

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1972 ● No. 792 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## NATSOPA CONFERENCE CALLS FOR

# GENERAL STRIKE TO FORCE TORIES OUT

A CALL for a General Strike against the Industrial Relations Act was made in Bournemouth yesterday by print union leader Richard Briginshaw, a member of the TUC's 'inner cabinet'.

He said the trade unions should raise their sights beyond the level of 'representation cap in hand' and challenge the Tories for power. 'There is only one way the Tories can serve the national interest—that is to resign forthwith,' Briginshaw said.

He was proposing a resolution for 'total opposition and non-co-operation' with the Act at the annual conference of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (NATSOPA).

The resolution, passed by a large majority, also declared the union was 'further prepared to defy the rulings or

instruction of the National Industrial Relations Court and do all in its power to render the Industrial Relations Act inoperable'.

Sharply attacking the TUC leadership, Briginshaw said: 'If there was a willingness and a desire on the part of our movement to have this Bill broken completely, it could be done quite quickly. It means that you have to face up to what you are doing—and you are embarking on a challenge for power.'

'What is at issue is the direction, or the lack of direction of the movement as a whole. Its organizational structure is built around a lack of direction.'

Until now the unions had not talked about a challenge for power, because when it came to the point they withdrew as they had not thought the issue through. 'Our movement is deficient in this regard. Our union wants to raise its sights beyond the level of representation cap in hand.'

By contrast, he said, the TUC General Council had opposed the call for a one-

day General Strike against the Act because it was not satisfied of sufficient support among its affiliated membership.

The government, he warned, would defend itself on the basis that the law is the law. He did not agree with people who argued that the Tory government would welcome a General Strike:

'The situation for the Tory government would be a compound situation of the miners' dispute and the railway dispute and, on both counts, they found they had to retire from the harsh position they took up.'

'Fundamentally the Industrial Relations Act and the policies of the government are about wages and profitability. These two things are the key to everything. There is only one way the Tories can serve the national interests—that is to resign forthwith. Tory government—under the circumstances this country faces today—is an anachronism.'

Briginshaw's remarks are undoubtedly a reflection of the anger among the rank-

and-file printworkers at the successive retreats and betrayals of the TUC leaders.

It puts one question squarely before Briginshaw's fellow 'inner cabinet' members Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon: are they going to halt their retreat before the Tories and embark on a challenge for power through a General Strike to bring down the Tory government?

## Pilots' date

BEA pilots will strike on Friday, June 23, the British Airline Pilots' Association executive decided yesterday. The executive took the decision after the results of a ballot among its 1,400 BEA members rejected the corporation's pay offer and gave BALPA a mandate for strike action. BEA offered top pilots an increase of £800 a year to bring their basic pay to about £8,850.

# Stop 'black' or go to jail—Court

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

PRESIDENT of the National Industrial Relations Court Sir John Donaldson yesterday threatened that three London docks shop stewards would be committed to jail on Monday for disobeying court orders.

They are Vic Turner, Bernie Steer and Alan Williams, port workers at the Royal Group of docks.

Donaldson found them in contempt of orders banning the picketing of lorries at the Chobham Farm container depot, East London.

In issuing his sensational judgement, Donaldson declared: 'The conduct of these men, as it appears at present, has gone far beyond anything which could appropriately be disposed of by the imposition of a fine.'

'Unless we receive some explanation we have no alternative but to make orders committing them to prison.'

'We shall therefore sign warrants for their arrest and detention.'

He said the Court would sit at 10.30 a.m. today to give the three men a chance to explain their conduct.

They would also have until 2 p.m. tomorrow to appear before the court of appeals.

'If they have not appeared before us tomorrow morning or applied to the court of appeals before 2 p.m. on Friday, June 15, the warrants will issue and they will be brought before us at 10.30 a.m. on Monday June 19 when we shall consider what further orders should be made.'

Sir John said the tipstaff would be empowered to commit them to prison on Monday before being brought before the NIRC.



## National strike postponed: Dockers erupt

BY DAVID MAUDE

ANGRY DOCKERS erupted into shouts of 'Jones out!' and 'Judas!' outside the Transport and General Workers' Union headquarters in London yesterday after union leaders won a postponement of the national dock strike due to start tomorrow.

By 49 votes to 32, delegates representing Britain's 40,000 portworkers decided to defer industrial action until they hear how a special union-employer committee proposes to solve the

growing jobs crisis in the industry.

The committee is expected to report on July 26. A recalled delegate conference will probably take place the following day.

Yesterday's decision, however, was universally unpopular among the 400 striking dockers who lobbied the 2½-hour meeting. T&GWU chiefs fear that unofficial action may be 'a distinct possibility' after a meeting of port shop stewards in Hull on Saturday.

At least 30,000 dockers staged a one-day strike yesterday in

support of national official action.

London, Liverpool, Hull and Preston were all at a standstill. Only Southampton and Manchester stayed at work along with the smaller ports, whose delegates were largely responsible for yesterday's deferment vote.

The terms under which the strike has been 'put off' will do little to allay dockers' fears about the growing threats to their jobs as a result of containerization.

All that the employers conceded in talks with the union leaders on Tuesday was an

Noisy scenes outside Transport House as striking dockers lobby their delegates who put off strike action for six weeks.

ex-gratia payment of £50 to ease the situation of men who have been more than four weeks on the temporarily unattached register; a £500 increase in severance pay, bringing the maximum to £2,830.

But there was no movement on a previous offer of a £3 increase in the present £20 level of fall-back pay or of an extra week's holiday by next year.

T&GWU docks secretary Tim O'Leary said after yesterday's conference that the employers



One of the stewards named—Vic Turner.

Turn to p. 12



# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1972 • No. 792 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## NATSOPA CONFERENCE CALLS FOR

# GENERAL STRIKE TO FORCE TORIES OUT

A CALL for a General Strike against the Industrial Relations Act was made in Bournemouth yesterday by print union leader Richard Briginshaw, a member of the TUC's 'inner cabinet'.

He said the trade unions should raise their sights beyond the level of 'representation cap in hand' and challenge the Tories for power. 'There is only one way the Tories can serve the national interest—that is to resign forthwith,' Briginshaw said.

He was proposing a resolution for 'total opposition and non-co-operation' with the Act at the annual conference of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (NATSOPA).

The resolution, passed by a large majority, also declared the union was 'further prepared to defy the rulings or

instruction of the National Industrial Relations Court and do all in its power to render the Industrial Relations Act inoperable'.

Sharply attacking the TUC leadership, Briginshaw said: 'If there was a willingness and a desire on the part of our movement to have this Bill broken completely, it could be done quite quickly. It means that you have to face up to what you are doing—and you are embarking on a challenge for power.'

'What is at issue is the direction, or the lack of direction of the movement as a whole. Its organizational structure is built around a lack of direction.'

Until now the unions had not talked about a challenge for power, because when it came to the point they withdrew as they had not thought the issue through. 'Our movement is deficient in this regard. Our union wants to raise its sights beyond the level of representation cap in hand.'

By contrast, he said, the TUC General Council had opposed the call for a one-

day General Strike against the Act because it was not satisfied of sufficient support among its affiliated membership.

The government, he warned, would defend itself on the basis that the law is the law. He did not agree with people who argued that the Tory government would welcome a General Strike:

'The situation for the Tory government would be a compound situation of the miners' dispute and the railway dispute and, on both counts, they found they had to retire from the harsh position they took up.'

'Fundamentally the Industrial Relations Act and the policies of the government are about wages and profitability. These two things are the key to everything. There is only one way the Tories can serve the national interests—that is to resign forthwith. Tory government—under the circumstances this country faces today—is an anachronism.'

Briginshaw's remarks are undoubtedly a reflection of the anger among the rank-

and-file printworkers at the successive retreats and betrayals of the TUC leaders.

It puts one question squarely before Briginshaw's fellow 'inner cabinet' members Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon: are they going to halt their retreat before the Tories and embark on a challenge for power through a General Strike to bring down the Tory government?

## Pilots' date

BEA pilots will strike on Friday, June 23, the British Airline Pilots' Association executive decided yesterday. The executive took the decision after the results of a ballot among its 1,400 BEA members rejected the corporation's pay offer and gave BALPA a mandate for strike action. BEA offered top pilots an increase of £800 a year to bring their basic pay to about £8,850.

# Stop 'black' or go to jail—Court

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

PRESIDENT of the National Industrial Relations Court Sir John Donaldson yesterday threatened that three London docks shop stewards would be committed to jail on Monday for disobeying court orders.

They are Vic Turner, Bernie Steer and Alan Williams, port workers at the Royal Group of docks.

Donaldson found them in contempt of orders banning the picketing of lorries at the Chobham Farm container depot, East London.

In issuing his sensational judgement, Donaldson declared: 'The conduct of these men, as it appears at present, has gone far beyond anything which could appropriately be disposed of by the imposition of a fine.'

'Unless we receive some explanation we have no alternative but to make orders committing them to prison.'

'We shall therefore sign warrants for their arrest and detention.'

He said the Court would sit at 10.30 a.m. today to give the three men a chance to explain their conduct.

They would also have until 2 p.m. tomorrow to appear before the court of appeals.

'If they have not appeared before us tomorrow morning or applied to the court of appeals before 2 p.m. on Friday, June 15, the warrants will issue and they will be brought before us at 10.30 a.m. on Monday June 19 when we shall consider what further orders should be made.'

Sir John said the tipstaff would be empowered to commit them to prison on Monday before being brought before the NIRC.



## National strike postponed: Dockers erupt

BY DAVID MAUDE

ANGRY DOCKERS erupted into shouts of 'Jones out!' and 'Judas!' outside the Transport and General Workers' Union headquarters in London yesterday after union leaders won a postponement of the national dock strike due to start tomorrow.

By 49 votes to 32, delegates representing Britain's 40,000 portworkers decided to defer industrial action until they hear how a special union-employer committee proposes to solve the

growing jobs crisis in the industry.

The committee is expected to report on July 26. A recalled delegate conference will probably take place the following day.

Yesterday's decision, however, was universally unpopular among the 400 striking dockers who lobbied the 2½-hour meeting. T&GWU chiefs fear that unofficial action may be 'a distinct possibility' after a meeting of port shop stewards in Hull on Saturday.

At least 30,000 dockers staged a one-day strike yesterday in

support of national official action.

London, Liverpool, Hull and Preston were all at a standstill. Only Southampton and Manchester stayed at work along with the smaller ports, whose delegates were largely responsible for yesterday's deferment vote.

The terms under which the strike has been 'put off' will do little to allay dockers' fears about the growing threats to their jobs as a result of containerization.

All that the employers conceded in talks with the union leaders on Tuesday was an

Nasty scenes outside Transport House as striking dockers lobby their delegates who put off strike action for six weeks.

ex-gratia payment of £50 to ease the situation of men who have been more than four weeks on the temporarily unattached register; a £500 increase in severance pay, bringing the maximum to £2,830.

But there was no movement on a previous offer of a £3 increase in the present £20 level of fall-back pay or of an extra week's holiday by next year.

T&GWU docks secretary Tim O'Leary said after yesterday's conference that the employers

Turn to p. 12



One of the stewards named—Vic Turner.

# WHITELAW SNUBS PROVISIONALS

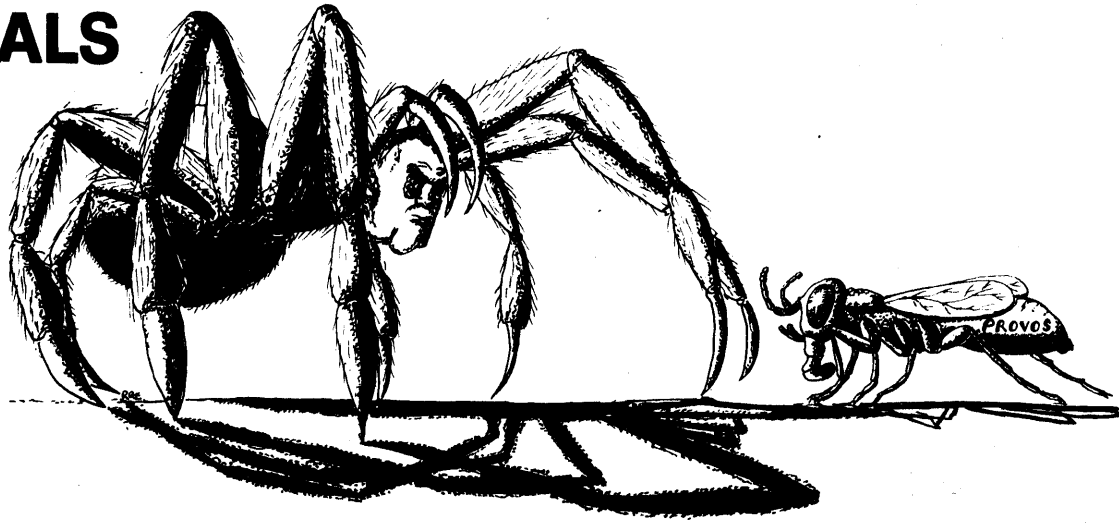
ULSTER supremo William Whitelaw's curt rejection of Provisional IRA offers for 'peace' talks has exposed some of the basic weaknesses of the Provisional leaders' strategy.

The IRA leaders—MacStiofain, O'Connell, McGuinness and Twomey—who made their proposals at a press conference in the Brandywell area of Creggan, said they wanted Whitelaw to discuss their 'peace plan' in 'Free Derry' in exchange for a seven-day ceasefire. If Whitelaw wanted another venue for a meeting, they were prepared to agree, provided they received a safe conduct.

But Whitelaw, who has already stolen a march over the Provisionals with the Official IRA's 'truce', and capped it on Tuesday with a guarantee of no barricades for two weeks from the UDA Loyalists, was in no mood for acquiescing publicly to O'Connell's demands in Free Derry or anywhere else.

To underline this determination to rule Ulster without Stormont and Republican ultimatums, Whitelaw secured the despatch of another 500 troops on the day the Provisionals made their offer.

O'Connell's statement that 'direct rule has failed and is a miserable failure' is a product of an unreflective optimism and impressionism which ignores the shifts in opinion in nationalist ranks since the expedient of direct rule was introduced.



Will you come to me, or shall I come to you?

Because of the treachery of the Social Democratic Labour Party, Civil Rights, Stalinist and Official IRA leaders, Whitelaw has gained a bridgehead in the Catholic community which he is expanding daily.

At the same time, by alternately encouraging and curbing the UDA he has created a counterweight to the IRA, which enables him to play his Bonapartist role with the enthusiastic support of the army and RUC.

If direct rule has failed, then why does O'Connell have to make such absurd gestures of 'peace' to a regime which is unequivocally opposed and mandated to oppose at least three out of the Provos' five points for peace?

And how does he explain the obvious incongruity of the press conference declaration which explicitly stated that 'a stage has been reached where the major parties to the conflict must engage in discus-

sions designed to secure a lasting solution'.

And why doesn't the Provisional leadership deny the rumours and inspired Fleet Street guesses that secret talks have been, and are, going on between some Provo leaders in the south and Whitelaw?

Unable to offer the Catholic workers anything else but their personal heroism and dedication to the defence of the ghetto, the Provisional IRA feel their increasing political isolation and are looking, paradoxically, for an alliance with the very people who want to destroy the Creggan—Craig and the Ulster Vanguard.

O'Connell's political bankruptcy and opportunism on this question must be read to be believed:

'We would like to hear Mr Craig's proposals for Northern Ireland. We were interested in Mr Craig's praise for a regional form of government in West Germany, which is something we envisage in a

unified Ireland.'

Regional government is a reactionary and mystical Utopia which would perpetuate sectarianism, unemployment and the destitution and poverty of a semi-colonial economy.

It would—if enacted—lead to a similar situation of permanent crisis and division as prevails in Cyprus.

The Provisionals' policy is completely untenable and reactionary. It must and will strengthen the Loyalist reactionaries and weaken the struggle of the Catholic workers against imperialism.

Irish workers must reject the plans of O'Connell and company and fight for a united Irish working class within a united Irish Socialist Republic.

British workers must give every support to this struggle by replacing the Tories with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies which must be forced to withdraw British troops immediately from Ulster.

unified Ireland.'

# 7,000 plan GEC walk-out

SEVEN thousand GEC workers at eight Coventry factories have voted to go on strike next Tuesday over six points in the engineers' national wage claim.

They have rejected a company offer which would have given £1.50 increase on base rates to skilled workers and one day's extra holiday.

Lil Smith, deputy T&GWU convenor at the Stoke plant, told Workers Press: 'We've made a decision for an immediate total overtime ban and have given seven days' strike notice. We've also intimated if the company are prepared to make meaningful negotiations within seven days we will welcome them.'

'The thing that has upset us is that in Rugby the company made a better offer and Rugby is only 11 miles away.'

'We are fighting on six points—a substantial wage increase, abolition of penalty clauses on holiday pay, ten hours' holiday pay calculation for night shift, equal pay for women, four weeks' holiday and more statutory holidays, average earnings for holiday pay, and the agreements to be non-legally binding.'

'We are mandated for these six points. We are opposed to the Standard and Jaguar settlements.'

These settlements gave no general wage increase, but gave £3 on the basic rate, £4-a-week extra holiday pay and one day's extra holiday.

# Kremlin votes for Nixon: What does British CP say?

SOVIET Stalinism is moving cautiously but unmistakably towards an endorsement of Richard Nixon in the forthcoming American presidential elections.

It sees this as the best guarantee of the agreements reached in Moscow during the recent summit talks.

The agreements—on trade, arms limitation and collective security—are regarded in the Kremlin as far more important than the escalation of the Vietnam war and the fate of the US working class.

In fact, far from this being an obstacle to better relations between Moscow and Washington, it provides the Soviet Stalinists with the most powerful incentive to reach agreement with imperialism.

The Moscow Stalinists are mortally afraid of the revolutionary wave of workers' struggles in the capitalist world. They recognize that the overthrow of capitalism in one of the metropolitan capitalist countries spells their doom.

## ASKS OUR FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

They need Nixon in office just as much as he needs their 'good offices' to betray the workers of Vietnam, Europe and the United States.

Imperialism and bureaucracy are driven together by their mutual weakness in the face of the economic and political crisis and the struggles of the working class. Nixon was chased to Moscow by the 130mm guns of the Vietnamese liberation armies. Moscow received him under the shadow of Czechoslovakia 1968 and the Polish mass strikes of 1970.

On June 3, as Nixon arrived in Washington after his summit, the British 'Morning Star' stated: 'He may try to pose as a peacemaker because his trip had some positive results in limiting the nuclear arms race and relaxing nuclear tensions.'

'But this will never reconcile millions of Americans and hundreds of millions outside the US to his escalation of the Indo-China war.'

This talk of 'no reconciliation' was a threadbare cover for the very real reconciliation between

Moscow and Washington as, a result of the talks.

The Soviet bureaucracy is quite aware that Nixon's trip to the Soviet Union has strengthened his position in the November elections.

This is freely acknowledged by Moscow Radio's commentators, who have stated that they are not opposed to the return of Nixon in November.

Since the main Democratic candidates have also endorsed the results of the Nixon-Brezhnev summit, the Moscow Radio commentators are not particularly concerned either way who wins the election.

But they give the Republicans 'credit' for the Moscow pacts and state that the agreements will obviously favour Nixon's chances at the polls.

Commentator Valentin Zorin, for example, stated that the Moscow agreements 'are focal points in the election'.

He said: 'The talks... were a reflection of the present objective correlation of forces in the world and of the consideration that the US ruling circles are

becoming increasingly aware of this correlation of forces and of the utter hopelessness of any attempts to pursue the notorious "from positions of strength" policy...'

'They are becoming aware of the necessity of searching for paths of co-operation with the USSR and the countries of the socialist community.'

He added: 'There is no doubt that the results of the Moscow talks are on the credit side, as it were, of the Republican Party and this naturally affects the election campaign and may affect its outcome, particularly in view of the fact that the majority of the electorate is yearning for peace and the easing of international tension.'

This is a clear admission that Moscow invited Nixon in the full knowledge that the talks would strengthen his position in the forthcoming elections.

Moscow ignored the mining and blockade of North Vietnam and the escalation of the barbarous air war being waged by Nixon. Brezhnev went out of his way to receive a man described by the British Stalinists 'Morning Star' as 'a cornered criminal' (May 10).

(True to form, the British CP made no protest about the Soviet reception for this 'criminal'—though it urged pressure to force Heath to break from him!)

The 'Morning Star' is busily denouncing Heath's support for the Vietnam war—as if anything else could be expected from Tories who have shown themselves the mortal enemies of revolution. But it remains piercingly silent about the Kremlin's endorsement of Nixon for another term as president.

It is about time the CP leaders made it clear where they stand: are they for or against Nixon's re-election? Do they condemn or endorse Moscow's support for his re-election?

Their silence on this question is nothing more than a betrayal of the Vietnamese and the American workers.

# 'Wet money' sparks strike

CONSTRUCTION workers at the Esso oil refinery, Milford Haven, West Wales, have now been on strike for a week.

The 1,000 men—members of the AUEW, boilermakers' society, the electrical and plumbing trades union and the sheet metal workers' union—struck work last Thursday over the alleged victimization of five shop stewards. They were suspended for carrying out trade union activity without special 'passes' to leave their jobs.

On the previous Monday, site convenor Mr J. Davies and chairman of the site shop stewards' committee, Mr Ingham, received letters informing them that they had been sacked.

This follows from the vigorous enforcement of the employment agreement signed by union delegates and employers before the site opened.

Under this, all payment of 'wet money' owing to men during bad weather is forfeited if a dispute occurs at any time during the week.

The issue was brought to a head when management suddenly informed the stewards that the men had worked for three days during bad weather for no pay because of a half-day strike the previous Monday.

Personnel officer at Milford Haven is Terry Serlius, well-known among construction workers. He originally worked at the Fawley oil refinery in Southampton, where one of the first productivity deals in the country was signed.

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

**WANDSWORTH:** Thursday June 15, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Rd, Tooting Broadway. 'Build Councils of Action'.

**LINCOLN:** Thursday June 15, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Wragby, Lincoln.

**ABINGDON:** Friday June 16, 8 p.m. 'The Grapes', High St.  
**NORTH KENT:** Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Rd, Dartford. 'Why a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.

**CROYDON:** Monday June 19 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe

Rd. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

**COVENTRY:** Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. Woodend Community Association Building, Hillmorton Road.

**DAGENHAM:** Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Ave, Barking. 'Fight the Tory rents policy'.

**SOUTH LONDON:** Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

**SHEFFIELD:** Wednesday June

21, 7.30 p.m. 'New White Lion', Wicker. 'Build Councils of Action'.

**NORTH LONDON:** Thursday June 22, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', Tottenham High Road (near White Hart Lane). 'Building the revolutionary party'.

**LUTON:** Thursday June 22, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Lea Rd. 'Stalinism'.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Thursday June 22, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club (opposite New Cross Stn.). 'Stalinism'.

## Tenants storm Wandsworth council meeting



BY OUR OWN REPORTER

**ANGRY TENANTS** stormed the council chambers at Wandsworth, London, in protest against the Labour council's plan to implement the Tory Housing Finance Bill.

Police were called and they escorted a number of tenants from the chambers. No arrests were made.

The lobby of the council's Tuesday night meeting began quietly. After the council had commenced its session, the tenants moved to a nearby Town Hall to stage a protest meeting.

They heard speeches by Ian McGarry, who resigned as leader of the Labour group because of its decision to implement the Bill, and Hugh

Jenkins, Labour MP for Putney.

Someone then suggested that they return to the council chambers to protest to the Labourites in person. This was decided on a vote.

Before pushing open the iron gates (above) and running into the building the demonstrators—about 200-strong—shouted: 'Don't betray the tenants' and 'One, two, three, four, we don't want the Tory law.'

After police removed the demonstrators, the right-wing councillors agreed to see a deputation of 12 tenants.

The council rejected a motion by 38-22 calling on it not to implement the Bill when it became an Act.

## CAV London men throw out offer

**WORKERS** in all departments at CAV's Acton factory, West London, have thrown out the management's pay offer.

The entire labour force stopped work at 11 a.m. on Tuesday while shop stewards addressed departmental meetings to discuss the management's answer to the national pay claim submitted in March.

The shop stewards' committee had earlier thrown out the proposals at a specially convened summonsed meeting.

The claim is for £6, a 30-hour week, progress towards equal pay for women and increased holidays, plus adjustments to the existing pay structure.

The management's offer was:  
● General increase of £1.50 from July 3.

● 75p in December 1972, and a further 75p in July 1973. In other words, an 18-month package deal.

Previous agreements have been on a 12-month basis, and on average there has been increases of £5 plus each year.

Every single department turned down this offer which was described as 'insulting' and 'disgusting'.

This offer has also been made to other factories in the Lucas group. So far three have rejected it.

One CAV department called 'short order', composed of highly skilled workers, has unanimously passed an important resolution calling upon the joint shop stewards' committee to fight for the full claim on a CAV-Lucas combine basis.

## Pitfalls in Midlands engineers' pay claim

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

**THE FIGHT** by engineering workers for their national claim is on in Birmingham.

Several shop stewards' committees in the Lucas combine have turned down management's offer of £1.50 to £2.50 (according to grade) plus 75p in December 1972 and 75p in July 1973 and one day's extra holiday.

Workers at the starter motor (BW3) factory in Shaftmoor Lane have called for a total strike from June 26 unless there is a satisfactory offer by June 19.

British-Leyland and GKN managements are also due to reply shortly to their own plant claims.

Tens of thousands of Birmingham trade unionists are watching closely to see what their leaders will do.

The special shop stewards' meeting held at Digbeth Civic Hall on June 7 recommended one-day-a-week strikes to commence on June 26. This was fully supported by Hugh Scanlon, though Dick Etheridge, convenor at Longbridge, suggested half-day strikes.

These proposals are treated with contempt by many who believe that such a policy plays into the hands of management,

and who saw the ineffectiveness of such 'tactics' in the so-called 'Kill the Bill' campaign.

The strategy worked out at the June 7 meeting reeks of the most hopeless and cynical reformism.

The attack is to be concentrated on the three biggest combines in Birmingham because they are supposed to be able to afford the claim. The hope is that the other, smaller companies, will fall into line.

This is based on the assumption that the 'big three' still have a little fat on them that can be skimmed off without too much struggle.

This is, in fact, a Utopian dream. The harsh reality has been revealed in the Manchester area and at Herbert-Ingersoll in Daventry.

Local officials such as Norman Cartwright, AUEW district secretary, who have produced this scheme and the local Stalinists who support it are trying to sell the illusion that boom-time conditions still exist for Midlands car workers.

The revisionist International Socialist group has issued a leaflet at Lucas factories which puts an identical position to that of Norman Cartwright revealed in an interview with Workers Press on Tuesday, June 6.

Cartwright claimed that smaller factories would fall in line with bigger ones. The IS leaflet says: 'The demand for an increase in the MTR to £25 for skilled and

## Weir pumps first major dispute in 30 years

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

**OVER 2,000** engineering workers at the Cathcart factory of Weir Pumps in Glasgow yesterday struck work—the company's first major dispute in 30 years.

The men are demanding an extra £6 a week on their flat rate and in increase from £19 to £25 a week in the consolidated time rate on which overtime and other rates are paid.

They also want an extra day's holiday this year and a further day in 1973.

A management spokesman said: 'We are surprised that such a large claim should be pursued in view of increases paid already and still to come under the existing agreement.'

£20 for unskilled has to be fought for and written into agreements with employers like Lucas, in order to assist the fight for lower paid engineering workers.'

Further it says that 'this major claim can only be won by strike action plus the [moral and financial] support of the other plants in the Birmingham area . . .'

There is no mention of the fight against the Tory government or its National Industrial Relations Court in the leaflet.

In one section the leaflet welcomes the setting up of a steering committee by the June 7 meeting to involve other trade unions in the claim, plus the mandatory request for rank-and-file participation.

It does not mention that the composition of this committee was left in the hands of right-wing AUEW officials.

These committees open up a possibility of plant bargaining—negotiated principally by the right-wing officials and their own picked men and not the shop stewards.

The engineering struggle now proceeds in conditions of developing trade war. The Tories are creating the legal conditions to take away all the gains won by car workers during the 1950s and 1960s.

In order to be victorious the engineering struggle in the Midlands must be turned in a political direction towards united action with other sections of workers to create the conditions to force the government to resign.

## BOOKS



Moscow Trials Anthology  
Paperback. 62½p  
**MAX SHACHTMAN:**  
Behind The Moscow Trial  
Paperback 75p  
**ROBERT BLACK:**  
Stalinism In Britain  
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2  
**LEON TROTSKY:**  
Death Agony of Capitalism  
(The Transitional Programme)  
Pamphlet 5p  
Class Nature of the Soviet State  
Pamphlet 20p  
In Defence of the October  
Revolution Pamphlet 15p  
The Theory and Practice of  
Revisionism Pamphlet 15p  
Postage 10p per book, 3p per  
pamphlet. Order from:  
**NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS**  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG.



## PAPERBACKS CENTRE

28 Charlotte St  
London W1



**NOW OPEN**  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri  
9 a.m.—6 p.m.  
Thurs 9 a.m.—7.30 p.m.  
Sat 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS



# HIS LORDSHIP AND THE PROPERTY MILLIONS

BY PHILIP WADE, HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

**How do 8,000 London flats increase in value by £43m in less than three years? The answer is simple: property companies move in and buy and sell in quick succession while the market's hot.**

For the 9,000 tenants of the First National Finance Corporation, June 2 heralded the announcement that they had been given the honour of a new landlord—the fourth since 1969.

It was only last year that FNFC bought 114 blocks of key flats from the Metropolitan Estates and Property Company.

They paid a price of £33.5m. At the beginning of this month they told the world that they had sold the blocks to 22 different companies—for £76m. The profit on the deal was a cool £24m.

But that is only half the story.

Not many years ago the property men were not all that interested in flats. Offices were better and could be sold by the square foot in the era of rapidly rising rents.

## BREAK-UP

As more and more money was diverted into property speculation following the collapse in industry, the concept of the 'break-up' market developed.

What it involved was a method of enabling a property company to make a quick rake-off without getting involved in rent collecting and so on. What they did instead was to break up the block by selling off individual flats, either to sitting tenants or outside purchasers.

The history of the FNFC £76m deal begins with the firm London and County Freehold Flats.

They were the owners of 125 blocks and over 8,000 flats, mainly occupied by the professional middle classes. London and County ran their business on comparatively leisurely lines. Rents were reviewed only every three years and increases were reasonable.

They were susceptible to take-over bids, however, and having fought off one or two finally succumbed in 1969.

Metropolitan Estates and Property Corporation were much more dynamic in outlook. MEPC paid about £25m for the flats in a £48m take-over deal. Within 15 months MEPC had sold off the whole

residential property portfolio for £44m—a profit of £19m.

By the end of 1970 MEPC was fighting off a takeover bid itself, from Commercial Union House property group.

In the middle of the bid, MEPC suddenly sold off 1,600 flats in 11 blocks to a public company called Authority Investments.

Chairman of the company set up to hold the property, Wallbrook, is Conservative MP Sir John Foster. He has sold off one block to FNFC for £3m.

Early in March MEPC decided to move out of residential property altogether. In the biggest single property deal of its kind it sold 114 blocks of flats to FNFC for £33.5m.

Once more—over 6,000 tenants found themselves with new landlords.

Throughout the short period when FNFC were the landlords, tenants complained bitterly about the treatment they were getting.

They claimed that prices of flats in the FNFC empire had risen while they were negotiating to buy the flats. (Some tenants said they had been offered thousands of pounds to move out.)

One tenant in a block in Portman Square in London's West End, was offered his flat by one of FNFC's agents for £16,500.

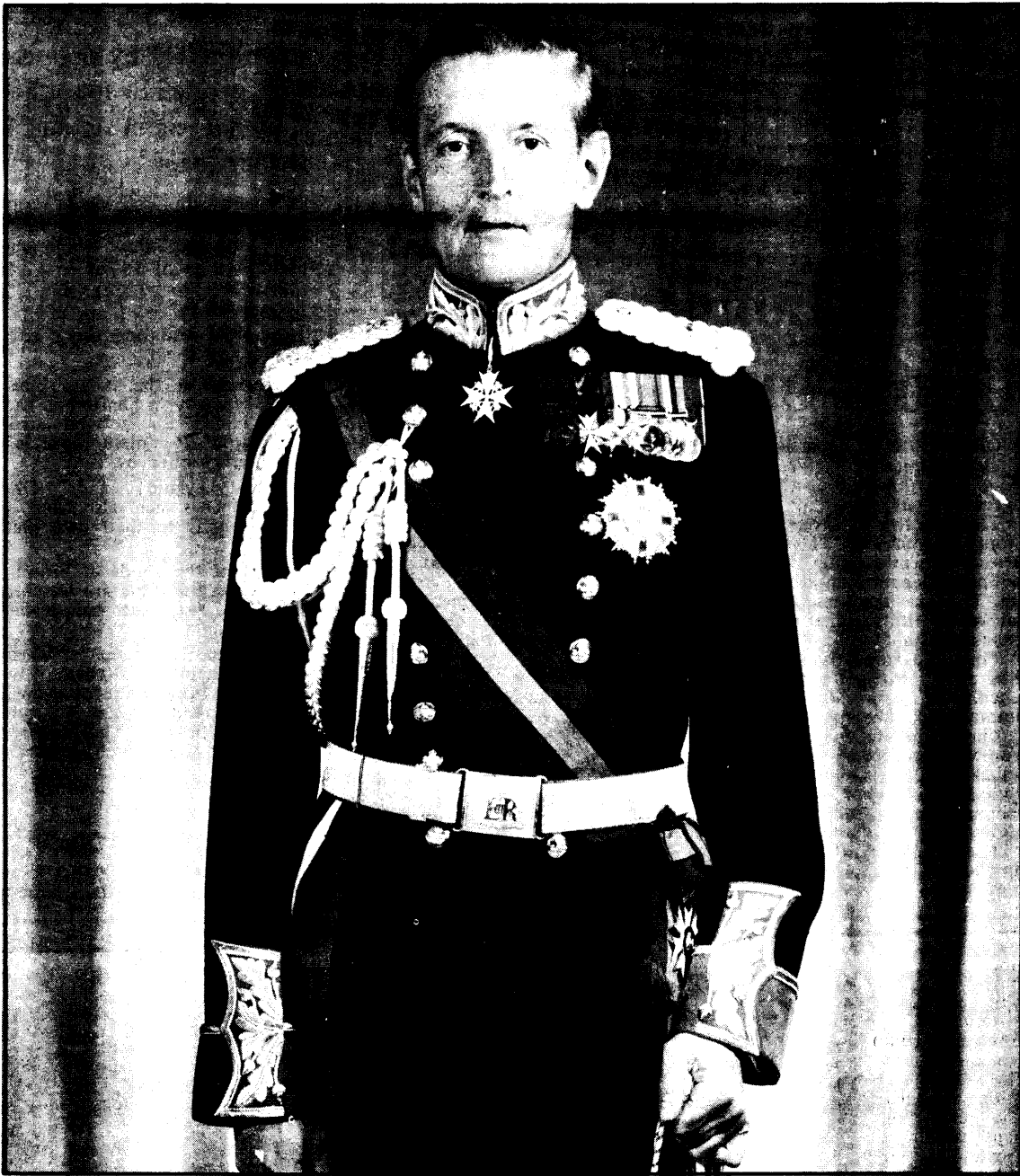
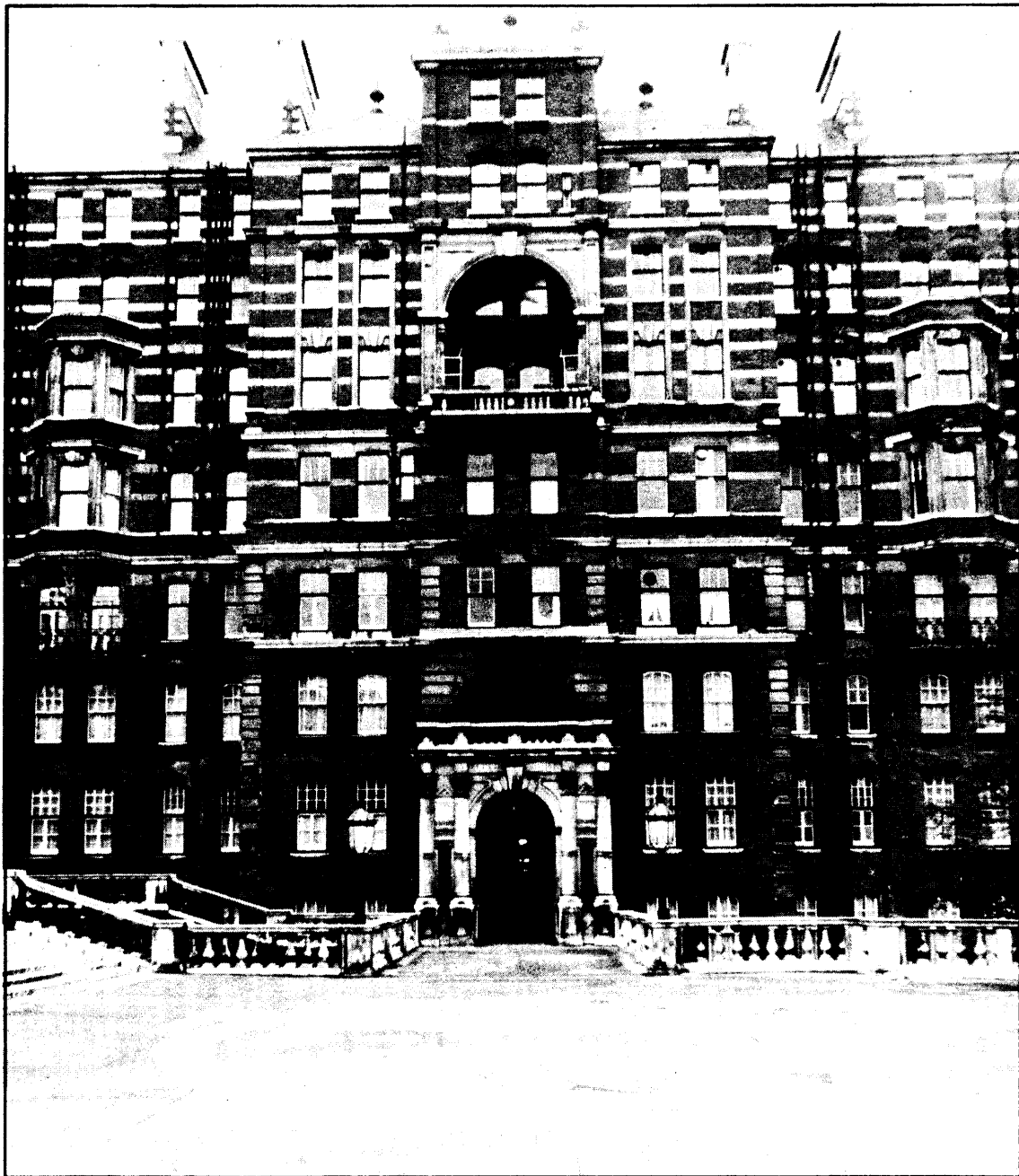
Negotiations were commenced and contracts were about to be exchanged when the tenant was told all offers were withdrawn. The price was then raised by £5,500.

Another tenant, who had lived in the same block for 22 years, had been offered his flat for £6,000 by London and County three years ago. At the beginning of the year FNFC offered it to him for £14,500. Once more, however, the offer was withdrawn in the middle of negotiations.

## BAD PUBLICITY

In a letter to the tenant explaining the reason for the withdrawal, FNFC were frank about their motives and were from their point quite justified. They pointed to the rising open market in prices for flats and said the selling price had to bear some relationship to it. They offered to recommence negotiations on a new basis.

Tenants then began to hit back and formed themselves into tenants' associations. The company was subjected to a barrage of bad publicity on press and television.



Top: Albert Court, a 'prestige' block near the Royal Albert Hall. Above: Viscount De L'Isle.

For these and other reasons Viscount De L'Isle, chairman of FNFC, then began considering the sale of their flats to other companies.

Viscount De L'Isle was a governor-general in Australia from 1961-1965. The 63-year-old viscount was also a Tory MP immediately after the war. For a brief period in 1951 he was Secretary of State for Air in the Churchill government.

Not surprising the tenants

are outraged at these latest manoeuvres at their expense. Said Mr Salmon James, chairman of the Queens Club Gardens residents' association:

'As far as I'm concerned the change of name doesn't mean a thing . . . you could describe it as the same suit with many pockets.'

'I think the new purchasers may try and split us up . . . but we will not be split up. We shall go on fighting harder

than ever before.'

Mr James said he considered it 'quite immoral' that vast financial gains should be made in this way.

Residents in Queens Club Gardens have made allegations of gazumping this year where quoted prices had risen from £10,500 to £16,000 in less than three months. They are now beginning to worry about what their latest landlord will be like.



# CASTRO EATS HUMBLE (SOVIET) PIE

BY TOM KEMP

After visiting a number of African states, Fidel Castro has moved on to Eastern Europe and will end a tour lasting over ten months in the Soviet Union.

The ailing Cuban economy, still overwhelmingly dependent on the sugar crop, receives technical and economic assistance from the East European countries as well as from the Soviet Union. Castro is no doubt hoping that this aid will be extended in the future. In return he is making full use of his prestige and popularity to bolster up the bureaucracy wherever he goes.

## CULTURED

Some of Cuba's admirers were surprised and shocked when, in August 1968, Castro hastened to lend his support to the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. Now he is endorsing the bureaucracy's policies once more, going out of his way to lavish praise on Todor Zhikov of Bulgaria, Janos Kadar of Hungary and Edward Gierek of Poland.

An example of the role which Castro plays during this visit was shown by his remarks about Janos Kadar, who presided over the suppression of the Hungarian revolution in 1956. He described him as 'that very calm, intelligent, cultured man . . . I have been watching him for hours play ping-pong and could see that he was not tired out by the long journey'.

While in Poland, he addressed Gierek in the following terms: 'You, Comrade Gierek, are known in our country for your efforts to invigorate the revolutionary process. We know of your worker's background, of the scores of years you spent as an honoured militant and a loyal member of the Polish Communist Party.'

Such personal endorsements are useful for the bureaucracy. At the same time Castro plays the unconventional public figure, mixing with the crowd, firing off questions and playing the clown to the delight of newsmen and perhaps to the discomfiture of his hosts whose dignity does not permit them to indulge in such antics.

In return, a Warsaw paper rashly opined: 'There is no other head of government in Latin America who could safely leave his country for such a long period without fear of what he would find when he got back home.'

It would perhaps be better to wait until the trip is over before jumping to such conclusions.

Meanwhile it moves on like a kind of travelling circus, drawing big and somewhat enthusiastic audiences attracted more by Castro's bizarre personality than by his politics, which, after all, do not differ from that of the

homegrown bureaucracy.

Castro has shown that he shares its tastes and its outlook. In Bulgaria he attacked the youth in the capitalist countries who presented, he said 'a sorry spectacle' and where 'they led an aimless life deprived of participation in the solving of present or future problems'. Further, he added, 'sometimes it was practically impossible to tell the boys from the girls'.

Fidel is apparently leaving no doubts about his own virility. Not only has he sought to outdo Kadar as a devoted ping-pong player, but he spent one evening until midnight with a basketball team.

In fact the main sensation of the tour followed the aspersions cast on Castro's heart by an Associated Press reporter. A posse of Cuban journalists presented themselves at his office and a free-for-all took place which ended in the rout of the AP team.

Castro responded to the report that he had had a heart attack by claiming, jokingly, that he had a heart of iron. The Latin America press agency 'Prensa Latina' laconically observed: 'The AP man, marked spiritually and physically by the experience, may now be considering a story on his own bodily ailments. The parts of the body affected will keep him from engaging in loose talk . . . and in sitting down long enough to write more news that never was.'

These niceties apart, it is clear that Castro's tour is assisting the bureaucracy. He has endorsed their rule, supported the call for a European security conference and, while loud in his denunciation of American imperialism, has not ruled out altogether the prospect of reaching an understanding.

## GUARANTEE

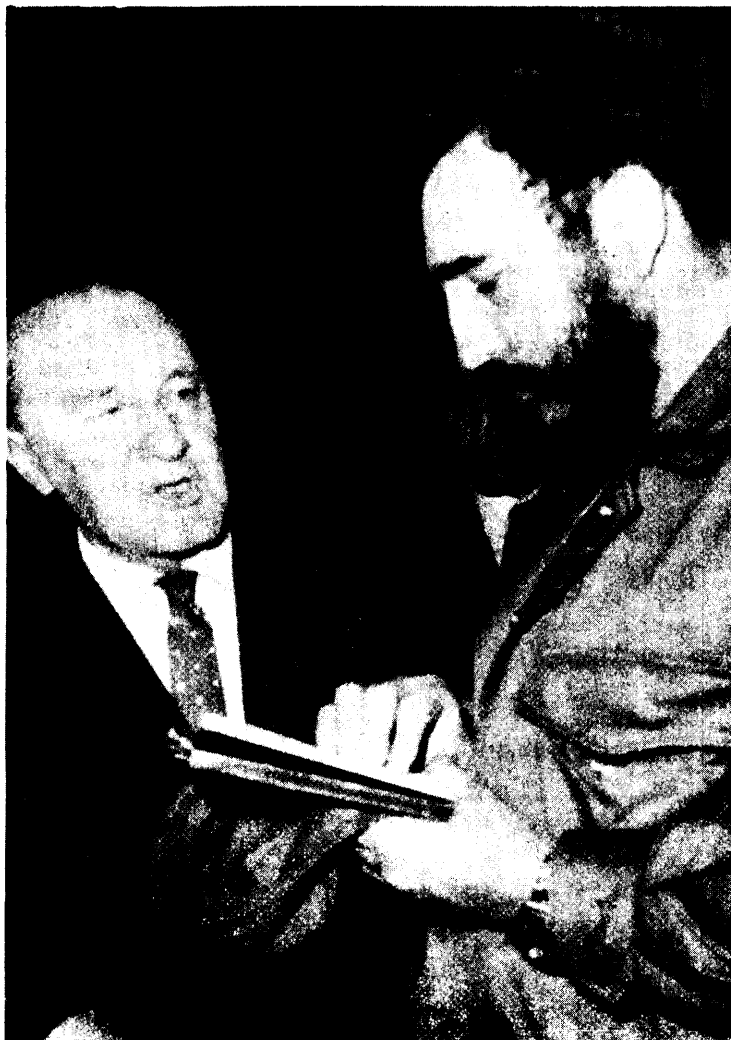
As for the revolution in Latin America, if anyone ever thought that he had differences with the bureaucracy on that score, his speeches must make clear that he has given them, even in public, adequate guarantees of good behaviour.

When questioned on the point in Budapest he said:

'The influence of imperialism is still very strong, and for the time being we cannot entertain hopes for the proximity of the liberation of the Latin American peoples. The signs indicate that this will be a longer range process.'

As to what movements Cuba would support, he said: 'We support the political movements which safeguard national interests in the face of imperialism.'

No doubt Castro is also going to school with the bureaucracy and picking up some tips about political method which will be useful to him when he gets home, presumably in time for the celebration of July, 26. Before then he will have also visited the Soviet Union where his main material support comes from.



Centre: Castro with Boumediene in Algeria. Above: with Janos Kadar

## TAKE A ONE-WAY TICKET COMRADE

The Soviet authorities are putting pressure on leading oppositionists and their families to force them to leave the country in a new attempt to liquidate the movement. They are threatened with deportation to Siberia if they do not leave.

Among a number of families who have passed through Vienna recently on their way to exile are Yuri Stein and his wife, a sister-in-law of novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

Stein, who worked in the film industry, claimed that he had been forced to leave the Soviet Union. He said he had been under intense pressure and would otherwise have been sent to a labour camp.

Other dissidents are being confined in psychiatric wards, although they are perfectly sane. Stein said that Solzhenitsyn had also been under heavy pressure, but would refuse to leave the Soviet Union, even if the alternative was imprisonment in Siberia.

Solzhenitsyn, who received the Nobel prize for literature last year, refused to go to Stockholm to receive it for fear that he would be prevented from returning to his native land. A Swedish official was prevented from entering the Soviet Union to present the prize to Solzhenitsyn privately.



Solzhenitsyn

Another well-known literary figure to arrive in Vienna is poet Josif Brodsky, who was sentenced to five years' hard labour in 1964 for writing what were described as 'nihilistic and pornographic' poems. Brodsky has applied for permission to enter the United States.

The authorities ordered pictures sent out of the country for dissident Soviet artist Yuri Titov, who has gone to Rome, to be defaced as an act of revenge, his wife claims. Titov, an active member of the group for the Defence of Human Rights, left the Soviet Union on May 22.

Making this charge, his wife said that Titov had been told that he would not be allowed to continue with his professional work as an architect if he continued with his oppositional activities. He was, however, permitted to leave the country.

The bureaucracy now appears to think that the so-called 'liberal' opposition among the dissident intellectuals can best be isolated and discredited by forcing many of them into exile in Israel or other capitalist countries.



# A CASE OF WIDGERY POKERY

Bloody Sunday, the day the British army gunned down 13 civilians on the streets of Londonderry, marked a turning point in the political developments in Ireland, particularly in relation to both wings of the IRA. By opening fire on a group of civil rights demonstrators, British imperialism successfully created a crisis in which it could exploit the political weaknesses of the Officials and the Provisionals.

Within 24 hours of the slaughter the Tory government had lined up the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery, to drop all his other business to conduct an inquiry. By giving the court of inquiry High Court powers, the Tories forestalled any press or parliamentary comment on the army's behaviour.

As Workers Press said at the time, the Widgery report whitewashed the army and the Tory politicians responsible at Stormont and Westminster.

Now Professor Samuel Dash, director of the Institute of Criminal Law and Procedure at Georgetown University Law Centre, Washington, has produced a counter-report on Widgery.

He was invited to undertake the study by the International League for the Rights of Man at the request of the National Council for Civil Liberties. ILRM has consultative status with the United Nations and Dash has an eminent record as a jurist. In this report Alex Mitchell isolates some of Dash's findings and compares them to Widgery's conclusions.



Lord Widgery

When Professor Dash's report was released last week, the Ministry of Defence was asked to comment. The Ministry spokesman said it could not accept that his report was 'independent'.

'It is perfectly clear he has listened to only one side of the case,' he added.

This, of course, is untrue. Dash has spent the past three months pouring over the complete evidence of the Widgery tribunal and he has also combed through some 500 statements made by eye-witnesses.

It is not surprising, however, that the Ministry should treat Dash's findings in such a churlish, out-of-hand manner.

It will be remembered that the Tory government had made up its mind about the events of Bloody Sunday within 24 hours.

Reginald Maudling, who was then the Tory Minister in charge of Ulster affairs, told

the Commons on Monday, January 31: 'A large number of troublemakers refused to accept the instructions of the march stewards and attacked the army with stones, bottles, steel bars and canisters of CS. The army met this assault with two water cannon, CS and rubber bullets only.'

The GOC, General Ford, has further reported that when the army advanced to make arrests among the troublemakers they came under fire from a block of flats and other quarters. The army returned the fire directed at them with aimed shots and inflicted a number of casualties on those who were attacking them with firearms and with bombs.'

Almost every detail of Maudling's grotesquely distorted account has now been nailed by Dash's investigation.

Some of it was too much even for Widgery. For instance, one of Widgery's conclusions states: 'None of the deceased or wounded is proved to have been shot whilst handling a firearm or bomb.'

On many other issues Dash's findings directly contradict those of the Lord Chief Justice.

Some examples: Widgery first (in emphasis) followed by Dash.

'There would have been no deaths in Londonderry on January 30 if those who organized the illegal march had not thereby created a highly dangerous situation in which a clash between demonstrators and the security forces was almost inevitable.'



'The military plans and strategy approved in advance by the commander of Land Forces in Northern Ireland and the leadership of the Stormont Government [and the Tory security committee at Westminster—AM] for dealing with the civil rights march in Londonderry on January 30 reveal that these officials should have known that they were exposing thousands of peaceable citizens to a high risk of death or serious bodily injury.'

'The intention of the senior army officers to use the First parachute Regiment as an arrest force and not for other offensive purposes was sincere.'

'Those in command decided to accept a high risk of civilian deaths and injuries, despite the urgent warning of this risk by the chief superintendent of police in Londonderry and his strong recommendation that the march be permitted to

take place without army military interference.'

'The Commander of Land Forces in Northern Ireland made a reckless decision when he personally assigned the First Battalion Parachute Regiment to Londonderry with the special mission to conduct arrest operations. His action made a military attack on civilian demonstrators more likely, creating a high risk of civilian deaths and injuries. The record of the Widgery inquiry shows that the First Battalion of Paras had a notorious reputation in Northern Ireland for brutality to civilians.'

'The paratroopers were trained to be quick on the trigger to kill in aggressive warfare against a dangerous enemy and were singularly unsuited for action against civilian demonstrators or rioters.'

'Their training made them aggressive and quick in decision and some showed

more restraint in opening fire than others.'

'Perhaps the soundest military decision would have been to not have 1 Para in Londonderry at all that day. In judging whether the military decision to use 1 Para for the arrest operation was reckless, an analogy may be helpful. The United States Special Forces, the Green Berets, like 1 Para, are trained to kill and to be fast on the trigger. Their mission is to combat a dangerous enemy, not a civilian population.'

'Using the Green Berets for the scoop-up of civilians at the May Day demonstrations in Washington, DC, in 1971 would have been similar to the use of 1 Para in Londonderry on January 30, with possibly the same tragic consequences.'

Dash examines in detail the shooting of the 13 and concludes that they were unarmed when killed and that they were shot either recklessly or

deliberately by paratroopers.

'The record justifies a finding that none of the known dead or wounded held or threw any nail bombs at the time he was shot.'

'Without exception, all of the civilian eye-witnesses who observed the shootings testified that none of the dead or wounded civilians was in possession of a gun, a nail bomb or a petroleum bomb.'

'It is possible to reconcile this conflict by concluding that all of the known civilian dead or wounded were innocent, unarmed bystanders who happened to be in the way of a shot fired by a paratrooper at a gunman or a nail bomber.'

'Indeed, in a number of cases Lord Widgery suggests this. But the testimony of the paratroopers will not support this explanation. The paratroopers claimed they hit the civilians they believed were armed and at whom they were aiming.'

'The inescapable conclusion is that a number of para-

troopers deliberately lied in order to justify their shooting at unarmed civilians.'

In this context we have extracted Dash's conclusions of two deaths both involving soldier F.

(At the tribunal only five officers gave their names while the other 40 army witnesses had their identities protected by being named letters of the alphabet or figures.)

'Patrick Doherty, aged 31, was shot by a paratrooper from the rear as he was crawling on his hands and knees at the front side of the Rossville Flats near Joseph Place. From his living room window Mr D. T. Tucker saw Doherty crawling on the ground beneath him, heard a shot ring out, and saw Doherty give a kick with his right leg and then lie still. Tucker's testimony of the shooting of Doherty was confirmed by excellent photographs submitted in evidence.'

'The path of the bullet which killed Doherty entered his

buttock, travelled parallel to his spine and exited from his chest. There was no dispute that he was shot in the rear while he was crawling away. Lord Widgery finds that the closest testimony is that of Soldier F who said he shot at a man who was crouching and firing a pistol from the position where Doherty's body was found. Soldier F said that he fired as the man turned away.'

'Lord Widgery states in his report: "In light of all the evidence I conclude that he was not carrying a weapon. If Soldier F shot Doherty in the belief that he had a pistol, that belief was mistaken." No weapon was found near Doherty's body and there was no evidence that Doherty had fired any firearms. Despite the clear evidence that Doherty was an unarmed, innocent civilian who was deliberately shot from the rear by a paratrooper, Lord Widgery is willing to excuse Soldier F, if he indeed was the soldier who shot Doherty, on the ground

that the soldier shot Doherty in the mistaken belief that he had been firing a pistol.'

Now to the killing of Michael Kelly. Dash says:

'Seventeen-year-old Kelly was shot in the stomach as he stood by the rubble barricade near the entrance of Glenfada Park.'

'Various civilian witnesses testified that Kelly had been with others who had been throwing stones, and that he had possibly thrown stones himself. However, their testimony was consistent that he had no weapon in his hands and that he had not fired at the soldiers or thrown any nail bombs. Father O'Keefe, one of these witnesses, states that he saw Kelly fall holding his stomach.'

'The ballistic evidence traces the bullet which killed Kelly to the rifle of Soldier F. Soldier F testified that he saw a man standing at the barricade who was about to throw a nail bomb, which was fizzing, and that he took aim, fired

Above: Derry, January 30, 1972 — the Civil Rights March and its outcome

his rifle and the man fell. Lord Widgery finds that Kelly was not throwing a nail bomb when he was shot. He also finds in his report that Kelly was not firing a weapon, but was probably standing in close proximity to someone who was firing a weapon.'

'Thus this is a clear case of an identified paratrooper shooting a civilian who is found to have been unarmed.'

By putting the legal seal of approval on Soldier F's actions Widgery does more than avoid embarrassment for the army. He legalized murder. The implications of this for the working class throughout Britain are powerfully obvious. In times of crisis the army and the judiciary become the main arms of capitalism's fight to preserve its parasitic and barbarous hold on the working class.





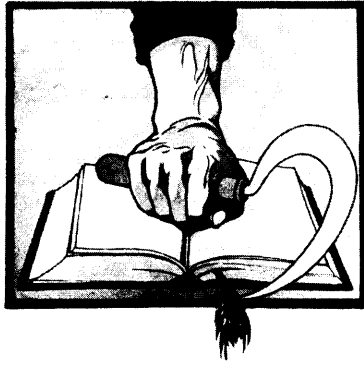
Above: Paul Du Chaillu who set out from the west coast of Africa to explore the interior of Gabon in 1855, and was the first white man to confront a gorilla. By the 1920s large sums of money were being made by capturing live gorillas for zoos, and there was an ever-increasing greed for rubber and ivory-natural products of the Congo. Below: Mary Kingsley; responsible for establishing Britain's west coast trading Empire. Right: Brazza. In order to raise funds for his expeditions, he allowed romantic photographs of himself to be taken for the French Press.



# CONGO: THE HEART OF DARKNESS

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

## BOOK REVIEW



'Brazza of the Congo'. By Richard West. Jonathan Cape. £3.95.

This is the story of the 'other Congo'—the territory to the right of the mighty river from which the French carved a rubber and ivory empire.

Mr West, I imagine, would agree with Conrad when he described this process of 'colonization' in his master-

piece 'Heart of Darkness': 'It was just robbery with violence and...murder on a grand scale and men going at it blind as is very proper for those who tackle a darkness.'

It is to Conrad one must turn to get some feeling of the menace and evil of imperialism. And Mr West quotes from 'Heart of Darkness' to illustrate the frightening exploitation eventually suffered by the natives of this huge territory. Conrad describes the doom of Africans condemned to forced labour for the companies that laid waste to their land:

'They were dying slowly—it was very clear. They were not enemies, they were not criminals, they were nothing earthly now—nothing but black shadows of disease and starvation, lying in the greenish gloom. Brought from all the recesses of the coast in all the legality of time contracts, lost in uncongenial surroundings, fed on unfamiliar food, they sickened, became inefficient and were allowed to crawl away...'

The process towards death and degradation began in the Congo over 100 years ago with the explorers—the subject of West's work.

It started with Paul Du Chaillu, son of a French trader who set out from the west coast of Africa to explore the interior of Gabon in 1855.

Du Chaillu's adventures included the first-ever confrontation between a white man and a gorilla. He wrote a book about them and for the first time the European imagination was roused by this mysterious and unknown part of the continent.

West says it was the 'fascination of the abomination' that drew a series of personalities to the region.

A bitter and cynical Burton foraged the interior. Mary Kingsley, the kindly British spinster, found fulfilment in this strange river-land, and on the left bank Henry Stanley ploughed through the jungle 'in the style of a rhinoceros' capturing enormous territory for King Leopold of the Belgians to exploit with the

greatest possible barbarity.

But the central character is Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza, the son of an Italian nobleman who joined the French navy and developed a burning patriotism for his adopted country.

Between 1875 and 1885 Brazza made three trips up the Ogowe river, to the Congo and beyond. He established an empire for France which today consists of the 'independent' states of Gabon, the Congo People's Republic, the Central African Republic and Chad. He was appointed governor of the new territory for his great effort, but was deposed after intrigues led by the rapacious Leopold.

As a coda in 1905 he headed an abortive mission of inquiry into the cruelties of French imperialism. His report was suppressed and Brazza died a sad man—perhaps realizing that he had been instrumental in opening up the French Congo and its people to such bitter and bloody oppression.

West portrays Brazza as an honest and patient explorer concerned to understand the Negro and ever opposed to the methods of armed force often employed by his rival across the Congo.

This seems to be true. The fact remains, however, that for all their high-minded and noble aspirations the explorer was ever harnessed to the tentacles of trade which strangled the continent during the last half of the 19th century.

Commerce was the sting in the tail of the exploring

missions. Behind him Brazza brought the traders who drew the natives down into the nexus of exploitation, forced labour and oppression.

For all his qualities, Brazza was not unaware of this. Like Stanley, to raise money he would paint a mouth-watering prospect of profit to European businessmen: 'There are 40 million naked people beyond that gateway and the cotton spinners of Manchester are waiting to clothe them... Birmingham's foundries are glowing with red metal that presently shall be made into ironwork in every shape for them...and the ministers of Christ are zealous to bring them, the poor benighted heathen, into the Christian fold.'

This is Stanley talking to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Brazza's progress was slower than Stanley's, but more enduring. He had a keen understanding of fetish, Negro custom and psychology. He deployed his knowledge craftily to make France and the traders masters of the natives.

A most decisive episode came in September 1880 when a key chief, Makoko, ceded all his hereditary rights to territory on the Congo pool and placed himself under the French flag.

Of course it was not just Brazza's insight and tricks that won such vast concessions for French capitalism. The chiefs also recognized the trade, and the wealth it brought them. They saw



# CASTRO EATS HUMBLE (SOVIET) PIE

BY TOM KEMP

After visiting a number of African states, Fidel Castro has moved on to Eastern Europe and will end a tour lasting over ten months in the Soviet Union.

The ailing Cuban economy, still overwhelmingly dependent on the sugar crop, receives technical and economic assistance from the East European countries as well as from the Soviet Union. Castro is no doubt hoping that this aid will be extended in the future. In return he is making full use of his prestige and popularity to bolster up the bureaucracy wherever he goes.

## CULTURED

Some of Cuba's admirers were surprised and shocked when, in August 1968, Castro hastened to lend his support to the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. Now he is endorsing the bureaucracy's policies once more, going out of his way to lavish praise on Todor Zhikov of Bulgaria, Janos Kadar of Hungary and Edward Gierek of Poland.

An example of the role which Castro plays during this visit was shown by his remarks about Janos Kadar, who presided over the suppression of the Hungarian revolution in 1956. He described him as 'that very calm, intelligent, cultured man . . . I have been watching him for hours play ping-pong and could see that he was not tired out by the long journey'.

While in Poland, he addressed Gierek in the following terms: 'You, Comrade Gierek, are known in our country for your efforts to invigorate the revolutionary process. We know of your worker's background, of the scores of years you spent as an honoured militant and a loyal member of the Polish Communist Party.'

Such personal endorsements are useful for the bureaucracy. At the same time Castro plays the unconventional public figure, mixing with the crowd, firing off questions and playing the clown to the delight of newsmen and perhaps to the discomfiture of his hosts whose dignity does not permit them to indulge in such antics.

In return, a Warsaw paper rashly opined: 'There is no other head of government in Latin America who could safely leave his country for such a long period without fear of what he would find when he got back home.'

It would perhaps be better to wait until the trip is over before jumping to such conclusions.

Meanwhile it moves on like a kind of travelling circus, drawing big and somewhat enthusiastic audiences attracted more by Castro's bizarre personality than by his politics, which, after all, do not differ from that of the

homegrown bureaucracy.

Castro has shown that he shares its tastes and its outlook. In Bulgaria he attacked the youth in the capitalist countries who presented, he said 'a sorry spectacle' and where 'they led an aimless life deprived of participation in the solving of present or future problems'. Further, he added, 'sometimes it was practically impossible to tell the boys from the girls'.

Fidel is apparently leaving no doubts about his own virility. Not only has he sought to outdo Kadar as a devoted ping-pong player, but he spent one evening until midnight with a basketball team.

In fact the main sensation of the tour followed the aspersions cast on Castro's heart by an Associated Press reporter. A posse of Cuban journalists presented themselves at his office and a free-for-all took place which ended in the rout of the AP team.

Castro responded to the report that he had had a heart attack by claiming, jokingly, that he had a heart of iron. The Latin America press agency 'Prensa Latina' laconically observed: 'The AP man, marked spiritually and physically by the experience, may now be considering a story on his own bodily ailments. The parts of the body affected will keep him from engaging in loose talk . . . and in sitting down long enough to write more news that never was.'

These niceties apart, it is clear that Castro's tour is assisting the bureaucracy. He has endorsed their rule, supported the call for a European security conference and, while loud in his denunciation of American imperialism, has not ruled out altogether the prospect of reaching an understanding.

## GUARANTEE

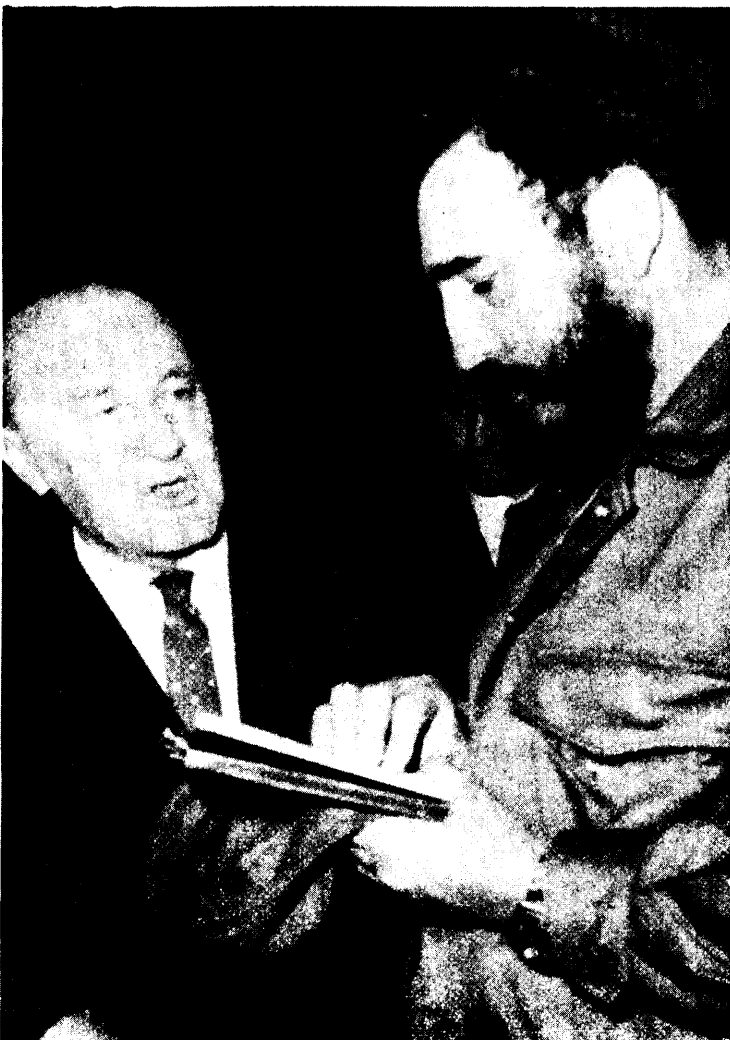
As for the revolution in Latin America, if anyone ever thought that he had differences with the bureaucracy on that score, his speeches must make clear that he has given them, even in public, adequate guarantees of good behaviour.

When questioned on the point in Budapest he said:

'The influence of imperialism is still very strong, and for the time being we cannot entertain hopes for the proximity of the liberation of the Latin American peoples. The signs indicate that this will be a longer range process.'

As to what movements Cuba would support, he said: 'We support the political movements which safeguard national interests in the face of imperialism.'

No doubt Castro is also going to school with the bureaucracy and picking up some tips about political method which will be useful to him when he gets home, presumably in time for the celebration of July, 26. Before then he will have also visited the Soviet Union where his main material support comes from.



Centre: Castro with Boumediene in Algeria. Above: with Janos Kadar

## TAKE A ONE-WAY TICKET COMRADE

The Soviet authorities are putting pressure on leading oppositionists and their families to force them to leave the country in a new attempt to liquidate the movement. They are threatened with deportation to Siberia if they do not leave.

Among a number of families who have passed through Vienna recently on their way to exile are Yuri Stein and his wife, a sister-in-law of novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

Stein, who worked in the film industry, claimed that he had been forced to leave the Soviet Union. He said he had been under intense pressure and would otherwise have been sent to a labour camp.

Other dissidents are being confined in psychiatric wards, although they are perfectly sane. Stein said that Solzhenitsyn had also been under heavy pressure, but would refuse to leave the Soviet Union, even if the alternative was imprisonment in Siberia.

Solzhenitsyn, who received the Nobel prize for literature last year, refused to go to Stockholm to receive it for fear that he would be prevented from returning to his native land. A Swedish official was prevented from entering the Soviet Union to present the prize to Solzhenitsyn privately.



Solzhenitsyn

Another well-known literary figure to arrive in Vienna is poet Josif Brodsky, who was sentenced to five years' hard labour in 1964 for writing what were described as 'nihilistic and pornographic' poems. Brodsky has applied for permission to enter the United States.

The authorities ordered pictures sent out of the country for dissident Soviet artist Yuri Titov, who has gone to Rome, to be defaced as an act of revenge, his wife claims. Titov, an active member of the group for the Defence of Human Rights, left the Soviet Union on May 22.

Making this charge, his wife said that Titov had been told that he would not be allowed to continue with his professional work as an architect if he continued with his oppositional activities. He was, however, permitted to leave the country.

The bureaucracy now appears to think that the so-called 'liberal' opposition among the dissident intellectuals can best be isolated and discredited by forcing many of them into exile in Israel or other capitalist countries.





Brazza as a man who could mediate in disputes and facilitate commerce.

This is illustrated by a most candid moment in Brazza's explorations, when his secretary on the second expedition chastised a chief, M'Pohontaba, for trading in secret with the Belgians. M'Pohontaba is said to have replied:

'Since you know it, then I admit it. I know very well one day sooner or later, the whites on the two sides of the Congo who are squabbling among themselves at present, will end up united—on our backs. Meanwhile I am taking with both hands.'

M'Pohontaba was right. By the 1880s the European capitalists were beginning to realize the full value of their African territory. Mass production at home demanded ever-expanding markets for cheap manufactures. And there was developing an ever-increasing greed for rubber and ivory—natural products of the Congo.

French businessmen were slow in realizing the value of their African lands. But the spectacle of Leopold amassing a fortune from plunder made their hunger grow and during the last years of the century the Congo was struck by a veritable rubber rush.

By secret decree in 1891 Leopold had confiscated all Negro lands. Agriculture was deliberately ruined. The natives were driven onto the rubber plantations. Others were pressed into gangs to act as porters and railway builders.

Starvation became endemic. Those who refused to submit were massacred or mutilated.

The infamy of the Belgian Congo began to embarrass Leopold. One thorn in his flesh was Brazza's regime on the right bank which had not yet sunk into such barbarity. Leopold conspired in France—among capitalists and the newspapers—to have Brazza deposed.

He fell from power in 1898 and the French Congo suffered the same fate as the Belgian Congo. The land was parcelled off to the companies and the savagery spread rapidly across the whole of equatorial Africa.

Brazza's inquiry in 1905 failed, thanks to the new governor and the Congo's powerful and bloodthirsty Catholic Bishop Augouard. When the great explorer died the Congo sank back into a painful obscurity.

In the last analysis Brazza's justice was only a very perishable fabric that clothed exploitation. West may take it as read, but he does not point out that despite the selfless qualities displayed by Brazza he served ultimately a vicious oppressor. One weakness in the book is, in fact, a failure to give more detail on the link between the traders and the explorers.

We read, for example, that on his way back down the Ogowe after his first trip, a great change had taken place: 'Chiefs were now anxious to offer him [Brazza] boatmen. Most tribes had stopped their mutual rivalry and no longer feared leaving their territory.

Trade now flourished where before it had been blocked by inter-tribal rivalry and fetish.

But how had this change occurred? Who were the traders that followed Brazza? Did they have any formal agreement or understanding with the explorer? These questions remain unanswered.

Another minor flaw to my mind is West's apparent defence of that squalid moralizer Dr Albert Schweitzer, who believed the Congolese were created basically to suffer his appalling patronage—to play the 'flock' to his latter-day Christ.

But this is a book I recommend. Very well written and researched. West is committed and frank in his condemnation of imperialism. The 'horror of horrors' that drove the trader Kurtz mad in 'Heart of Darkness' has still not ended in Africa. As West notes in his final verdict of Brazza:

'The exploitation of Africans by greedy European capitalists did not stop with Brazza's death, and it is worse now than it ever was. The Bantus of southern Africa live in serfdom. More than a million Biafrans were starved to death for the sake of Britain's petrol and soap-flake industries. Portugal is conducting three wars against its unfortunate African subjects. The present rulers of Africa are the heirs not of Brazza but Leopold. They will not be easily removed, because they command wealth greater than Leopold's and an even more servile pack of journalists and public relations men.'

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## LETTER

Sir, If your correspondents are right in saying that King Charles II was the great grandson of Catherine de Medici they cannot also be right in saying that like so many other 17th Century kings, he had four great grandmothers.

On the contrary he must have been quite exceptional in having had five, as one of his great grandmothers was undoubtedly Johanna of Austria, the wife of Francis I Grand Duke of Tuscany. —letter in the 'New Statesman'.

## ACTRESS

'We can't afford the luxury of politics, not with our high rate of unemployment'—actress Valery Murray, right-

wing speaker at the recent Equity annual conference.

Miss Murray also gave massive support to the left in the union who wanted to keep it political by such gems as: 'Don't let us be affected by any of the horror going on around us.' And: 'Forget politics, our whole profession is in danger.'

## HOUSES

The middle class are stumbling around in a sweat trying to find accommodation for themselves. Gone are the days when they could drift from one bijou residence to the next by simply phoning one of the swish estate agents.

Take literary agent Michael Sissons. He is sending postcards to all his friends pleading for help in finding accommodation. Trouble is, most of them are in the same boat.

## REWARD

**THIS IS WORTH £100**  
(in used fivers)

to whoever provides information which leads to the purchase by Michael Sissons of either a large flat or a small unconverted freehold house according to the following specifications:

- Situation (in order of preference)  
W2, 8, 11, 14, SW3, 1, 7, 5.
- Tenure Lease of not less than 75 years or freehold.  
Low outgoings.
- Size Large living room or studio.  
2 or preferably 3 bedrooms.  
Kitchen. Bathroom.
- Condition As unimproved as possible.

Ring 839 2556 in office hours

**Please display this prominently!**

## BOOKS



**LEON TROTSKY:**  
Germany 1931/1932  
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87  
**Where is Britain Going?**  
Paperback 37p  
**Revolution Betrayed**  
Paperback 62p—cloth £1.05  
**Problems of the Chinese Revolution**  
Paperback £1.12—cloth £1.87  
**Permanent Revolution:**  
**Results and Prospects**  
Paperback 75p  
**In Defence of Marxism**  
Paperback 75p  
**Lessons of October**  
Paperback 60p

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



# 'Frame-up' allegations after Special Branch swoop

AT THE Old Bailey on Monday morning five accused filed into the dock to face the fourth day of their trial on charges of conspiring to possess firearms and ammunition and possessing pistols. The trial was expected to last four weeks. The defendants settled down and prepared themselves for another day of legal argument and cross examination. When Mr Justice Bean opened the proceedings Mr Brian Leary, the state prosecutor, got to his feet. In a brief statement he announced that the Crown did not intend pressing for conviction. He gave no reason for stopping the case and Judge Bean immediately asked the jury to find the accused not guilty. There were a few moments of nervous hesitation before the defendants realized precisely what had happened. When they were told they were free to go—they had been in custody for seven months—they burst into cheers and laughter. The abrupt ending of the trial raises a number of mysteries which Alex Mitchell has been investigating.

THE STORY begins in a Belfast street on November 15 last year when 20-year-old Martin Joseph Crawford, a slip of a lad, was arrested by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

He was taken to Girdwood barracks where he was interrogated. Crawford alleges he was punched and slapped. A hypodermic was placed on his arm but the needle did not pierce his arm.

He also says a cocked pistol was placed in his mouth.

He was made to sit facing a wall for eight hours and deprived of food and sleep.

In the course of his interrogation he told Inspector Harry Taylor of the RUC that he had just returned from a holiday in England.

Next day, November 16, he was visited by two English police officers from the Special Branch, who had flown to Belfast.

In his evidence Detective Sergeant Geoffrey Curtis Tutt said that when he met Crawford he said to him: 'We are both police officers from London. Are they looking after you all right?'

In Tutt's statement Crawford is supposed to have replied, 'Yes, sure.'

Tutt says that Crawford then gave him a detailed statement of his stay in London in which he was involved in doing a 'job'. Crawford said he drove a van in which some property was taken from an army depot.

In his statement Crawford mentioned an accomplice called 'John'.

'Who's John?' Tutt asked. 'I think his name is Parker. He's not Irish,' Crawford replied.

The next day, November 17, Tutt again saw Crawford and said: 'How do you feel this morning?' Crawford said: 'Fine'.

Tutt asked: 'Did you have a good rest and do you wish to make a written account of your

The shop and premises at 257 Wick Road, Hackney, E9, raided by the Special Branch and police in November last year. Rifles and pistols were found in an upstairs room. But now all charges have been dropped.



## The curious ending to a curious arms case

visit to London?'

Crawford replied: 'Yes, sure.' The action then switches to London.

That same afternoon at 3.20 another Special Branch officer, Detective Inspector James Pittendreigh, was in a car with Detective Inspector John Wilson parked in Cassland Road, E9. A Toyota passed their position and parked outside 257 Wick Road, Hackney.

Some short time later the police pounced. In the street they apprehended Lawrence McCrandles, Donal De Faoit and Patrick O'Sullivan.

Meanwhile Detective Constable Peter Cowan smashed the glass in the front door of No. 257 and rushed in accompanied by other officers.

Inside the premises they arrested Edmund Petticrew and Mrs Marjorie Allen.

On the first floor police broke down a door and found a quantity of rifles and bayonets wrapped in blankets. They also found a locked black box and a black trunk.

McCrandles was searched and

a bunch of five keys found in his pocket. One of the keys opened the black box and inside were a Browning automatic, two 'Star' automatic pistols, five magazines and 56 rounds of ammunition.

Amid a blaze of press publicity the men and one woman were questioned and eventually brought to court in an 'IRA gun plot'.

As extremely dangerous people they were refused bail and security precautions at their first court appearance were enormous.

De Faoit gave a statement to the police in which he admitted being a member of Saor Eire and asked that as 'leader' of the 'group' he should take full responsibility.

When asked what 'cause' he belonged to, De Faoit replied:

'The fight to repel the British invaders from our land. For hundreds of years you have oppressed us and the only way is to fight you by our means. I don't regard myself as a murderer, but I am prepared to use any degree of violence to achieve what I consider is right for Ireland.'

'What do you mean right?' Pittendreigh asked.

'I mean to fight for Irish culture, heritage, literature and language. These ideals should come first before any notions of socialism or Maoism. As far as these ideals are concerned, the Irish Free State is only a puppet of Westminster and it should be brought down by force if necessary.'

'Are you voicing the aims of the organization Saor Eire?' Pittendreigh asked.

'That's what I consider to be the objects of Saor Eire.'

But when asked about the arms, he said: 'I'm not saying any more.'

For any outside observer the police had a cast-iron case. They had guns found in a hat, a man with keys to the case, a group of Saor Eire and Sinn Fein members and perhaps, one could argue, a motive.

But certain curious things happened. For example, the prisoners were first of all charged with being in possession of the rifles—not the pistols.

This is intriguing because none of the rifles worked. They were simply cadet drill equipment.

A police ballistics expert reported that ten of the 11 rifles had been converted for use as

drill rifles only 'and they could not be fired'. 'The striker tips had been cut off, bolt heads filled in and barrels partly sawn through.'

The 11th had no rear hand-guard, magazine or bolt and the barrel was loose.

It was hardly the sort of equipment to wage the struggle against British imperialism!

The pistols, on the other hand, were in good working order and the ballistics expert reported that 'I fired them a number of times.' Curiously, however, it was not until much later that the defendants were also charged with possessing the pistols.

When they first appeared in the Old Bailey on Monday, June 5, the defence lawyers successfully got the public mischief charge dismissed. It was a bad start for the prosecution.

Without the presence of the jury a 'trial within a trial' commenced over the case against Crawford.

The argument centred on his statement made to Special Branch officers Tutt and Detective Constable Ian Skinner at Girdwood.

The defence argued that the statement was inadmissible because it was made under duress.

In making this application they invoked a number of recent judgements in Ulster courts in which 'confessions' have been dismissed because the court felt they resulted from 'persuasion' by the RUC or the army.

The key judgement here was

made by Lord Chief Justice Lowry who held that detainees could also sustain what is called 'lingering oppression'. In other words he found that men could be arrested, duffed up by either the army or the RUC and then passed onto pleasant, peaceable policemen.

Nevertheless they could make statements which were untrue because they felt they were under 'lingering oppression'.

Basically this is what the defence argued in Crawford's case. Mr Justice Bean heard evidence from Harry Turner, the Special Branch officers and Crawford before deciding that the statement was inadmissible.

Because this was the only evidence against Crawford, the case against him was dropped. Last Thursday the trial proper commenced after the jury had been sworn in.

Pittendreigh and other arresting officers gave their evidence.

It emerged during cross examination that the defence were pursuing a very special line of attack.

In particular Mr Platt Mills, QC, was interested in two men not before the court, a Mr Parker (mentioned in Crawford's statement) and a Mr Lee. Did the police know them? Did the police know they had provided premises for the defendants?

It became clear that both men had played a considerable part in the acquisition of the weapons found at Wick Road.

When the case adjourned last Friday afternoon, the defence lawyers were pressing for more and more information about this mysterious couple who had somehow evaded police detection since the police swoop.

On Monday morning the prosecution made its shock submission and the defendants were all discharged.

The close of the prosecution case was all the more surprising because in normal circumstances the prosecutor would announce the reasons for his submission in the court. But no reasons were given.

Judge Bean said: 'For reasons known only to themselves, the prosecution have decided to offer no further evidence against the accused. In those circumstances my duty is to direct you to return formal verdicts of not guilty.'

There was a further sensation outside the court. Defence solicitors Simon and Company issued a public statement saying: 'During the trial it was alleged as part of the defence that weapons had been planted at Wick Road, Hackney, by two men whose names were given in court. It was alleged that these two men were police informers and had been working in collusion with the Special Branch.'

'It was alleged that the purpose was to frame the accused who were innocent. During the later stages of the trial questions were put repeatedly to Special Branch officers by defence counsel, but the police said they could not answer them because it would prejudice the security of the state.'

A legal spokesman for the firm told Workers Press yesterday: 'We are left to conjecture. But on all the facts it seems that the prosecution were extremely concerned about the possibility of Mr Barker and Mr Lee being brought into the case. Rather than risk that, they stopped the whole thing.'

### Subscribe!

## workers press

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

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

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:  
£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)  
£6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

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

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

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

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

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Amount enclosed £

I would like information about

## THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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

Name .....

Address .....



# TV

## BBC 1

9.20-9.35 Mr Benn. 9.38-11.38 Schools. 12.55-1.25 Hen allorau. 1.30 Joe. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 3.45 Working with youth. 4.10 Parsley. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Magic roundabout. 4.45 Jack-anory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Boss cat. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.  
6.45 WHERE IN THE WORLD.  
7.00 SPY TRAP. Who Among Us?  
7.25 TOP OF THE POPS.  
8.00 THE GOODIES.  
8.30 THE BURKE SPECIAL. James Burke looks at modern living.  
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.  
9.20 ELIABETH R. The Marriage Game.  
10.50 24 HOURS.  
11.35 MISTRESS OF HARDWICK. Royal Prisoner.  
12.00 Weather.

## BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35-6.30 Open University.  
6.35-7.00 WORKING WITH YOUTH.  
7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.  
7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.  
8.00 BOX ME A BONGO. Filming rare antelopes in the mountains of Kenya.  
8.30 THE VISITORS. A British family goes to live in an Eastern European country in 1951.

## ITV

10.20-12.00 Schools. 12.55 Wills Open Tennis Tournament. 1.40 Schools. 2.30 Good afternoon (London, Yorkshire, Tyne Tees only). 3.00 Tennis. 3.45 Marcus Welby MD. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Secret squirrel. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.  
6.40 CROSSROADS.  
7.05 FILM: 'THE DANGEROUS DAYS OF KIOWA JONES'. Robert Horton, Diane Baker. A wandering ranch hand takes charge of a young killer.  
9.00 NEAREST AND DEAREST. THIS WEEK.  
9.30 NEWS AT TEN.  
10.30 CINEMA.  
11.00 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.  
11.35 WILLS OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT.  
12.20 EPILOGUE.

9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK: KEITH MICHELL. Guests Ian McKellen, Moira Anderson, Peter Gilmore, Angela Richards, Jeremy Lloyd.  
10.10 YESTERDAY'S WITNESS. A Way with the Girls.  
10.40 NEWS ON 2 and weather.  
10.45 FILM: 'HUNTING FLIES'. Polish satire of life in Warsaw directed by Andrzej Wajda.



In the second of the re-screened Elizabeth R plays Glenda Jackson plays 'The Marriage Game'—BBC 1

## REGIONAL TV

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 3.25 All our yesterdays. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 London. 4.50 Make a wish. 5.15 London. 6.00 Newsday. Police file. 6.25 I dream of Jeannie. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Film: 'McCloud: The Disposal Man'. 9.00 London. 11.00 On the line. 11.35 London.

TYNE TEES: 11.00 London. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.45 London. 4.55 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Popeye. 7.10 Film: 'High Flight'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 London. 12.15 News. 12.30 Revolving chair.

SCOTTISH: 11.00 London. 3.30 Once upon a time. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Fireball XL5. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 A place of her

own. 7.00 Film: 'Breakfast at Tiffany's'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Expansions. 11.45 Beagan gaidhlig. 12.00 Tennis.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 London. 3.32 News. 3.35 Job look. 3.40 Women today. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 London. 4.55 Rumble jumble. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Folk afore us. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Andy. 7.30 Film: 'My Blood Runs Cold'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Viewfinder. 11.35 London. 12.20 Epilogue.

CHANNEL: 10.20 London. 3.55 States of Jersey lottery. 4.05 Nuts and bones. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Funny face. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Ten Gentlemen From West Point'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Single-handed Trans-Atlantic Race. 11.00 London. 12.15 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 10.30 Report. 12.15 News. 12.19 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 10.20 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Send for dithers. 4.55 Richard the Lionheart. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 Dr Simon Locke. 7.15 Film: 'Jubal'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Odd couple. 11.25 News. 11.35 London. 12.20 Weather. Epilogue.

HARLECH: 10.20 London. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.10 Film: 'The Angel Wore Red'. 9.00 London. 10.30 An average sort of night. 11.00 London. 12.20 Weather.  
HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15-4.30 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Sport West.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 London. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.40 Women today. 4.10 Family affair. 4.35 Rupert Bear. 4.50 Pretenders. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Film: 'Casanova Brown'. 9.00 London.

ULSTER: 10.20 London. 4.10 Gourmet. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Arthur. 5.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Partners. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Dr Simon Locke. 7.30 Film: 'Bonnie Scotland'. 9.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.30 London.

YORKSHIRE: 10.20 London. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 London. 4.55 Bugs Bunny. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Cartoon time. 7.20 Film: 'The Alphabet Murders'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Yorksport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 London. 12.20 Scales of justice. 12.55 Weather.

## Site-by-site deals a danger

BUILDING trades shop stewards will meet in Sheffield tonight to discuss plans for action in support of the national pay claim.

The stewards—over 100 are expected—will include many from the engineering factories who are already involved in action over the engineers' pay and hours claim.

As one leading Sheffield steward pointed out, important lessons from the engineers' claim must be learned by building workers.

The national building trades claim of £35 for 35 hours looks as though it will be fought site by site if the trade union leadership has its way, just as the engineers' claim has been fought in Sheffield, factory by factory.

Sam Holmes, UCATS member and senior steward from Sheffield Public Works Department, said:

'The danger of conducting the struggle on selected sites is that the claim can be won on these sites but this does not compel employers on other sites and in other sections of the industry to pay up. Vast sections will be left isolated such as the nationalized industries and local authority workers.

'The only logical thing to do is for everyone to be out for the full claim.

'This claim—£35 for 35 hours—can't be won unless building trade workers are prepared to take on this Tory government. This government has made its plans to take on the working class and defeat them in struggle and so building trade workers must build their own forms of organization to defeat this government.

'These are the Councils of Action being organized in Liverpool and elsewhere.'

## NE men occupy to save their jobs

OVER 300 workers at Leadgate Engineering, Consett, Co Durham, have launched a determined factory occupation to save their jobs.

When they heard the factory was to close on June 30 the shop stewards seized the keys and locked the gate.

Since then it has been manned round the clock. Raw materials are being allowed in, but no machinery or finished products are allowed out of the works.

The firm's lorries have been taken from their garages into the plant compound to prevent them from being used to dismantle the factory.

Leadgate was established in Consett three years ago as a subsidiary of G. Stibbe & Co. It attracted large government grants for investing in the North East development area.

The company says it is forced to close the plant because of a slump in demand for its product, knitting machinery, which has resulted from the recession in the yarn-producing industry.

The shop stewards fear that the company will use their Consett machinery to equip a new factory at Braunstone, near Leicester. Jigs have already been removed while the workers were on their Spring bank holiday.

Convener Fred Carlyon told Workers Press: 'You just can't axe 300 men like that. We have been trying to talk to management, but in the meantime we are making sure that the company will still be here.'

'All the men are behind this action. We are working normally

inside the works, but after June 30 we will be sitting in.'

He denied claims broadcast on local television that some of the workers had been offered employment at Braunstone. He said the men were having nothing to do with job interviews anyway.

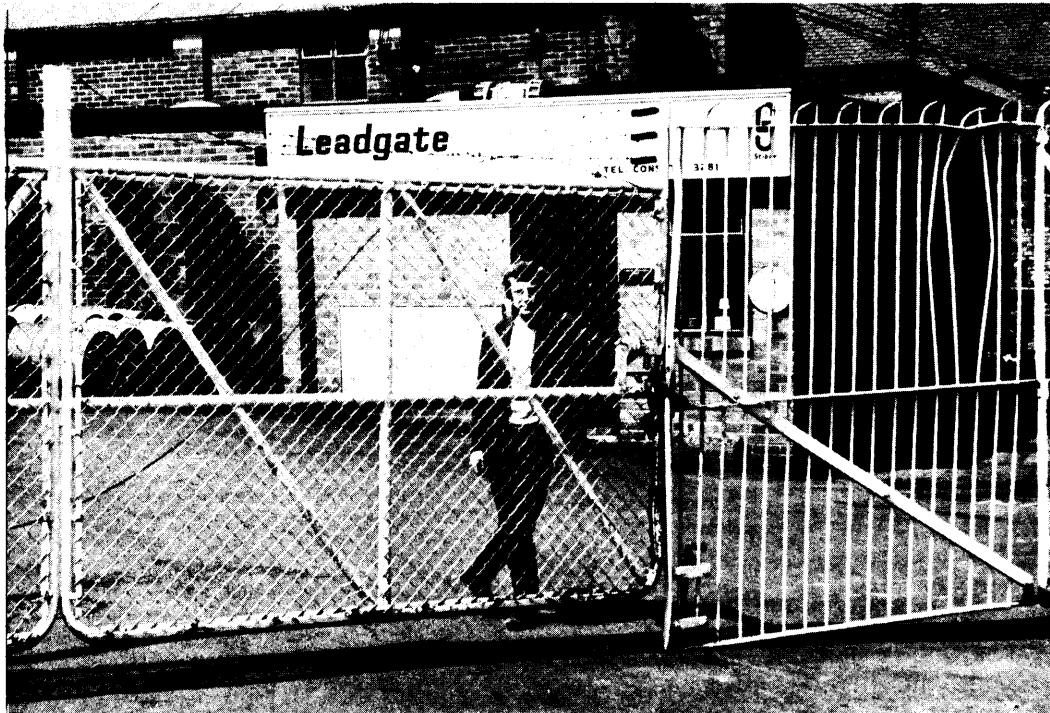
'I consider myself employed by this company. I am here and I am fighting to keep my job.'

'The Tory government and the employers have been attacking the working class ever since they came to power, the Industrial Relations Act is a direct attack against the unions.'

The next step in the campaign will be a joint meeting between the Consett and Braunstone shop stewards.

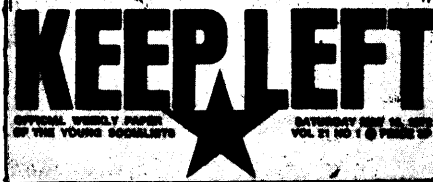
FARES on London's all-night buses will be doubled on Sunday, London Transport announced yesterday. The night rate will be effective from 12.30 a.m. until 5 a.m. every day.

The increase follows reports that London Transport is losing £71,000 a year on its all-night buses. London bus and underground fares are due to rise generally in September.



Gates are locked with workers inside at the Leadgate plant at Consett, Co. Durham. Yesterday's p. 12 picture was not of Leadgate workers on the march, but of the Edlington miners' rally last Saturday in the same area.

## NOW WEEKLY



The eight-page youth paper which leads the fight against the Tory government, for the right to work, in factories, schools and on the dole queues.

Plenty of news, views and features at 3p a copy. Order your regular copy now. Yearly subscription £2.86. Send to Keep Left, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

Please send me 'Keep Left' for one year

I enclose £2.86

Name .....

Address .....



# Engineers totally opposed to Common Market entry

FROM PHILIP WADE  
in Hastings

BRITAIN'S engineering union yesterday re-affirmed its total opposition to the Common Market. It instructed the executive to press a future Labour government to pursue a policy of withdrawal from the Market.

This decision was carried by a very large majority at the annual conference of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers meeting at Hastings yesterday.

As an alternative to the Common Market, however, the resolution weakly posed 'a policy of trade with all countries without interference in the economic, political and social structure of the countries concerned'.

The debate brought out the right wing for the first time at the annual conference of the 1½ million-strong union.

Jim Conway, general secretary, said he was pro-Market.

'And it seems I have more in common with the Communist parties of Italy and France than with the Communist Party of Great Britain', he added.

Other speakers seized on the lack of an alternative perspective in the resolution to come down for entry.

Clarence Richards, Stamford, Lincs, said: 'We have to get in and reap the benefits from the re-structuring of industry. The strides EEC countries have made in 13 years is astounding'.

Moving the resolution Len Miseldine, Walworth, spoke only about the reasons for not going in.

'Nobody has given us a guarantee of the benefits. The problems we face as a union won't disappear in the Common Market.'

'The debate on the Treaty of Rome in parliament was curtailed with no detailed discussion allowed.'

And Stan Cole, Manchester, asked: 'How does entry into the Common Market benefit the

## But Stalinists withdraw motion criticizing pro-EEC Labourites

COMMUNIST PARTY and 'left' delegates at the AUEW conference yesterday withdrew the motion condemning Labour MPs who voted with the Tories on the Common Market.

As soon as the resolution was moved, John Boyd, EC member, jumped up and said delegates had to be careful not to 'be dragged along by the coat-tails of ambitious politicians.'

'Don't be a bully, so liberal with your condemnation—you might be eulogizing them next year.'

Communist Party member Les Allen replied by attacking the Labour MPs who voted with the Tories for 'disloyalty' and 'treachery'.

'If they're Tories they should be Tories and be out with.'

The Tories were in, he added, because the Labour MPs had forgotten where they came from.

Although Eddie Marsden, general secretary of the constructional section, supported the motion, he was opposed by another EC member Bob Wright who called for the motion's withdrawal.

During the lunch break CP members assured me the motion would nevertheless be put.

As soon as the afternoon session began, however, it was clear a change had taken place to preserve 'unity'.

Mover of the resolution Jim

Hamilton from Glasgow then rose and said other parties, including the CP, had made a mistake and it was correct to criticize them and such criticism had to be allowed.

But he withdrew the motion. Some delegates still wanted to press a vote on the motion until Hugh Scanlon intervened despite the discussion having been closed.

'What will the implications be if it is carried,' he said. 'It will look like we are split on the whole issue of the MPs. If it isn't, we will seem to be condoning them.' He asked for no opposition to the motion's withdrawal and delegates eventually agreed.

working class? Whenever have the bosses been concerned about us? There is a need for implacable opposition to entry.'

Stockport delegate Bill Anten said the arguments for joining should be getting better after ten years—the prosperity should be showing through.

'But we have had riots in Europe on VAT and a national strike in Italy against the rising cost of living.'

'As an alternative you can always sit in the frying pan instead of jumping into the fire. Is it more than a loss of sovereignty that's at stake or are we seeing the line-up for the next war as capitalism collapses?'

TASS executive member George Doughty attacked those supporting the resolution who thought another Labour government would re-negotiate better terms.

'That's an illusion to say you don't like the Treaty of Rome and want better terms. On that basis you should vote against.'

Answering the attack on the Communist Party by Conway, Alf Moffat, Twickenham, said that the CP had been the only constant party against the Common Market.

The resolution was carried by 49 votes to 18. The two Northern Ireland delegates abstained.



Dockers who invaded Transport House confront docks officer Tim O'Leary (left).

From p. 1

had refused to consider sharing the unattached men out between different employers and subsidizing those who had an overload.

He said that the employers had claimed that one in seven men were surplus to requirements even on the attached register.

Commenting on yesterday's deferment vote, dockers' leaders from the striking ports were uniformly bitter.

Walter Cunningham, chairman of Hull shop stewards, said that the decision was 'absolutely diabolical'.

It was time dockers got rid of the likes of O'Leary and T&GWU secretary Jack Jones, he said.

Saturday's stewards' meeting

THE IRISH Republic's opposition Fine Gael and Irish Labour parties may form a united front at the next General Election in a bid to oust Jack Lynch's Fianna Fail government, at present poised on a knife-edged majority.

BOILERMAKERS at the Hebburn, Tyneside, shipbuilding yard of Swan Hunter who walked out twice this week over a dispute involving shipwrights yesterday voted by a large majority to stay out.

## TSA is test case for staff associations

ANOTHER major battle began in the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday — this one over the key issue of union recognition.

In a test case, members of the Telecommunications Staff Association are accusing the Post Office of an unfair industrial practice by failing to provide facilities for the conduct of the Association's business.

If the TSA wins, it will be the green light to the numerous staff associations which have mushroomed since the Industrial Relations Act.

Council for the Post Office, David Turner-Samuels, QC, warned that if the court found for the TSA the trade union movement would be 'splintered'.

He said: 'The question is are the Post Office required as a matter of law to grant recognition... because this must be faced that if these applicants succeed, every other applicant must succeed because this application is not based on merit but on pure law.'

He said the TSA members were claiming that Section 5 of the Act gave them the right to use Post Office premises for union activity.

To support their case they were using a clause in Section 5 which said it was an unfair industrial practice to 'prevent or deter' workers from exercising their rights under the Section.

In his submission there were two things at issue.

One was whether a trade union which was not recognized by the Post Office had the right to carry out activities on Post Office premises.

The other was what access to premises were employers required to give to trade union officials to carry out their business in or outside working hours.

He said the Post Office submitted that they were only required not to prevent or deter members of an organization not recognized by the Post Office from carrying out lawful activities outside their premises.

The origins of the TSA are to be found in the National Guild of Telephonists which lost negotiating rights at the Post Office in 1970 when the Union of Post Office Workers won exclusive recognition.

The TSA is registered under the Act as a trade union, whereas the UPW is not.



**£295.33**  
**FOR JUNE**  
**APPEAL FUND**

WE ARE still a long way from achieving our target. This month we aim to raise £1,750 — £500 extra to help us cover greatly increased expenditure.

Each month, so far, your response has been more than magnificent. We know it is a tough assignment to try and raise this extra amount once again, but we feel that the political situation demands it.

After the railmen's pay settlement now is the time to mobilize all the strength of the working class to make this government resign. We therefore appeal to you all—help us change the position for our June Fund. Raise in every way possible, as much as you can. Try and add something extra yourself. Post all your donations immediately to:

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



## Why we called off arms case—Rawlinson

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Sir Peter Rawlinson has issued a statement explaining why charges against four Saor Eire and Sinn Fein members were suddenly dropped on Monday at the fourth day of their trial.

He said: 'There was a need in this case to protect the identity of certain persons in the interests of these persons' safety.'

'As the evidence emerged... it became clear the witnesses

[Special Branch officers] were being inhibited from revealing the whole of their evidence.'

Because all the evidence could not be heard, in the interests of 'justice' the trial was halted.

The decision to withdraw the charges was taken after the prosecutor, Mr Brian Leary, held talks with Rawlinson and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Norman Skelhorn.

● See page 10 for a full investigation of the mysterious case.

### LATE NEWS WEATHER

NEWS DESK  
01-720 2000  
CIRCULATION  
01-622 7029

SOUTHERN ENGLAND, East Anglia and the East Midlands will have sunny spells with perhaps isolated showers. The rest of England and Wales and also Northern Ireland, South and East Scotland will be dry with sunny spells.

North and West Scotland will be rather cloudy with brief sunny intervals.

Temperatures will be near normal in most districts but in southern England and East Anglia it will be rather cool.

Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Dry and sunny but some rain in northern districts later. Temperatures normal but becoming rather warm in the south.

CONSTRUCTION and civil engineering group from Bootle, Lancashire, Norwest Holst, is setting up a joint £50m company with Le Groupe Barbot, a family-owned company which claims to be the leading French producer of industrialized metal frame buildings.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.  
Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.