They've got lower pay than anywhere else in the district. This is a political fight and it looks as though we'll soon be out too.'

At the meeting afterwards Len Brindle, deputy convenor at Leyland Spierier works said: 'The strings offered [by management in response to the BAC men's claim] are chains and you'll find that out when you try to move with them.'

'Strikes have to be won and we shall do more at district level to help you.'

One of the leading BAC shop stewards, David Creighton-Smith said: 'The demonstration was a complete success. The rest of the combine is supporting us financially.'

And he told the men: 'The AUEW is balloting members in Preston, Blackpool and Blackburn districts for a 5 per cent levy.'

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!