

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY APRIL 27, 1972 ● No 748 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY ALEX MITCHELL

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Vietnam 'nearly cut in half'

BY JOHN SPENCER

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What is the NIRC? It is a legal instrument of the Tory Industrial Relations Act. It was established by the Tory government and staffed by it.

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With the successful ending of the railway work-to-rule and the swingeing fines on the T&GWU, the Tories are inviting every employer in the country to start kicking the trade unions and shop stewards in the teeth.

It should be clearly understood that British law, which has been so piously applauded by the Tory press for the past couple of weeks, is in no sense neutral. It is class law, the law of the privileged and propertied class. It is wielded over the oppressed class, the working class, in order that wealth and privilege can be preserved.

The T&GWU is Britain's biggest union. Today its policy-making committee meets to consider the three actions facing the union in the NIRC.

If the union agrees to co-operate with the NIRC it will be not only a historic setback for the 1.6 million members of Jack Jones' union but for the whole trade union movement.

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Following the General Council meeting, an emergency session of the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommended that the Transport and General Workers' Union pay £55,000 in fines imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court.

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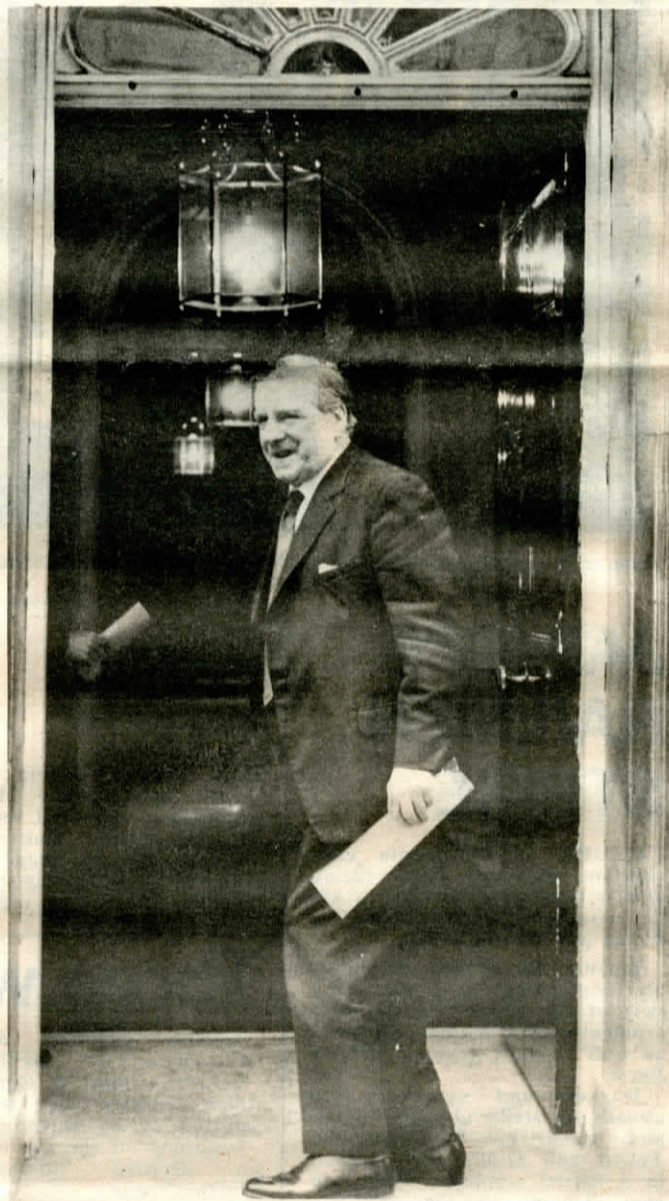
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It says the Industrial Relations Act must be repealed by the next Labour government



An hour and a half after announcing the TUC's climbdown on the Industrial Relations Act, a smiling Victor Feather goes into the Tory Prime Minister's residence.

APRIL FUND NEEDS £925.86 WITH ONLY FOUR DAYS LEFT

WE KNEW that this month would be a tough struggle for our Fund. We have raised our target up to £1,750 to help us overcome the difficulties that we had to meet during the rail work-to-rule.

However the Tory government's use of the Industrial Relations Act to intimidate the unions, makes us more determined than ever to step up the fight to make this government resign.

Workers Press is right at the centre of this struggle. We urge you all therefore to campaign as never before for our April Fund. There are only four days left. With a great all out effort we are sure you will raise the final £925.86 before Sunday. Do your best. Rush all donations immediately to:

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AROUND THE WORLD

Nixon men split over Vietnam

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE UNITED STATES and S Vietnam are to return to the Paris peace talks today after a five-week boycott which began when the liberation forces launched their current offensive.

The decision is a big climb-down for the Nixon administration, which had accused N Vietnam and the National Liberation Front of being unwilling to negotiate seriously.

It followed the disclosure that presidential adviser Henry Kissinger had secretly visited Moscow to pave the way for Nixon's own visit in the near future.

With his S Vietnamese allies patently unable to contain the liberation forces' offensive, even with massive US air support, Nixon now attaches great importance to the Moscow trip.

He hopes to persuade the Soviet Stalinist leaders to use their influence with Hanoi and take some of the pressure off the Saigon government.

Nixon was due to speak on TV last night with an important announcement on troop withdrawals from Vietnam. There was speculation in Washington that the scheduled withdrawal might be halted to strengthen the depleted South Vietnamese army.

The Administration is deeply divided over the Vietnam war, one section advocating the mining of Haiphong harbour and even more devastating bomb strikes against the N, while the other is pessimistic about the Saigon regime's chances even with maximum US aid.

The success of Democratic presidential hopeful George McGovern in two key primary elections yesterday is a clear indication of popular hostility to further military adventures in Vietnam.

In the last ten days Nixon's planes have dropped more bombs on N Vietnam than were dropped on Germany by the whole allied air forces during 1944.

These attacks are being carried out on the recommendation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other 'hawkish' elements, who have long advocated taking a bloody revenge for the NLF's victories in the S.

The 'Washington Post' this week published details of a secret study of the war undertaken just after Nixon took office in January 1969.

It shows the federal bureaucracy split into two camps—the 'optimists' including the chiefs of staff and the American embassy in Saigon; and the 'pessimists' including the Office of the Secretary of Defence, the State Department and the CIA.

They differed over practically every issue in the war. The 'optimists' favoured blocking all imports of war material through N Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, while the 'pessimists' concluded that even with an unlimited bombing campaign, the NLF would obtain enough supplies overland via China.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff successfully lobbied for the 1970 invasion of Cambodia on the basis of their conclusions. They also favoured heavy bombing of the N, claiming that this was effective in killing thousands of N Vietnamese soldiers.

The study also shows the utter prostration and collapse of the Saigon armies, even as long ago as 1969, when US troops were still bolstering the regime in strength.

At the time the 'Vietnamization' idea was first mooted, the S Vietnamese forces were deserting at the rate of 34 per cent a year — equivalent to one complete division going 'over the hill' every month!

The US militarists have not said their last word over Indo-China, and the crisis of US policy in Vietnam could well produce even more devastating military adventures as the Joint Chiefs face up to the ruin of their war policy.



One of the most militant sections of the Japanese working class

JAPAN'S RAILMEN STRIKE

FAILURE of last-minute conciliation talks left Japan facing almost total paralysis from a 48-hour transport workers strike for higher pay starting today.

Japan's 50 million travellers are confronted with the prospect of no services on the government-owned national railways as well as most regional private lines.

Dockers and seamen are already on strike at major ports, and taxi-drivers in cities like Tokyo and Osaka are engaged in a partial stoppage. There are also disputes on the country's airlines, though the airline workers do not apparently intend to strike.

A conciliation effort to avert the rail stoppage by the central labour relations commission failed to narrow the gap between management and unions yesterday.

The railway strike is the climax of a wages offensive that has been going on for the past two weeks through a work-to-rule campaign.

It is the first time for several years that national and private railwaymen have struck at the same time during the annual spring offensive for higher wages.

Some drivers in Tokyo yesterday anticipated the strike by staying away from work. 161 suburban trains were cancelled and a further 900 delayed, causing chaos at jam-packed stations.

Professional pushers were employed to cram carriages beyond their normal capacity. On one train windows were broken to allow stifled passengers to breathe.

Mussolini memorial

THE Madrid section of the fascist Italian Social Movement will hold a memorial service today for 'Benito Mussolini and all Italians who died for the same ideal'. Partisans in Milan executed the fascist dictator 27 years ago today.

Three waverers threat to Brandt

THREE members of Chancellor Willy Brandt's ruling W German coalition were reported to be wavering yesterday on the eve of a decisive 'no-confidence' vote.

All are members of the Free Democrats, the minority party in the

coalition with Brandt's Social-Democrats.

The opposition Christian Democrats have tabled a motion of no confidence in a bid to bring down the two-and-a-half-year-old Brandt government. It will be voted on today.

If all three waverers vote with the opposition, Brandt will be forced out of office.

If the Christian Democrats succeed they will wreck Brandt's efforts to obtain ratification of the treaties signed with Warsaw and Moscow in 1970.

The wavering Free Democrats are Saxony farmer Wilhelm Helms, who resigned from the FDP on Sunday, Baron Knut von Kuehlmann-Stumm a millionaire cattle breeder from Hesse, and Gerhard Kienbaum, a business adviser from North-Rhine Westphalia.

Croat links with right-wing emigres

PRELIMINARY results of the criminal investigation into nationalist activity in the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia have been published following a meeting on Monday

of district and municipal public prosecutors.

Leading members of the Matica Hrvatska (Mother Croatia) cultural association,

student leaders and others were arrested during the disturbances in the Republic earlier this year.

Zagreb prosecutor Bogumil Cikon told the meeting that the Matica Hrvatska headquarters in his city had 'close

operational and ideological links with the political emigration.' A number of notorious Ustachi émigrés were involved in the formation of 36 overseas branches of the Friends of Matica Hrvatska, he said.

Stalinists behind Makarios

FOLLOWING his warm birthday telegrams to the leaders of Greek reaction, Cyprus president Archbishop Makarios has been assured of the continued support of the powerful Stalinist party, AKEL.

On Sunday (St George's Day), Makarios sent a congratulatory telegram to General

George Grivas. He sent a similar telegram to George Papadopoulos, who combines the offices of Regent, premier, Defence Minister and Foreign Minister of Greece.

However, the AKEL leadership has reiterated its support for Makarios' policies

Indian steel men shot

EIGHT people were killed and 16 injured when police opened fire on workers demonstrating outside a steel foundry at Amarnath, four miles north of Bombay, police announced.

About 600 workers were protesting against a delay in payment of their wages and blockaded the management inside the foundry. Amarnath staged a General Strike yesterday in protest.

WHAT WE THINK

THE CASE FOR A GENERAL STRIKE

NO AMOUNT of one-day strikes and marches will make the Industrial Relations Act go away. Sir John Donaldson sits in his court at Chancery Lane on the carcasses of a long line of similar 'body blows' delivered on December 8, 1970, and January 12, March 1 and March 18, 1971. He is still there. The National Industrial Relations Court is still there. The Act is still there.

Not only are they all still there, but since March 30, when the Transport and General Workers' Union was fined £5,000 for contempt of court, any naïve doubts that non-co-operation meant immunity from the court's decisions have been completely destroyed.

There has been a double collapse of historic significance. The history of reformism this century, whenever the two classes have been poised for a decisive showdown, has been a history of shameful, craven retreats. It happened in 1911, it happened in 1926 and it could happen again today.

Macmillan no less than Carr has shown he means business and anyone who goes on thinking that the NIRC has no teeth will have his hand bitten off.

This Tory government no less than the government of Baldwin must smash the fighting organizations of the working class if they are to ride out the slump on their backs... and the NIRC is the centrepiece of this attack.

Yet the first minute the most reactionary and repressive Tory government since the General Strike bared its teeth, the reformists leapt in the air like scalded cats. On Friday the leaders of the three rail unions, with the tradition of J. H. Thomas behind them, led an unforgettable and ignominious retreat before the court's cooling-off order.

And on Monday the TUC's Finance and General Purposes Committee resolved that trade unionists could appear at the NIRC, thus hammering the final nail in the Tory plan to use them as Trojan horses within the unions, policing their own members in the interests of the bourgeois state.

The TUC is now faced with the stark choice either of reaffirming its decision not to co-operate with the Act, or of accepting it hook, line and sinker.

While reformism is running about naked at Congress House, the Stalinists are busy stripping themselves of the last vestiges of political credibility. Just as the NIRC's initial decisions provide damning testimony of Tory determination to crush the unions, they call for yet another day of protest on May 1.

Yesterday's editorial in the 'Morning Star' called on the labour movement to 'make it a day which Heath and the Tories will never forget'. We say to the 'Morning Star': The Tories will forget next Monday's day of protest just as they have forgotten all the rest.

We have said over and over again: This government must be brought down. The decision of the engineers at Eastbourne to back a strike on May 1 reflects the explosive feeling of the rank and file against the Act and against the Tories.

But a one-day strike will not get rid of the Act or the Tories. May 1 must be the start of a General Strike to force this government to resign so that a Labour government can be returned and made to carry out socialist policies.

Mersey clerks review six-week strike

CLERKS in the sixth week of their official pay strike at English Electric's Liverpool plant meet this morning to review the situation.

The 450 clerks are asking for a £6-a-week rise. There has been no increase in the company's offer of between £1.50 and £1.75.

Two weeks ago they received dismissal notices, but they returned them to the personnel manager.

On Monday they held a joint meeting with some of the laid-off 3,500 production workers.

The meeting called for a public inquiry into the affairs of Arnold Weinstock's GEC empire and for a meeting of combine shop stewards.

Said AUEW convenor Peter Martin: 'Many of us feel that Weinstock might never re-open this plant again.'



English Electric clerks picket the E Lancs Rd plant.

Tories try to stifle rents Bill meeting

LAMBETH, S London, council's Tory opposition is demanding that a scheduled meeting on the 'fair rents' Bill should be cancelled or paid for out of Labour Party funds.

Tory leader on the council Peter Carey has made the demand following a refusal by the Labour majority to have a speaker at the meeting on May 11 to explain the government's views on the Bill.

Carey has asked Lambeth's chief executive officer to send the bill for renting the town hall and the cost of advertising the meeting to the Labour Party.

Labour leader Charles Dryland told Carey: 'The whole reason for arranging this meeting is to put the council's position to the tenants in Lambeth.'

'As the council's stand is quite different to that of the government's, I fail to see why we should sponsor a government speaker on this issue.'

Carey argues that the only decision taken so far by Lambeth council is not to implement the provision in the Bill for raising council rents by £1 on October 1.

Since, he says, there is no other matter affecting the tenants on which the council has a view, there is no need for a meeting to be sponsored by the council.

He said that the meeting was only being held for propaganda purposes and the rate-payers should not pay for it.

Councillor Dryland points out that the meeting would explain council policy and the reason for total opposition to the government. And, he added: 'I could not guarantee the safety at the meeting of any Conservative councillors.'

● See Redditch tenants' fight P. 11.

McCann: Shot by 'death squad'?

AN OFFICIAL Royal Ulster Constabulary dossier on the murder of Official IRA man Joseph McCann has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions in London.

On Saturday, April 15, McCann was shot dead by a roving platoon of paratroopers as he walked through the Markets area of Belfast.

It is understood an undercover Special Branch man brought the paratroopers to the area where he had been keeping McCann under observation.

But instead of overpowering McCann and arresting him, the paratroopers opened fire with automatic weapons.

McCann was unarmed when he was killed. The RUC decision to send the papers to the DPP indicates that some sections of the police are unhappy about being so closely linked with the openly murderous policies of sections of the army.

It will be remembered that the Tory Cabinet especially drafted the paratroopers to Londonderry



McCann: unarmed

on January 30—Bloody Sunday—to open fire on civilians.

The McCann killing also strengthens the opinion in republic circles that the paratroopers have formed a 'death squad'—a group of soldiers who are trained to carry out assassinations.

This was a technique developed by the British army in its counter-insurgency campaigns in Kenya, Cyprus and Malaya.

The man who guides the operations of the paratroopers in Ulster is Brig Frank Kitson. Kitson gave the orders for the paratroopers to be used on Bloody Sunday after receiving a message direct from the Cabinet security committee.

Pilkington's take back first of rank and filers

PILKINGTON'S has re-employed the first of the militants sacked by the glass firm in August 1970 when they struck to demand the right to the union representatives of their choosing.

But another 70 men organized around the Pilkington rank-and-file committee remain sacked to this day and blacklisted throughout the NW.

On Monday Jim Boylan returned to the fibre glass plant Ravenhead. For the last 20 months he has had to keep his wife and children on social security.

The August 1970 strike followed the bitter seven-week Pilkington dispute which hit St Helens in

FROM PHILIP WADE

April. The firm sacked 500 men during the August struggles.

Many of the 500 went back as new starters, but the militants were kept out.

Jim and the others began a campaign to defend their rights which took them through the length and breadth of Britain and the trade union movement.

They exposed the role played by TUC secretary Victor Feather and Lord Cooper, head of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, in allowing the victimizations to proceed.

Said rank-and-file committee member Brian Gavin yesterday:

'There has definitely been pressure put on Pilkington from the shop floor through the G&MWU branches. A lot of men began to realize there wasn't any real leadership inside the factories and wanted the men back who were inside there before.'

'It has been a continual fight to get us back and now it's spreading to two more Pilkington factories. There's no doubt Jim's re-employment is a victory. He was a lad publicly engaged in the campaign speaking up and down the country.'

'Although it's a breakthrough there's a long way to go yet however. The campaign will go on until we've all got our jobs back,' said Brian.

Harbin of Marathon to settle Clydebank by Friday?

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

TALKS between shop stewards at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders and an American businessman who wants to buy the Clydebank yard are expected at the end of the week.

They depend on whether Wayne Harbin, chairman of Marathon Manufacturing, gets government cash to help him develop Clydebank to build oil rigs.

Yesterday Harbin had a second meeting with officials of the Department of Industry and Trade to discuss the gov-



Marathon's Wayne Harbin (l) with new Minister for Industrial Development, Christopher Chataway

ernment's financial aid in detail.

If enough money is offered, Harbin said he would like to go to Scotland to make his announcement on Friday.

In talks he has already had with unions and shop stewards he has been pressing for a four-year no strike contract.

Unions have indicated that this would not be a problem if a wage agreement with a cost-of-living clause can be negotiated.

If there is a deal with Marathon, the other company which wants to take over parts of UCS—Govan Shipbuilders—can begin production in the Govan,

Scotstoun and Linthouse divisions.

If Marathon and Govan Shipbuilders come onto the Clyde there is likely to be a labour force of 6,300, compared with the 8,500 employed when the company went into liquidation last June.

Meanwhile the outlook, in general for shipbuilding continues gloomy. Lloyd's shipping register annual report said yesterday that for the first time in five years there is a downturn in orders for new ships.

This is reflected in Britain by a decline in orders for marine equipment which accounts for 70 per cent of a vessel's value.

The British Marine Equipment Council has expressed its indignance that assistance given to help shipbuilding took no account of this situation.

See Stephen
Johns' review
of Alisdair
Buchan's book
on UCS—p.8

DIESEL MEN STRIKE

A strike at the diesel firm of Kelvin Marine, Glasgow, has just entered its second week. In this report a Scottish correspondent gives the background to the dispute.

The Kelvin Marine men want the engineers' national claim — £6-a-week increase and a 35-hour week.

At present a tradesman gets £19 a week minimum time rate and £26.29 added time rate. Semi-skilled workers and labourers come a long way behind and the girls, of course, come a lot further behind that again. You have to work two nights and Sunday to make up a living wage. When overtime was stopped selectively, it was clear that the only thing to do was to fight on it.

After being fobbed off for weeks, shop stewards called for a work-to-rule. Management said that it was a serious situation and they might have to close down.

A lock-out was threatened, so with the work-to-rule only three and a half hours old, the men declared they were on strike from April 14.

They're all out and they say they'll stay out until they get full satisfaction, because it isn't just their strike—they're leading the district on the engineers' pay claim.

This dispute started to come to a head in December when the men accepted an agreement establishing rates of pay and bonus levels for a minimum of 12 months on a voluntary ('morally binding') basis.

Management was told that the agreement was made, in anticipation of a national claim and the men accepted it in this context.

Of course, everyone knows what happened to the national claim.

In January, a claim was presented for £6 a week on the 'added rate', a 35-hour working week, and an extra week's holiday.

The management reminded the stewards of the 'substantial increases' in wages that had resulted from the introduction of a work study incentive scheme.

Management insisted that they could only consider the men's claim on national level and refused to negotiate at plant level.

In March, AUEW men imposed a ban on work study, stamping production cards and overtime.

Management refused to negotiate, so a seven-day notice of work-to-rule was given. Management said this could 'seriously prejudice employment prospects in the factory'.

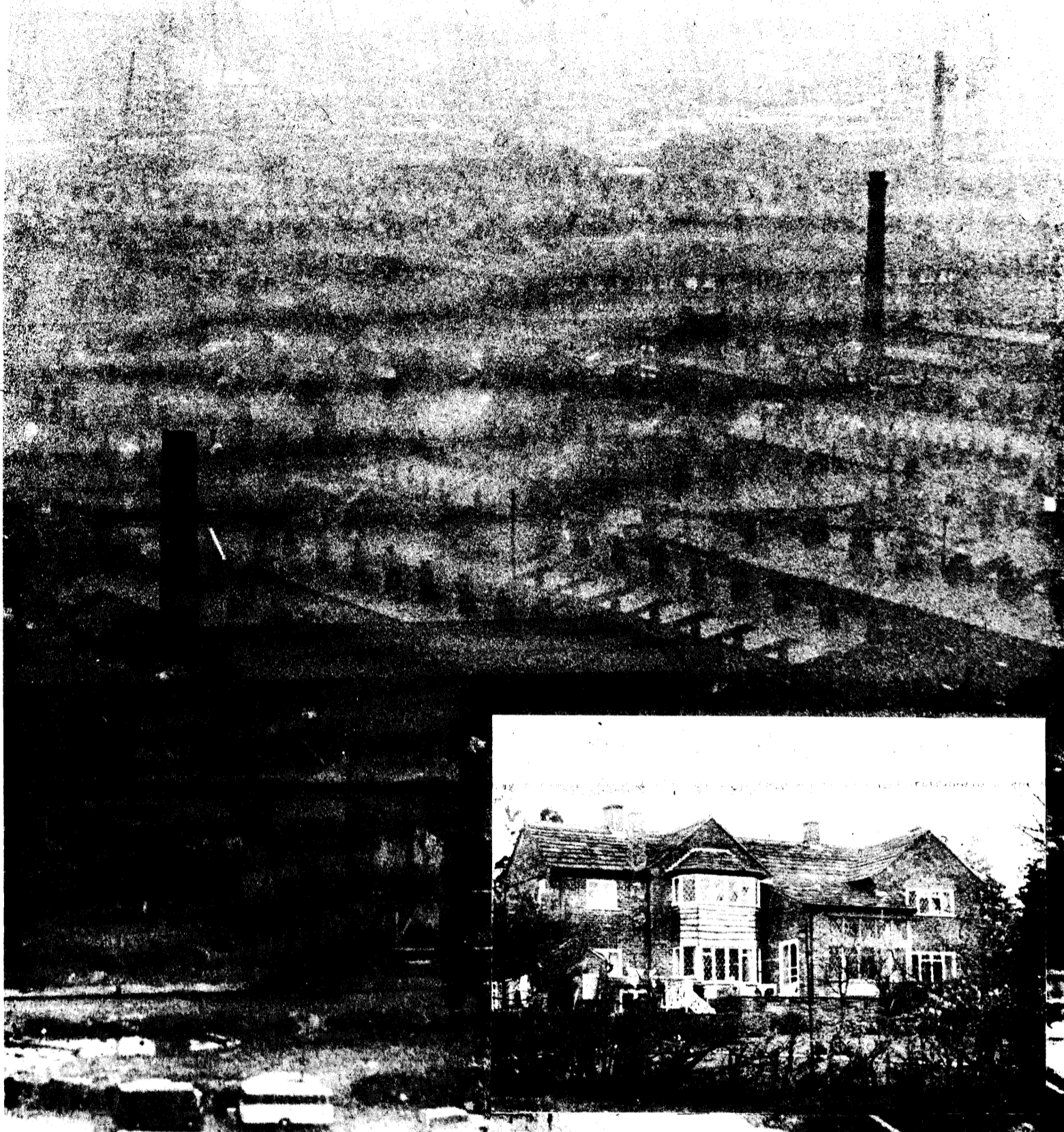
Another attempt to negotiate was made, but management contribution to the dialogue was simply to express disappointment that the bans were still in effect. A seven-day strike notice was made, but management contribution to the dialogue was simply to express disappointment that the bans were still in effect. A seven-day strike notice was given and the strike began.

John Barrie, convener, says: 'There are no immediate prospects of a settlement. The management want negotiations to be done through the GEC executive at a national level. They wanted a three-week extension of strike notice (this was to fulfill present obligations and get new orders).

'The only other thing they came up with was the idea of having a priest or minister or JP or the Labour MP as arbitrator.

'We'd like to see more firms take the same action. It should have been done at a national level, the issue's too big for plant-bargaining.

'We're staying out.'



Where the loot comes from—Manchester's black industrial sprawl where the slum homes jostle for space with the Victorian mills. Inset: the house and Bentley of a Manchester boss in Presbury, Cheshire, the area where most of the city's employers live

WHERE THE BOSSES LIVE

One thousand employers are locked in battle with engineering workers in greater Manchester. The men live in the slums and barren estates of this massive conurbation. But where do the bosses go at night? **STEPHEN JOHNS** investigates.

They live in places like Alderly Edge, Chelford and Wilmslow — nice rolling names that match the green Cheshire countryside.

Their houses are called Grey Squirrels, The Maples, The Elms and they still advertise on the village notice-board for 'handymen'.

Each morning they head their Rolls or Bentley 20 miles north to a big dirty place called Manchester.

It's the Manchester workers whose labour provides the profits that pay for the upkeep of the ranch house, the small farm and expensive lunches in pubs with obsequious waiters. About 150,000 of these workers are in industrial dispute just now—15,000 are occupying the

factories that provided the cash to build, or rather renovate, places like Prestbury.

At some stage of its existence I suppose it was a real country village, now it's neat and dull—shaved lawns, daffodils blooming in patterns, no chickens, cows or pigs. The only animals there are broad-bottomed stallions for those who have the time and money to canter down the country lanes.

Prestbury is the home of Mr Dick Metcalfe, joint boss of a small engineering shop near Stockport that bears his name.

Metcalfe has his home ('Yew Tree'), his Bentley, new Vauxhall and Ford escort, his farm and his children's education.

DEMANDS

The 110 workers who were sitting-in at his factory want some of the 'cake'. They were demanding a little extra cash and a 35-hour week.

Eric Welridge is one of them. He took his apprenticeship at

Metcalfe's ten years ago now he is the convenor.

He sees things in simple economic comparisons. As he puts it, Dick Metcalfe's brother travels in his Rolls from Oswestry on the Welsh borders four times a week. He probably spends more money on petrol than Eric takes home to his wife and two kids each week—that's £24 clear of tax.

Similar comparisons can be repeated about 1,000 times. This is the number of engineering plants in the greater Manchester area.

The workers live in the crowded slums that jostle for space with the dilapidated mills and factories of areas like Openshaw, Ancoats, Miles Platting. The bosses for the most part live round and about the 'new' villages.

If you ride from the workers' modest semis to 'the masters' luxury farm houses, the Capitalist system needs no words of explanation.

It's been like this since the industrial revolution struck the NW like a gale, uprooting communities and driving them into the great industrial wen of Manchester. As time went by the owners moved out to where the

rural ancestors of their 'hands' were born.

RUMOUR

And there they nestle in Cheshire where strikes, smoke, slums, unpleasant death and industrial disease are a rumour brought home by the man of the house. Ever safe in their countryside—or are they?

Recently outside an occupied plant, one of the executives came lurching out, champagne bottle clutched to breast. The chauffeur opened the door and the Jaguar zoomed off.

Two men witnessed the departure. One was a managing director, who lives out there with the rest. He turned to the second observer, a steel worker, sitting-in.

'You're not still picketing?' he asked.

'No', said the worker. 'I'm occupying. This time it's for money. Next time it might be for something else.'

MINTOFF KICKS OUT BRITONS

BY IAN YEATS

With Tory funds firmly in their grasp, the Maltese have nevertheless learned their lesson—Britain is not to be relied on.

Recently they have been giving the Tories a dose of their own medicine and showing what 'standing on their own feet' means.

A succession of gentlemen with long—no doubt distinguished—military backgrounds who had settled in Malta have been shown the island's door.

No reasons have been given, but deportations can only be ordered where the Prime Minister can show that these are conducive to the public good.

These tactics have, however, now received a setback. Ordered to leave Malta and with his residence permit revoked, a Briton living on the island has won what is generally regarded as a test case against the Maltese government.

A Maltese judge ruled a letter sent to Commander Edmund Haines from the Maltese administrative secretary ordering his departure 'forthwith' did not amount to a deportation order.

The court also decided that

the revocation of the permanent residence permit, which the Commander has been granted in January, 1969, was null and void and without effect at law.

Commander Haines is the first British resident to contest such a government directive in the courts.

Several Britons permanently settled in Malta have been told by the government to leave the island in the past few months without reasons being given.

They included Lt Commander Alistair Mars, a novelist and naval hero who was given less than 24 hours to leave the country.

Commander Haines submitted that the administrative secretary's letter ordering him and his wife to leave the island was *ultra-vires*.

He also submitted that even if the defendants, Prime Minister Dom Mintoff and administrative secretary Alfred Wirth, had been vested with such authority, the exercise of such authority had to be based on legitimate reasons.

He claimed the reasons should have been communicated to him, giving him an opportunity to state his explanations.

Counsel for the government



Prime Minister, Dom Mintoff: his authority to deport Britons is being challenged

submitted the letter sent by the administrative secretary on April 3 was a deportation order in terms of section 22 of the Immigration Act of 1970 and that as a consequence the deportation order logically entailed the revocation of the permanent residence permit.

Counsel for Commander

Haines submitted that the Immigration Act nowhere provided for the revocation of the permanent residence permit.

The judge said that the sole reason for which a deportation order could be issued was that the Prime Minister thought it conducive to the public good.

He added that the person

against whom such an order was issued should be informed of such an order not only that he be able to comply with and obey it, but also in order that he can verify whether such an order was according to law.

He said that the letter of April 3 did not contain the minimum requisites called for by the law.

BHUTTO SCHEMES FOR POW'S

President Bhutto of Pakistan is trying desperately to offer India a carrot big enough to induce her to release Pakistani prisoners of war.

This is the one move which might quieten opposition to him from the people of the central Punjab where most of the POWs come from.

And in quashing their opposition, it is the one move which could pave the way to an early recognition of Bangla Desh—vital if the ruined Pakistan economy is to stand any chance of revival.

Speaking at his inauguration ceremony shortly after being officially sworn in as President under Pakistan's new interim constitution, Bhutto told a cheering crowd of about 250,000: 'I will release all prisoners of war'.

Apparently addressing himself to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Bhutto said: 'You may not respect the law and release prisoners, but we will respect the law.'

'I will not bargain. I will not sacrifice our principles,' he said.

Pakistan holds about 600 Indian prisoners. India has some 93,000 Pakistani soldiers interned.

Referring to his newly-won endorsement from the country's first directly-elected parliament a week ago, Bhutto said he had come with the confidence of the National Assembly and also wanted the confidence of the crowd.

He demanded the people's consent to the release of the Indians and apparently got it.

But there were objections from a corner of the crowd.

The president overruled them to say he had won an approval from the majority.

'If the Indian Prime Minister asks for her prisoners of war then we will send them over the border at Wagah,' he said.

Wagah is a border crossing point between La Hore and the Indian town of Ferozpur.

Bhutto's offer came a few days before special envoys of the two countries meet to pencil in an agenda for his talks with Gandhi.

Her envoy, D. P. Dhar, of the External Affairs Ministry, is due for talks with Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Aziz Ahmed.

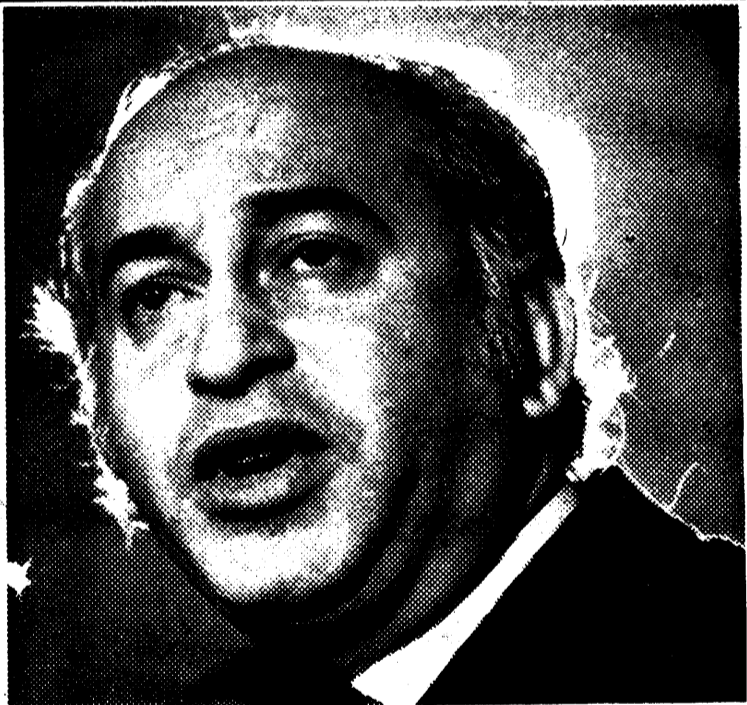
Bhutto said the negotiations would try to solve outstanding problems, following the war last December—the third Indo-Pakistani clash in 25 years.

'Now we want to live in peace with our neighbours. Indian leaders have also said Pakistan and India must live in peace,' he declared. But he regretted that India was still holding war prisoners.

Earlier he spoke of 'The dawn of democracy' in Pakistan and said 'martial law is now buried'.

Pakistani Chief Justice Hamoodur Rehman administered him the oath of office. The air force chief, Air Marshal Zafar Choudry swooped over the crowd at the local racecourse in a mirage jet fighter followed by flights of US, Chinese and French-built planes.

Armed contingents which paraded included Chinese tanks.



Top: Bhutto. Right: Gandhi

W GERMAN JOBLESS

A total of 61,000 workers in W Germany lost their jobs in January alone and since autumn 1970, 321,000 workers been made redundant, according to a report in the newspaper 'Frankfurter Neue Presse'.

The car industry made 11,000 men redundant in January; 63,500 workers in the electrical industry, 27,800 textile workers and 21,900 steel and iron workers all lost their jobs.

The number of hours' overtime has shrunk. Redundancies and reduction in overtime have reduced the employers' wages bill. The January wages bill for German industry only rose by 4.4 per cent over the previous year.

CZECH ARMS

Czechoslovakia is ready to sell goods, including arms, anywhere in Latin America, announced Foreign Trade Minister Andrej Barcak during an Argentine visit.

Many Latin American countries are ruled by military juntas and reactionary governments which suppress all democratic rights therefore the Czech bureaucracy's willingness to sell arms is a political act.

'There are no limitations for Czechoslovak armament exports. We are willing to supply them to any Latin American country willing to buy them,' said Barcak.

It is obvious that the main purpose of such arms purchases will be strengthening security forces to deal with what is called 'internal subversion'. In other words, Czech arms sales will directly assist counter-revolution in Latin America.



Left: Fidel Castro of the Revolutionary government of the Republic of Cuba: 'our relations (with Spain) are normal and they are good'. Top: Franco. Above: Lopez Bravo, Franco's foreign minister with the Cuban trade delegation in Spain.

THE TRADE BETWEEN CASTRO AND GUESS WHO?

One aspect of the Stalinist stab-in-the-back to the revolutionary struggles of the working class goes virtually unreported: it is the support given to the fascist regime in Spain by the Cuban government of Fidel Castro. In this article a Workers Press Latin American correspondent looks at the relations between these two countries.

In a speech in March 1967, Castro rebuked the USSR in the following terms: 'Some days ago, the Secretary and all the leaders of the Colombian Communist Party, who happened to be in their usual domiciles, were arrested at 6.00 a.m.'

'They [the Colombian authorities] did not pay the least attention to the presence at the time of a delegation of high Soviet officials who had come to sign a commercial agreement with the government of Lleras Restrepo . . .

'What would the Vietnamese revolutionaries think if we were to send delegations to S Vietnam to treaty with the puppet delegation in Saigon?'

It was a good point. But in the oceans of verbiage which have characterized Castro's prime ministership, he has never broken off trading relations established by the dictator Batista with Franco's Spain.

In 1959 Batista's government signed a commercial modus vivendi with Franco's representatives which continued untouched by the Cuban revolution until it expired on December 31, 1969.

After its expiry, no new agreement was reached because of differences over the Cuban debt to Spain and sugar import quotas, among other things, so trade continued with a renewal of protocol.

On June 2, 1971, new conversations were started in Madrid. The talks were overshadowed by fascist 'ultras', including Blas Pinar and Spanish sugar manufacturers. They created uncomfortable difficulties for Castro's negotiators by demanding compensation for Spaniards expropriated in Cuba, repayment of the Cuban debt and the replacing of a clearing-house system of payment by payment through convertible currency.

This was too much for the Cubans! In August, the delegation returned to Havana, Cuban boats left the harbour of Las Palmas and tobacco shipments to Spain were suspended.

By autumn, the clouds had disappeared and Havana cigars were on display once more in Madrid. Castro opened the way for a new agreement with this statement in early December: 'Politically we are diametrically opposed systems, but our relations are normal and they are good.'

On December 18 the new agreement was signed. It is headed 'Commercial Agreement between the Spanish government and the Revolutionary government of the Republic of Cuba'.

The fascist government

gazette which publishes the full details of the agreement notes in its preamble that the various problems which arose in June and July did not prevent a successful end to negotiations in the shape of a four-year agreement.

It adds a tribute to Castro's men: 'It is equally necessary to point out that the task has been greatly facilitated by the extraordinary atmosphere of friendly collaboration in which both sides reached agreements which will allow the continuity of trade.' (My emphasis.)

During the course of these negotiations, a Seat worker was killed during the car-workers' strike in Barcelona and police armed with machine guns constantly patrolled the Madrid university campus.

The Agreement guarantees measures by both governments to avoid competition and safeguards trade-marks. This will apply in Spain to different types of Cuban tobacco and in Cuba to Spanish wines. Cuba will export 70,000 tons of sugar and everything will be paid for in American dollars.

A joint committee was established. It will meet once a year, alternately in Madrid and Havana, to supervise the proper carrying out of the agreement and to prepare protocols over payment.

For the first time both signatories agreed to develop technical and scientific co-operation between the two countries. Franco took the initiative, conceding \$20m worth of goods to be paid for in two yearly instalments.

Both governments agreed on facilities for merchant shipping between the two countries and permission to establish these shipping lines under the flags of both countries.

The agreement states that as well as being the official replacement of the commercial modus vivendi with Batista of October 23, 1959, it also replaces the Protocol of March 23, 1970.

The Bank of Spain and the National Bank of Cuba will negotiate debts incurred during Batista's rule, as well as the compensation owed to expropriated Spaniards.

So the efforts of Cuban peasants and workers are aimed at placating Blas Pinar and the Spanish Falange and maintaining friendly relations between Havana and Madrid. Such is the morality of Castro's famous moral incentives!

The figures for Spanish-Cuban trade in the last four years are as follows (in thousands of dollars):

Year	Imports	Exports
1968	40,526.7	18,545.8
1969	42,418.6	39,298.2
1970	35,104.9	36,602.7
Jan-Nov 1971	25,604.7	28,167.9

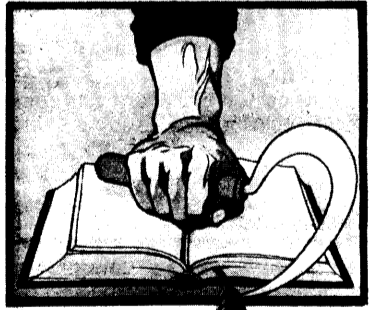


James Reid: 'man with a wild, handsome Scottish face'

APOLOGIA ON THE CLYDE

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

BOOK REVIEW



'THE RIGHT TO WORK—The Story of the Upper Clyde Confrontation', by Alasdair Buchan, Calder and Boyars. 65p paperback, £2.10 hard cover.

'The Right to Work' is 147 pages of plain journalese. It contains not one flash of insight or serious analysis of the battle over Upper Clyde Shipbuilders.

Its aim is to offend no-one. Archibald Gilchrist, the new Tory boss of the Clyde, has one on his desk, Harold Wilson could afford to write an introduction to it.

It will be welcomed at the Clydebank headquarters of the shop stewards' co-ordinating committee since much of the book is an uncritical description of the Stalinist yard leadership.

The tedium is only broken by the occasional cringing reference to the 'spirit' of the Clyde, example Mr Buchan's mawkish celebration of wage-labour with which he closes the work:

'In ten years time can a heavy-built ex-boilermaker be expected to look at the 396th perfect micro-circuit he has turned out . . . and still feel the same emotions when he sees a ship hit the water . . . when he smelt the rusty dust of the drag chains?

'Can he be expected to look at that micro-circuit and feel pride that it's "Clyde built"?'

'As long as ships have to be built, it's vital to the Clydeside psyche that we build them. When they stop ship-building here, we will lose something within ourselves—forever.'

Now only the middle class—who do not have to get up at 6 a.m. on a cold winter morning and face the grind of a shipyard, mine or factory—can trill this way about capitalist production.

This is, however, a minor criticism. The most serious flaw of the book is its failure to analyse the 'work-in'.

Buchan says the work-in was the brainchild of the Stalinist convenor of the Scotstoun yard, Sammy Barr, and one that the yard workers adopted.

He agrees with the 'New Statesman' when it called it a piece of 'theatre' and not real workers' control.

This is an extremely superficial appreciation of the UCS campaign. Buchan exposes himself when he comes to explain why the Stalinist-led stewards did not take any action that would precipitate a confrontation.

We are told, for example, that they did not take over the UCS boardroom on a permanent basis because they wanted to avoid symbolic acts which gave the impression that the strength of feeling behind the 'work-in' was being generated deliberately.

A bizarre conclusion that does not explain why the liquidator was allowed at all stages to carry on the normal winding-up of the company.

Buchan's only observation of the decision to allow the liquidator in the yards is: 'It was felt at this stage of the conflict it was a wiser policy to ignore rather than obstruct his work.'

On just why it was wise and on why the stewards delivered all the ships completed, the author says not a word.

The root of the confusion (if it is confusion) lies with a complete failure to appreciate the role of the Communist Party faction in the yard and its relationship with the government through the liquidator and the union leadership through men like Danny McGarvey of the boilermakers.

The work-in idea is, in retrospect, an ideal tactic for the men who want peaceful co-existence with capitalism—that includes Reid, Airlie and Barr.

It gave an appearance of militancy, but in fact was the ideal scheme for avoiding trouble with the liquidator. It also provided a smokescreen for the endless negotiation with the various capitalists who wanted to buy a piece of UCS. More important it took the political heart out of the

situation, and provided a climate for the re-entry of the union leaders on the Clyde.

On the relationship between the stewards and the union officials, Buchan says:

'It is the nature of things for officials to compromise and shop-floor representatives to cry sell-out, it is in a sense what they were both elected to do.'

In fact the connection between the two forces was more subtle . . . and more deadly.

To characterize the Stalinist as antagonistic towards the bureaucracy is wrong—as wrong as describing them to the left of the union leaders.

Rather, the Stalinists—and men like McGarvey at some point—unite behind the mutual aim of attempting to avoid a political show-down at all costs.

This happened on the Clyde after the stewards had pledged no co-operation with the ex-head of Govan Shipbuilders, Hugh Stenhouse.

Previous to the Stenhouse interlude, the policy had been to negotiate **only** with a buyer who wanted **all** the divisions.

But after a government warning that a refusal to co-operate with Stenhouse's bid for Govan and Linthouse would lead to closure of all the yards, the stewards changed their policy.

This was a crucial stage of the UCS struggle—the retreat really cleared the way for all the subsequent concessions by the shop stewards.

But it goes un-noticed, or at least unrecorded, by Buchan. He describes the mass meeting where the change of policy occurred as one of the most militant ever held in the yards.

But 'The Scotsman' reached a different conclusion. This paper reported:

'Mr James Reid had told the morning's mass meeting that while there should be no co-operation—on employment—with the new company, the "dialogue" with the government would continue. He said the men would be seeking

"cumulative proposals covering the four yards and their labour forces", but explained that this did not mean they were insisting on the retention of the UCS group in tact.'

It was this policy switch—as always introduced amidst a torrent of 'militant' demagoguery—that provided the basis for recognition of Govan Shipbuilders.

One can only speculate on the causes of Buchan's omissions, but they cover-up for the role of men like Reid and Airlie.

He dismisses the whole episode of betrayal in one breezy paragraph: 'The interest of Stenhouse marked the end of the political struggle. No matter what show the co-ordinating committee put on, the time for intransigence was over.'

He says the fight now became one based on 'industrial negotiations'.

In the final chapter Buchan asks if the work-in was a success. The most basic test, he says, was whether or not it saves jobs.

At the time he wrote the book, 400 men had joined the work-in and about the same number had left. This, says Buchan, was an achievement.

I wonder what his verdict would be now. In February, 182 workers remained in the protest—1,418 had left.

I am sure better and more detailed books will be written on the Clyde—Buchan does not even discuss the most important factor in the Clydeside crisis: the great slump in shipbuilding caused by the depressed level on commodity trade.

To describe the work as a serious attempt to evaluate the battle on the Clyde is to give it more credit than its worth. At most it is an apologia for Stalinist policy and the union leaders.



COWBOYS AND CAPITALISM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tim Horrock's otherwise good review of 'The Cowboys' in Workers Press (March 31) left one contentious issue in his implication that modern westerns are more of a caricature of the real thing than westerns of the John Ford-Howard Hawkes era, such as 'Red River', 'Fort Apache', etc.

In particular he says that the latter sees violence 'as part of a historical process and inseparable from the spread of bourgeois civilization'.

I would say that on the contrary they tend to romanticize violence out of existence, in that only the 'tough guys' exchange blows, and that those struck down by bullets were usually considerate enough not to spill any blood in front of the camera while managing to utter their cryptic farewell messages.

These films, made particularly in the immediate post-war period, expressed the real dynamic of post-war US imperialist expansion. Moreover it was charged with the sanctimonious sermonizing of the US ruling class which had been able to avoid the growth of fascism at home, and instead had used the ensuing World War II to enormously enhance its economic strength.

Hollywood became transfixed with spurious liberal values—massive cattle drives, bringing law and order to chaotic frontier towns, and of course holding back the ever-bloodthirsty 'redskins'. They began to change their mind though on the last aspect and discovered that it was troublemakers like corrupt government officials and gun-runners who poisoned social relationships.

John Wayne, in particular, came into his own, with his bigoted hard-headed performances with its low-key Christianity and his crude patriotism.

With the beginning of the 1950s changes began to take place. Other directors thoughtfully reinterpreted the image and brought out the dilemma of bourgeois individualism—to be 'good' and probably be destroyed (either physically or by being successful) or to be 'bad' (i.e. untrue to oneself) and to persevere at least—although they usually plumped for the final happy ending.

This dilemma was in a sense thrust on them by the McCarthyite witch-hunts. But they produced powerful films like 'High Noon' 1952 and 'Shane' 1953. They dealt the romanticism of the Ford genre, with its Wild-West full of overgrown school-boys, a shattering blow.

The frontier image of the West had lost its innocence—there were some 'mighty mean critters' even on the good side.

As Horrock points out, the problems Hollywood ran into, in trying to sustain the original 'Western' image, resulted from the real problems US imperialism ran into with the resurgence of the international working class in 1953-1954, in Berlin, France, Vietnam and elsewhere. US imperialism wasn't the 'fastest-gun' in the world after all!

Some years later 'The Magnificent Seven' embodied the different trends in the Western which emerged from these changes. It reworked the hack liberal values, only this time drawing on the contemporary protest movements for Negro civil-rights. The rise of racialism was seen as a part of society becoming more settled, thus making the situation of the redundant gun-slingers all the more tragic.

However they, in contrast to their counterparts in previous films, while realizing their ultimate doom, nevertheless regard themselves as 'professionals' and set about defending the innocent villagers from bandits with considerable enthusiasm.

In passing, these even enabled them to extol the old Ford-Hawkes themes of farming, ranching and settling down and making the country fit to bring 'kids up in' etc.

Violence becomes an end in itself, as Tim Horrock points out. However the psychopathic killer probably bears a closer resemblance to at least some of the well known folk heroes like 'Billy the Kid' and Wyatt Earp than John Wayne's untarnished personification of 'fair play'.

It is difficult to schematize meaningfully, as the rate of change in the subject matter is far quicker than the life span of individual directors and movie stars. Hollywood invests in films, not according to artistic worth but strictly according to expected box-office returns, and thus there is the operation of the blind-laws of the markets as old and



Top: High Noon, 1952. Above: John Wayne in Rio Bravo directed by Howard Hawks 1959. Below left: photograph of the real Wyatt Earp in 1885.

new directors battle it out.

Hawkes 'Rio Bravo' is just such an attempt to try and master the new themes; but failing miserably.

Hitchcock once remarked that the real Western has yet to be made, and if he was attempting it he would fill the screen with men wearing bowler hats and sporting waxed moustaches as they originally looked.

The real West has probably suffered no worse at Hollywood's hands than any other facet of Society. All have been distorted almost beyond recognition with only momentary relapses for something like the real contradictory nature of reality to be perceived.

The real West has an incredibly complex history. Upon an unspoiled land and the most primitive of stone-aged civilizations, fully developed capitalist society was unleashed after 1865 (having been previously contained by the conflict with the slave states of the South) in its most grasping and ruthless form.

Yet, as Tim Horrock points out, this was objectively progressive. The unravelling of the necessary from the unnecessary, the right from the wrong, will only be done by artists free from the dictates of the profit motive and the ideological requirements of US imperialism.

Similarly the real restitution of the rights and dignities of all the living remnants—Indian, Negro, Mexican and whites—of US capitalism's remorseless march westward in search of new profitable pastures will only be done on a new socialist basis.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Union killer

Remember the murder of Yablonski, a candidate in the fight for the presidency of the American mine workers' union?

He was killed at the height of the election campaign in 1969 and union militants said the incumbent President W. A. (Tony) Boyle was behind the crime.

Boyle, however, managed to stay out of trouble while three of his underlings were arrested and charged with being hired killers.

But now a confession of one Annette Gilly has pointed the finger more firmly at Boyle, who was recently sentenced for misuse of union funds.

Mrs Gilly turned state evidence and made her confession after she too had been charged and sentenced to death for her part in the assassination plot.

She states that the murder originated at the top level of the union. Mrs Gilly admitted the crime 'had the approval of the "big man" that meant Tony Boyle'.

Also named in the confession was J. Prater, field representative of district 19, and the union's vice-president George Titler.

Mrs Gilly claims she was told: '...the union would take care of me...with the union the sky was the limit, unless I talked. Then the grave was the limit.'

'My father went to Bill Prater's house for the specific purpose of asking Prater whether or not in the event of someone additional to Yablonski were killed the union would still pay... Prater replied that he didn't care if the whole town [of Clarksville, Pennsylvania] was killed, so long as the job was done.'

Prater said they could run Yablonski down with an aeroplane if necessary.



Police Commissioner, Robert Mark (right) announcing the plans

The Yard

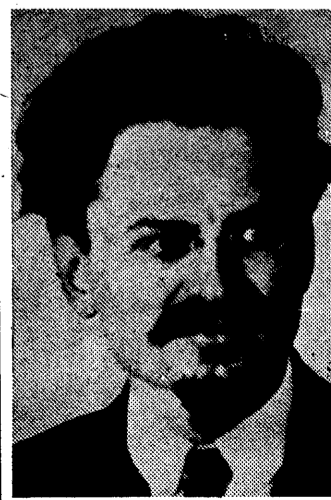
Unfortunate coincidence. Last Saturday night London Weekend Television began a new series called 'New Scotland Yard'.

The series sets out to describe the brilliance and integrity of the hard-faced men

at the Yard in their 24-hour-a-day fight against crime.

Next day the papers were headlined with the announcement that Robert Mark, the new police commissioner, was completely reorganizing the administration. Why? To break up corruption within the police force.

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NEW STATESMAN

NEW EDITOR ANTHONY HOWARD WILL SAFEGUARD THE FABIAN REFORMER'S TRADITION



Editor Howard

BBC 2's 'Late Night Line-Up'—sleepwalkers' guide, to the real world of personality politics — came up with yet another of its electrifying non-probes on Monday.

Allegedly an inquiry into the gathering and treatment of news both by television and the national newspapers, the entire exercise proved immensely revealing in terms of a conspiracy of innocence.

Emphatic relevance was placed on individuals, and the boundless limits of freedom within which such individuals can operate, both in the Corporation and on Fleet St. And just to prove their point they had invited Paul Foot to the studio — a sort of support-your-local-revolutionary—to bring a bit of colour into the proceedings.

Unfortunately, and predictably, to the detriment of intelligent Marxists, he managed to put his foot into it everytime he opened his mouth.

The programme began with a 'scoop' in the shape of Joan Bakewell interviewing the conquering hero of the day, the new editor of the 'New Statesman', Anthony Howard.

Judging by what Howard had to say, those of us who had not concluded it before, can now definitely be assured that the 'New Statesman' will remain as esoterically removed from reality as it ever was, totally unconscious of the movement of social forces and events which have led to a decline in its circulation, blatantly blundering on in the camp of mildly reformist Fabian politics.

The only wildly innovative approach—which Howard pre-

and old statesmen

REVIEW OF MONDAY'S 'LATE NIGHT LINE-UP' BY ANNA TATE

sented as a declaration of 'war' —was that the paper would gird its loins, gather its courage in its shakily progressive hands and poke 'fun' at various goings-on in the City.

The merchant bankers must be quaking at the thought of the well-turned witticisms which will be pitched at them from the Great Turnstile gradualists.

One cannot over-emphasize the extent to which men such as Howard seem bent on reducing politics to personalities and class-conflict to prep-school tuck-shop tantrums.

If that seems somewhat severe as a judgement, let us just take what he had to say about the last 15 years of Fleet St.

Having begun his journalistic career on the now-defunct 'Reynolds News', he described their editorial policy as based on the people and 'the talking point in the pubs this week'—foretelling the future by gazing into a pint of bitter.

His move to the 'Manchester Guardian' brought him up short, and into the arms of the 'puritan taskmaster' Anthony Heatherington. From pubs to puritans with no mention as yet of politics.

1961 saw him at the 'New Statesman', then the domain of John Freeman.

But in 1964, Labour came to power and it seemed that one could hardly continue on a Labour weekly in the circumstances—a measure of the power of his political-critical faculties—so he moved to the 'Sunday Times' as their Whitehall correspondent.

This was apparently a personal failure for him, but then the lucky lad was asked by David Astor to go to Washington for 'The Observer'.

And so it went, on, with endless anecdotes about austere 'John', dashing 'Dick', pugilistic 'Paul'—and I lie not—Howard actually described Paul Johnson as 'a marvellous pugilistic journalist'.

This kind of symbiotic storytelling is a symptom of the extreme sickness of fashionable Fleet St. In order to avoid, at all costs, the rather painful, objective fact that they, like other servants of this system are caught in the contradiction of pursuing truth when the surface of phenomena provides only distortion, liberal journalists prefer to erect a pristine barrier of personal references, a passion for professionalism which reduces itself to a play on words.

A 'discussion' then followed between Charles Wintour (London 'Evening Standard'), Larry Lamb (the 'Sun'), Derrick Amore (head of BBC television news) and Paul Foot ('Socialist Worker' and 'Private Eye').

Again the sheer deftness with

which any political analysis was avoided was to be admired if only in terms of extraordinary powers of evasion.

Amore languished with disdain and self-satisfaction, centering his entire argument around the petulant challenge that he (i.e. BBC) had pictures while 'the scribblers' around him had only words.

Sharp was the retort from the doughty Larry Lamb—'You've only got moving pictures', he cried, whereas the nationals have stills!

Just so that things didn't generate into a bun-fight, Paul Foot raised his revolutionary voice and spoke of 'sameness in selection', 'industrial combines' and shareholder values.

'Absurd! absurd', shouted the august gentlemen of the establishment media.

At this point, just when he should have had the insight, incisiveness and political commitment to mow them down with facts, figures and a political analysis, rather than mere slogans, Foot seemed to go into a muttering collapse, punctuated by much regretful shaking of the head. It's all right to go out on a

limb, as long as you yourself know where you're going. But Foot was unprepared, striding forth only to find, due to his ideological and factual backwardness, that he was on a wild-goose chase.

'I wish you would choose your examples more carefully,' Larry Lamb protested to him.

The entire event was pointless, puerile, and uninformative, which is revealing in itself. At a time when the threat of censorship, redundancies and closures looms over the media, it was difficult not to see the very inanity of this programme as being a safety-valve for the ruling class.

A lot of hot air was emitted, while things will continue to deteriorate under the objective impact of recession.

Paul Foot must learn that he is instrumental in this exercise of pulling wool over people's eyes, but he will have to begin by removing the ideological blindfold from his own.

At the moment he fits only too well in this elite club of the elder statesmen of the media—the men who bring you the news they want you to see or hear.

Toolmakers locked out



Pickets outside the Wickham tool plant, Coventry.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PRODUCTION has halted at Wickham Tool Company, Banner Lane, Coventry, following the lock-out of 28 heavy machine-shop men.

The dispute arose over a management plan to pay 80 per cent average earnings during waiting time to selected individuals.

The payment was originally made to all workers between December 18 last year and March 18 due to excessive overtime and sub-contracting needed during the annual 'salvage operation'.

The workers began striking for two hours every Friday against the selective payments after March 18. But last Friday the management told them not to report for work until today.

When they turned up for work on Monday, they found the power switched off and their clock cards removed. Uninvolved workers were also affected.

A factory meeting decided on all the men stopping work. A large picket has been mounted each day since.

Stewards are also waiting for an answer to the full engineers' claim submitted recently.

Alcan men fight stewards' sacking

THIRTY-TWO men at Alcan Wire Limited, Wimbledon, yesterday decided to delay action over the sacking of two shop stewards until tomorrow.

By then local officials of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers will have met management to discuss the men's proposals over threatened redundancies.

The men returned to work on Tuesday after a week-long strike against six redundancies, including the two shop stewards.

Shop steward Bert Bartlett told Workers Press: 'We have proposed the offer of a shorter working week to soak up the so-called "excessive labour".'

Four other men have now volunteered to be made redundant if the original six are not taken back.

The redundancies were officially announced last Friday after management claimed a 35-per-cent drop in sales.

Sackings had been rumoured since the miners' strike, when

the men worked a 33-hour week at a 22p-an-hour flat rate.

On March 17, after the sacking of deputy foreman Fred Russon—until then the only union member in the factory—the men decided to join the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and elect shop stewards.

Management has at no time recognized the union.

Trouble flared on April 13 when the night-shift were criticized for not returning to their machines at the correct time. They say they took their break ten minutes later.

The six night-shift workers, including steward Bert Bartlett, were suspended and police used to clear the building.

Police were again used when the stewards, some of the sacked men and AUEW district secretary J. B. Schooling visited the factory to try to negotiate with management.

CORRECTION

The number of toolmakers on strike at Smiths Industries, Cricklewood, is 70 not 17, as reported in Tuesday's Workers Press.

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TUC condemned for court participation

AN OXFORD branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union has passed a resolution condemning the TUC's plan allowing unions to appear before the National Industrial Relations Court.

The 5/55 branch of the union covers car workers in the assembly plant and service division at British Leyland's Cowley plant.

The resolution says: 'That this branch deplores the action of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the TUC in its decision to co-operate with the National Industrial Relations Court.

'The branch considers this to be equal to acceptance of the Industrial Relations Act and a major retreat in front of the Tory government.

'The branch is of the opinion that the General Council has no right to change the decision of the TUC, reached at its Blackpool conference last September, not to co-operate with the Act.

'This is a decisive turning point for the trade union movement. Once the TUC General Council participates in the court, it will be legally bound to apply the rulings and decisions of the NIRC within the trade union movement, trade union leaders will become the policemen of the shop floor.

'With these dangers in mind the branch calls for the reconvening of the Blackpool TUC conference, where the decision to deregister and not to co-operate was taken, as the only body able to change its decision and to consider the situation facing the trade union movement.

'The branch would call upon such a conference to reaffirm its policy of non-co-operation and expel those members of the General Council who have violated its decisions and should call a General Strike to force the Tory government to resign and re-elect a Labour government pledged to repeal the Act and implement socialist policies.'

E London sparks join

TOWER HAMLETS electricians have condemned the TUC's Finance and General Purposes Committee for allowing unions to participate in the National Industrial Relations Court.

A meeting of 60 Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union members unanimously endorsed a motion denouncing the decision as 'a complete betrayal of the trade union movement'.

They demanded the TUC institute its policy of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act—decided at its September Congress last year—and start a campaign in the trade union movement to remove the Tory government.

The motion will be sent to

the outcry

the union's executive and to West Ham Trades Council.

● It is believed that the EPTU executive has been in session over the last two days, probably discussing the union's official contacts with the NIRC, reported in yesterday's Workers Press. This followed the application by the 1,000-strong Electricity Supply Union to the Court for bargaining rights at the Ferrybridge, Yorkshire, power station.

Ironically, the Tower Hamlets sparks knew nothing of their executive's moves as they passed their condemnation of the TUC's participation policy.

Pro-S African Tories get new

chief

PROFESSOR Maurice Zinkin has been appointed chairman of the Conservative Commonwealth and Overseas Council, a senior Tory body which advises the government on foreign policy.

The appointment was made by Defence Secretary Lord Carrington, who has recently taken over as Tory Party chairman.

Zinkin replaces the Earl of Selkirk and his first task will be preparing a foreign policy manifesto for the next General Election.

The council is a strictly private body and its influence in Tory affairs should not be underestimated.

It comprises important backbench MPs like Sir Frederick Bennett, Rear Admiral Morgan Gyles, John Biggs Davidson, Ian Lloyd and Victor Goodhew. There are a number of journalists: Ian Colvin and Brigadier

Rent protest wives 'worse off than ten years ago'

TENANTS who besieged the offices of the Redditch Development Corporation earlier this week spoke to Workers Press and gave their feelings on the Tory rent Bill.

Mrs Ivy Jones, demonstration organizer said:

'We are fighting exorbitant rents. They are taking a man's wage and deciding what he should spend it on.'

Mrs Jones said it was the first demonstration she had ever organized and she had never been to a political meeting before.

The offices of the Development Corporation are situated in sumptuous parkland on the outskirts of town.

As they climbed the long driveway, having already marched four miles, one young housewife said: 'The rents are way above what men's wages can afford. We are paying £7.78 for a three-bedroomed house with a garage.'

Among a group of ladies shouting: 'Rent down, Heath out', were Mrs Nicholas and Mrs Dabreu from Matchborough.

'I voted Heath in', said Mrs

Nicholas, 'but I shall vote him out next time. My family is worse off financially now than we were ten years ago. My husband is £8 down on wages because there is no overtime. I'm working solely in order to live, not for any luxuries.'

One official who did venture out from the Corporation offices argued that the 'fair rents' Bill would give them the opportunity for rent rebates. This was greeted with derision.

Mrs Jones answered demands from the marchers for a total rent strike by saying this would give the Corporation a chance to victimize some of the tenants, including herself.

Tariq Ali, God and Mrs Whitehouse

MRS MARY WHITEHOUSE is asking the BBC to reconsider invitations given to Tariq Ali and Bernadette Devlin to appear on a religious programme.

Ali is due to speak on Sunday evening on BBC 1's 'How Can You Be So Sure?'. Miss Devlin is the guest the following week.

Mrs Whitehouse, secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, said yesterday: 'We feel it is not the part of a public broadcasting service to accommodate people who are given to revolution by violence if necessary.'

She is sending telegrams to Charles Curran, Director-General of the BBC, and Sir John Eden, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.

A BBC spokesman said that when received, the telegram would be considered and replied to.

ITV

12.10 Story in the Rocks. 12.25 The Warm Coat. 12.40 Woodbina. 1.05 House and Garden. 1.30 Racing from Newmarket. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Newmarket Racing. 3.45 Marcus Welby. 4.40 Nuts and Bones. 4.55 Secret Squirrel. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.30 CROSSROADS.

6.55 FILM: 'THE DEVIL AT FOUR O'CLOCK'. Spencer Tracy, Frank Sinatra. Tiny island in Pacific threatened by volcano.

9.00 LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR.

9.30 THIS WEEK.

10.00 NEWS.

10.30 CINEMA. Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn.

11.00 SOMETHING TO SAY. Issues which affect our lives.

12.00 THE BISHOPS.

TV

BBC 1

9.20 On the Farm. 9.38 Schools. 12.55 Arall Fyd. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 News, weather. 2.05 Schools. 3.45 Working with youth. 4.10 Parsley. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Boss cat. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.50 TOM AND JERRY.

7.00 SPY TRAP. Time to Kill—episode 2.

7.25 TOP OF THE POPS.

8.00 IT'S MURDER. BUT IS IT ART? Part 6.

8.30 THE FRENCH WAY.

9.00 NEWS, Weather.

9.20 ORKNEY. Three stories by George Mackay Brown.

10.50 24 HOURS.

11.35 MISTRESS OF HARDWICK. Part 3.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.30 Racing. 4.05 Yak. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Funny face. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. What's On Where. 6.15 Farming news. 6.20 Sport. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Gunsmoke'. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 10.30 Maverick. 11.30 News, weather.

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

SOUTHERN: 2.00 Racing. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Racing. 4.10 Houseparty. 4.25 Cartoon. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Lionheart. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 Simon Locke. 7.15 Film: 'Beyond Mombasa'. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Drive-in. 11.40 Stuart Gillies. 12.10 Weather. Epilogue.

HTV: 1.05 Captain Scarlet. 1.30 Racing. 3.40 Arthur. 3.50 Dr Simon Locke. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Huckleberry Finn. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report. 6.18 Report. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.10 Film: 'Jailhouse Rock'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Gallery. 11.00 Saint. 12.00 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.18 Sport.

HTV Wales as above except: 4.15 Miri Mawr. 6.01 Y Dydd.

HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales.

ANGLIA: 1.30 Racing. 2.30 London. 4.05 Newsroom. 4.10 Jimmy Stewart. 4.40 Rupert. 4.55 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Hell and High Water'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Lifeline from the fens. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Avengers.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open university. 6.35 Working with youth. 7.05 Open university. 7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather. 8.00 EUROPA. 8.30 W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM. The Alien Corn.

ATV MIDLANDS: 1.30 Racing. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Family affair. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 Secret service. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Film: 'Moss Rose'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Marcus Welby.

ULSTER: 1.30 Racing. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Report. 6.15 Tommy. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Dr Simon Locke. 7.30 Film: 'Call Me Bwana'. 9.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Avengers.

YORKSHIRE: 1.00 Survival. 1.25 Pied Piper. 1.30 London. 3.00 The Sound of . . . 3.15 Racing. 3.40 Ugliest girl in town. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Bugs Bunny. 5.20 -London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Shirley's world. 7.00 Cartoon time. 7.10 Film: 'The Way to the Gold'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive-in. 12.00 Weather.

GRANADA: 1.30 Racing. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.50 Make a wish. 5.15 London. 6.00 News. Police file. 6.25 I Dream of Jeannie. 6.55 Sky's the limit. 7.25 Film:

9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK. Harry Secombe. 10.05 NEWS, Weather. 10.10 WORLD CINEMA: 'NINE BACHELORS'. Comedy about petty criminal who becomes a marriage-broker.

'Columbo: Death Lends a Hand'. 8.50 Sylvester. 9.00 London. 11.00 On the line. 11.30 Whip-lash.

TYNE TEES: 12.55 Pied Piper. 1.00 Forest rangers. 1.30 Racing. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 The sound of . . . 3.15 Racing. 3.40 Ugliest girl in town. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Shirley's world. 7.00 Film: 'The Wackiest Ship in the Army'. 8.50 Popeye. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive-in. 12.00 News. 12.15 Revolving chair.

SCOTTISH: 1.30 Racing. 3.30 Once upon a time. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Fireball. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Cartoon. 6.25 Stuart Gillies. 6.55 Film: 'A Fine Madness'. 9.00 Short story. 9.30 London. 10.30 Love thy neighbour. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Beagan's Gaidhlig.

GRAMPIAN: 1.30 Racing. 3.35 News. 3.35 Job look. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Rumble Jumble. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Lesley Blair. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Plus Tam. 7.30 Film: 'In the Doghouse'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Viewfinder. 11.30 Survival. 12.00 Epilogue.

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GEC maintenance men fight for mates

GEC maintenance workers at Coventry factories are to continue on strike in support of their 30 to 40 mates' fight for a substantial wage rise.

The mates, who are classed as semi-skilled workers and have been earning £24-£30 a week turned down a £2 offer.

The maintenance men are now extremely bitter over the company's unprecedented decision to employ management personnel on maintenance work.

Shop stewards told Workers Press that supervisory staff, ranking from foremen right up to a divisional manager, were on the shop floor dressed in boiler-suits greasing and oiling machinery and maintaining battery trucks.

Stewards had been told by management representatives that they



Men carry placard with pertinent question

'intended to use any means within their power to keep the factory going'.

Last Thursday about 2,000 GEC production workers struck against the company's use of management on maintenance work. On Tuesday morning however a poorly-attended mass meeting agreed to a return to

work. The maintenance workers now intend to keep a picket on the main gates of the GEC factories to persuade production workers to black all machinery maintained by management.

As stewards told Workers Press: 'We are now fighting for trade unionism at GEC.'

Hospital sparks say 'Reinstate'

NINETY electricians have been on strike at London's St Thomas's Hospital building since Friday. They say they will not return to work until the Phoenix Electrical Company reinstates an electrician sacked last Thursday for alleged 'absence from the site without permission' and 'lack of production'.

Management has offered to transfer the man to another site or to suspend him on basic pay and put the matter in the hands of the Joint Industries Board.

AUEW chiefs stick to plant bargaining

FROM DAVID MAUDE IN EASTBOURNE

ENGINEERS' union leaders meeting in Eastbourne yesterday defeated a right-wing move to reopen pay negotiations at national level with the Engineering Employers' Federation.

They did so after Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, told them the move would be a 'disaster'.

After a heated four-hour debate, the AUEW engineers' section National Committee threw out the motion from the Coventry district by 28 votes to 23 with one delegate abstaining.

The Coventry motion expressed deep concern at the National Committee's January 10 decision to refer the big pay and hours claim to district and plant level; shop stewards and convenors were put in an intolerable position.

In an emotional speech, Scanlon told the committee that whatever it decided on pay, they would not avoid the fight that was coming, however much they sought to do so.

He went on to describe how union negotiators had tried to 'hold in abeyance' some points of the national claim in order to reach an agreement, only to receive 'one of the most impudent replies that could ever have been foretold'.

They had attempted to avoid a confrontation, even though it would have been far easier just to reject the employers' offer and go along the lines of a national stoppage.

'I'm convinced that there are



Scanlon: Emotional speech

those within the EEF who are deliberately trying to provoke such a situation,' he said.

But the committee had to pursue the claim in such a way as to preserve the fabric of the union so that it could go on fighting.

If someone was out to provoke a confrontation to see who would call a stop to it first, he warned, it would not be the AUEW executive.

Moving the resolution, Coventry delegate Jim Griffin said that the union would be committing 'industrial hari-kari' if it refused to go back to national negotiations.

He claimed that the executive had had no power to break off the negotiations in the way it did last December. Members had the right to expect that negotiations would be fully exhausted first.

While congratulating the Manchester district on the action it had taken, he claimed that 35 to 40 per cent of the rest of the union's 100 or so districts had not even reported to the national office on what action they proposed to take in support of the claim.

Lancashire delegate Len Brindle hit back vehemently. The only people who were anxious to re-open talks at national level were the employers, he said.

What was wrong with the pay battle was a lack of leadership in the areas.

With 1 million unemployed and redundancies taking place daily, the most important issues were not money but more holidays and shorter hours.

'Our members are now being prepared and alerted to fight on other issues than just £1.50 in the wage packet,' he said.

In a scornful attack on the Coventry motion, executive councilman Reg Birch queried whether AUEW members were placed in an intolerable position by being asked to fight their employers.

Workers were involved in 'a perpetual war', he said. 'And for the first time we have said to our members "You are free to fight, and the whole union will stand by and support you".'

'It's the first time they've been asked to fight like that; of course they won't all move at the same time.'

Bill Anten, delegate from Manchester, said that the managing director of his factory, Hawker Siddeley, which is sitting-in, could have moved the Coventry motion.

What would happen to the men now taking action if it were carried? he asked.

From SE London Len Miseldine said that this was 'one issue on which we will not bend the knee'.

The membership would fight at plant level, while always leaving the door open for national negotiations.

But there would have to be some guarantee that such negotiations would be meaningful and not expose union leaders to just a series of insults.

Liverpool delegate Derek Gough said that he had gone to the January 10 National Committee with a firm attitude.

'I was looking for a national strike,' he said. But he had been convinced by what Scanlon and Birch had said at that meeting. He added: 'We're not hoping to solve this in three months, we're in a continual struggle.'

Shortly after delegates arrived for the morning session, a fierce procedural battle developed over whether the Coventry motion should be debated at all.

The executive had been constitutionally wrong to approve it for discussion, Scanlon explained, because it came not from a branch but from a divisional committee.

But if it was not debated it would appear that delegates were afraid of what it represented.

A move to strike it from the agenda was narrowly defeated by 28 votes to 24.

The conference went on to reaffirm its January decision to pursue the claim at district and plant level and to 'vigorously strengthen' this campaign.

THE EXTREME N and NW of Scotland will have scattered showers at first, otherwise it will be dry.

All other areas will be dry with sunny intervals. Temperatures will be normal in all areas. Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Cloudy weather, with rain at times, will spread from the W, but S and E areas will start dry with some sunny intervals at first. Temperatures near normal.

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SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MAY 1 PUBLIC MEETINGS

Mobilize against the Tories

Hands off the trade unions

Defend the right to work

Force the Tory government to resign

LONDON: Poplar Civil Hall, Bow Rd, 7.30 p.m.
G. Healy (SLL National Secretary); Sarah Hannigan (YS, London regional secretary).

LIVERPOOL: Royal Institute, Colquitt St, 7.30 p.m.
Mike Banda (SLL Central Committee); Christine Smith (YS).

LEEDS: Art Gallery, Headrow, Leeds 1, 7.30 p.m.
Jack Gale (SLL); Ken Pearce (OTO in personal capacity); Joan Burrows (YS National Committee).

SHEFFIELD: Montgomery Hall, Survey St, opp. Town Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee); Frank McCabe (NUM in personal capacity); Ray Jaxson (YSNC).

BIRMINGHAM: Lecture Room 1, Digbeth Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Mair Davies (SLL Central Committee); Alex Mitchell (Workers Press); William Aitken (YSNC).

NOTTINGHAM: Co-op Education Hall, Heathcote St, 7.30 p.m.
John Spencer (Workers Press); Harry Finch (SLL); Steve Martin (YSNC).

SWINDON: Locomotive Hotel, Fleet St, 7.30 p.m.
Ray Howells (AUEW personal capacity); Clive Norris (YSNC).

READING: Trades and Labour

Hall, Minster St, 7.30 p.m.
Dany Sylveire (SLL); Tony Richardson (T&GWU in personal capacity).

SOUTHAMPTON: Langley Hall, next to St Peter's Church, Commercial Rd, 7.30 p.m.
Frank Willis (AUEW in personal capacity); P. O'Regan (SLL).

GLASGOW: Partick Burgh Hall, Glasgow, 7.30 p.m.
Stephen Johns (Workers Press); John Barrie (YSNC).

EDINBURGH: Trades Council Club, Albany St, 7.30 p.m.
Jim Dormer (EPTU in personal capacity); Dave Barclay (YS).

MANCHESTER: Wheatsheaf, High St, 7.30 p.m.
Alan Stanley (Vauxhall shop steward in personal capacity); John Simmance (YS national secretary).

AYLESHAM: The Legon, Burgess Rd, Aylesham, 7 p.m.
Brian Lavery (NUM in personal capacity); Roger Smith (ACTT in personal capacity).

NEWCASTLE: Hotspur Hotel, Haymarket, 7.30 p.m.
Dave Temple (SLL); Hugh Nicol (AUEW in a personal capacity); Ian Yeats (Workers Press); Keith Radford (YSNC).

BRISTOL: Central Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Alan Wilkins (AUEW in a personal capacity).

Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists

MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION

Sunday May 7

We demand the Right to Work!

No retreat from the fight against the Industrial Relations Act!

Hands off the trade unions! Defend democratic rights!

Withdraw troops from Ulster! Release all internees!

Victory to the Vietnamese workers and peasants

For the military defeat of US imperialism!

MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!

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.

G. Healy (Socialist Labour League National Secretary)
J. Simmance (Young Socialists National Secretary)
M. Banda (Socialist Labour League Central Committee)

In a personal capacity:

Frank McCabe (NUM)

Roy Battersby (ACTT)

A. Thornett (Deputy-Senior Steward Morris Motors)

CHAIRMAN

C. Slaughter (Socialist Labour League Central Committee)

I would like to come to the May Day Demonstration

NAME

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Please send me details of transport arrangements. Complete form and send to J. Simmance, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

LUTON: Thursday April 27, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Lea Rd. YS May Day rally.

N LONDON: Thursday April 27, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', Tottenham High Rd (nr White Hart Lane). The engineers' wage claim.

SE LONDON: Thursday April 27, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Rd (opp New Cross stn). Tory 'fair rents' Bill.