

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY MAY 26, 1972 ● No. 775 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE



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Blacking to continue London follows suit

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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At the Royal, officials who put the union case got a stormy reception and less than half the group's 5,000 employees bothered to turn up to hear their pleas.

The meeting ended with preparations for the national dock strike scheduled to start one week today.

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This action was draining the union's funds away to the NIRC in fines he said.

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TORY CLASH WITH UNIONS

WILSON RUNS AWAY

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In his first major speech on industrial relations this year, Wilson said:

'In place of conciliation and understanding, ministers, taking their lead from Mr Heath, are operating as agents provocateurs, seeking to invoke Her Majesty's judges and the majesty of the law in the consequences of an unnecessary and dangerous confrontation deliberately provoked for political purposes.'

This is the gravest statement made by a Labour Party leader for many years. Its vital significance should not be lost. Wilson, a Prime Minister for six years and a member of the Privy Council, is in the know.

He roosts within hearing of all the major decisions in the Tory Party and his statement comes only three days after the council of war held at Chequers.

This meeting was devoted to preparing the plans to meet the threatened rail and docks strike. The Tories have taken all the decisions to implement the Emergency Powers Act which will inaugurate repression of trade unionists and pickets on a vast scale.

The powers will also permit the use of troops for the maintenance of fuel supplies and transport.

Wilson knows what is happening behind the scenes—his speech reveals that.

But in making public the

BY ALEX MITCHELL

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We challenge Wilson. If he is so alarmed about the Tory provocateurs, why doesn't he immediately summon a special conference of the Labour Party to discuss a strategy for defeating the enemy?

Such a conference was called a year ago to discuss the Common Market—why not now when the Tory attack is reaching a

more menacing crescendo?

Wilson should summon his rank and file to a conference just as Feather should call a special conference of the TUC to re-affirm the trade unions fight against the Industrial Relations Act and the government.

These conferences would give the rank and file the urgently needed opportunity to prepare policies and a strategy to defeat the government.

The biggest danger at present is that the rank and file will be suffocated by the warblings and prevarications of Heath and their own bankrupt leaders like Wilson and Feather.

SPECIAL FEATURES THIS WEEK

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Centre pages

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a study of how the Tories
planned to smash the
Hunger Marches in the
1930s*

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MICHAEL BANDA

TOMORROW

*Angela Davis:
A special correspondent
reports from the trial
in San José*

Socialist Labour League

Public meeting

SUNDAY MAY 28 7.30 pm

RECALL THE TUC!

DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS!

BUILD COUNCILS OF ACTION NOW!

MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!

RETURN A LABOUR GOVERNMENT PLEDGED TO
SOCIALIST POLICIES.

Beaver Hall, Garlick Hill (nr Mansion House tube)

Speakers: MIKE BANDA (SLL Central Committee)
LARRY CAVANAGH (Liverpool docker)
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WHAT WE THINK**CATHOLIC
AID FOR
WHITELAW**

FOLLOWING the visit on Wednesday of a delegation representing the Roman Catholic Central Citizen's Defence Committee to Whitelaw comes the news that a delegation of housewives—all devout Catholics from the Creggan estate in Derry—have seen 'Whitewash' Willie in an effort to secure an amnesty for the IRA in return for an IRA ceasefire.

After an 80-minute meeting with Whitelaw the women said: 'We had a lot to say and ask of Mr Whitelaw. We put our points of view and we are very satisfied with what he told us'.

The women's initiative has now been emulated by a men's committee, chaired by ex-building contractor Tom Doherty, called the Creggan Men's Committee. They also plan to meet Whitelaw. What unites all these groups is their confidence in the Ulster Supremo and their determination to see the disarming of the IRA in the foreseeable future.

As one of the women's leaders said: 'It is up to the people of Creggan and Bogside to ask the IRA members to give Mr Whitelaw a chance'. And as another put it: 'He [Whitelaw] was very, very helpful and a real gentleman. We were able to tell him that most of the 35,000 people living around our home were behind us.'

The road to hell is paved with the kind of naive intentions of the good women of Bogside. A 'truce' is precisely what Whitelaw requires to isolate the IRA, divide the Republican opposition, intimidate the Protestant workers and secure a political deal with the bourgeois reformists in the Social Democratic Labour Party and the ultra-right Paisley-Craig forces.

Already the SDLP leaders and MP in Derry, John Hume, are expected to announce the end of the party's boycott of local government councils, which started when internment was introduced. Also expected is an end to the rent and rate strikes as a gesture in anticipation of Whitelaw's proposed ending of internment. The activities of Whitelaw and the response of the women, who are undoubtedly influenced by the Catholic Church, confirms cogently the warning made by Lenin many decades ago about the various methods of capitalist rule.

Capitalism, said Lenin, does not only rule by the 'knot' (Russian whip) but also by paltry concessions and pseudo-democratic decrees. To see only one side of capitalist rule and not the other is to disarm the revolutionary movement and betray it.

It is not an accident that those movements, like the IRA and their revisionist supporters, who confined their activities exclusively to countering the terrorist side of imperialist oppression, cannot produce a credible alternative to the constitutional carrot that is now being held out by the Church, the SDLP and 'men and women of peace' in Ulster.

In this sense the priest is immeasurably more dangerous than the para and the policeman. It is not surprising therefore that the church, which had little or nothing to say when the official IRA leader in Belfast Joseph McCann was shot down like a dog by an army killer squad in Belfast, should shout itself hoarse about the murder of Private Best and stampede thousands into the arms of Whitelaw. Praise the Lord—and pass the ammunition!

Despite our differences with the IRA, we urge the people of Creggan, Bogside and Belfast not to desert the IRA and to continue the struggle until all British troops are withdrawn unconditionally and internment ended.

We call upon the official IRA to consider seriously political changes in its policies which will mean the abandonment of terrorism and its replacement with revolutionary policies which unite the Irish with the English working class against their common enemy the Tory government.

**Japanese seamen
extend strike period**

JAPAN'S 160,000 seamen were yesterday ordered by their union to continue their 41-day-strike, at least until June 4, to back their demands for more pay.

The original strike order expired yesterday, but union leaders stepped in with further

instructions not to man any ships.

Since it began on April 14 the strike the longest ever by seamen—has tied up nearly 1,300 ships in 52 ports. Negotiations broke down three weeks ago on the seamen's demand for monthly increases of between £20 and £27.50.

TEN MONTHS AFTER SUDAN BLOODBATH**Kremlin clears Numeiry
of murdering CPers**

IN A broadcast hailing the third anniversary of the anti-communist Numeiry regime in the Sudan, Moscow Radio makes no criticism of the military junta for its brutal murders of communists last July.

It claims that the Numeiry government made 'a number of important changes' after coming to power by military coup in 1969. In fact one of the regime's first acts was to decree the death penalty for strikers!

AROUND THE WORLD**Angela didn't plan
to free us—
Soledad brother**

THE DEFENCE case in the Angela Davis trial has finished. Miss Davis was not called to the stand to give evidence.

One of the 11 defence witnesses, Fleeta Drumgo, one of the two surviving Soledad Brothers, has testified that he knew nothing of any plan to free him and the other Soledad Brothers from San Quentin prison.

The prosecution is expected today to bring forward wit-

BY JOHN SPENCER

The fact that the Sudan Communist Party (together with 'representatives of the basic progressive forces of the country') joined the Numeiry administration 'was of great importance in strengthening the anti-imperialist regime in Sudan after the May revolution', the radio says.

In fact, the Communist Party's participation in Numeiry's reactionary Cabinet was a trap. The three Party members who joined the Cabinet did so without consulting the central committee, where the majority led by general secretary Abdel Khaleb Mahgoub opposed Numeiry's ban on political parties and his plan

to federate with Egypt and Libya.

As a result of his opposition, Mahgoub was jailed on treason charges and the Kremlin sent a delegation to Khartoum to mediate between the CP factions. The delegation favoured entering the Cabinet.

Pushed into a corner with Soviet connivance, the Mahgoub tendency organized an abortive coup d'etat against Numeiry on July 19 last year, which was strangled with Egyptian and Libyan help.

Mahgoub and 13 other leading communists were executed after a travesty of a trial by a drum-head court-martial.

Moscow Radio describes this butchery as 'tragic events', but does not blame Numeiry. Instead it states that 'reaction and imperialism were particularly active in their efforts to torpedo the co-operation among the progressive forces in Sudan.'

Since Mahgoub and his comrades were the chief opponents of this co-operation this is tantamount to accusing them of being agents of imperialism.

The radio report further makes it clear the Soviet Union had no intention of breaking relations with the Numeiry regime after the July bloodbath—the anti-Sudan forces', it says, 'fabricated an absurd myth about the so-called Soviet interference in the internal affairs of the Sudan'.

Against this accusation, the Soviet radio cynically wishes the 'Sudanese people' further successes in 'the stubborn struggle against imperialism and reaction and in achieving the hopes and aims reflected in the documents of the programme "May 25 1969"'.

This is a declaration of full support to Numeiry's policies and a betrayal of the Sudanese communists who died in the struggle against them.

**CP smokescreen
for Nixon barbarism**

THE British Communist Party is maintaining a cowardly silence about the implications for the Vietnamese revolution of the Moscow summit.

The party newspaper 'Morning Star' has ignored North Vietnam's powerful condemnation of the Nixon-Brezhnev talks published in the army newspaper 'Quan Doi Nhan Dan' earlier this week.

Yesterday's 'Star', for example, had a headline denouncing 'Nixon savagery' in Vietnam over a photograph of Mrs Nixon and Mrs Gromyko sampling ice-cream in a Moscow store.

The paper reported the Moscow summit without comment of any kind. It is clearly acutely embarrassed by the Soviet readiness to talk with Nixon despite massive escalation of the Vietnam war.

When Nixon first ordered the mining of Haiphong harbour and the blockade of North Vietnamese ports, the 'Star' printed the following editorial comment:

'In denouncing Nixon's escalation of the war, the Soviet Union has demanded the ending of the blockade and the acts of aggression against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and pledged continued support to the Vietnamese people.

'Any actions it takes to fulfil this pledge and combat the illegal and barbarous actions of the US rulers will be completely justified, and should be backed by all progressive people. Nixon's apologists claim that he does not want a "confrontation" with

the Soviet Union, and that he hopes that his visit to Moscow will go ahead.

'But could there be a more direct effort to provoke a confrontation than the sowing of mines in the path of ships engaged in lawful trade? Could any measure be more calculated to heighten international tensions and make negotiations and discussions on other questions more difficult?

'When Nixon receives a resounding rebuff from the American people, from the socialist countries, and from the people of the rest of the world, he deserves everything he gets.' ('Morning Star', Friday, May 12).

It rapidly became clear however that the Soviet Stalinists had no intention of 'rebuffing' Nixon and that the talks were to go ahead. The Communist Party had nothing to say about this treacherous development despite its earlier statement that 'any actions' by the Soviet leaders in support of the Vietnamese would be 'completely justified'.

The 'Star' waited ten days, until May 22, before replying to criticism of the Nixon visit. It said: 'It is regrettable that China, where Nixon was being received only three months ago, now makes his Moscow visit the occasion for another outburst on the theme of "Soviet-American collusion". This nonsense... can confuse some people and so help Nixon.'

'Because Nixon's visit immediately follows his escalation of the Vietnam war, there is all the more reason to accompany it by new efforts to unite the socialist camp.'

In other words all criticism of the Nixon-Brezhnev summit must be shut off to allow the Soviet bureaucrats free rein in their secret discussions.

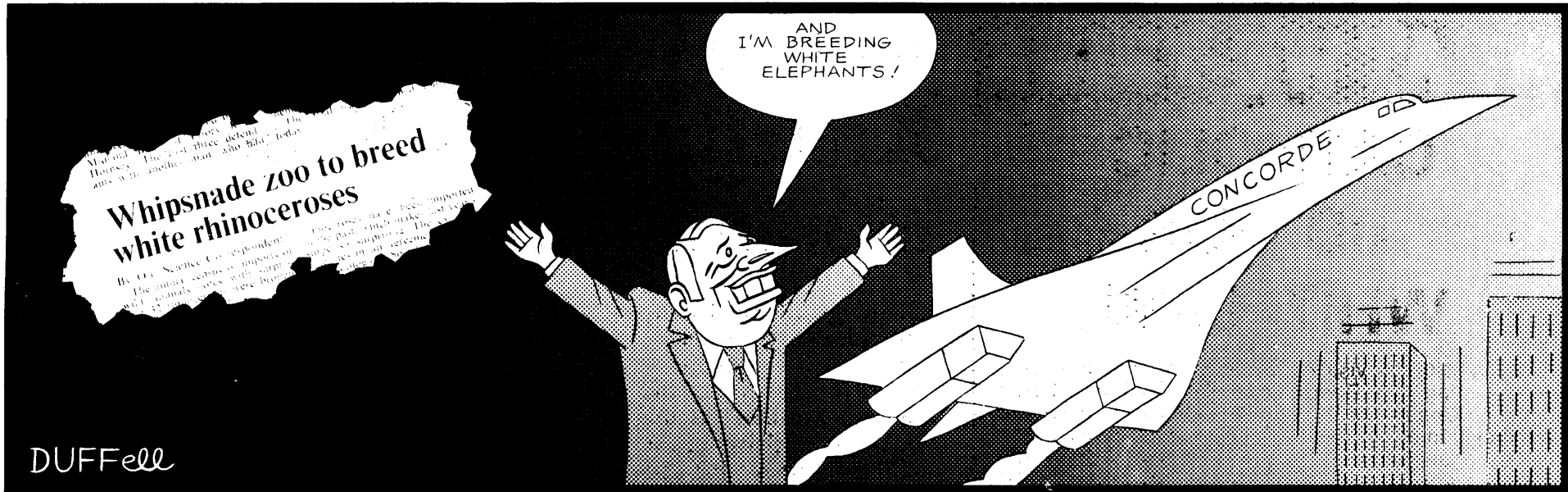
The unequalled hypocrisy of the British Communist Party was vividly exposed by the statement published earlier this week in the Hanoi army newspaper 'Quan Doi Nhan Dan'. It was unmistakably aimed at the Soviet leaders. It said:

'Communists always consider the revolution of each nation as an inseparable part of the world revolution. They never set national interests against the interests of the world revolution, nor place an individual nation's above the common interests of the world revolution, much less serve national selfishness at the expense of the world revolution.'

Yet in accordance with the Stalinist theory of 'socialism in one country', which is fully endorsed by the British Communist Party, this is exactly what the Moscow Stalinists are doing. They have ignored Nixon's provocations in Vietnam in order to pursue their own bureaucratic interests by means of secret diplomatic talks.

As the Hanoi statement implies, this is a disgraceful betrayal of the world revolution and exposes the Vietnamese workers and peasants to great dangers.

The British Communist Party supports this treachery behind a smokescreen of denouncing Nixon. Its campaign against the Vietnam war is seen to be fraudulent because it is tied completely to the requirements of the counter-revolutionary Kremlin bureaucracy.



Lancaster Nine: Charges dropped

CHARGES against the nine Lancaster University students, threatened after recent sit-ins, have been dropped by police. Almost immediately after hearing the news, students learnt that internal disciplinary charges against them had also been shelved.

A meeting of the university senate on Wednesday night approved by 38 votes to nine a motion recommending withdrawal of charges.

Student Representative Council chairman Mike Murray said the vote was an indication that the staff were sympathetic to them.

TWO HUNDRED children who walked out of a Brighton secondary school earlier this week have threatened to stay out until their demands are met.

The children from Whitehawk Secondary School marched to the centre of Brighton and held a meeting on a recreation ground. Complaints were heard about toilets, uniforms and school meals.

IN NORWICH on Wednesday evening more than 200 students marched on their university offices and demanded that a £2,000 fine be paid back in a week or face 'further direct action'.

The university had deducted the money from student union funds to pay for damage caused during a sit-in last year.

TWO 16-year school girls, members of the Schools Action Union, have been found guilty at Harrow Juvenile Court, Lon-

don, of assaulting two police officers.

One was also found guilty of obstruction. Both were remanded on Wednesday for reports until June 7 on sureties of £25 each provided by their mothers.

The incident arose on May 16 when one of the girls refused to tell police where her sister was. Police had been keeping watch on the house after two girls had been reported missing.

After a struggle the girls were put inside a police van and taken to the police station. Evidence was presented in court about minor injuries to police officers.

One of the officers denied the girls had been charged because they were SAU members.

Polaris tugs stop

TRANSPORT and General Workers' Union officials had talks with leaders of 200 tugmen in Rosyth, Fife yesterday. The men walked out on Tuesday over a pay claim and the strike could halt today's scheduled trials of the navy's new Polaris submarine, 'Repulse'.

BOAC to buy five Concordes

CABINET agreement has been reached for BOAC to buy five Concordes in a deal costing about £100m. The price of one aircraft and spares may be up to £20m. BOAC had an option on eight Concordes. Altogether 16 airlines have options for 74 Concordes. The BOAC order, it is hoped, will be quickly followed by others.

RECALL TUC SAY VEHICLE BUILDERS

THE conference of the T&GWU's 250,000 - strong Vehicle Builders and Automotive Group voted at Hastings yesterday for the recall of the TUC to reconsider policy towards the Industrial Relations Act.

The conference called on union members 'at every level to actively support the dockers, railwaymen and other sections of organized industry'.

Delegates criticized the TUC

for its apparent reversal of last year's conference resolutions and its decision to allow unions to defend themselves in the National Industrial Relations Court.

Conference requested the recall of the TUC 'immediately to consider concerted action by all trade unions to maintain unity of the Labour movement in the face of an Act which is intended to suppress the activity of the working class'.

Support flows in for Hull dockers

TELEGRAMS and letters of support from trade unionists in all parts of Yorkshire are arriving at the home of Walter Cunningham, chairman of the Hull Dockers' Shop Stewards' Committee, who has refused to attend the National Industrial Relations Court.

Telegrams have arrived from the Edlington and Cadeby Main branches of the National Union of Mineworkers and also from the shop

stewards' committee of Daniel Doncasters, Sheffield.

Workers from Firth Brown Tools, Sheffield have sent a letter of support, as has Hull and District Trades Council, Hull branch of TASS and Hull Docks Conciliation Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen.

Parsons Cross, Sheffield, AUEW branch has told Cunningham he is 'a credit to the trade union movement'.

Bradford South Constituency Labour Party sends its support and continues: 'Do not fail to contact us if there is anything else we can do to help at any time in the near future. We hope you will also be hearing from



Walter Cunningham: Busy letter box.

several of our affiliated branches as we are contacting them to notify them of our action in support of your stand.'

'...Strangely enough', the Bradford South CLP writes, 'one of the few dissenting voices was a T&GWU full-time officer.'

Hours question 'deferred'—

ONLY a handful of the Manchester sit-in factories have still to enter negotiations with engineering employers aimed at a settlement.

Almost all the settlements have been made on a cash basis with no concessions on hours and holidays.

Although the question of hours had originally been high on the engineering union's list of de-

Scanlon

mands, Amalgamated Union of Engineering President Hugh Scanlon told a press conference on Wednesday that the settlements were in line with what the men held to be important.

At a meeting in Reading he said there were originally 13

points in the union's claim, but in the course of the fight with the employers they had decided some of these should be deferred in favour of pressing for higher rates, an all-round increase and holidays.

A meeting of 180 full-time officials of the AUEW in London has agreed to press on with their plant-bargaining strategy and shop stewards were collecting voluntary levies to finance strikes in support of wage claims.

Law for Court?

ALAN LAW, the militant Birmingham Transport and General Workers' Union official has been named with two shop stewards in an application to the National Industrial Relations Court.

Aston's Transport (Hall Green) is alleging unfair industrial practice. Law is responsible for lorry drivers in the area.

Last October, the firm was granted an injunction stopping the shop stewards 'blacking' its goods and lorries. There had been a dispute over attempts to get a closed shop.

Rents Bill witch-hunt in Newham

THE right-wing on Labour-controlled Newham council, East London, are threatening to expel Labour Party members who have joined an anti-Rents Bill action committee. The committee has campaigned against the Labour councillors' decision to implement the Bill.

The Newham Tenants Action Committee was formed after moves on the militant West Ham Trades Council against the Bill. Included in its membership are delegates from the three constituency Labour Parties in the areas as well as tenants' associations.

The committee organized a demonstration outside a Labour group meeting on May 8 when the right wing decided to suspend 13 councillors who defied the whip and voted in the full council for non-implementation. Constituency Labour Party

delegates have been instructed not to attend action committee meetings. And letters have gone out to the CLPs asking them to bear in mind the conduct of the 13 when considering their re-election as LP candidates.

Sanctions strike

THREE hundred engineering workers are on strike at the Thorn Heating Ltd factory at Birtley, Co. Durham.

The walk out followed the suspension of ten men for operating piecework sanctions in support of the engineers' pay claim. Tress Engineering Ltd of Newburn upon Tyne has locked out all of its 250 manual workers for operating the sanctions.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight the Tories' 'fair rents' Bill

8 p.m. Miners' Welfare. Organize Councils of Action—Force the Tories to Resign.

AYLESHAM: Thursday June 1, 8 p.m. The Legion (Old Working Men's Club), Burgess Rd.

ACTON: Monday June 5, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Rd.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday May 30, 8 p.m. 'Aberfeldy', Aberfeldy St, E.14.

COALVILLE, Thursday, June 1,

BOOKS



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MONTY JOHNSTONE

Michael Banda replies to an article by Monty Johnstone in the 'Morning Star' of April 18, 1972.



THE CASE HISTORY OF A STALINIST HUMBUG

PART 4

There is nothing simulated about Monty Johnstone's frantic response to the Socialist Labour League's criticisms and denunciation of the sell-out in UCS by Stalinists James Reid and James Airlie.

He has nothing but praise for these leaders of the shop stewards' co-ordinating committee who turned the most powerful post-war movement against Toryism into an operation to save private industry, prevent a genuine occupation of the shipyards and save the credibility of the Tories in Westminster.

No mean achievement—even by reformist standards. No wonder even some of the Tories are amazed.

If the rectorship of Glasgow University is all that the bourgeoisie can find to reward their most faithful Stalinist-Christian servants for this tremendous service, it must rank as a singularly churlish act in the history of the British bourgeoisie.

But let us not forget Johnstone. He writes:

'When the Clyde workers under communist leadership refuted this pernicious pessimism by forcing substantial concessions, the Workers Press opened its main lead story with the stirring words: "The government decision to invest £35m in the Upper Clyde is in no sense a victory for the working class." A case of sour grapes.'

Why did the government decide to inject the £35m in UCS? To answer this is to pose another question—why did the Tories decide to shut down UCS and what were their motives?

The Tories, it is true, acted on the Ridley Plan and the report of the 'four wise men'. This report was drawn up in the period before Nixon's August 15, 1971, decision to de-



Nicholas Ridley

value the dollar and demonetize gold.

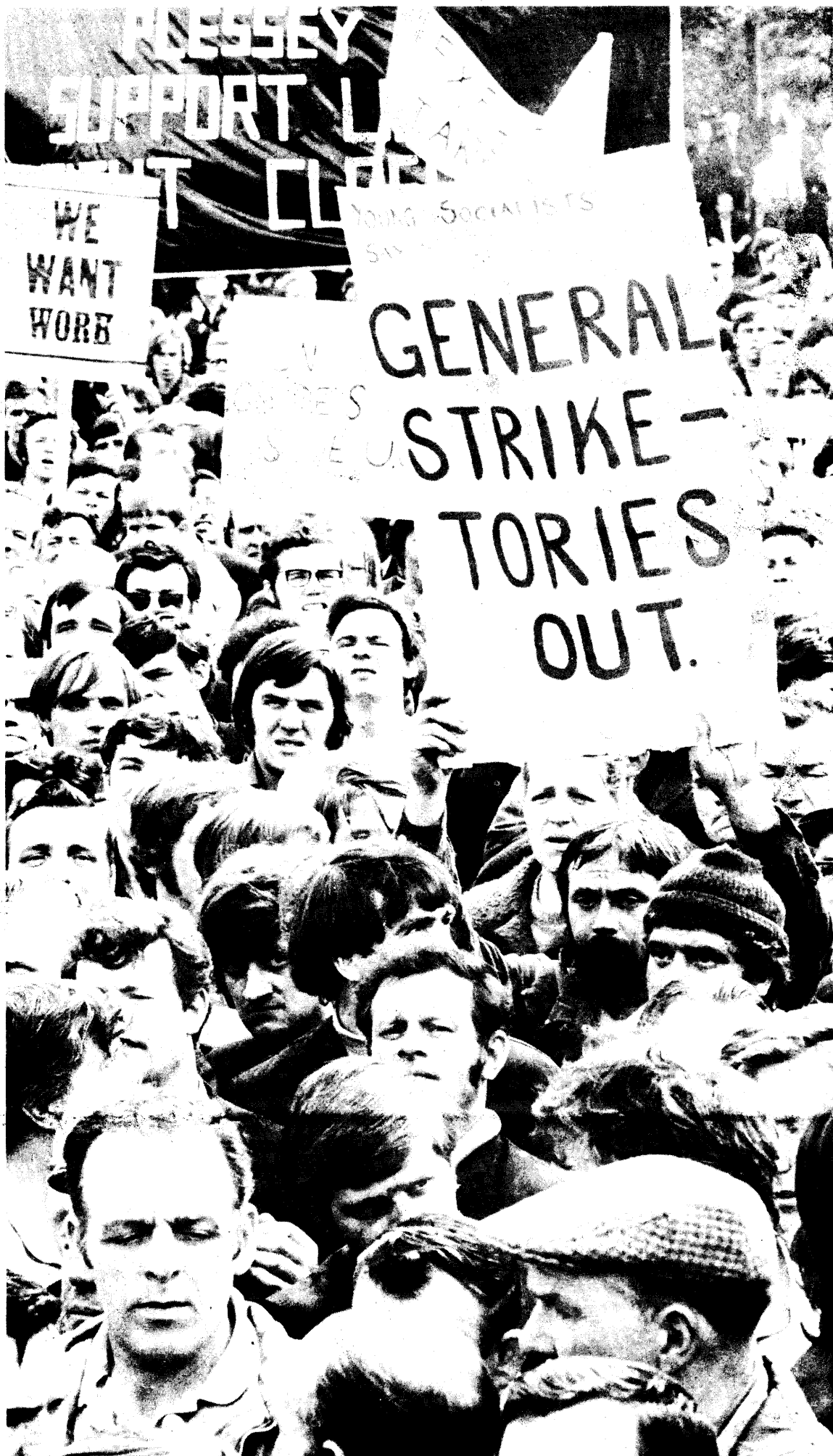
In the pre-August 15 period, British shipbuilding was in the doldrums mainly because the Japanese shipbuilders were able to compete very efficiently against Britain because of an under-valued yen, a highly-disciplined labour force and massive technological changes.

Even then the capitalist class was divided on the question of viability. As the Shipbuilding Industry Report—published in September 1971—stated:

'There were signs of improvement at the beginning of 1971... Old and troublesome contracts had been completed; the labour force had been brought into line with future requirements; settlements had been reached with the unions and the company's order book was such that new orders for early delivery could be taken on satisfactory terms.'

The report forecast that 'with the end of loss making orders, more settled industrial relations and improved production, the company should make the long-awaited turn to profitability.'

One thing that the ruling class was unanimous about, however, was that UCS as it stood then was a dead duck. Reorganization was essential—and this meant a complete shake-up in labour productivity and discipline.



A Young Socialist placard which the Stalinists tried to remove from the demonstration against UCS closure.

As John Davies, the Minister for Industry stated:

'The government has decided that nobody's interest will be served by making the injection of funds into the company as it now stands.' (Our emphasis.)

What was the Stalinist line at the start? As stated by Reid as late as December 1971, it was:

'We are prepared to negotiate with anyone anywhere, but only on the basis of proposals on all four yards and all jobs...'

In June, Reid spoke more succinctly when he told shop stewards on the eve of the mass demonstration against the UCS closure:

'Many of us tonight think nationalization is the answer. Some might say bring down the government or indulge in political demagoguery from the right or left.'

'We are here to preserve shipbuilding on the Clyde.'

What Reid didn't say was that Stalinism was in favour of the continuity of private shipbuilding even if the price of this was the intensification of exploitation and lowering of wages on the Clyde.

The 'work-in' was thus conceived as a non-political opera-

tion whose main purpose was to impress the liquidator, the Tory government and prospective buyers with the industriousness, discipline and loyalty of the workforce.

This was the real meaning of Airlie's cryptic call, 'no banditry, no hooliganism, no bevy-ing'. This explains also the total absence of any measure of workers' control or even a shorter working week during the work-in.

So much so that the 'Morning Star' reporters, Mike Costello and Arthur Milligan, boasted shamelessly about it in the front page lead of the 'Star' on August 28, 1971:

'Discipline, morale and time-keeping have been better than ever since the work-in began. There's not even any lunch-time lingering in Connolly's Bar, one of the workers' locals.'

'A few minutes before the men are due back at work, the publican rings a bell and the workers hurry back to "their" yard.'

Of course if the yards had been really occupied, the liquidator thrown out and all work on ships stopped, such discipline would have been an indispensable basis for a militant struggle throughout Scotland and Britain against redundancy and Toryism. But that

was not so in UCS.

Because of the reformist policies of the UCS leaders, it is true to say that the work-in, far from restraining other employers in Scotland from sacking 'redundant' workers, in fact encouraged them to lay-off thousands upon thousands without any fear of reprisals.

In UCS alone, more than 1,900 workers left their employment out of disillusionment or demoralization created by the wait-and-see policy of Reid and Airlie. In the rest of Scotland over 17,000 workers were sent to join a never-ending dole queue during the course of the work-in.

The struggle to defend the right to work was effectively sabotaged and the sanctity of private property inflexibly respected by these Stalinist traitors during the entire period of the work-in.

Thus whatever 'concessions' were won by UCS leaders were more than compensated for by the unprecedented retreat of the Stalinist stewards before the Tory offensive. Is it not ironical—and grimly so—that 900 workers in Burroughs, Vale of Leven, were sacked on the same day that Reid got his rectorship?

CONCLUDED TOMORROW

TROUBLE ON LEFT BANK

Relations between the French Communist Party and the Socialist Party, led by former presidential candidate and ex-minister Francois Mitterand, are by no means good at the present time.

The division became manifest at the time of the referendum on the Common Market when the CP called for a 'No' vote while the Socialists abstained.

The old problem of the relationship between the Stalinists and Social Democracy are posed today under new conditions. The growth of working-class militancy after the events of May 1968 and the rise of 'left' groups which attract many youth and workers pose difficult problems for the bureaucratic leaderships of both traditional parties.

There is no doubt about the desire of the French CP and its leader, Georges Marchais, to form an electoral coalition to prepare for next year's General Election. But the CP wants a coalition on its own terms. It is prepared to accept Mitterand or some other non-communist politician as a figurehead as long as it retains a controlling interest.

It is finding Mitterand a tough customer who aspires to direct such a coalition himself and act as a go-between with the radicals and other bourgeois groups.

Speaking to the recent session of the Central Committee of his Party, Marchais had some harsh words for the Socialist Party. He accused it of being an instrument for the big bourgeoisie while flirting with 'leftist' phrases and talking about 'unity'.

What sticks in Marchais' gullet is the fact that many socialists joined in demonstrations against the shooting of Maoist Rene-Pierre Overney when the CP denounced them as 'provocations'.

Marchais wants undisputed mastery of any coalition in order to strike at left-wing militants and maintain control over the working class.

It is a recurrence of May-June 1968 which stands in the background of the current negotiations with the Socialist Party. Marchais wants its agreement to a minimum programme of reforms and a foreign policy tailored to suit the needs of the Soviet bureaucracy, notably support for a European Security Conference.

It was evident from his report that the Party is finding it difficult to impose its line on some of its representatives in local government who already operate as though a kind of 'popular front' with the Socialists and the radicals already existed. He complained that they did not fight vigorously enough for the policy of the party.

However sharp the polemics between Marchais and Mitterand, they are not about principled questions, but rather about methods of parliamentary electioneering and manoeuvring.

Discussions are continuing, with the CP insisting on the need for a common programme and the SP favouring a looser electoral pact so that the less well-placed candidates of the two parties will stand down on the second ballot.



THE GREAT HELMSMAN KIM IL-SUNG

BY TOM KEMP

The news that a full-length colour documentary film has been produced for the 60th birthday of North Korean leader Kim Il-sung entitled 'The People Sing of the Fatherly Leader' comes as no surprise.

The only wonder is that the Korean documentary film studio waited for his 60th birthday and had not got around to it before. In fact the personality cult of the great Kim would have made even Stalin green with envy.

It is rumoured that he even received a visit from Tariq Ali himself, although the two leaders do not appear to have hit it off too well, as often happens in such circumstances.

According to the American journalist Harrison Salisbury,

who is visiting North Korea, it is impossible to escape the all-pervasive influence of Kim Il-sung. His portrait or statue is to be found at every turn. Every room in the Pyongyang University—yes, named after Kim Il-sung—records how many visits to it 'our beloved and respected leader Comrade Kim Il-sung' has made.

A plaque in the local egg hatchery records that it was 'built under the solicitude of our beloved and respected leader, Comrade Kim Il-sung'. In the words of the leader, it proclaims: 'In order to improve the people's living standard it is essential to produce more eggs at a lower price.' The maxim of every petty trader is thus turned into the wisdom of the great 'Marxist', Kim Il-sung.

Kim's supporters obviously feel that North Korea—population 12 million—is too small a stage for the glory of such

a great leader to be fully displayed. In order to prepare to take over the mantle from the ageing Mao Tse-tung, efforts are being made to publicize the genius of Kim on an international scale—through the medium of the bourgeois press.

Some while ago a full-page advertisement appeared in, of all places, 'The Times' to draw the world's attention to the worthy Kim whose genius might otherwise have gone unnoticed. Anyone who took their eyes off the Court Circular, the agony column and other regular features of that journal would have found an address to which they could write for further information.

What response there was to this advertisement is presumably known only to the government of North Korea and its advertising agents. Anyhow they were evidently not discouraged for a recent issue of the French weekly 'Nouvel

Observateur' contained a double-page spread devoted to Kim Il-sung. One page had a large portrait of the beloved leader, looking surprisingly youthful for a man of 60.

The other contained a list of Kim's major works all on offer, in French, for upwards of £1.50. For those wishing to be fully documented on this great man there is a three-volume biography totalling no less than 1,888 pages, which must rank it as one of the longest ever written.

A substantial section of the library of the Kim Il-sung university consists of the works of Kim, translated into many languages. The hens are said to be hitting record laying rates, thanks to the thoughts of Comrade Kim.

The name is worth remembering, the Koreans may be buying time on ITV any day now. And what about that colour documentary for BBC 2?

Recently-opened government secret papers in the Public Record Office have thrown new light on the Hunger Marches of the 1920s and 1930s. The papers reveal, for instance, the behind-the-scenes discussions between Cabinet ministers, the police and the judiciary to 'deal with' the marchers. A study of these documents is doubly important in view of the Right-to-Work marches organized by the Young Socialists. Five Right-to-Work marches were staged throughout Britain in February and March converging on London on March 12 for a 9,000-strong rally at the Empire Pool, Wembley. These YS marches inevitably recalled the Hunger Marches. There are, of course, vast differences between them: the Right-to-Work marches marking a stage in the construction of a revolutionary party to take power; the Hunger Marches the heroic protest of men led to the politics of despair by Stalinism. Until now the main source of material on the Hunger Marches came from memoirs of the marchers themselves, such as the Stalinist Wal Hannington's 'Unemployed Struggles'.

THE PLOT AGAINST HUNGER MARCHERS

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

No one outside government circles, was aware that in 1932 the National government of Ramsay MacDonald was on the verge of introducing a Bill to ban the marches altogether. It was drafted and ready for discussion in parliament, but was finally withdrawn in favour of the stricter application of existing laws, predominantly very ancient ones.

Between 1922 and 1936 six national hunger marches were held. They were organized by the National Unemployed Workers' Movement which, dominated by the Communist Party, determined certainly by the mid-1920s that they would be purely protests based on appealing to successive governments to provide 'work or full maintenance'.

Contingents from various parts of the country of about 100 marchers converged in London for the final huge demonstrations. The best source for charting the progress of these marches is the Home Office files of the period, for they follow their progress practically hourly.

Police agents disguised as marchers made verbatim transcripts of public and secret meetings, listened in on conversations and kept an eye open for every opportunity where they could press an arrest or discredit the marchers.

During the 1936 march the Glasgow police chief writes: 'The Chief Constable of Dundee has forwarded to me

names of 16 members of the Dundee contingent who have convictions against them, and I have forwarded these to the Special Branch.'

The report goes on: 'From what I have seen it appears to me that recruitment of marchers is very slow. . . . The NUWM are very much perturbed. So far little can have been done and they are very much afraid that a bad type of marcher will be recruited at the last minute as a face-saving effort and that the prestige of the march will suffer.'

The police could be quite as astute in assessing the political tensions on the marches. In 1936, at the height of the Stalinists' Popular Front policy, the leaders of the London demonstration decided to lay a wreath on the Cenotaph. Police agents noted the opposition of many of the rank-and-file marchers to this and the difficulty Hannington had in getting the line accepted. The Special Branch report ends:

'The irony of the whole situation is that despite the ranting of the Marchers' Council against capitalism, the persons who formed a deputation to lay a wreath on the Cenotaph were provided with sufficient means to regale themselves by staying at Gresham's Hotel in Bedford Place on the night of November 10.'

There was no lack of 'loyal citizens' to help the police in their tasks. Organizations such as the British Union of Fascists and the British Empire



Union were active around the marches and their letters are kept on police files. A police letter thanks the Duke of Roxburgh's chauffeur for lending his apartment in Westminster for police to use in order to get a good vantage point for the 1934 march. Apart from the Home Office, the police sent their reports to the Cabinet and the Ministries of Labour and Health.

The Ministry of Labour was responsible for administering unemployment insurance, for which many of the marchers applied while on the road. The Ministry was determined they should not get it. Before each march instructions were sent out to local offices: unemployment benefit was not available to marchers on the grounds that they did not fulfil the statutory requirements of being 'ready and available for work' and (before the clause was repealed in 1930) 'genuinely seeking work'.

As Arnold Denning, a Ministry official, put it somewhat pompously: 'Where a man takes part in a political pilgrimage he creates a presumption of non-availability which would ordinarily require something more than a mere formal proof before it

could be rebutted.'

However, the NUWM became very adept at exploiting the numerous anomalies in the code and many marchers did obtain unemployment insurance. Denning ruefully adds: 'It seems to me that those who take part in a political march will continue to get benefit provided that the staff work of the promoters is sufficiently thorough.'

HARD LINE

The bulk of the marchers relied on the Poor Law Guardians as the only means of public assistance until the setting up of the Unemployment Assistance Board in 1934.

The Ministry of Health responsible for the Poor Law also determined to take a hard line. From the first march in 1922 the rules were sent out to the local Guardians. Destitute persons were entitled to relief by law, but this relief need 'not extend beyond what was reasonably necessary'. Marchers were to be treated

as vagrants, that is, refused accommodation in the Poor House, if they could not offer proof of sickness or destitution.

The 'casual ward requirements' were to be enforced to marchers applying to stay overnight. That meant compulsory search, bath, setting of tasks and a minimum of two days' detention in the institution.

It was, however, all very well setting these rules, the difficulty was to apply them. The Poor Law Guardians, faced with local support for the marchers, weakened and relaxed their restrictions. As one Ministry of Health official put it: 'The Guardians were reflecting local opinion which in a small town invaded by an organized body of men is against irritating the invaders.'

Harassed Poor Law Guardians appealed for stronger action on the part of the government. Loughborough Board of Guardians, for example, wrote to the Ministry in 1929 asking if something could not be done about 'large bodies of men parading the country in this manner'.

The Ministry of Health would have liked to rid itself of responsibility. H. W. S. Francis, the Chief Inspector,

wrote: 'The problem of dealing with marchers is not a Poor Law matter. They are now genuine casuals. The police should deal with them as unlawful assemblies'

The police could not stem the marches; even threats to investigate the possibility of charging the marchers with having abandoned their wives and children failed. Other methods were tried.

In 1936 the Home Secretary, Sir John Simon, wanted to make a statement deploring the march and saying it was against the constitution. Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, thought this would be dangerous. He wrote: 'I think to make such a blatant statement might appear to interfere with the rights which remain at present [sic] with the British public, would only increase interest taken in the march and would have no effect whatever in reducing sympathy which marchers can expect.'

Sir Kingsley had a subtler suggestion. Why not call a conference of journalists from 'the friendly newspapers' and encourage them to take a strong line against the marchers? He quoted an excerpt from the reactionary

'Western Mail' as the sort of witch-hunting article which was required.

However, the most serious discussions took place on the question of using the law against the marches. In 1932 the Cabinet set up a special committee on the hunger marches. Members were the Home Secretary, the Ministers of Health and Labour, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Attorney-General and the Lord Advocate.

LEGAL SANCTIONS

Its brief was to investigate particularly the question of applying stricter legal sanctions against the marchers and possibly bringing in new legislation. The interim report was presented in October 1932. This suggested that 'recent events have in fact demonstrated that the existing law is defective in more than one direction and in our opinion affords a good opportunity of dealing by new legislation not merely with the particular problems presented by contingents of marchers concen-

trating on London, but also with the control of processions in London itself and in other populous areas.'

A Bill was drawn up providing for the 'prohibition of concentrations and processions likely to result in disorder or public inconvenience'. Clause 1 stated: 'If the Secretary of State is satisfied that arrangements are about to be made, or are being made or have been made, for concentrating persons outside the areas in which they normally reside, or for causing persons to go in procession to any place outside the area in which they ordinarily reside and that the concentration or procession is likely to result

a) in serious disorder or
b) in such abnormal demands being made upon Poor Law authorities as to cause serious derangement in the administration of public assistance, he may by order prohibit the concentration or procession.'

Moreover: 'If a person commits any act to further the procession, or fails to comply with any direction requiring

him to go from any place, given to him by a police officer for the purpose of dispersing any assembly which by reason of any such order is an unlawful assembly, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both such a fine and imprisonment.'

Ministry of Health official H. W. S. Francis comments: 'While I think the provisions of the Bill itself are not liable to be effective, it seems to me that the fact that there is an Act on the Statute Book enabling a hunger march to be declared an offence would prevent many of the people who joined the last march from doing so. It has seemed to me that many of them were peaceful and orderly persons who would have refused to join the march had they known they were doing an unlawful thing.'

'Other members of the committee, however, do not seem to take the same view on this point and it may not be worth much. I still think, however, that the really troublesome elements of Liverpool would require much more temptation than has yet been offered them before they would face the discomfort of proceeding on foot to London, and that the marches would lose much of their effect if decent people abstained from joining them.'

That the committee went so far as to draft a Bill shows the seriousness with which they viewed the demonstrations. However they were unsure about taking such a drastic step for fear of provoking a political storm. The Attorney-General, Sir Thomas Inskip, convinced the government that it would be unwise to introduce new legislation at that moment. He suggested instead that an ancient Act of Edward III be used, whereby a court of summary jurisdiction may order anyone to 'enter into a recognisance to keep the peace and to be of good behaviour'.

The government took this advice. The 1932 march was the most threatening to date. Demonstrations in London were brutally broken up. Hannington and another leading figure, Sydney Elias, were arrested and jailed for incitement. It was against two other leaders, however, that the Edward III law was used.

The 75-year-old Tom Mann, president of the National March Council, and its secretary Emrhys Llewellyn were called upon to find sureties of the peace or sureties to be of good behaviour.

Almost the sole evidence presented by the prosecution was unsigned articles in the 'Daily Worker' calling for a monster demonstration in London on December 19 when a deputation would present a petition with a million signatures against unemployment to parliament.

A key paragraph in the case from the 'Daily Worker' article reads: 'The National Administrative Council calls upon the entire working class to get behind the fight by making December 19 the day upon which there will be huge demonstrations throughout the country... and in support of the right of the unemployed Hunger March Deputation to present the 1 million signatures to parliament on December 20 when there will be a huge London demonstration.'

Sir Russell Scot, permanent secretary at the Home Office, wrote to Sir Patrick Duff at the Prime Minister's office: 'The evidence for the application is contained in a number of articles in the "Daily Worker" pointing clearly to the fact that next week's demonstration is being engineered for the unlawful purpose of bringing compulsion to bear on parliament and that it is likely to lead to a breach of the peace.' Mann and Llewellyn refused to find sureties to keep the peace and were sent

to Brixton prison for two months.

This sparked off an enormous campaign in the labour movement for their release. It was supported not only by the Communist Party but also the official TUC leadership and MPs such as George Lansbury.

PROTEST LETTERS

Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald was uneasy about the jailings. There followed a long interchange of letters between him and the Tory Home Secretary, Sir John Gilmour. MacDonald wrote on December 28 about the protests he had received: 'Some of my correspondents range from dignitaries of the Church of England to local representatives of law and order, including some of our own National Labour reliable people in the trade union movement.'

And later, again to Gilmour on December 3: 'The only point which gives me a little concern is this, that so long as this agitation was in the hands of Tom Mann and his Moscow friends, the trouble we had to face was no doubt very provoking and irritating, but it never would become very serious and be a real threat to public order; it is now tending to pass into the hands of more responsible people, especially the organized trade union movement. If that happened it would indeed be serious... how are we to keep the Communists dissociated from the trade unionists? Up to now we have succeeded remarkably well in this.'

He suggested to Gilmour that Mann and Llewellyn should be released. Gilmour, like the high Tory he was, would not back down.

'The fact that there is a flavour of antiquity about the law of Edward III is hardly against continuing the practice which every generation has found necessary, namely to call on people to give a pledge of good behaviour... My colleagues and I were content for the moment to wait and see the outcome of a more exact application of the present law before deciding whether more drastic measures are needed... While I am in favour of keeping open what one may call a safety valve for free speech, if these monster demonstrations are likely to increase we will I fear not always be able to escape so peacefully as we have.'

Gilmour, of course, won and the prisoners were not released. MacDonald did not agree, but did not do anything. He replied to Gilmour: 'It is perfectly clear from my continuing correspondence on the subject that we are not succeeding in convincing people that action was taken against Tom Mann for what was being contemplated but not for the opinion which he held.'

These prosecutions, of course, did not stop the marches. They continued. The government did not bring in new legislation to stop them. The real 'safety valve' was Stalinism which diverted the huge demonstrations into the blind-alley of mere protest.

Faced with the working class of today, the Tory government has no hesitation about changing the law. Bigger guns than the ancient statute of Edward III are being used to try and crush the workers' movement in 1972.

However, a study of the government archives gives a sobering warning to militants today of the painstaking vigilance with which the employing class conspires to safeguard its rule.

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OVER-POPULATION OR PROFIT? THE REAL CAUSE OF WORLD HUNGER. BY BERNARD FRANKS.

THE HISTORY OF OVER-POPULATION

PART 5

So-called over-population, like 'over-production', has always been relative to the situation of the particular society in which it exists.

In times of plague, war and economic boom, workers have been at a premium and all manner of incentives have been devised to encourage an increase in the birth rate.

Food surpluses have been vital to the development of the human race. The archaeologist, Professor Vere Gordon Childe, who based his work closely on Marx's 'Materialist Conception of History', remarked about the early communities of the Tigris - Euphrates, Nile and Indus Valleys of around 5,000 years ago:

'Society persuaded or compelled the farmers to produce a surplus of foodstuffs over and above their domestic requirements, and by concentrating this surplus, used it to support a new urban population of specialized craftsmen, merchants, priests and clerks.' ('What Happened in History')

However, once the number of people appeared to be outstripping the bounds of society—and the 'lower orders' began to threaten the accumulated wealth and position of the upper classes—all sorts of measures were devised to control population.

For example, Plato (427-347 BC), philosopher and ideologist of the Greek slave-owning aristocracy, proposed that towns should be fixed at 5,040 dwellings. Population would be contained by enforced emigration when there was an 'excess of citizens'. In fact, numbers were cut by revolts, wars and by wholesale abortion and infanticide—the latter by 'exposure' in which the child was left out in the open to die.

'I beg and beseech you', wrote a Greek husband working away from home, 'to take care of the little child, and, as soon as we receive wages I will send them to you. When—good luck to you—you bear offspring, if it is a male, let it live; if it is a female, expose it.'

The slave's right to have children was completely restricted: Plato and Aristotle recommended that they should be allowed to bear children 'as a special reward and encouragement for good conduct'.

In the Middle Ages abject poverty was declared regularly to be a natural product of population growth. For example, an Italian Churchman wrote: 'Such a vast multitude as compromises Christian Europe cannot exist without a great deal of misery.' (Nicholas of Cusa 1401-1464.)

He could have mentioned

the enormous bulk of wealth swallowed up by the Church as a contributing factor.

In Britain, the development of early capitalist forms of farming and marketing under feudalism with the possibilities of huge profits to be made from wool and from corn, led to the claim by landowners that the countryside was over-populated. Peasants were driven off the land to become vagabonds and beggars. The process continued over hundreds of years.

In 1549 the Manifesto of the Kett Rebellion proclaimed: 'The pride of great men is now intolerable. The common pastures left by our predecessors for the relief of us and our children are taken away. The lands which in the memory of our fathers were common, those are ditched and hedged in, and made several. The pastures are enclosed, and we shut out; whatsoever fowls of the air, or fishes of the water, and increase of the earth, all these they devour, consume and swallow up; yea, nature doth not suffice to satisfy their lusts, but they seek out new devices and as it were, forms of pleasure.'

A popular rhyme went: 'Commons to close and keep, Poor folk for bread to cry and weep, Towns pulled down to pasture sheep.'

Oliver Goldsmith, in 'The Deserted Village,' written in 1770, mourns the peasant 'scourged by famine' from the land 'where wealth accumulates and men decay'.

The enclosures continued into the 19th century with farm labourers and cottagers thrown onto parish relief, their land stolen and themselves threatened with prison and transportation if they touched anything of the plots which once belonged to them. The Northamptonshire farmworker-poet, John Clare wrote in the 1820s:

*'There once were lanes in nature's freedom dropt,
There once were paths that every valley wound—
Enclosure came, and every path was stopt;
Each tyrant fixed his sign where paths were found,
To hint a trespass now who crossed the ground;
Justice is made to speak as they command;
The high road now must be each stinted bound:
Enclosure, thou'rt a curse upon the land,
And tasteless was the wretch who thy existence planned.'*



A contrast to the poor; the rich cavort in the park on a Sunday afternoon.

In 1853 Karl Marx described the expropriations in the Highlands of Scotland by the Countess of Sutherland 'who had well digested her Malthus'. He wrote that when she inherited the estate of very nearly three-quarters of Sutherland, she resolved upon transforming the whole tract of country into sheep-walks. The 15,000 inhabitants were expelled from the land between 1814 and 1820:

'All their villages were demolished and burned down and all their fields converted into pasturage. British soldiers were commanded for this execution, and came to blows with the natives. An old woman refusing to quit her hut, was burned in the flames of it. Thus the lady Countess appropriated to herself 794,000 acres of land, which from time immemorial had belonged to the clan. In the exuberance of her generosity she allotted to the expelled natives about 6,000 acres—two acres per family. These 6,000 acres had been lying waste until then and brought no revenue to the proprietors.

The Countess was generous enough to sell the acre 2s 6d on an average, to the clan-men who for centuries past had shed their blood for her family. The whole of the unrightfully appropriated clan-land she divided into 29 large sheep farms, each of them inhabited by one single family, mostly English farm labourers; and in 1821 the 15,000 Gaels had already been superseded

by 131,000 sheep.'

Under capitalism every economic crisis and revolutionary upsurge has been met with outcry and action against 'surplus workers'. Malthus was the most notorious of the protagonists, though his 1798 tract did nothing more than collect together writings of similar theorists of the previous 50 years. He wrote:

'The power of population is infinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man', and later followed this with plans to end Poor Relief in England and destroy cottages in Ireland to 'discourage over-breeding' by the poor.

Of Malthus' doctrine, Frederick Engels wrote in 1844: 'If Malthus had not taken such a one-sided view of the matter he could not have missed seeing that the surplus population or labour power is always bound up with surplus wealth, surplus capital and surplus landed property. Population is too great only when productive power in general is too great. The state of affairs in every populated country, in particular, England, from the time when Malthus wrote onwards, demonstrates this quite unmistakably.

These were the facts which Malthus ought to have examined in their entirety and whose examination ought to have led to the correct conclusion; instead, he picked out one of these facts, neglecting the others, and thus arrived

at his own crazy conclusion.'

The advent of machine production meant that the use to which the theory of over-population had been put on the land with enclosure—to clear the way for greater profits from fewer workers—was now transferred to the factories.

Thousands of 'surplus' workers were thrown out of spinning and other industries, to be replaced by machines. On the land, the retaliatory machine-breaking in the early 1800s testified to the fact that yet another batch of farm labourers was now being dispensed with also.

The contradiction of workers in rags and masses of unsold stock moved Thomas Carlyle to comment upon one commodity: 'What is the use of your spun shirts? They hang there by the million unsaleable; and here by the million are diligent backs that can get no hold of them. Shirts are useful for covering human backs; useless otherwise, an unbearable mockery otherwise. You have fallen terribly behind with that side of the problem.' ('Past and Present')

In this situation Malthus' friends had plenty of work. In 1825 Harriet Martineau, a 'radical', expounded for the English ruling class the idea that the condition of labourers could best be improved by: 'Husbanding instead of wasting capital for instance by



Workers in rags, while masses of stock still lay unsold in warehouses and shops.

making savings instead of starting strikes' and 'by adjusting the proportion of population to capital'.

In 1853, 'The Economist' observing that emigration had diminished the population of Britain, berated the working class for not making use of this 'golden opportunity' by marrying later and having fewer children. It also added:

'The next use the labouring classes should have made of their rare occasion ought to have been to accumulate saving and become capitalists.' When workers demanded 16s 6d a week wages instead of 15s, however, 'The Economist' remarked that 'they have struck for more than would have done them service'.

Marx wrote: 'If we sum up, then, the golden opportunities which have been thrown away by the working classes, they consist of the golden opportunity of NOT marrying, the opportunity of living LESS luxuriously, of not asking for higher wages, of becoming capitalists at 15s a week, and of learning how to keep the body together with coarser food, and how to degrade the soul with the pestiferous doctrines of Malthus.' (Article in 'New York Daily Tribune', March 4, 1853.)

In 1877 the Malthusian League was set up by Annie Besant and Charles Bradlaugh to encourage birth control as the only system which could ensure that food supplies would not exceed population.

Bradlaugh, a Republican, had previously been in sharp conflict with the members of the First International, the general secretary of which, John Hales, had attacked him for his Malthusian views.

Mrs Besant later became a leading member of the Fabian Society before being converted to Theosophy in 1889 after which she went to live in India as a follower of a 'New Messiah' named Krishna-murti.

Neo - Malthusian societies were founded in France, Belgium and Holland in the 1880s.

But for the followers of Malthus the difficulty was always that, as Engels implied, events continually overtook their ominous forecasts. Crisis and over - production followed booms with a high rapidity throughout the century. Between the 1870s and 1890s a continuing over-production of grain occurred in Canada, USA and Australia which was not finally eradicated until the end of the century.

Eventually, even Malthus—as indicated, for example, in his book 'Principles of Political Economy'—noticed the existence of gluts. Marx comments in a footnote in Vol 1 of 'Capital': 'In this work Malthus finally discovers, with the help of Sismondi, the beautiful trinity of capitalist production: over - population, over - consumption—three very delicate

monsters indeed.'

Sir William Crookes' contribution of 1898 has already been mentioned. He seemed to find it not at all odd that he should still be proclaiming the same dire predictions of collapse that Malthus had made exactly 100 years previously. Crookes told the Assembly of leading British scientists of his day: 'I am constrained to show that our wheat producing soil is totally unequal to the strain put upon it.

'... should all the wheat growing countries add to their area to the utmost capacity... it would give us just enough to supply the increase in population among the bread-eaters until the year 1931.'

Four years earlier, wheat had reached the lowest price in United States history at 49 cents a bushel, and the 'over-supply' had still not been successfully diminished when Crookes was speaking. Only three years previous to Crookes statement, in 1895, Engels had written:

'If in Russia the farmer is forced to sell corn which he really should consume, he is forced to do this, not by the pressure of population, but by the pressure of the tax-collector, the landlord, the kulak, etc., etc. As far as I know it is the low price of Argentine wheat more than anything else which is to blame for the agrarian distress in the whole of Europe.'

CONTINUED TOMORROW

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Revelations in thieves kitchen

The United Nations special envoy for the Middle East, Gunnar Jarring, was at one time a member of a racist, pro-Nazi party in Sweden.

This revelation about the sort of person the world 'peace' organization is prepared to employ in a prominent and important position has been made by the Swedish newspaper 'Aftenbladet'.

The UN envoy Jarring was a member from 1926 to 1939 of the pro-Nazi National Unity Party. In 1936, he stood as a National Unity Party candidate in parliamentary elections on a platform which included 'safeguarding Sweden from foreign elements'.

This man now represents an organization which is supposedly dedicated to the principles of 'brotherhood' among peoples!

'Aftenbladet' also reports that Jarring wrote articles for the National Unity Party's organ, in the course of one of which he wrote: 'Jews, Armenians and Greeks have as a characteristic trait cheating their neighbours.'

A spokesman for the United Nations, commenting on the 'Aftenbladet' article, has described the revelations as 'trivial'. He said that according to information at UN headquarters in New York, Jarring had joined the right-wing party in 1926, when it was considered 'respectable'. The spokesman denied that Jarring had had any Nazi connections.

The Jarring case has so far attracted no attention from the British press. The 'Tribune'-ites in the Labour Party have always regarded the UN as sacrosanct, and have been known to get violently angry when Marxists describe the UN as reactionary or call it what it is, an imperialists' thieves' kitchen. The British Communist Party has also come to take this strongly pro-UN position.

It will be interesting to see if these apostles for the UN also regard the revelations on Jarring's racist past as 'trivial'.

Gunnar Jarring — man with a racist past



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Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

The '£-in-your-pocket' Budget

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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE RENTS of the houses on Camp Hill Estate, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, started at £1 17s in 1952. Currently they are £3.69 and in October there will be a £1 rent rise and 50p-a-year rise after that if the Tory 'fair rents' Bill is enacted.

This estate was built in the early 1950s as part of the crash programme on housing. All the houses were described as utility houses.

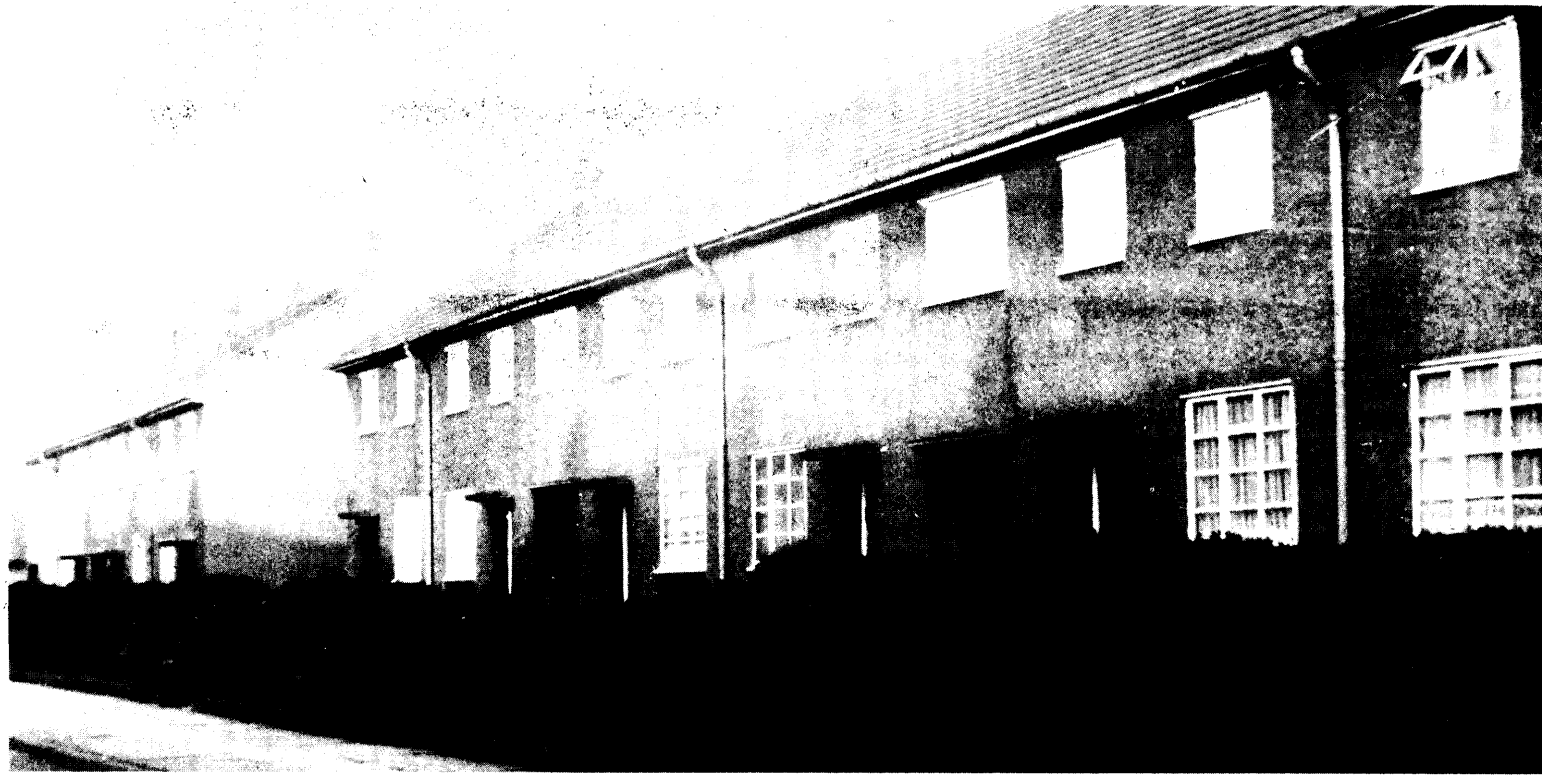
The dimensions of all the rooms were reduced to a minimum. No back entrances were provided and all household and gardening deliveries have to be taken through the living accommodation.

One tenant said: 'They were built in such a rush they were being thrown up by gangs working at night.'

The width of the roads was such that buses couldn't get through the estate—so no bus service.

Mr H. Ardle, a miner at Keresley pit and an active Labour Party member, told Workers Press:

'Harold Macmillan was Housing Minister at the time when the estate was built. A tenants' association was formed in 1953 to campaign for house improvements and some social amenities, which were almost completely lacking. The Tories were unsympathetic and no grants were forthcoming.' Under the Labour government some roads were widened, a bus service was started, a youth centre was built and playing fields were laid out.



A 1950s crash house-building programme brought the Camp Hill Estate, Nuneaton into being—the Tories' Bill could mean rents leaping to five times the original sum

Mr Ardle, asked about the Tory 'fair rents' Bill said: 'This is the worst thing that ever happened. Council tenants will be forced to assist those tenants who require help when this should be the function of the state.'

He thought all Labour councils should call a conference and refuse to implement the Act and that the working class should be

mobilized to force the Tories out of office.

Mr Ardle said: 'We are seeing a complete refutation of everything that Heath promised. He is dividing the nation instead of creating one nation; and the "pound in your pocket" from the Budget has been more than taken back.'

Asked about the Industrial Relations Act, Mr Ardle said:

'I'm disgusted with the TUC for collaborating with the courts. I'm a law-abiding man but this law court is subjecting the working class to rule by decree, and is stopping workers fighting to maintain their standard of living, let alone improving it.'

He concluded: 'I admire the docks shop steward Walter Cunningham. I'm like him. I'd go to jail to fight these acts. The sooner workers realize what is going on the better.'

Mr Dobinson, a garage mechanic, said: 'The Tory policy is to push the working class off the roads. The houses on the estate are not worth the rent as it is. On my wage of £18 it is almost impossible to pay rent and furniture bills. Tory policies are making this worse.'

'Sometimes repairs can take six months—that is for things like damp in the walls and rain washing under the door. Two years ago there was a scheme to fit sink units in all the houses, but now this has been dropped. And the Tories want to put the rents up all round!'

Mr Gibbs, a car trimmer, and his wife see the 'fair rent' scheme as a further attack on working-class living standards, along with unemployment and the anti-union laws.

'As soon as the Tories got back,' Mrs Gibbs remembers her father saying, 'there'll be queues at the dole, and you'll be standing cap in hand for a job.'

Mr Gibbs said: 'We pay for a health service yet every time I go to the doctor it costs me 60p to renew my prescription. We pay for an education service and I'm keen for my daughter to do well at school. But there are lads with strings of 'O'-levels and 'A'-levels doing labouring jobs in the factory where I work because there's nowhere they can use their education.'

He said the Tories had to be forced to resign to end their attack on the working class. He quoted one docker interviewed on television who said of the docks' stewards: 'We take our orders from our members. Our leaders should be fighting to defeat the Tories to get rid of the laws.'

'We, as union members decided to ignore the Act. Our leaders



Mr Ardle and his daughter: 'The rent Bill is the worst thing that could happen'

should have fought for our right to do that.

'Our fathers fought for the right to have unions, social services, education, and decent housing,' he said.

'The rent scheme and all other Tory policies are to break the unions and take away the rights our fathers won.'

'I've had no holiday in five years,' said a neighbour. 'I just can't afford it. The Tories' promises on prices were all lies.'

Paint sprayer Mr Bell and his wife have lived on the estate for five years. 'I don't agree with upping the rents; the property's not worth it,' he said.

The rent of their house has already risen £1 a week since 1967 and is going up another £1 in October. They quote payments required for window repairs, and long delays over electrical faults as examples of council 'economies'.

'There are no modern conveniences,' said Mrs Bell, 'only one built-in wardrobe and no central heating.'

Said Mr Bell: 'Trade union leaders should be preparing for a General Strike instead of seeming

to be hand-in-glove with the Tories over observing the Industrial Court's rulings. The Tories are using the Court to get their way instead of trying to sort out the real problems of workers.'

Another tenant, Mr Ashby, said: 'The rent Act will hit the majority, not help the minority. The wage structure and differentials cause a class distinction and the Tories are trying to widen it.'

'The Tories' policy is to get the working man on his knees again. The Industrial Relations Act is part and parcel of this attack. They talk about a "fair rent" Act, but invoke laws to force the working man to go against the principle of the 40-hour week.'

'That's what they've done to the railwaymen.'

'The miners brought this government to its knees. If everyone else had done the same we could have thrown them out altogether.'

'If we, the workers of England, do this, and tell the next Labour government what we want, they'll have to carry it out. The first thing is there'll have to be workers' control of industry.'

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The 'no-politics' politics of Equity's right wing

Equity, the union of actors and actresses, is currently voting on two crucial questions—whether to register under the Industrial Relations Act and on who will represent the members on the next Equity council. This article is concerned with the right-wing candidates who are attempting to install themselves in office. Their bid comes at a vital stage in Equity's history—when unemployment is a staggering 92 per cent and employers, including the BBC, are beginning to slash wages. In a further article tomorrow we will examine the political intentions of the right wing if they gain control of the council.

MANY of the election statements made by candidates contending for Equity's council reveal the extraordinary conservative putsch which is facing the union. We reproduce some of them.

The recurring theme of the right wing is the preservation of Equity's so-called 'non-political' role. This is most succinctly put by Mr Barry Justice who is proposed by Margaretta Scott and seconded by Michael Redgrave: 'My main concern is to keep the nose of Equity politically clean.'

The penultimate right-wing campaign statement, comes from a certain Anthony Herrick. He has been appearing in 'Conduct Unbecoming'.

Mr Herrick writes: 'To constructively support the council in its constant efforts to secure improvements in the conditions of our profession.'

'To resist with vigour the Neanderthal attempts by the far left to interfere with the effective running of our association, attempts which I believe have served to remind the membership of the mindless intolerance, bigotry, and dangerous delusions of this strident clique of moral cannibals eternally parading their demands and their hang-ups before the glazed eye of public opinion. Come back, Marius Goring! We need more like you.'

(It is interesting to note that the right wing always refers to the union as 'the association'.)

Mr Goring needs no encouragement from his colleague, Mr Herrick. Goring, the spearhead of the right wing, pitches his case more deftly:

'My reason for seeking reelection to the council is the same as it was for my resignation: conviction that the non-political spirit of Equity holds it together, and the intrusion of



Michael Horden (l) sponsors Richard Briers in the elections and also turns up as a starter himself. The two men appeared together in BBC-2's 'Tall Tales' series earlier this year.

private, political beliefs divides and will, eventually, split it apart.'

Goring seconds the nomination of Gretta Gouriet who states: 'It is my belief and conviction that Equity should remain a non-political association.' It's that word 'association' again!

Equity's abortive decision to send money to the striking miners—the money never got there—strikes a note in a number of statements. Max Latimer gives his version of trade union solidarity when he writes:

'I know that with the Industrial Relations Bill [sic] now in force it is difficult not to be "politically minded" but as far as our union is concerned I believe politics should be reduced to a minimum.'

'In February I organized a petition against sending financial aid to help the pickets on duty outside the power stations in the recent "miners" strike, because in my opinion we should not be politically implicated.'

One feature of this year's candidates is the number of 'big names' drafted to stand. One is Richard Briers whose statement

is written in the third person as if to give the impression that it wasn't compiled by him. Thus his statement reads:

'Richard Briers has been a member of Equity since 1955 and believes that despite their own personal political sympathies, the primary concern of Equity council members is to their fellow actors and their profession as a whole; and that there shall be no "political involvement" in the deliberations and discussions of the council.'

Michael Horden is one of Briers' sponsors. Later in the booklet Horden himself turns up as a starter. He expresses none of Briers' reactionary views. His electoral address reads: 'Joined 1940. Stage, films, TV, radio, commercials. Council 1955-1958 (sub-committee — employment) 1963-1964.'

Another 'name' candidate is Kenneth More who gives a pledge of astonishingly feeble proportions:

'I intend to press for a fair deal in all matters concerning the welfare of my fellow actors, but always in a non-political approach. I am NOT repeat NOT

interested in politics of any form. No previous council experience in Equity.'

Geoffrey Keen, Stead in the television series 'The Troubleshooters', is a proposer of Mr Peter Bennett who proposes:

'We should tell the TUC that their policies and attitudes do not always coincide with ours. It should be made clear to them that British Actors' Equity is an entirely NON-political Association.'

Bennett goes on: 'The proposal to make a donation to the Miners' Strike Fund was provocative and divisive... The council's only loyalty should be to our own profession. Vote for registration. Vote for Equity.'

In the attendance record reproduced with ballot papers Richard Attenborough is shown as not having attended a single council meeting last year. Not one!

Unhorsed by this history, Attenborough humbly offers himself for office again on this fighting charter:

'I am only too aware of my inability to be able to attend meetings during the last 12

months. I have every hope, however, that my circumstances will be somewhat different in the forthcoming year.'

In between directing and backing films, we presume.

A certain John Barron is brief and to the point. His programme of action for votes is simply—'Joined Equity 1940.'

The 'reluctant debutante' is Mr David Markham. He says:

'I have watched Equity's performance (more or less from the wings) since about 1935 and I must admit that it was with some misgivings that I agreed to stand for elections.'

'It seems to me that basically we remain a confused and exploited section of the community, torn between conflicting and contradictory demands: in this context, it would be rash and presumptuous to make any promises and I therefore make none. I have NO party or sectarian loyalties to cloud my judgement.'

Among the 'big names' are some that are so big they actually belong to management. Such a candidate is John Clements. He spares voters an insight into his views on unemployment and the Industrial Relations Act.

Instead he says: 'Member of council 1949-1959. Vice-president 1950-1959. Actor, manager, director. Stage, screen, television, radio.'

Among the 'management' candidates is Leslie Phillips who describes himself as 'actor-director-producer'. It is scarcely surprising to find Mr Phillips arguing that 'in particular we need, and must have, a better relationship with our employers.'

Nor is it surprising that he goes on to say: 'We must also get Equity away from its recent pre-occupation with politics...'

How many votes Donald Sinden gets is anybody's guess. His one-line campaign address is: 'The dramas laws the dramas patrons give, for we that live to please, must please to live.' Kindly leave the stage!

CONTINUED TOMORROW

BBC 1

9.20-9.35 Andy Pandy. 9.38-11.55 Schools. 12.50-1.25 I ble'r aiff y brifwyl? 1.30 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Screen test. 5.20 Right Charlie. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.
6.20 GEORGE BEST. Reverse Pass.
6.30 THE VIRGINIAN. No War for the Warrior.
7.45 IT'S A KNOCK-OUT! Congleton v Banbury.
8.30 LOOK—MIKE YARWOOD! Guest Peter Noone.
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.
9.20 THE MAN OUTSIDE.
10.10 WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP. Joe Frazier v Ron Stander.
10.40 24 HOURS.
11.10 BALLROOM DANCING CHAMPIONSHIPS.
12.00 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35-6.30 Open University.
6.35 CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL. Cautioning, Trial and Sentence.
7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.
7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.
8.00 MONEY PROGRAMME. The Poverty Trap.

TV

ITV

11.00 Schools. 1.10 Time to remember (London only). 1.40 Schools. 2.30 Good afternoon! 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 This week. 3.45 Hot seat. 4.15 Clapperboard. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Land of the giants. 5.50 News.
6.00 TODAY.
6.30 THE NEW DICK VAN DYKE SHOW. Bernie Did It.
7.00 THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.
7.30 THE FBI. The Traitor.
8.30 HIS AND HERS.
9.00 BUDGIE. Do Me a Favour.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 POLICE FIVE.
10.40 FILM: 'A COLD WIND IN AUGUST'. Lola Albright, Scott Marlowe. A 17 year old boy ruins a strip-teaser's life.
12.10 SCALES OF JUSTICE. A Woman's privilege.
12.35 ANTHOLOGY OF LOVE. Love One Another.

9.00 GARDENERS' WORLD Percy Thrower.
9.20 REVIEW. Remember Your Lovers; The Politics of Music; A Bus Ride to the Festivals.
10.10 BEYOND A JOKE.
10.40 NEWS ON 2 and weather.
10.45 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.00-2.30 London. 4.05 Zingalong. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Jimmy Stewart. 4.50 Flintstones. 5.20 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.15 Report. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 I spy. 8.30 London. 10.35 Film: 'The Burglar'. 12.10 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 10.32 News. 12.10 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 11.00 London. 3.00 Kate. 3.55 Weekend. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Paulus. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 6.40 Out of town. 7.00 His and hers. 7.30 Weekend. 7.35 Sale of the century. 8.05 FBI. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Curse of the Fly'. 12.05 News. 12.15 Weather. Epilogue.

HARLECH: 11.00-2.30 London. 3.20 Grasshopper island. 3.30 Enchanted house. 3.50 Women only. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: 'A Place To Go'. 9.00 Jason King. 10.00 London. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 His and hers. 11.30 Budgie. 12.30 Weather.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15-4.30 Cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30-11.00 Outlook.
HTV West as above except: 6.01-6.35 Report West.

ANGLIA: 11.00 London. 3.15 Survival. 3.45 Yoga. 4.10 News. 4.15 Cartoons. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 Bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 His and hers. 8.00 Combat. 9.00 London. 10.30 Brian Connell. 11.05 Film: 'The Two-Headed Spy'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00-2.35 London. 3.10 Good afternoon. 3.35 Stars. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 His and hers. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 Shirley's world. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Black Torment'.

ULSTER: 11.00-2.30 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Thunderbirds. 5.50 London. 6.00 ITV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 London. 10.30 Spectrum. 11.00 Film: 'Masterson of Kansas'.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00 London. 3.00 Kate. 4.00 If it moves... 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Flaxton boys. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar weather. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 London. 7.30 FBI. 8.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?' 12.50 Douglas Fairbanks presents. 1.20 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 2.30 Corwin. 3.25 Yoga. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.05 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.50 Land of the giants. 5.50 News. 6.00 Newsday. 6.30 Riptide. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'God's Little Acre'.

TYNE TEES: 11.00 London. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 Kate. 4.00 If it moves... 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 Flaxton boys. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 London. 7.30 Calling Dr Gannon. 8.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?'. 12.50 News. 1.05 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 11.00-2.30 London. 3.30 Kiri. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 Cartoon cavalcade. 5.50 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Love American style. 6.30 His and hers. 7.00 London. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 SNP. 9.00 London. 10.30 SNP conference. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'The Secret of Blood Island'.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00-2.55 London. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Smith family. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 Ivanhoe. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Mr and Mrs. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.35 It takes a thief. 8.25 Melody inn. 9.00 London. 10.30 SNP conference. 11.00 Film: 'Son of Dracula'. 12.20 Epilogue.

Post delegates reject productivity dealing

FROM DAVID MAUDE
in Blackpool

LOCAL productivity dealing was decisively thrown out yesterday by the Union of Post Office Workers' conference at Blackpool.

Delegates from almost every area in the country went to the rostrum to describe their leaders' proposals for a new turn in pay policy as 'dangerous', 'divisive' and 'cowardly'.

The overwhelming decision was the third serious defeat which has been inflicted on the UPW executive this week.

In a last-ditch, but fatalistic attempt to swing the conference his way, union secretary, Tom Jackson, claimed that national bargaining had failed as a policy.

Putting productivity savings in a central 'kitty' then dividing them up, had won 'the princely sum in five years of 1 1/2 per cent', he said. This was derisory.

While the national kitty scheme was a good trade union policy, Jackson claimed, it had, in the last 12 months, produced exactly 4p for each of the union's 190,000 members.

But conference was adamant. All but a handful of the 1,450 delegates backed a resolution that national pay bargaining should continue and that productivity savings should continue to be totted up at national level.

They obliterated the proposal by the union executive that local bonuses should be paid for productivity on a twice-yearly basis. Also expressed in the debate was a strong current of opposition to all forms of productivity dealing.

Sam Cameron, a Dundee postman, said that the union could not co-operate with policies which would send its members to the labour exchange.

Jack London, a City of London counter clerks' leader, said that the executive's proposal would open up a dog-eat-dog situation.

Jimmy Thakoordan, from Luton, accused the executive of cowardice. It wanted to avoid a confrontation with the government over pay, he said. Union members had to fight together and share the victory.

Jackson and other UPW chiefs are now seriously worried that the policies of co-operation on which they have led the union for a number of years are threatened.

The union secretary told me after the debate that while yesterday's decision was less far-reaching than Tuesday's block on mechanization, it was another expression of a new mood in the union. And this fear was expressed before the conference in an attack on delegates who wanted to 'talk politics'.

The debate, he said, was not about destroying the system under which we live.

Barber's 'tough' wages line repeated for economists

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

TORY chancellor Anthony Barber yesterday assured the representatives of international capitalism that the government would take determined action to hold down wages.

To give in to high wage demands would be to abandon one of the prime functions of government, he told the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development meeting in Paris.

The British government would not be deterred by the problems facing such a policy, he said.

Barber's frank declaration of Tory intentions towards the working class opened the second day of the OECD ministerial talks, called chiefly to discuss the international monetary crisis.

It was no doubt aimed at reassuring the other capitalist representatives that the Tories intend to go to the end in their drive to subjugate the trade unions. Britain's worsening trade position is one of the topics of discussion at the meeting.

The sharp tone of the Paris talks was set by the announcement earlier this week that the US balance of payments for 1972 will show a record deficit. The American delegation have indicated that they will not discuss changes in the monetary system separately from trade issues.

This means that only those countries which fall into line with Washington's demands for trade concessions will benefit from whatever changes are made in the monetary sphere.

It is a prescription for bi-

lateralism in trade and the further fragmentation of the capitalist world into hostile blocs.

As Barber's speech makes clear, this is the framework within which the Tory government presses ahead with its Bonapartist onslaught on the working class.

£2,000-a-year miners

A POLICY for £2,000-a-year miners was agreed yesterday at the annual conference of the South Wales miners.

Delegates meeting in Porthcawl passed a resolution demanding a £7-a-week increase for lower grade underground workers to take their wages to £32, £7-a-week for surface day wage workers making their wage £30 and £5.50 for power loading workers making their wages £40.

Elwyn Williams, secretary of Bedling miners lodge said: 'You can't expect the Coal Board to offer us £2.50. You can rest assured that we shall be on strike next year again.'

WEATHER

RAIN in east and south-east England will clear during the morning followed by brighter weather with scattered showers. Western districts of England, also Wales, Northern Ireland and southern Scotland will have a day of showers and sunny spells with the showers mostly dying out in the evening.

Northern and eastern Scotland will have periods of rain and although brighter weather with sunny intervals and showers will reach eastern Scotland during the morning, the brighter weather may not reach the northern isles till late in the day.

Temperatures will be near the late May normal. Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Blustery showers and sunny intervals but more sunshine and fewer showers on Sunday. Temperatures a little below normal and becoming colder in the north-west.

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The battle between this Tory government and the dockers is on. Nothing can stop this major confrontation taking place. The determination of the dockers speaks out for the working class as a whole.

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Police quoted Act at us Mersey pickets claim

PICKETS at a giant petro-chemical site on Merseyside claim they have been threatened with the Industrial Relations Act by police.

The incident occurred on the Shell Stanlow complex, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, near the Burmah Oil site were 45 pickets were handcuffed and arrested last year.

Trouble began at the site when craftsmen went on strike over a series of grievances with the American contract engineers FLUOR.

The men have accused the firm of attempting to break up the union organization on the site. Riggers have been asked to do scaffolders' jobs and boilermakers and riggers have been fired because the firm claim there is

no work.

Three riggers have also lost their job because they refused to work an undermanned squad and they have been offered re-engagement instead of re-instatement.

The strike has been supported by engineers who have joined the picket line.

The incident involving the Industrial Relations Act occurred on Wednesday when one plain clothes police officer spoke to scaffolders shop steward Mick Abbot.

He called Mr Abbot aside and began reading out the relevant clauses of the Act. They were quickly surrounded by a group of pickets who informed the plain clothes policeman they did not recognize this law.



Union officials were given a rough time from a dockers' meeting yesterday when they demanded the black on containers be lifted. See story and another picture p. 1.

Union abandons Daytona picket

THE Birmingham East district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, under pressure from the union's executive council, has virtually abandoned an 18-month long struggle at Daytona Engineering Limited.

The strike began in the autumn of 1970 when 25 men stopped work in support of union recognition.

Last Monday night the district committee agreed to withdraw the remaining six pickets from the gates.

Of these one has found work at a local car factory while the others will be paid for a further eight weeks out of a district levy and then left to fend for themselves.

A nation-wide black imposed by the union's executive council on Daytona products will, in theory, continue.

But the lack of firmness in applying the black has been a major source of bitterness and frustration for the strikers.

The final blow, according to shop steward Dale Brierley, came

last week when a consignment of castings from Baker-Perkins, Peterborough, whose workers should have been operating the black, arrived at the factory.

The men alleged that at the district committee on Monday they were told that a letter had arrived from executive council to the effect that under no circumstances should they prevent work from Baker-Perkins going in. This would amount to 'third party blacking'.

The implication is that this would be actionable under the Industrial Relations Act.

Osram marchers vote to stay out

THE SIX-WEEK old dispute at GEC-Osram, Erith, is to go on and backing will be sought from other factories in the combine.

BY IAN YEATS

The 200 workers marched through Erith to a mass meeting at the Corinthian restaurant yesterday to hear the latest situation explained by union officials.

AUEW works' convenor Len Foley told the meeting there had been no further moves by GEC management on their £6-a-week pay claim since last week's £1.20 offer.

He said: 'I am sure I know

what your decision will be again this week. Our position is stronger now that Birmingham is out with us.'

Officials said they would approach workers at GEC's Wembley factory to try and set up support for their fight and cash is being levied in local factories to help those short of money.

AUEW 'official' delay criticized by tyre workers

A MEETING of workers from Goodyear Tyres at Wolverhampton in the third week of a strike yesterday criticized the AUEW executive council for its delay in making the dispute official.

The mover of the motion pointed out that the men's demands for a substantial rise, a reduction in hours and longer holidays are in line with official AUEW policy.

He said the EC had two

months' knowledge that a dispute was likely.

The men are to meet again this morning to discuss with local AUEW and EPTU officials some way of ending the deadlock with the firm. AUEW convenor Alf Fishlock told Workers Press that there was 'no progress' with negotiations.

Talks virtually broke down on Thursday and, he said, 'the management do not appear to want to make a reasonable settlement'.

Fighting cash

ENGINEERING employers yesterday put more money behind their members who are resisting union demands for more pay and less hours.

The point employers are firmest over is the unions' demand for a 35-hour week—a demand that was taken off the list of top priorities by the executive of the key Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers two weeks ago.