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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

TORIES CHANGE ANTI-UNION TACTIC

BY ALEX MITCHELL

THE RESISTANCE of the working class has forced the Tories to re-organize their industrial relations strategy. And their greatest allies in this camouflaged war on the working class are the trade union leaders.

Afraid of the growing militancy of their own members, these leaders today become the accomplices in the Tory plan to weaken and demoralize the working class.

The first and most pressing reason behind this strategy is to isolate the rail unions.

Following their defeat at the hands of the miners, the Tories are desperate to strike back—and they've chosen the railmen as their chief target.

The trade union collaboration which is hitting the rank and file and isolating the rail workers is exposed on a variety of fronts:

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The talks were of 'mutual benefit', he said. 'Our members lose money when there's a strike, employers lose production and orders, and the economy suffers,' he whined.

Not a word, notice, about leading the trade union movement in a fight against the Industrial Relations Act and the government. Just intenser levels of collaboration.

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By abandoning the national pay claim to plant-by-plant bargaining, the engineers' fight has been decimated. In Manchester, the scene of the first major battle, the employers are rubbing their hands as one factory after another collapses in the face of their powerful offensive.

Speaking to Birmingham shop stewards on Monday night, Scanlon showed the extent to which he is prepared to go. 'We don't want strikes, we want settlements', he said.



Feather: 'mutual benefit' from talks with Tories.

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This comes on top of Jones's recent decisions to pay the £55,000 fines to the National Industrial Relations Court and to attend the court.

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In his election manifesto now circulating, Chapple says: 'The movement's policy should be to get trade union representatives on the NIRC and industrial tribunals which are going to sit in judgement.'

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These appeasement noises by the trade union leaders are made at a time when the economic crisis is rapidly worsening.

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Every economic indicator points towards higher and higher unemployment, accompanied by rises in the price of basic foods—meat and bread—to Common Market levels.

The biggest danger facing the working class is that it could, if not alerted be taken unaware by the Tories' creeping offensive. The collaboration of the trade union leaders is enormously assisting this process.

The fact remains, however, that the government is by no means out of the woods.

Although the trade union leadership may be off into the Tory parlour, the rank-and-file isn't. The strength of the working class can force the Tories to resign.

A campaign along these lines must be initiated at once; an immediate start can be made by building Councils of Action which include all sections of the labour and trade union movement.



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Rail showdown may be near —no new offer

BY IAN YEATS

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Leaders of the three unions were told to return to the board's Marylebone headquarters at 2.30 p.m. today for a final decision.

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firm yesterday on May 1 as the date from which the board's 12.5-per-cent pay offer must be given.

After the talks Sir Sidney Greene, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said: 'I am very disappointed with the situation. We have made no progress whatsoever.'

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tell you something'.

Ray Buckton, general secretary of the locomen's union ASLEF, told reporters: 'They have made no offer whatsoever to us'.

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The executives of the rail unions met yesterday afternoon to hear reports and discuss the situation.

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UNIONS UNDER FIRE FROM BANGLA DESH LEADERS

BY JOHN SPENCER

JUST six months after the defeat of Pakistan, the Awami League government of Bangla Desh is headed for a confrontation with the Bengali working class.

A presidential decree at the end of last month imposed a penalty of up to five years jail for strikes and so-called 'unfair labour practices' in the nationalized industries and other state enterprises.

This has met with powerful resistance from the workers, who are determined to protect the rights they won in the struggle against Pakistan. Their militancy is increased by the rapid increase in basic commodity prices—some have risen 200 per cent since independence.

The government is already applying repressive labour laws.

Dacca home service announced earlier this week that the government took a serious view of recent incidents at a Dacca textile mill.

The mill workers had won an agreement from the management to pay 150 takkas (about £8) to every worker as relief and full arrears of pay for the lay-off period.

The government stated officially that such action was quite illegal under existing laws and added that 'anti-social elements involved . . . will be appropriately dealt with.'

'The government is going to take all measures to put down the elements with an iron hand,' the statement said.

Tajuddin Ahmed, the Finance Minister, has said the government will not tolerate any acts of indiscipline and lawlessness in various factories and official establishments.

Unless employees worked regularly, he threatened, they would not be paid from the public exchequer.

These threats are already being put into operation.

Earlier this week the government decreed that the former president of the left-wing Labour Federation, Mohammed Toha, must surrender to the authorities by Friday or suffer confiscation of all his property.

Toha, who once served as secretary to the peasant leader Maulana Bashani, was a consistent fighter against the Pakistan



Abdul Mannan: 'subdue miscreants'.

occupation who remained in Bangla Desh throughout the period of the repression last year.

Toha's property includes the important left-wing newspaper 'Gana Shakti' ('Peoples' Power'), which the government is anxious to suppress.

The Awami League has its own 'yellow' trade union, the Swamik League, in opposition to the Labour Federation.

Its leader, former strikebreaker Abdul Mannan, is an MP in the National Assembly. He has urged the government to arm his 50,000 followers in order to 'subdue the miscreants'.

He said: 'All these should be hunted out in a purging campaign and brought before people's courts.'

Headed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Awami League government still enjoys the uncritical support of the pro-Moscow Stalinists.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bangla Desh called last week 'on all patriotic people to help implement the nationalization programme and other progressive measures (!) taken by the government towards the establishment of socialism!'

Beatings will continue, warns South Africa's Vorster

BY OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

SIXTY-EIGHT people, including a number of Anglican clergy, appeared in court at Cape Town yesterday charged with attending an illegal assembly banned under the Riotous Assemblies Act.

Those arrested were among thousands who gathered outside St George's Cathedral on Monday, to protest against police brutality in breaking up an anti-apartheid demonstration on the cathedral steps last Friday.

Despite threats from the Nationalist government, the student leaders are planning to continue their campaign of demonstrations, which has drawn in hundreds of workers against the apartheid regime.

Another demonstration is planned today in Johannesburg, where student leaders are determined their movement will not be outlawed.

Hundreds of students walked out on Monday night from the African University of the Northmat Turfloop, near Pietersburg in the northern Transvaal, where the movement among students of both races began last month.

The university registrar, W. N. Galloway, said that between 300 and 400 of the 800 students who attended lectures yesterday after reregistering following the closure of the college last month walked out again during the night.

The students who walked out were protesting against a decision of the university council not to readmit 22 students involved in a mass sit-down strike which originally began the current wave of student demonstrations.

Premier Balthazar Vorster has publicly supported the police brutality last Friday and blamed the demonstrations on 'agitators, subversives and communists'.

He said police actions like that on Friday did South Africa 'a great deal of good' and would be repeated 'every time law and order is threatened'.

When opposition MPs demanded an inquiry into the police brutality, he replied: 'I am not prepared to waste anybody's time'.

This kind of talk may go down well with the Nationalist die-hards, but its only effect on the student movement so far has been to strengthen it.

The movement among the South African students is of extreme importance—it indicates that the youth are no longer prepared to tolerate the repression of the Vorster regime and are prepared to come out openly and challenge its brutal police.

Toyota slips under tariff wall

THE Toyota Motor Co said yesterday its small cars would be assembled from imported components in the Irish Republic from next October.

The company announced in Tokyo that Irish interests would organize a new company to assemble and market its Corolla sedans by September this year, and start production a month later.

It expects about 400 cars to be turned out this year with components and know-how provided by Toyota.

Assembly in the Irish Republic enables Toyota to overcome the tariff barrier of 75 per cent import duties levied on assembled car imports to Ireland. It also gives Toyota a toe-hold in the Common Market and a base to compete with British and European motor firms.

Toyota has denied that the new venture is an attempt to form a production centre within the EEC, but this assurance will be taken with a huge pinch of salt by the company's British and European rivals who are extremely worried about the threat of increased Japanese exports to Europe.

MORE THAN 400 miners were feared trapped underground when an explosion ripped through a colliery 300 miles west of Salisbury, Rhodesia, yesterday.

A spokesman at the Wankie Colliery said 468 miners—435 black and 33 white—were feared trapped.

Rescue teams from neighbouring South Africa joined Rhodesian squads racing to the disaster scene.

Weeping wives gathered by the mine, anxiously waiting for news of the fate of the trapped men.

Rescue teams were working under chaotic conditions to try and reach the miners, according to reports reaching here.

A spokesman of the mine, owned by the Anglo-American Corporation, said rescue teams were on their way from all parts of the country but no casualty figure was yet known. Two teams were already burrowing underground.

It was still impossible to tell how many men were entombed or give details of deaths or injuries.

Rescue conditions were described as difficult.

Big jobless rise forecast for Italy

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

AS premier-designate Giulio Andreotti embarks on his search for a new Italian government following the May General Election, the Labour Ministry has forecast a rise of up to 100,000 in the number of industrial unemployed by the end of this year.

The loss of jobs will hit practically all sections of industry, apart from food and motor manufacturing.

The Ministry expects the building industry to be particularly hard-hit; it estimates 7.7 per cent of the country's 1.8m building workers will lose their jobs by December.

The building industry is the biggest employer in Rome and other areas of central Italy. But the decline will also be felt in the heavily-industrialized North, the Ministry says.

Unemployment and underemployment affect more than a million workers in Italy.

Problems are already piling up on the Ministerial desks even before the Ministers are selected.

The election has done nothing to solve the chronic parliamentary crisis which brought down the last government. The bankruptcy of Italian bourgeois democracy is underlined by the bourgeois politicians' panic in the face of threats from the extreme right.

The fascist leader Giorgio

Almirante, whose Italian Social Movement won almost 10 per cent of the votes last month, is reported to have said that if the government continues to fall short of its functions 'we are ready to replace the state'.

Almirante added that these were not mere words: 'I invite

our opponents not to consider them as such,' he said.

These threats were enough to produce a call from the Republican Party—a likely coalition partner of Andreotti's Christian Democrats—for an emergency administration based on anti-fascism.

French bid for influence in market

FOREIGN Ministers of the European Common Market began talks in Luxembourg yesterday to prepare the Common Market summit due to be held in October.

President Pompidou of France has already cast a question mark over the summit with his statement that there is no point in holding it unless it produces results.

Pompidou's statement is likely to be discussed—at least informally—by the Ministers at their two-day meeting.

The French president's statement is interpreted in EEC circles as part of a French bid to retain national influence

within an enlarged Common Market.

The different nations are already jockeying for positions within the enlarged EEC.

The French are particularly anxious that the political secretariat of the Market be situated in Paris, where it can come firmly under Pompidou's influence.

Trade topics are also prominent on the Foreign Ministers' agenda—in particular the question of relations between the enlarged Common Market and the remaining countries of the European Free Trade Area.

The Common Market monopolists want a special relationship with the European capitalist countries that are outside the Market. This demand is bitterly opposed by the United States, which fears its goods will be discriminated against in Europe.

Yet another one-day CGT strike

UP TO two million French workers are expected to respond today to a one-day strike call by the Stalinist-backed CGT union confederation.

The strike is in support of demands for a minimum guaranteed monthly wage of 1,000 francs (£75) and retirement at 60.

Bus and rail services, the Post Office and newspapers will be virtually completely shut down.

The strike call is not supported by the other major union confederations. The CFDT has said that the strike is simply an electoral manoeuvre on the part of the Communist Party.

Certainly the strike will not win the demands set out by the CGT—and it is not designed to.

Ever since the overthrow of de Gaulle, the CGT leaders have stuck rigidly to a policy of diverting workers' militancy into avenues of protest and partial actions.

The government has already said it will introduce the minimum wage in 18 months time—a promise which the CGT correctly says is hedged with too many conditions.

But the Gaullist regime will not change its policies simply as a result of the 'pressure' of one-day strikes, however many workers are involved.

In organizing this stoppage the CP hopes to regain some credibility among the union rank-and-file who have become increasingly frustrated by the CGT leaders' tactics over the last few years.

Contracts row spreads at Heathrow

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

SHOP STEWARDS at London's Heathrow airport yesterday met union leaders to discuss further action in their fight against General Aviation Services (GAS), the Canadian-based aircraft handling company.

The stewards have already reimposed a 'black' on GAS.

Blacking has now also spread to Marriott's, a large American catering company which has contracts with some airlines at Heathrow.

Airport workers have been instructed not to handle any airline which is served by Marriott's and, as a result, some airliners were taking off yesterday without full catering. Iberia passengers arriving in London have had to carry their own luggage.

The unions fear that GAS—a highly-mechanized company—will create redundancies if allowed to win any more contracts.

At present the company serves Iberia, Ceylon and Saudi-Arabian airlines.

Small firms in cross-Channel get-together

INDUSTRIALISTS from small firms in France yesterday met representatives of the Confederation of British Industry's smaller firms' council.

The ten-man French team, drawn from various sectors of industry, was headed by the president of the General Confederation of Small and Medium-sized Firms, L. Gingembre.

Discussions at the one-day meeting in London ranged over subjects such as the effect that the Common Market has had on small firms and the French experience—particularly with regard to value-added tax (VAT), public works and public supply contracts and intra-Community trade.

It also discussed future prospects for both French and British firms and the opportunities for further co-operation between them by exchange of information and contact.

FRIEND OF HEATH IN DOCKS TALKS WITH JONES

BY ALEX MITCHELL

YESTERDAY Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers' Union sat down with Lord Aldington, chairman of the Port of London Authority, to work out a Utopian 'peace formula' to avert the national dock strike.

Even the Tory press is finding it difficult to conceal a note of cynicism in describing the talks. 'The Times' yesterday said the joint authoritative committee was being referred to as 'Jack'.

It is this body which Jones and his national docks secretary, Tim O'Leary, 'sold' to the docks delegates meeting last Thursday on the eve of the start of the docks strike.

On the basis of this 'high-powered' committee, the strike was postponed until June 16.

As the talks begin it is timely to examine the form of Lord Aldington, the man who is co-chairman of 'Jack' with Jones.

Aldington is a powerful member of the ruling class in Britain. He was educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford, and was called to the Bar in 1939.

At the end of the war he entered parliament as Tory MP for Blackpool North.

He was parliamentary secretary, Ministry of Supply, from 1951 to 1954 and Minister of State at the Board of Trade from 1954 to 1957. He was knighted in 1957 by Harold Macmillan and made a peer in 1962.

While at the Board of Trade he struck up a close friendship with another ambitious Tory of his generation—Edward Heath.

Aldington's business interests are powerful and financially rewarding. He is chairman of National and Grindlays Bank Ltd, which has extensive interests in Africa.

The bank's branch in Uganda has recently been through a considerable crisis.

Ex-President Obote announced 18 months ago that the govern-

ment was going to take a 50-per cent stake in foreign businesses. His first attack was on National and Grindlays, and the government equity was arranged.

Within a few months of the finalization of the semi-nationalization Obote was deposed by a military dictatorship headed by British-trained General Idi Amin.

One of Amin's first decisions was to restore full ownership to the bank. It is certain that Lord Aldington and his board thoroughly welcomed Amin's statesmanlike decision.

Aldington is also deputy chairman of the giant AEI-GEC monopoly, which has carried out the most vicious rationalization policies; at least 35,000 jobs have been axed throughout the combine in the past five years.

His final chairmanship is with the Sun-Alliance-London group of insurance companies which controls assets and funds worth tens of millions of pounds.

In mid-1971 Aldington took over as chairman of the PLA in place of Viscount Simon.

In his first annual report, published a month ago Aldington revealed the ruthless policies he is prepared to pursue on the docks.

He said the previous management had forecast 1,200 jobs would be axed this year. This was now out of date, he said. The figure would be 2,000.

He then went on to threaten the dockers, telling them they had to accept this wilful destruction of their livelihoods.

He said there was a 'fear that the PLA might price itself out of the market, or might, as a result of bad industrial relations, prove unreliable'.

He then went on to forecast even tougher productivity on the London docks: 'The return on capital of about 4 per cent is



Lord Aldington

clearly much too low, and my colleagues and I, with the full support of the management, are intent upon increasing it.'

Is Jones seriously suggesting that this man Aldington is going to provide the slightest basis for protecting jobs on the docks?

Or is it that Jones is afraid of the implication of a docks strike, of challenging the Industrial Relations Act, of taking on the Tory government?

The reverse side of Jones' collaboration with people like Aldington, George Tonge of the national joint employers and Maurice Macmillan, is the determination of shop stewards and rank-and-file dockers to continue 'blacking' container firms and to lobby the next docks

delegates' meeting on June 15 to demand a strike.

FOOTNOTE: The PLA announced yesterday that the Swedish Svea Line has transferred its London service from Victoria dock, in the Royal group, to the container terminal at Tilbury.

PLA docks manager William Caunter welcomed the line's decision, and said it reflected the growing awareness of Tilbury's container handling and flexibility.

The PLA yesterday formally moved to its new headquarters in the World Trade Centre. This follows the controversial decision to sell its historic premises in Trinity Square.

Police on 'serious charges' says new report

By our own reporter

THE NUMBER of Metropolitan Police officers facing serious criminal or disciplinary charges rose last year, ex-Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir John Waldron, reported yesterday.

Sir John, who retired seven weeks ago, wrote in his final report to the Home Secretary: 'I feel bound to comment on this unwelcome trend.'

He said, however, he must emphasize the small number of officers involved, particularly as a 'false impression might be projected by the disproportionate publicity each case attracted'.

Sir John blamed the increase in crime among police officers on the influence of society.

Police officers, he said, were drawn from the community in which they lived and worked and they were going to reflect the characteristics of current society.

Standards at large had declined in the last ten years, and it was

inevitable that police officers together with other public servants were tempted to fall in line with that decline.

During 1971, he said, 3,165 complaints from the public were made against the police—344 fewer than in 1970 and the lowest figure since 1968.

Making a case for tighter bail restrictions, Sir John reported that 2,094 people were arrested for indictable offences committed while on bail. In 780 of those cases defendants had been released on bail despite objections by the police.

'By and large, we detect only a third of the crimes committed, so it would perhaps be fair to assume that at least twice as

many again as the number set out commit crimes when on bail and get away with it,' he said.

In 1971, he went on, there was a 13.4-per cent increase in frauds to 20,625 cases and forgery and coining rose by 7.3 per cent to 4,680 offences.

Of 42,973 persons under 21 who were arrested in 1971, 29,952 or 69.7 per cent were operating in gangs and 7,324 of those were associating with adults.

A total of 7,314 were in gangs whose members were all less than 15 years old.

He noted that more drugs were now available. Little heroin came from Marseilles, but Chinese heroin was increasingly available.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Support the dockers and railwaymen. Build Councils of Action

NORTH LONDON: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', Tottenham High Rd (nr White Hart Lane).

CROYDON: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road.

LUTON: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Lea Road.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. Dept-

ford Engineers' Club (opposite New Cross Station).

SOUTHALL: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. Parkway Rooms (Rent Office), Racecourse Estate, Northolt.

PRESTON: Thursday June 8, 7.30 p.m. Railway and Commercial Hotel (nr rail stn), Butler St.

COALVILLE: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. Miners' Welfare. 'Organize Councils of Action'.

WILLESDEN: Monday June 12, 8 p.m. St Michael's Hall, cnr Hillside and Knatchbull Rds, NW10.

Part one of a series on revisionism by Cliff Slaughter, Central Committee member of the Socialist Labour League

WHY A LABOUR GOVERNMENT?

The 'International Marxist Group' (IMG) has declared against the policy of working for the return of a Labour government. In their paper 'Red Mole' they had already opposed supporting the election of a Labour government in the 1970 General Election.

Now the IMG puts forward the slogan of 'a workers' government based on the trade unions' and accuses the Socialist Labour League of taking 'the road to reformism' because we fight for the return of a Labour government.

The first thing to be noted is that, in attacking the Socialist Labour League on this score, they choose to forget that it was always the programme of Lenin and Trotsky, and of the Trotskyist movement in Britain since its foundation, to carry through the fight for revolutionary leadership by returning the Labour leaders to government office, to expose them in the course of mass struggle for socialist policies.

No one can doubt that the working class in Britain is now faced with a life-and-death struggle under political conditions which have never been known before.

Tory Prime Minister Edward Heath addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1970, just a few months after being elected to office. He warned that the 1970s would be characterized by more and more 'civil wars'.

This followed his speech to the Tory Party conference, in which he promised that his government would proceed to 'change the course of history of this nation'.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

We have seen now what this meant: bloody repression in Ulster; rule by judge's decree against trade unionists.

As millions of workers come into bitter conflict with Heath's government — on wages, on trade union rights, on rents, on prices — the question arises urgently: how do we get rid of the Tory government, and what is the alternative? Already in the municipal elections, the working class gave notice of its aspirations for a Labour government to replace the Tories.

Since then, the judgements of the National Industrial Relations Court have made

crystal-clear the strategy of the Tory government. They are preparing all the instruments of Bonapartist dictatorship and rule by decree, in order very soon to provoke a situation of industrial struggle where they can declare a state of emergency and set about severe repressions. The answer must be a political one.

The Socialist Labour League places this political fight to remove the Tory government through working-class action and replace it with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies at the very centre of its policies. Only on this programme will the British working class achieve in struggle its political independence from the enemy class and its reformist and bureaucratic agents.

Such political independence will be achieved within the crisis of reformism brought to a head by the return of a Labour government in crisis conditions. It will be achieved, not 'spontaneously' and 'naturally', but through the conscious intervention of Marxists in this process. The IMG, on the contrary, tells workers that the main question is to extend the purely industrial struggle.

The working class continues to press for large wage increases. So severe is the economic crisis and price inflation that they are forced to do so. But this militancy on wages, if it continues restricted within the old reformist framework, contains grave dangers. Experience of a purely industrial or economic struggle can teach only the beginnings of politics, or class-consciousness.

From wages struggles, workers will conclude only that more militancy means more concessions—or, in some cases, that even militancy wins nothing. Obviously there are grave dangers, for example, that the cowardly retreats of the trade union leadership could actually produce disillusionment and splits among organized workers.

We must also remember that in a period like the present, millions of workers enter politics and even enter industrial struggles, for the first time, and these workers can very well be turned in a reactionary direction if all political questions are left to the undisputed treacherous trade union officials and Labour Party leaders.

The demand to unite the organized working class to force the Tories to resign and return a Labour government with socialist policies is the only demand which can provide the basis for binding together all these workers in different industries and at different stages of development.



Top: the miners' strike—workers came into bitter conflict with the Heath government. Right: Tariq Ali.

The 'International Marxist Group' of Tariq Ali and the 'International Socialists' of Tony Cliff give an appearance of being 'to the left' of those who fight for the return of Labour to power. But in essence they work to limit the working class to the purely trade-union, economic level of struggle.

When the IMG opposes the slogan 'Labour to power', it is really expressing its rejection of the working class as a force which can develop its own political independence and go forward to power.

In voting Labour at the recent local elections, the working class gives notice of what could happen if the Labour and trade union leaders mobilized the strength at their disposal to force a General Election.

The Labour leaders do not want to come to office on the crest of a wave of mass feeling and mass action, and so they lead no campaign whatsoever to bring down the Tories.

In their bones the Labour leaders understand that, if they were returned to power by a mass upsurge strong enough to bring the Tories down, then they would themselves be in mortal danger from this same mass movement.

The workers would demand very definite things of the Labour government: trade union and democratic rights, jobs, a decent standard of living, housing and health. And none of these things can be granted without breaking the power of the monopolies and the banks.

ACTION AND A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME

Naturally, therefore, the election of a Labour government immediately following successful mass action to get the Tories out would produce an insoluble crisis for reformism, in which the question of a socialist programme and a new, revolutionary leadership would come right into the middle of the political life of the working class.

As the SLL has said many times: a working class strong enough to get rid of the master (the Tories) will certainly be able to deal with the servant (the Labour leaders).

Given a consistent struggle for alternative Marxist leadership, therefore, the fight for a Labour government, linked to the fight for socialist demands

(see the SLL Charter of Basic Rights) is the best way of fighting the Wilson leadership and its grip on the Labour movement.

Because the IMG and IS revisionists long ago accepted the idea that capitalism is no longer the victim of insoluble contradictions and crises, they now ignore the real meaning of the Tory government's actions and the situation facing the working class of Britain.

It is the insoluble crisis of British capitalism, and above all the unbroken strength of the working class, which forces the Tory government in the direction of Bonapartism.

The task of revolutionaries in such situations is to responsibly warn the working class of the enemy's preparations and to fight for policies which can unite the working class for the counter-attack. That is the meaning of the demand to replace the Tories with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

The role of centrists, on the other hand, is to disarm and divide the working class in the face of these developments. That is the meaning of the IMG's 'workers' government based on the trade unions'.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

DUBCEK MEN ON TRIAL

A group of leading supporters of Alexander Dubcek, the former Czechoslovak Communist Party first secretary, are to go on trial shortly charged with subversion.

The trial was reported by 'usually reliable sources' in Prague.

The group, who have been imprisoned since January, include leading CP intellectuals, among them Milan Hubl, former head of the Communist Party College, Jiri Littera, former secretary of the Prague city committee, Jaroslav Sabata, head of the Brno Party committee and Rudolf Battek, a sociologist.

Also thought to be in the group are Jan Tesar, a historian, Jiri Mueller, a former student leader, and Karel Kaplan, a scientist.

They have been charged under two paragraphs of Article 98 of the penal code covering subversion. The first paragraph deals with subversion as such and carries a penalty of one to five years imprisonment.

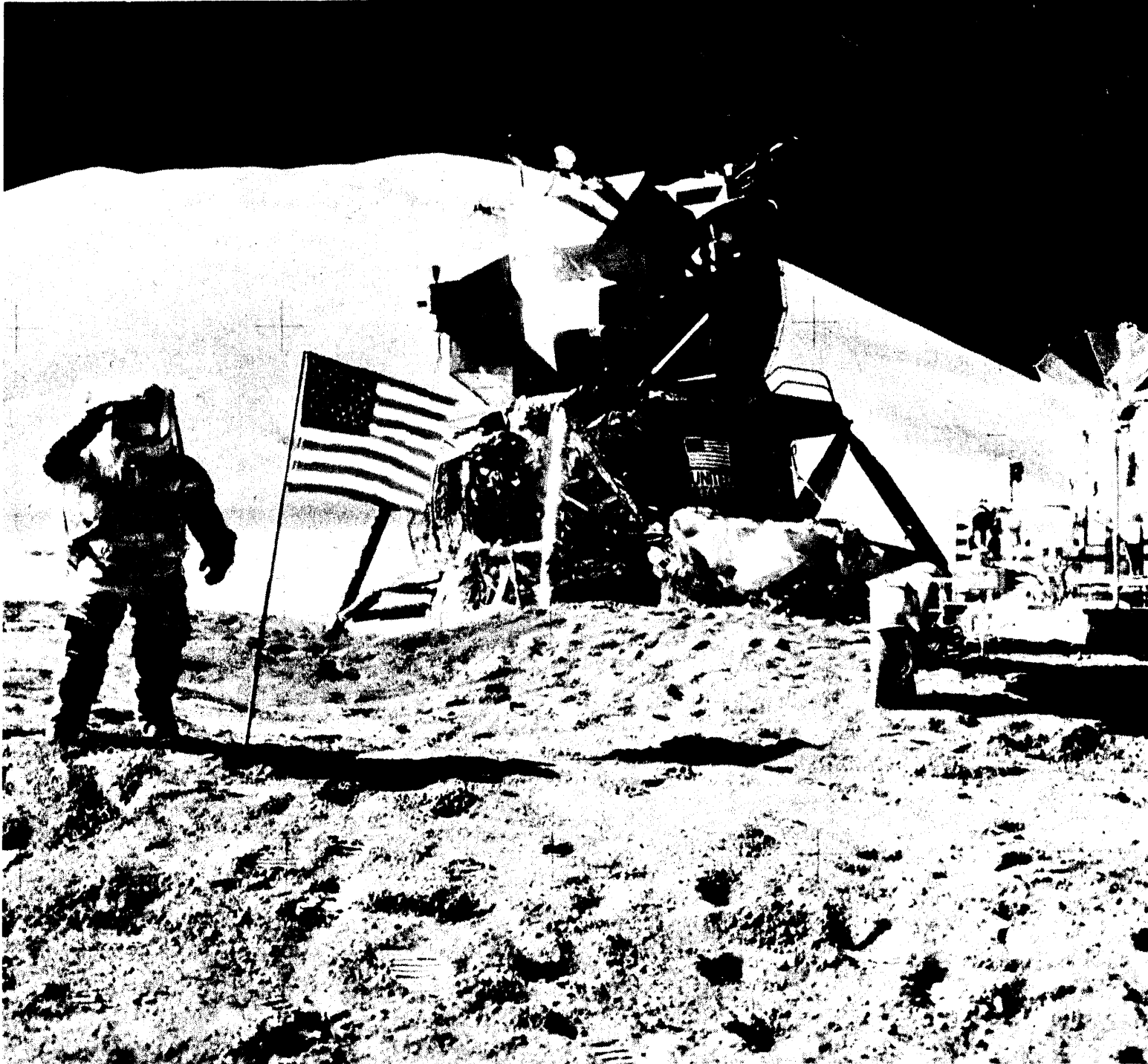
The second covers subversion on a large scale and during periods of national danger, with a penalty of three to ten years.



Top: Alexander Dubcek—supporters face trial. Above: Husak—installed since the coup.

Communist Party leader Gustav Husak, installed after Warsaw Pact invasion of 1968, has frequently promised there will be no return to the show trials of the 1950s. But his warning that anyone who infringes the law will not go unpunished restores the trial through the back door.

Only last month, former chess grandmaster Ludek Pachman was sentenced to two years on four charges including subversion, but was released immediately 'because of his poor health', according to the authorities. He had already served 18 months in prison.



UNEMPLOYMENT BRINGS SPACE PROGRAMME DOWN TO EARTH

Redundancy has hit the US space effort with a vengeance; astronauts at Houston, Texas, face a 23 per cent cut-back.

Ten of the 43 men in the astronaut corps at the Manned Spacecraft Centre have been peremptorily told to find other jobs.

Meanwhile, Dr Wernher von Braun, the ex-Nazi rocket expert who masterminded the space programme, is himself moving into private industry, where he will certainly be well provided for.

The number of astronauts at Houston has already slumped heavily since the space boom of 1967-1968, when as many as 63 were on duty at any one time.

Economies—tightened still further by the country's \$700m April trade deficit—are blamed along with the surplus of astronauts in a programme that is literally running out of missions and jobs to perform in support of those missions.

'The facts are we have one Apollo and three Skylab missions,' director of flight-crew operations Donald H. 'Deke' Slayton said last week.

'That leaves us with three times as many people as we need to fly those missions.'

Slayton's statement followed the resignation of Apollo-14 astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell and Apollo-15 astronaut James B. Irwin. Col. Irwin confirmed that he was asked to step down to cut manpower costs.

'It's no secret we have too many astronauts,' Col. Irwin told the 'Houston Chronicle'.

'Deke asked me if I would consider retiring now and I said I would be happy to go as soon as I can.'

Other members of the astronaut corps confirmed that Slayton had asked no fewer than five and as many as ten astronauts still on active duty status to resign in the next three months.

'I think Deke was told by headquarters to trim the numbers in the office,' one veteran astronaut said. 'Whoever it was who told him, he's certainly carrying out the orders.'

Earlier last week, it was announced that Dr von Braun (60) has retired from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and is to join Fairchild Industries next month.

Von Braun, who was responsible for the development of the V-2 rocket which Hitler used against Britain late in World War II, spent ten years at Huntsville, Alabama, directing 3,000 scientists in perfecting the Saturn moon-rocket.

'I am leaving with the knowledge that NASA has enough well thought-out plans to keep it moving ahead for many years to come, even though some of these may have to be deferred because of budget restraints,' he said.



Von Braun: private industry

'I would like to devote my time now to help implement some space projects I feel are of particular importance. I think I can do this best in private industry where the tools of progress are being made.'

Fairchild Industries builds aircraft and communication satellites and is involved in other aeronautical projects.

The Houston cut-back follows massive sackings among technicians.

Astronauts say that scientist-astronaut Phillip Chapman, who served as mission scientist on Apollo-14, and Tony England, 'who filled the same role on Apollo-16', had submitted resignations.

One said that director Slayton has told the astronauts privately that when Skylab ends in early 1974, he would like to have the astronaut corps down to a hard core of no more than 15 men.

'These are the men who would go into the shuttle and who might get to fly the rendezvous and docking missions with the Russians,' he said. 'Slayton really feels that he doesn't need any more than 15 men to start up both these programmes.'

THE SAGA OF BRITISH LION

BY ALEX MITCHELL

British Lion, one of the country's sole remaining film production companies, has fallen into the hands of a financial whizz-kid, John Bentley (32).

Since the £5.5m takeover on April 24, it has become abundantly clear that Bentley and his backers intend to use the lucrative Shepperton studio site in Middlesex for property development.

A look at the history of British Lion since it became a privately constituted company — for the second time — in 1964 shows that this proposed carve-up is a repudiation of solemn and binding agreements reached between the company and the Tory government at the time.

The man who made the agreements with the private consortium for the private reconstruction of British Lion in 1964 was then Secretary of State for Industry and Trade in the Home government, Edward Heath.

It was in February 1964 that Heath presented parliament with a full report on the plans to have off British Lion from the state body, the National Film Finance Corporation. It was to be taken over by a private consortium headed by film magnate Sir Michael Balcon.

For that price the consortium got British Lion's film archives, properties in Soho and Mayfair and Shepperton studios.

Heath agreed to 'hive-off' British Lion from the NFFC on a 'solemn commitment' that the assets — including Shepperton — would be used solely for film-making.

In his biography, 'A Lifetime of Films', Balcon describes precisely the agreements entered between Heath and the new company:

'It is important here to understand the terms on which we proposed to take over and run British Lion, because on this rests the motive for my later dissociating myself from the company. Our successful offer to buy the company was accompanied by an unqualified acceptance of the view expressed by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry [Heath] in the House of Commons a few weeks earlier when he said that he would require 'positive assurances . . . that British Lion will continue to provide the facilities for independent producers which it now gives, and continue to maintain an independent position.'

'We also gave assurances that we had no intention of using Shepperton studios and their 60-odd acres of land for any purposes other than film-making (its value as a property investment is obvious).'

Balcon gathered the consortium together and raised the purchase price. He says: 'The equity capital was subscribed by five groups, John and Roy Boulting, Frank Lauder and Sidney Gilliat, Joseph Jann and John Schlesinger, Long and Distance Films Limited (embracing the interests of Woodfall, Brian Epstein and Border Television) and Walter Reade.'

He said that 'we envisaged an annual production of somewhere between 10 and 15 first feature films a year.'

Balcon's motives for launching British Lion, apart from the renowned interest in making money, was to create a rallying point for independent production.

'British Lion began to be talked about as the very much needed Third Force in the industry,' he said.

Balcon's dreams of resuscitating private production quickly came to grief. In a revealing passage in his book Balcon explains the internal row which finally led to his premature departure from the chairmanship:

'I have no wish to reopen old quarrels, but I feel it is quite fair to say that before long I realized that my principal colleagues were not with me in the determination to stimulate and increase production.'

On the contrary there was every indication that they were falling back on the old belief that we would not be able to get our films into the circuits and that therefore the risks inherent in producing as many films as we had envisaged were too great.

'Naturally this was entirely opposed to my view that we had acquired the company on a mandate not only to make films ourselves, but to support independent British producers, and if this policy was not to be carried out I saw no point in my continued presence as chairman or in any other capacity. I bowed out . . .'

It was 1965, only a year after the new company had been launched. The man who replaced Balcon was Arnold Goodman, now Lord Goodman, who is personal lawyer to Harold Wilson, emissary for the Tory government to Rhodesia and a close friend of just about everybody in ruling-class circles from David Astor ('Ob-



server) to Sir Max Aitken ('Daily Express') to Lord Bernstein (Granada TV). Goodman was not new to the revamping of British Lion. He had negotiated much of the legal machinery in MFFC and had also run the debt and issue. Indeed, when the holding company was formed in 1964 two of Goodman's legal partners were named as the subscribers. It came as a surprise to workers in the film industry to note the course adopted by the major statement he announced that the company's policy was one of 'restricted production', which meant a complete abandonment of the promise of a thriving 'Third Force'. Based on this enfeebling policy the value of company stock started to fall. There was a temporary upsurge in 1968 when the company went public — but then the same dreary economic picture re-emerged.

Pre-tax profits of British Lion Holdings: — about to be carved-up by the property men

To April 1969 — £575,867

To April 1970 — £296,657

To April 1971 — £137,273

In direct contrast to falling profits, the directors continued to increase their stake in company shares.

By 1971 Lord Goodman had 190,111 shares, property tycoon Sir Max Rayne had 589,164, John Boulting 361,218, Roy Boulting 366,304, Sidney Gilliat 271,388 and Frank Lauder 222,084.

This was the position when John Bentley, the youthful head of Barclay Securities, emerged on the scene six weeks ago with his extremely generous bid.

How could he offer £5.5m for a firm of diminishing financial ability and in an industry such as colossal economic dangers?

The simple answer is that Bentley has been making at this taking of his career. The only answer is that he is interested

Top: Shepperton studios in Middlesex — about to be carved-up by the property men

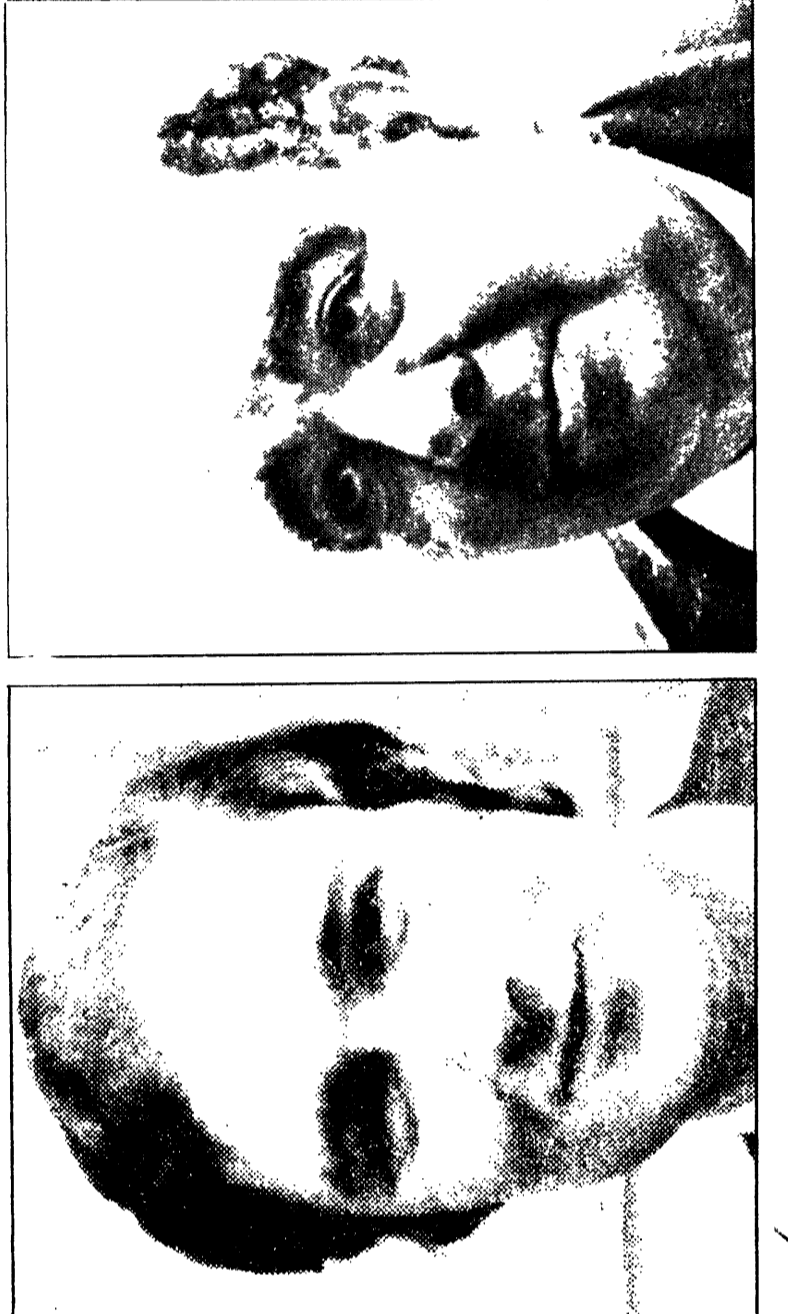
Right: John Bentley, financial whizz-kid who is taking over British Lion. Far right: shareholder Lord Goodman

In the company's assets — particularly Shepperton studio which is situated in Middlesex's most lucrative development area.

Based on the extremely conservative assumption that each of the directors received about £1 for each share, it can quickly be calculated how much they stand to make from the sale of their shares to Bentley. For example, one financial newspaper reported recently that the Boultings each received £500,000 for their shares.

If the threatened close down of Shepperton goes through, scores of film workers will be thrown into the industry's already huge unemployed pool.

Heath, the man who architected the original scheme, hasn't said a word.



HAVE MONEY, WILL TRAVEL

The man taking over British Lion, John Bentley, is a 32-year-old tycoon whose sole interest in the world is discovering 'good situations'. In the parlance of the City of London, this means finding a deal, any deal, which can produce assets and more cash.

It is a purely entrepreneurial method of operating: the acquirer doesn't care whether he is getting into airlines, property, baked beans or plastic macs.

In his brief but mercurial rise in financial circles, Bentley has become Britain's toy king as well as taking a long position in 'media operations'. His toy division embraces Triang, Pedigree, D. Sebel, Chad Valley and Chas. Methven. How Bentley operates was revealed in a recent report, in Workers Press, from his Sebel factory at Erith in Kent.

After the takeover Bentley's management engaged in a series of stirring calls on the men to 'work harder'. They did and an expected loss of £100,000 was turned into a £98,000 profit. But several weeks ago Bentley's factory would be shut down onto the dole queues.

The whizz-kid had decided to transfer all the Erith machinery to his Triang plant at Meriton, Rationalization — it's good for business.

His media operation is handled with the same brusque efficiency. He controls a number of poster and hoarding firms including Mills and Allan, London Poster, and Dorlands. His acquisition of British Lion means he adds Pearl and Dean to his portfolio, which establishes him in almost a monopoly position in this field.

Bentley, whose personal fortune is estimated to be between £2m and £3m, is a 'discovery' of Jim Slater, the

head of Slater Walker Securities. Slater, himself a millionaire by the age of 35, liked the cut of Bentley's aggressive jib and patronized his financial dealings.



Property men — Jim Slater (top) Peter Walker (above)

The 'other half' of the Slater Walker empire is Peter Walker [39], Secretary for the Environment, who, until he became a minister in June 1970, was an active partner in the firm.

When Bentley launched his own company, Barclay Securities, it was Slater who underwrote the venture. He owns 20 to 30 per cent of the Barclay stock and is the banker behind at least a major part of the £5.5m bid for British Lion.

It can be seen, therefore, that Jim Slater has a very keen interest in the fortunes of his protégé as he takes on his biggest project yet.

By an odd irony, Bentley will have to apply to the Ministry of Environment if he wants permission to develop the Shepperton site. The man who will ultimately be responsible for processing the application will be Cabinet Minister and Secretary for the Environment, Peter Walker.



NO ROOM FOR TEA, CHAT, COMPROMISE

The outcome of the railwaymen's ballot was as traumatic for their leaders as the initial shock of the operation of the National Industrial Relations Court had been.

Possibly even more so. As one perplexed NUR official put it, shrugging his shoulders: 'A vote like that doesn't even leave us room to compromise.'

But the real griping was left to the editor of the NUR's 'The Railway Review'.

On June 2 a front-page article by him appeared next to a portrait by the 'man they should have listened to'—TUC secretary Victor Feather, complete with cigar, tea cup and stockbroker suit.

Assessing the impact of the anti-union law the editor wailed:

'Now it is a right old shambles. Men of goodwill, as they say, are moaning with frustration because they have been placed in a position that they cannot do anything constructive without appearing on the one hand to be co-operating with the hated Tory government or on the other to be permitting the trade union tail to wag the leadership dog.'

Yes, indeed! The article begins on a note of subdued hysteria:

'Heath and his colleagues, particularly the lawyers, were repeatedly warned by the trade union movement that they were playing with fire. They were evidently completely incapable of understanding that the only

reasonable way to maintain steady and fair balances between labour and management was by coming to terms with the TUC and the leaderships of the trade unions.

'The TUC has always had a stabilizing influence on industrial relations—a reactionary one in the view of many left-wingers.'

This cosy relationship need never have ended, writes the editor, but for the doctrinaire arrogance of Edward Heath.

'The only association with the TUC and the unions which he considered necessary was one of total subservience to his own ideas, and the long planned pattern of industrial disciplining worked out by the Conservative Party.'

But surely, he goes on to whine: 'He could not have been so mistaken that he did not appreciate that the TUC could never succumb to such an arrangement. What he did was completely to underestimate the strength of the trade union movement and the reality of the feelings of many millions of trade unionists.'

The death agony of reformism is truly a sickening sight.

Of course it was not arrogance which led Heath to take on the unions. It was the logic of capitalism in crisis.

And he did not underestimate the strength of the feelings of trade unionists. Quite the reverse. He knew it so well that he realized it could best be tamed with the help of the trade union leaders.

It is the realization of the role Heath intends for them and is forcing them to adopt with the Industrial Relations

Act which is causing these leaders to sweat so profusely.

The prospects are grim. The middle ground has been destroyed. The choice today is either act as agents for the Tories or fight—as we have seen both of this fly flatly in the face of all the traditions of the union bureaucracy.

They are reduced, therefore, to laments and pleading. Commenting on the rail pay dispute the editor says:

'Instead of letting the "experts" work out a solution without undue pressure, the government charged into the arena and messed it all up.'

'The Railway Review' editor knows that as reformists they cannot go against the government, but on the other hand they cannot go against the opinions they are supposed to represent. The only alternative is to invite the Tories to back down and this is exactly what he does.

He writes of the Tories:

'What they must do now is to attempt to restore the kind of relationship which was possible before the passing of the Industrial Relations Act.'

He hopes the railwaymen's ballot, with its overwhelming vote for more industrial action, has shown them that they are in danger of clashing head on with the entire trade union movement and working class and concludes:

'For the sake of the industrial stability of this country it is to be hoped they have learned their lesson and will act sensibly in the future.'

Some hope. Tea, a chat and compromise are definitely out.



Top: Counting the votes which left 'no room for compromise'. Above: TUC General Secretary Vic Feather.

TELLY A LA FRANCAISE

BY ANNA TATE

Having just got back from France where scandal still rages over the private publicity profiteering of men in high (and other) places in the bureaucracy of the box, where television standards are often lower than even the lowest here, it was easy to fall into a light-headed complacency about the gentle British Corporation and the public rather than private profiteering of ITA.

The euphoria was short-lived. For at least in France there is widespread scepticism about the extent to which television is manipulated by the government, whereas here, there lingers on the image of objectivity in the admirable BBC.

I may have reacted as a result of watching Alan Delon fight the French Revolution seemingly single-handed, with not a strand of his sleek, black hair out of place; to being subjected for hours on end to the self-satisfied yet nasal tones of Chaban-Delmas philosophizing on justice, morality and participation. This last word has become a national obsession with no plausible explanation having been evolved as to the share in profits—needless to say.



Chaban-Delmas

It recalled to mind the rebellious poster which appeared on many walls in Paris in May, 1968:

I participate,
You participate,
He participates,
She participates,
We participate,
They profit.

There is, however, one aspect of French television which is badly needed here—the televising of parliamentary debates. The whole exercise is extremely revealing in terms of the obsolete nature of the proceedings and open class collaboration.

In France, those who have elected Communist Party members to the National Assembly can watch them debate it out with the centre-left, the centre, the centre-right and the extreme-right in one long example of the futility of peaceful roads to socialism as practiced by the French CP.

British television seemed to provide a refreshing, almost artistic light relief from the



ponderous French experience, but when it came to reckoning up the week's viewing it was clear that there had been a surfeit of sirs, a galaxy of gurus and a dreadfully disturbing dwelling-upon the late Duke of Windsor.

No recriminations, no sentimentality said one announcer after another, while engaging in the most avid sentimentality. There are indeed no recriminations—the ex-king is dead, long live the ex-king is the line as his former detractors now pay obsequious homage.

A nation's sentiments have been so colonized by the media that it mourns this one man in a way it has never mourned the slaughter of millions in Vietnam. All human values are lost in a morass of distorted feeling as one programme after another pulls out the desired reaction of romantic sorrow.

There is, in any event, 'in the air' a turn towards the past—a certain emphasis on aristocracy, a certain trend toward religion. Programming is, of course, largely a matter of accident not design. I impute no conspiracy on the part of the great deciders of telly viewing, nor do I suggest that they could have anticipated the death of the Duke of Windsor.

There has, nevertheless, been during the last week an uncomfortable mixture of aristocratic boot-licking and sacred feet-kissing such as makes the mind boggle. Something is decidedly rotten in the state of the middle-class.

'Omnibus' (BBC1) chose to indulge in a well-executed piece of sycophancy with a portrait of the fashionable fashion photographer Patrick Lichfield, otherwise Patrick Anson, Earl of Lichfield, £3m in trust and a stately home in Staffordshire, dubbed the 'most eligible bachelor in the world', 'one of the world's best-dressed men', and, I would add, one of the men who does not need the further publicity of arty television programmes to enhance his already big business talents.

'It's awfully hard not to resent Patrick Anson', declared Elkan Allan in the 'Sunday Times', and the film was designed to bring out exactly that emotion of envy in those less fortunate.

However, I do not subscribe to the general envy. I remember only too clearly that during the postman's strike it was this very Earl of Lichfield who sent out a fleet of postal messengers on trendy motorbikes. One does not envy such a man, one opposes him.

As a photographer he has the attractive, glossy, accomplished technique of most fashion photographers—no more, no less. That he leads a life of chauffer-driven Lamborghinis and famous, beautiful women, and that a BBC dir-

Duke of Windsor: morass of distorted feeling

ector wishes us to be moved by this in one way or another, serves only to illustrate the depth of the sickness.

Were I to concede that the film was quite intelligently directed, I would at the same time be conceding that intelligence at the service of such an end is a debased intelligence.

Even ITV's 'Crime of Passion', a mere light entertainment thriller, contrived to present itself to us in a torrent of titled folk. Lord Ted Willis wrote it. The 'TV Times' in describing it carried the headline: 'It's a tough life for a girl when Daddy's a Lord'—all this because the two leading ladies, Sally Nesbitt and Lalla Ward are, respectively, the daughters of Lord Hunt and the Seventh Viscount Bangor. Equity all round.

'Man Alive' managed to add a disturbing if hilarious dimension to this picture of bourgeois disorientation. In their programme 'Eastern Promise' appeared the middle-class meditation maniacs, the gurgling gurus, the muddled maharishi followers.

The most unsettling phenomenon among the offspring of the affluent Europeans and Americans since the eclipse of the Maharishi Maresh Yogi (the Beatles' guru), is the emergence of the portly (nay, fat) 14-year-old known universally as the Guru Maharaji, whose promoters in England are the Divine Light Mission.

His message is very simple, so simple, that you might, like me, have missed it altogether. He has THE WORD but the WORD cannot be spoken. He has THE SOUND but the SOUND cannot be heard. He has THE HOLY NAME but the question is, what is THE HOLY NAME.

He also has a private army, a private limousine, a very private bank account, private solicitors and private accountants. All in the name of love. His followers have just bought a £25,000 house in Highgate with non-mystical funds. The building labourers on the site, when asked if they were turned on to the holy message, said: 'You must be joking.' I agree. But the thing goes beyond a joke, for the followers of these mystical sects are growing under the impetus of a search for a leader.

There are now Hare Krishna chanters up and down Oxford Street, Anglo-Saxon Islamites wailing it out in the Cotswolds, Egyptian yoga in Gloucestershire, Maharishis in Bloomsbury and Kitson in the army.

As Tim Fields, of Eton, the Navy, the Stock Exchange and the antique business, now known as Sheik Raschid, put it: 'We even have someone on the "Financial Times".' Perhaps divine light is running out in the City....

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

GAZUMP

Everyone has heard of the gazumping of property prices now rampant throughout the country. Unwitting buyers turn up to purchase only to find the price has soared beyond hope as estate agents take advantage of the sellers' market.

One unfortunate woman in Islington, North London, has just had the experience of seeing the price of a flat she was after zoom up by £500 in two days. This is the equivalent of about £10 an hour or £180,000 a year.

She first became interested in buying the flat, consisting of two rooms, kitchen and bathroom, with part central heating, in March of this year.

The flat was let to friends of hers. The friends were offered the chance of buying the property but declined and decided to move out.

She explained: 'My friend was kind enough to inform the agents that I was interested in buying the flat. That was in early March. I understood they had offered the flat to my friend at about £5,790, so I offered £6,000. They said they would "get in touch with me".'

This is where the fun started. On April 26 the prospective buyer, Mrs Gilmour, received a letter dated April 26 saying the asking price was £6,950.

Two days later another letter said the flat was in better condition than the rest in the block. The asking price was increased to £7,450.

Not surprisingly the agents had no more to say except for the exciting revelation that they were acting 'on behalf of clients'.

FALSIFIERS

It seems there are no bounds to the International Socialists' desire to smuggle up to the Communist Party. A fit of editorial blindness struck IS's 'Socialist Worker' last week when reporting the presidential election in the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union.

As Workers Press pointed out on Monday, there are six candidates in the field.

They are Frank Chapple, the union's right-wing general secretary; Jim Dormer, a contracting electrician who is a member of the Socialist Labour League; Fred Gore, a Communist Party shop steward at London's Heathrow airport; Eric Hammond, an executive member and ex-Labour councillor; Roy Sanderson, a former CPer who joined Chapple's camp as a national officer; and national officer Mark Young, another right-winger.

The gospel according to 'Socialist Worker' is slightly different. Sanderson is inexplicably omitted. For reasons which are all too obvious, however, Dormer also goes out of the window.

This glaring credibility gap is then filled with a straightforward, old-fashioned lie.

We are told that Gore, who IS clearly wants its EPTU members to support, is 'the only rank-and-file candidate'. No mention is made of his policies. There is no reference to the fact that his election address does not call for the removal of the Tory government.



Dormer: painted out by IS

Since Dormer's candidature is not mentioned, there is, of course, no need to mention the fact that his is the only address which calls for action to replace the Tories with a Labour government committed to a clear socialist programme.

Thus the debate is carried out in all the traditions of the Stalinists IS wants to get close to—the liars and falsifiers who painted Trotsky out of history-book photographs rather than explain his relationship with Lenin.

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The struggle in engineering

Union chiefs retreat at Daytona over Act

By our own reporter

A PHOTOGRAPH in a recent issue of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' journal depicted a group of men on picket duty outside Daytona Engineering Ltd, a small factory in North-East Birmingham.

The Daytona men were in fact celebrating—if that is the right word—the first anniversary of a strike which began on January 5, 1971, over demands for union recognition.

It had taken 12 months of daily picketing and extensive touring throughout Britain for support to earn these few column inches.

Less than six months after this photograph was taken, by Tuesday May 23, 1972, the pickets had been withdrawn from the gates and the bitter 18-month battle virtually abandoned.

The hand that dealt the death-blow to the struggle was that of the union's executive.

Although the factory is surrounded by some of the largest concentrations of engineering workers in the country, the union's leaders appear to have buckled before the suspicion of a threat that they might fall foul of the National Industrial Relations Court.

Norman Cartwright, the AUEW's Birmingham East district secretary, told me: 'Executive council gave an interpretation of "third-party blacking" which said it was all right for AUEW members who are producing castings for Daytona to carry on, but not to work on goods produced by Daytona'.

The effect of this ruling was



Birmingham trade unionists with Daytona men on the picket line.

crucial. In the final week of the strike, a consignment of castings produced by Baker-Perkins, Peterborough, arrived at Daytona.

Victimized shop steward Dale Brierley told me: 'The Perkins convenor said he could not black the work without direct instructions from the executive'.

This was not the first breach of the black on Daytona, supposedly imposed nationally by the AUEW executive.

Deputations of strikers had constantly to travel the country to argue their case at plants where the boycott was not being observed. The consignment from Baker-Perkins became the last straw.

On Monday, the men went to a special meeting of the district committee, where they were informed of the executive's letter.

Recounts Dale Brierley: 'The EC wrote to the DC that under no circumstances was there to be any more blacking of Baker-Perkins as they were a third party to the dispute'.

Blacking of work, an elementary trade union principle, is one of those rights which clauses of the Industrial Relations Act are designed to destroy. In their letter to the DC over Daytona, the AUEW executive have accepted precisely these clauses of the Act. The sinister logic of the apparently militant policy of 'no co-operation with the Act' is now revealed.

'Don't co-operate' means 'avoid situations where the Act could be used against you'.

This must imply: 'Therefore continuously retreat before the offensive of the employers, the Tories and the Court'. In other words: 'Don't co-operate in words, but accept the Act in practice'.

The fundamental lesson of the Daytona defeat is that the right to organize in unions, like every other fundamental working-class right, can only be defended today by an offensive to remove the Tory government and bring in a Labour administration which will legislate these rights.

The retreat of Scanlon and the engineers leaders on the national pay claim has to be seen in this light.

A national strike by engineers, in unity with all other sections in struggle against the Tories, would pose concretely the question of political power. It was from this that AUEW president Hugh Scanlon and his executive ran away.

When Dale Brierley said that the union abandoning the national claim didn't surprise him (Workers Press, April 12), he was correctly making the link between the retreat on the national claim and the retreat at Daytona.

But what is needed today is more than just an acknowledgement of these things; an alternative, revolutionary leadership

has to be constructed to remove the reformists and lead the fight for basic rights.

Although trade unionists and officials like Norman Cartwright can be correctly critical of their executive over Daytona, Cartwright's own philosophy on the way the wage claim must be fought—plant by plant to make it 'more difficult' for the NIRC to intervene (see yesterday's Workers Press)—is really only another form of the 'avoid the Act' philosophy.

Capitalist law cannot be 'avoided' or ignored. The Tories resort to law because the deepening economic crisis of their system, and because the unabated militancy of the working class puts their own fate as a ruling class in question.

The Daytona men fought 18 months in the face of press witch-hunting and intimidation. None of these things could defeat them.

It took Scanlon and the reformists to do that.

COVENTRY

Scanlon

meets stewards

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

ENGINEERS' leaders Hugh Scanlon and Bob Wright will tonight address the quarterly meeting of their union's shop stewards in Coventry.

They will put to the stewards their reasons for dropping the national wage claim and adopting a policy of plant bargaining.

Many stewards in the district feel that the meeting—organized by Coventry's right-wing district officials—is just a stunt. Both sides, they think, will attempt to pass the buck for their capitulation before the Tory government.

The meeting could be vital.

The leadership's retreat in front of the Tory government and its Industrial Relations Act could not have taken place if it had not been for the way in which Communist Party members and the right wing supplemented each other's actions to hold back the rank and file.

CP Stalinists used the argument that to continue to fight for national action would have meant a break with Scanlon. The right wing, like Coventry district president Jim Griffin, put forward the obviously absurd demand that pay negotiations be reopened at national level, despite the employers' intransigence.

Both wings were careful not to call for national action to win the claim.

In the Manchester area the Stalinists helped initiate approximately 27 factory occupations embracing some 28,000 workers, but never campaigned amongst Manchester's 200,000 engineering workers to turn local action into national action.

As a result of this, engineering workers fought purely wages struggles in isolation from each other, with no political questions being raised.

The AUEW convenor of the Ferranti factory at Hollingwood, Manchester, Mike Smith, had

this to say about the struggle at the end of their factory occupation: 'The isolation and fragmentation of the struggle made it inevitable that no real concessions would be won from the employers' (Workers Press, June 2).

The record of the Coventry right-wingers is appalling.

Three months ago, at the last quarterly stewards' meeting, it was voted that the claim should be lodged on a plant-by-plant basis, but should be fought for district-wide.

On May 9, two months later, a special district committee meeting decided 'that in view of the inconclusive number of replies received from convenors on the national claim, we adjourn any decision for four weeks.'

'In the meantime,' it prevaricated, 'we ask all convenors for an up to date report.'

With such determination the employers must be splitting their sides.

The executive circular of May 9 this year, which allowed the dropping of most of the claim, and called for concentration on three issues—basic rates, longer holidays and a general all-round pay increase—allowed further retreats.

In Coventry this has meant action being called off at the Jaguar plant and acceptance of £3 increase on the basic rate, one day extra holiday next year, £4 on the holiday pay this year. The all-round increase demand has been dropped.

At Thomas Patterton's the settlement is £2 on the basic and just over 9p per hour on the holiday pay, with no fight on the all-round increase.

Clearly the only way the national claim will be won in Coventry is by a district-wide strike, backed by calling a national strike as part of the preparation to force this government to resign.

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9.20 Pogles' Wood. 9.38, 11.35, 2.05 Schools. 10.45 Boomph with Becker. 12.25 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan. 12.50 Eisteddfod. 1.30 Camberwick Green. 1.45 News, weather. 2.25 Derby Day Grandstand. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Magic Roundabout. 4.45 Jack-anory. 4.55 Starsport. 5.10 Pixie and Dixie. 5.15 Search. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 **NATIONWIDE**.
6.45 **WHERE IN THE WORLD**. Travel quiz.
7.00 **SPY TRAP**. Who Among US? Episode 1.
7.25 **STAR TREK**. The Deadly Years.
8.10 **THE EXPERT**. A Way to Die.
9.00 **NEWS**, Weather.
9.20 **SPORTSNIGHT**. European Light-Heavyweight Championship. Highlights of 1972 Derby.
10.10 **DOWN TO EARTH**.
10.40 **24 HOURS**.
11.15 **BALLAD OF THE SEVERN VALLEY LINE**. Steam railway.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open University. 7.05 Measure of Conscience.

7.30 **NEWSROOM**, Weather.
8.00 **MAN ALIVE**. Aberdeen—The New Texas?
9.00 **POT BLACK**. Snooker Competition.

TV

ITV

11.00 Schools. 12.55 Hatty Town. 1.10 Remember. 1.25 Derby Day. 4.25 Matinee. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Fly into Danger. 5.50 News.

6.00 **TODAY**.
6.35 **CROSSROADS**.
7.00 **THE SMITH FAMILY**.
7.30 **CORONATION STREET**.
8.00 **CADE'S COUNTY**. Requiem for Miss Madrid.
9.00 **THE MAIN CHANCE (NEW SERIES)**. The Killing Ground.
10.00 **NEWS**.
10.30 **THE ANGLO-ITALIAN TOURNAMENT**. Soccer.
11.25 **PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING**.
11.55 **WHAT THE PAPERS SAY**.
12.10 **ONLY ONE EARTH**.

9.20 **FILM: 'THE FAN'**. By Oscar Wilde. Post-World War II London where Mrs Erlynn interrupts auction to claim ownership of exquisite fan then recalls its history.
10.35 **NEWS**, Weather.
10.40 **LATE NIGHT LINE-UP**.



Richard Greene, Jeanne Crain in 'The Fan', 9.20 p.m. BBC-2

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.20 Schools. 1.10 Paulus. 1.25 Racing. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Good afternoon. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 F troop. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 11.55 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 1.00 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.55 News. 11.59 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 1.25 Racing. 4.15 Houseparty. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 11.55 News. 12.05 Weather. Insight to the artist.

HTV: 11.00 Schools. 1.25 Derby day. 4.20 Arthur. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Dave Cash. 7.00 Joker's wild.

7.30 Coronation street. 8.00 Hawaii Five-O. 9.00 London. 11.55 Mad movies. 12.25 Weather.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 6.01 Y Dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.
ANGLIA: 1.25 Racing. 4.15 News. 4.18 Cartoons. 4.30 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Shirley's world. 7.30 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 1.30 Racing. 4.30 Horoscope. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Odd couple. 8.00 London.

ULSTER: 11.00 Schools. 1.35 Racing. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Viewfinder. 6.35 Crossroads.

7.00 Sporting challenge. 7.30 London.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00 Schools. 1.25 Derby day. 4.25 News. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.55 Chef. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 Schools. 1.25 Derby day. 4.25 Peyton Place. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. What's on? 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Dr Simon Locke. 7.30 London.

TYNE TEES: 11.00 Schools. 1.00 Songs. 1.25 Racing. 4.25 News. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.55 News. 12.10 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 11.00 Schools. 1.30 Racing. 4.20 Dateline. 4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Cartoon. 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 12.00 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Schools. 1.25 Racing. 4.35 News. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. 11.55 Epilogue.

Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

Bill may force families into slum houses

BY PHILIP WADE

THE 'fair rents' established by the Tories' Housing Finance Bill could lead to ghettos—with hundreds of families being moved to run-down districts.

The latest attack on Tory plans to destroy municipal housing comes in a paper published by the Wandsworth Poverty Action Group in South London.

It warns that poverty in the area will increase because of the Bill, which it says is 'a major attack on living standards'.

As rents go up families will have to spend a larger percentage of their income on rents.

Those on low wages and fixed incomes will find it difficult to make ends meet, the paper says.

Those council tenants who have managed to raise themselves to a reasonable standard of living will, through the "fair rent" have to subsidize the poorer council tenant.

The report makes it clear that in addition council tenants will have to subsidize the private tenants' rent allowances, which in effect means subsidizing private landlords.

On the social consequences of the Bill, the report has this to say:

'Poorer council tenants will be directed to those housing estates where the fair rents are low—that is to the run down estates.

'Private tenants will also be forced by high rents into areas where accommodation is cheaper, and this will mean into areas where multi-occupation and bad housing conditions are rife.'

Commented councillor Ian McGarry, who resigned as leader of Wandsworth council in protest against the Labour group's decision to implement the Bill:

'It was certainly one of our fears that rather than seek rebates the poorer families would go for the cheaper accommod-



Ian McGarry

ation while the better-off families would move out and try and buy their homes.

'It is also correct to say that in time council tenants will end up subsidizing the landlords of private tenants under this Bill.'

Wandsworth council meets next Tuesday, June 13, to make a final decision about the Bill. Tenants' associations are planning a lobby to try and reverse the group's implementation decision.

Sit-in called off at Sunderland

ENGINEERING workers at the Hepworth and Grandage works in Sunderland have called off their sit-in after a management offer to negotiate on the full claim.

The decision was taken at a mass meeting held inside the factory at 7 p.m. on Monday evening. The men want a substantial part of their bonus to be consolidated into their basic rate, and extra for night-shift working.

If the negotiations break down the men will immediately return to working sanctions.

Tenants demand fight from Manchester Labourites

By our own reporter

THE controlling Labour group on Manchester city council seem ready to throw in their hand and implement the Tory 'fair rents' Bill.

If this key northern city decides to go ahead with the rent increases in October it will open the door for other Labour councils in the area to follow suit.

So far the Manchester Labour group, who control the council by 101 seats to 31 against the Tories, have not reached an official decision one way or the other.

Alderman Sir Robert Thomas, council leader, however admitted last week that a £1 increase from October was inevitable on the basis of present Manchester rents and in terms of the Bill.

Sir Robert seemed to go out of his way to break a group meeting instruction that no statements would be made to the press on the question of the Bill.

Up to last week the council claimed it might be in the tenants' interest to operate the Bill if it became law.

Their argument was that the 'fair rents' fixed by the city council might well be less than those fixed by local government commissioners who would be called in to operate the law if the council refused to implement.

All along, however, the Labour group refused to commit itself one way or another, despite pressure from local tenants' associations.

In the last few days, however, a report commissioned by the council itself has put the Labour group right on the spot as far as the Bill is concerned.

Housing Department officials conducted a study of the Blackley area of the city.

The area is unique in the sense that it is the only place where valid comparisons could be made between council properties and identical privately rented houses. These houses are all pre-war as are the council houses. Since the war very few private houses have been built in the city and the only comparison officials have been able to make has been with privately rented post-war houses in other areas.

Officials told the group that they would have no option but

to apply the full £1 increase in October—and probably a further increase of at least 36p a week next year—if they are to comply with the provisions of the Bill.

So the intention of declaring existing rents 'fair rents' in order to by-pass the Bill has floundered on the basis of this report.

Now some councillors in the Wythenshawe area are contemplating resignation if the Labour group decides to implement the Bill.

Tenants' associations have found it impossible to get a clear statement from the group on their intentions.

Said Mrs Muriel Taylor of the Wythenshawe Tenants' Association: 'We've met one or two local councillors, who are very sympathetic. But what we want is a meeting with the Labour group or at least a policy statement from them.'

'They should come out fair and square and say they will refuse to operate this Bill, or

they should say they will operate it so that at least we know what we're up against.'

She was appalled at Sir Robert Thomas' statement which has been widely interpreted that the group unable to get round the Bill will now implement it.

Knitting machine firm to close

LEADGATE Engineering Ltd at Consett, Co Durham, is to close at the end of the month, making 300 men redundant.

Management said this was due to a slump in yarn prices which have affected sales of their knitting machines. The factory was set up three years ago mostly with money from government grants.

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RIOT CHARGE AGAINST PIT LEADER

By our industrial correspondent

ELEVEN miners — including Scottish miners' area secretary, Graham Steel — a draughtsman and a student were yesterday accused of mobbing and rioting during picketing in the miners' strike.

The trial, which opened in Dunfermline sheriff's court yesterday, is believed to mark the first time in Scotland this century that such a charge has arisen from an industrial dispute.

The 13 were arrested on February 14 during a mass picket

at the entrance to the giant Longannet power station, Fife.

They have been accused of forming part of a riotous mob to prevent people trying to enter the station peacefully. Part of the mob, says the indictment, conducted itself 'in a violent, riotous and tumultuous manner to the terror, alarm and intimidation of the lieges'.

The men are also accused of committing a breach of the peace, inciting others to use violence and assaulting six police constables.

First witness in the trial, Sgt William Beveridge, told the court that when a 200-strong police cordon tried to contain pickets at Longannet early on the morning of February 14, there was a great deal of tension 'and there appeared to be a lot of hate generated between the pickets towards the police'.

He said there was much shouting and pushing against the cordon from the 2,000-strong crowd on both sides of the road.

'They shouted and jeered at the police', he said.

'There were shouts of "fascist" and "siege heil".'

The trial continues today.

Machine tool firm goes bust

HERBERT-INGERSOLL, the Anglo-American specialist machine-tool company, has failed, and the directors have called in a receiver.

Created on the initiative of the Labour government in 1968, the aim was to use American know-how to produce Britain's most advanced machine tools.

The capital was shared between Alfred Herbert of Coventry, with 44 per cent, and Ingersoll Milling Machine, Illinois, with 43 per cent. The state had a 13 per cent holding as a result of the Industrial Reorganization Corporation putting in £1m in 1970.

But in the middle of the worst recession to hit the British machine-tool industry since the war, the company floundered and had lost £4m in four years.

Talks with the Tory government this year produced no further aid and the collapse was inevitable.

Last year the firm, which employs 450 workers in Daventry, Northants, obtained new orders worth £2m. Of this, however, £1.9m was for export.

The slump in capital investment in Britain meant that in the end Herbert-Ingersoll was starved to death through lack of domestic orders.

The Alfred Herbert group itself is in deep crisis. It lost £4m last year and has sacked 3,000 workers in the past period to try and cut costs.

Provo leader remanded

RORY O'BRADY, Provisional IRA president, was remanded in custody for a week when he appeared in court in Co Roscommon, Eire, yesterday.

O'Brady, who is head of the Provisional IRA's political wing, was charged under the Offences against the State Act. He was arrested last week during a police swoop.

He faces charges that on May 31 he was a member of an illegal organization and that on May 31 at his home at Stonepark, Co Roscommon, he was in possession of incriminating documents.

O'Brady, Provisionals' leader Joe Cahill, and their wives, are on hunger strike 'to the death' against their arrests.



Flashback to the miners' strike. Pickets out at Longannet.

Triumph clerks may vote on new strike

BY PHILIP WADE

THE 230 clerks at the two Standard Triumph car factories in Liverpool yesterday voted to return to work after an appeal by Roy Grantham, general secretary of their union, APEX.

Union officials will now resume discussions with management, and it is thought likely that a ballot of the clerks will be taken on whether to take further strike action with official backing.

The strike began last Wednesday in support of a demand for a £7-a-week pay increase after the clerks had rejected a £3 management offer.

The claim was aimed at bringing clerical workers in line with the pay of shop-floor workers.

More than 2,400 production workers were laid off because of the strike. Production for more than 520 new Toledo sports cars was lost.

PRODUCTION at the Vauxhall car factory, Ellesmere Port, returned to normal yesterday with the ending of a 20-man stoppage.

The men walked out on Monday afternoon when their break time-table disappeared. About 2,500 production workers were sent home.

Management eventually found the table and returned it to the hard-trim section where the men work.

DESPITE the return to work yesterday by storekeepers at Chrysler's Ryton plant at Coventry, production was again severely hit on the final-assembly line.

About 1,000 production men on the final trim lines met to discuss grievances over losing pay through being laid off through the storekeepers' strike and an earlier electricians' dispute.

75 more internees released

WILLIAM Whitelaw, Ulster Secretary, yesterday released another 75 men from Long Kesh internment camp.

A spokesman at Stormont Castle said that since direct rule, 470 men have been freed. He added that 338 were still interned and there were 128 detainees.

International strike vote

WORKERS at Dunlop's Cambridge Street factory in Manchester yesterday re-affirmed a previous decision for a one-day token strike on Friday, June 9.

The strike, which was proposed by the Italian (Pirelli) delegate to the Dunlop-Pirelli steering committee's meeting, held in Liverpool on April 29, is reported to be gaining widespread support from factories in the UK, Italy and Germany.

Ronnie Scruton, General and Municipal Workers' Union steward, and an observer at the international meeting, told Workers Press:

'This strike would be a demonstration of the opposition to redundancies and short-time working now taking place as a result of the rationalization programme being undertaken by Dunlop and Pirelli following their recent merger.'

'It will also serve to demonstrate to the management of Dunlop and Pirelli that the unions have an international organization. The solidarity strike would in effect be the first multinational effort of its kind.'

THE Appeal Court yesterday heard further legal argument on eight appeals by the Transport and General Workers' Union from decisions of the National Industrial Relations Court over the 'blacking' of container lorries at Liverpool and Hull docks.

It was the sixth day of the appeal hearing. The case is not expected to finish before the end of the week. In view of new legal issues involved in interpreting the Industrial Relations Act, the court is likely to give a reserved judgment later.

Lambeth Council of Action meets

By our own correspondent

DELEGATES to South London's Lambeth Trades Council have voted unanimously to establish a Council of Action in the area.

Trades Council secretary, Vivienne Mendelson, told Workers Press yesterday that 150 working-class organizations in Lambeth will be circulated in the coming weeks inviting them to send two delegates and visitors to an inaugural meeting of the council on Sunday, July 9.

The resolution for the action council at Monday night's Trades Council meeting came from Norwood Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' branch.

It stated: 'The working class is facing the greatest dangers of its long history, the NIRC and the Tory government prepare to destroy the basic rights of the working class.'

'We call on the Lambeth Trades Council to follow the lead of the Liverpool Trades Council and set up a Council of Action as part of a national campaign to throw the Tory government out, and to immediately call a halt to the retreat of the union leaders.'

The Council of Action must unite all sections of workers in

July 9

struggle against the government, therefore it should have representatives from all trade unions, tenants' associations, Labour Parties, Socialist Labour League, Communist Party and other socialist tendencies, and other working-class organizations.'

The resolution laid down a four-point political programme for the council:

- Recall of the TUC to reaffirm no co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act and expel right-wing traitors.

- Preparation for a General Strike to make the Tory government resign.

- To clear out traitors in the Labour Party who voted with the Tories on the Common Market and who will implement the Housing Finance Bill.

- To prepare to re-elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies and full nationalization.

Trades council delegates who supported the resolution were Socialist Labour League members, Communist Party members, International Socialism supporters and Labour Party members.

LATE NEWS WEATHER

A LOW pressure area to the South-West of Cornwall will move slowly North-East.

Frequent showers or longer periods of rain over South Wales and South-West England are likely to spread to North Wales, the Midlands and the South-East of England during the day.

North-West England, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland will have sunny intervals and occasional heavy showers. Eastern England and eastern Scotland will have sunny spells with scattered showers in the afternoon and evening.

It will be rather cool for early June.

Outlook for following 48 hours: Sunny periods and showers. Rather cool.

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