

workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● MONDAY JULY 17, 1972 ● No. 819 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

CBI CHIEF CLAIMS TORY-TUC WAGE FIX AGREED

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

BRITAIN'S top boss has revealed the secret aim of the plan by employers and union leaders to stop strikes.

W. O. Campbell Adamson, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, says the anti-strike panel to be set up by the CBI and TUC in September, will work towards cutting wage increases down to 8 per cent—at least 1 per cent less than the current annual increase in prices.

Adamson also makes it clear that union leaders have agreed to this new 'pay-norm'—in effect a wage freeze.

The news comes one day before union leaders and employers get Tory blessing for their scheme at 10 Downing Street tomorrow.

In an exclusive interview to the ultra-Tory 'Sunday Telegraph' Adamson discussed the role of the conciliation panel agreed to by union leaders and the CBI last Wednesday.

He says this voluntary machinery will not work under the Tory government, but that pay 'guide-lines' will be drawn up.

'It's perfectly true... we shan't start any piece of conciliation or arbitration with a government guide-line in mind, and nobody is going to get a deal which suits them perfectly, but I do think we can help reduce the rate of inflation... and don't run away with the idea that we shan't have guide-lines of our own—for example at the moment we're working with a figure of 8 per cent in mind.' (My emphasis, S.J.)

The 'we' can only refer to the employers and the union leaders involved in establishing this machinery.

These startling admissions expose the talk by 'left' union leaders like Jack Jones of the transport workers and Hugh Scanlon of the engineers as phoney. Jones said this weekend that any government interference in wages would mean an end to the CBI-TUC deal.

This kind of big talk is a fraud. The government, for example, has been holding its industrial civil servants to an 8

per cent pay increase since June. (See pages 4 and 12.)

But this is exactly the wage norm the union leaders are accepting from the employers under the so-called voluntary system!

In other words the CBI-TUC 'initiative' is another name for Tory wage freeze. And every working-class household attempting to keep up their living standards while food prices rocket will recognize it as such.

The union leaders enter this coalition with the employers in desperation.

Adamson made it quite clear that inflation was so serious a threat to the profits of the big monopolies that a serious review of the political future was being taken in the board rooms. He warned:

'If we can't cut back on the

rate of inflation then we are on a very dangerous path indeed, because at the end of the road there surely lies a dictatorship of either the right or the left. You've already seen the gap widen between the rich and the poor and that, of course, plays into the hands of people who want to wreck our society.'

He did not reveal what regime the employers would prefer— suffice to say they are not noted in their love of socialism. Adamson said enough to show that employers are preparing to 'go to the end of the road' and beat inflation and the working class with a dictatorship of the right.

Right at the centre of this ruling-class campaign are the union leaders—men like Feather and Jones, who rounded off their agreement on Wednesday as guests at the CBI cosy and very private dinner party.

They ignore all the demands of the rank and file—the burning desire to press forward for big wage increases and take on the Tories—expressed in the recent miners' strike and the clash with the dockers and rail workers.

Instead the TUC chiefs, left and right, faithfully carry out the requirements of Tory economic policy.

The gulf between the desires of the ordinary worker and the antics of these men is now an open scandal in the whole labour movement.

It means workers must press forward and build the Socialist Labour League and the All Trades Unions Alliance—which are pledged to build a new leadership in the unions that recognizes the wages struggle means a political fight to bring the Tories down.



W. O. Campbell Adamson (right at a CBI lunch earlier this year), who revealed the 8 per cent figure in an interview with the 'Sunday Telegraph'.



Transport and General Workers' Union general secretary Jack Jones is involved in the CBI talks and in discussions with Lord Aldington on the docks. Above: Some of his members tackle him outside Congress House after last Wednesday's All Trades Unions Alliance lobby of the TUC Economic Committee which agreed to conciliation plans with the employers.

Lincoln Council agree to rent rise

LABOUR councillors in Lincoln have defied local Party policy and voted to implement the Tory Housing Finance Bill, which will mean rent rises of up to £1 in the city.

The Party's general management committee had voted three-to-one to ignore the Tory Act when it becomes law, but at a special meeting of the Labour-controlled council, Labour members voted with only three abstentions to implement the Act.

First signs of this pro-Tory revolt came right after the general management meeting. Members with 'left' reputations, as well as right wingers, were talking contemptuously of the challenge from the trade union vote, which was against implementation.

Jack Middleton—a disabled worker, a council tenant and a militant in Minister Labour Party ward—condemned the councillors as a 'load of weak-kneed socialists'.

The Lincoln Labour Party recently took a decision to throw out MP Dick Taverne as their local candidate because of his support of the Tories over the Common Market.

A SPOKESMAN for strikers at the Jaguar car factory in Coventry said yesterday that leaflets telling strikers how to claim social security benefits were distributed before the strike committee had seen them.

The leaflets, printed by the local Claimants' and Unemployed Workers' Union, had given rise to newspaper stories which caused 'huge embarrassment'.

The spokesman admitted that they had been handed out to strikers by officials who did not know what was in them.

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What we think

The stuff that treachery is made of

THE TROUBLE with the leadership of the IRA Provisionals, wrote Mary Holland in yesterday's 'Observer', is that they do not think in terms of politics being the art of the possible.

She said: 'When Mr Seamus Twomey, the Belfast IRA chief, speaks contemptuously of people breaking their word you feel he does not recognize those shades of grey that to most working politicians are the very stuff of politics.'

On the contrary both wings of the IRA are on their knees only a few paces behind Mary Holland worshipping at the same shrine.

If the IRA doesn't believe in 'grey areas'; if they do not believe in that system of tea and compromise by which the bourgeoisie maintain their domination of the working class, what were they doing talking to Whitelaw at all?

Holland is almost certainly right to speculate that the Provos broke the 14-day 'peace' because they were offered no quid pro quo by Whitelaw with which to temper the feelings of their more extreme followers.

But what has always been at stake in Ulster is the inescapable need to overcome the consequences of the crisis of capitalism and imperialism by overturning the state apparatus of bourgeois domination—at Westminster and Stormont.

There never has been and never can be any middle road in this struggle. The dictatorship of the bourgeoisie must be replaced by the dictatorship of the proletariat and this means the fight for the revolutionary Marxist party.

The reformists, Stalinists and revisionists willfully turned their backs on this perspective.

The Labour Party reformists, the Stalinists, the revisionists of the International Socialists and International Marxist Group, tail ended by the IRA, have, to a man, accepted direct rule.

The result is to leave Ulster's working class bitterly divided by religion and tearing at each others throats to obtain maximum sectarian concessions from the imperial power.

Far from attacking the middle-class leaders of the IRA for their deliberate and criminal failure to unite Catholic and Protestant workers in the struggle against the main enemy—the Tory government—Holland's complaint is that they have not been opportunistic enough.

It is known that while Holland is not a member of Cliff's International Socialism group, many of her perspectives are drawn from these circles.

She said: 'The leaders of the Belfast IRA are mainly middle-aged men, hardened by long terms of jail and internment alternating with periods of freedom during which they operated as a fanatical minority.'

She concludes that it is a great pity that the IRA leaders are not more like 'Stormont MP Mr Paddy Devlin, republican in (his) sympathies, but with a shrewd grasp of what is politically possible'.

A month ago, Eamon McCann and leaders of the revisionist Anti-Internment League, backed by Mid-Ulster MP Miss Bernadette Devlin, were vowing that the IRA would fight to the last barricade to force Westminster to agree to their demands.

Since then, as the barricades have come down, their silence has been eloquent. Holland may well speak for a new phase in the monstrous betrayal of Ulster workers for which the revisionists bear a prime responsibility.

EEC Finance Ministers in London

BY JOHN SPENCER

FINANCE Ministers of the ten countries of the enlarged Common Market converge on London this morning for a crisis meeting dominated by the run on the dollar.

Ever since the pound was floated three weeks ago dollar-holders have been trying to convert their money into one of the European currencies. The wave of selling reached a peak on Thursday and Friday last week.

The Common Market central banks had to buy in more than \$2,000m to keep the dollar above its parity 'floor'. Stringent exchange controls introduced in France Germany and Switzerland and rumoured to be imminent in Belgium and Holland failed to stem the influx.

The controls have provoked indignation in financial circles. The Swiss Bankers' Association accused the government of decreeing controls on its own responsibility without the approval of the banks.

Dollar crisis meeting today

Long a haven for 'hot' money, Switzerland now has the tightest controls in Europe. And bankers there expect even harsher measures, including possibly the annulment of forward contracts to deliver dollars for Swiss francs.

There is now much talk of a 'controlled float' of the Common Market currencies which would effectively mean a substantial dollar devaluation. The main European currencies were up-valued against the dollar only seven months ago as part of the Washington agreement. Such a move would favour the Americans by making their exports less expensive than those of their European competitors.

Karl Klagen, the governor of the Bundesbank, said both the bank and the West German government were determined to prevent another mark revaluation, either directly or under the guise of a 'float'.

But he added, significantly, that he was not 'fundamentally hostile' to the idea of a

concerted float by the EEC countries. His statement in fact served only to fuel the wave of dollar selling.

The floating pound has already effectively wrecked attempts at monetary union between the EEC countries. A 'concerted' float of the continental currencies would be the coup de grace. The mark and franc would float upwards, while the Italian lire would certainly float down.

The London Finance Ministers' meeting is likely to ask the United States for a hefty increase in the official price of gold which would enable them to buy gold with their surplus dollar reserves.

The 'free market' gold price currently stands at \$65.10 an ounce—\$27.10 above the 'official' price of \$38 fixed last December. However, the Americans are primarily concerned with liquidating their balance-of-payments deficit and have a vested interest in another substantial devaluation of the dollar.

AROUND THE WORLD

Dubcek supporters to go on trial

A GROUP of former student leaders and journalists who opposed the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia appear in court today in Prague charged with subversion.

The group, some of whom have been in prison since November last year, are to be charged under Article 98 of the Penal Code which provides for penalties ranging from one to ten years' imprisonment.

The size and composition of the group to be tried today were not immediately known, but sources said it was believed to include former student leader Jiri Mueller along with five other people.

Prominent intellectuals, journalists and former Communist Party leaders from the Dubcek period have been under arrest in Czechoslovakia for some time.

They include the journalists Karel Kyncl and Vladimir Nepras, sociologist Rudolf Battak, historian Jan Tesar, scientist Karel Kaplan and former Party leaders Milan Huebl, Jiri Littera and Jaroslav Sabata.

Despite a pledge from Communist Party chief Gustav Husak that there will be no show trials,

Prague has already seen the trial of chess grandmaster Ludek Pachman, sentenced to two years' imprisonment on four subversion charges.

Pachman was released after sentencing, having already served 18 months in jail despite ill-health.

The latest trial shows that the Stalinist rulers in Czechoslovakia are now turning cautiously towards legal action against Dubcek supporters, despite their pledges to the contrary.

Vietnam 'peace' talks go behind closed doors

SECRET negotiations between the United States and North Vietnam seemed likely to resume after both sides had indicated their readiness to renew them yesterday.

Le Duc Tho, the North Vietnamese politburo member who has secretly met Nixon's adviser Dr Henry Kissinger more than a dozen times over the past two years, indicated at the weekend he would be glad to do so

again if the US had anything to offer.

Kissinger had been meeting President Nixon at the San Clemente White House every day for the past week to discuss the Vietnam situation. The Americans are not concerned about the North Vietnamese proviso that they should enter discussions with 'something to offer'.

William Rogers, Nixon's Secretary of State, said: 'I think it is much more important what is said in diplomatic circles and what is said when it gets down

to serious discussion. I think most of the things that are said on public occasions are really for propaganda purposes.'

Rogers said there were some slight nuances in the Vietnamese position expressed at the reopened Paris negotiations on Thursday. They were 'slightly encouraging', he said, though he did not say what they were.

Hanoi's offer to reopen secret talks follows months of pressure from Moscow and Peking, where the Stalinist lead-

ers both recently received President Nixon.

Combined with the blockade of northern ports and the stepped-up bombardment of the north, the aim has been to drive the liberation fighters into a corner.

Nixon wants a settlement favourable to the US before the November presidential election. The administration has been dropping broad hints that their bargaining will be much tougher if the President is re-elected without a settlement in Vietnam.

Briefly...

THE QUEEN, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Anne are to pay a state visit to Yugoslavia at the invitation of President Tito from October 17 to 21 this year. It is their first-ever state visit to a 'socialist' country. A week ago Princess Anne attended the wedding in fascist Spain of Prince Alexander, the pretender to the Yugoslav throne.

EGYPTIAN premier Aziz Sidky returned to Cairo at the weekend from a 30-hour visit to Moscow for talks with Soviet leaders. He told a banquet in the Soviet capital that Egypt was sure the USSR was 'standing with us in all forms of support and backing in all fields'. But the Cairo newspaper 'Al Ahram' implied there were still wide differences between the two countries.

SIX PRISONERS were shot and wounded and two guards were believed to be held hostage in a prison riot near Baltimore, Maryland, yesterday. More than 250 convicts were involved in the riot which began when three escaping prisoners were shot by guards. Rebel convicts were reported to have broken into the armoury and seized weapons. The six people known to have been injured were hit when gunfire broke out during the rioting.

LIBYA'S ruling Revolutionary Command Council has announced the formation of a reshuffled cabinet under prime minister Abdel Salem Jalloud, who was appointed last week. News of the reshuffle, from the Egyptian Middle East News Agency, gave no indication of the fate of President Muammar Gaddafi, who is rumoured to be in prison in Tripoli, the Libyan capital.

TRIAL of four Indians, three men and a woman, on charges under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts, resumes in Pretoria, South Africa, today. Mohamed Essop (22), Yousof Essack (21), Indrasen Moodley (27) and Mrs Amina Desai (51) have denied promoting the policies of the outlawed South African Communist Party and the African National Congress.

CORRECTION

An Editorial Board statement in Workers Press, Monday, June 12, stated that the application of David Maude, our industrial correspondent, for membership of the Labour and Industrial Correspondents' Group 'is now supported by correspondents from the BBC, ITN, "The Guardian", "Daily Mirror", "Sun", "Daily Mail", "Tribune", "The Scotsman", "Financial Times", "Observer", "Sunday Times" and others'. This was incorrect. The paragraph quoted should have referred to a petition these correspondents signed calling for a special meeting of the Labour and Industrial Correspondents' Group to decide the fate of Maude's application. The petition did not support the application as such.

Bhutto goes to Sind province

PAKISTAN president Zulfikar Ali Bhutto arrived in Karachi at the weekend to begin a week-long tour of the troubled Sind province which has been under military occupation following language riots in which at least 14 people were killed.

He began his visit by announcing a compromise over the Bill making Sindhi the province's sole official language. It was this Bill which sparked the riots between Sindhi- and Urdu-speaking inhabitants of Karachi and Hyderabad.

According to Bhutto, the Bill

will be promulgated as law, but Urdu-speakers will have 12 years grace to learn Sindhi. During that period it will be illegal to discriminate against them for not knowing the official language.

But the shaky 'solution' does nothing to settle the deep unrest which lies behind the language riots.

For example, workers in Karachi port and in the city's industrial estate are refusing to return to work until management agree to pay them for the week they have been prevented from working by curfew regulations.

Following his agreement with Indian premier Mrs Indira Gandhi,

which was ratified on Saturday by the Pakistan National Assembly, Bhutto is now seeking American support to bolster his crisis-ridden regime.

This explains his decision to withdraw Pakistan from the South East Asia Treaty Organization, while simultaneously activating adherence to the Central Treaty Organization, SEATO's Middle Eastern counterpart.

Bhutto said he would withdraw from CENTO as well as SEATO if its members did not give him the support he wants. The country's economy is in tatters following the war with India and the loss of Bangla Desh.

Twelve months ago John Dillon, a paint-shop steward at Ford's Halewood factory, was sacked for allegedly 'holding an unauthorized meeting' with his members. The move was part of a disciplinary crackdown by the company following the ten-week pay strike which had ended two months previously. It followed a visit to Halewood by Robert Ramsey, the company's chief labour relations officer. With just two months to go before the start of another pay claim at Ford's John Dillon here criticizes an account of his sacking in a recent book on last year's strike—and points to the significance of these events for today.

THE FIGHT AT FORDS

BY JOHN DILLON

It is a year since the workers at Halewood showed a magnificent solidarity when a shop steward was sacked. The last few pages of the recent book 'The Ford Strike' by John Mathews have an account of this strike which followed 12 weeks after the big strike for £10.

There is one general point I'd like to make first about this book of John Mathews. It is quite a good 'diary of events', but the author avoids making any real comments or committing himself.

I think he could have said that the way the leaders ended the general Ford strike was responsible for the attack which Ford's launched on the shop organization immediately afterwards.

In Mathews' book, he says correctly that the union leaders dropped the demand for a no victimization clause. I think this gave the company a free hand to go to town on the shop stewards' organization afterwards. If Mathews had spoken more to the lads on the floor he would have known this.

At a meeting of shop stewards, a group of us pressed for a no-victimization proviso to be included in the return-to-work agreement. The answer we got from our union leadership was that it wasn't necessary. From our experience it is absolutely necessary when working for the Ford Motor Co. It was then, it is now and it always will be in the future.

It is common knowledge in Halewood that my sacking was a put-up job. But, for those outside the Halewood plant, I'd like to run through the events again.

MANNING ISSUE

The company said that I held an unauthorized meeting in the paint shop and took a leading part in a demonstration. This is a complete and utter lie.

The landing deck had stopped over a manning issue. I had been sent for twice that same night and got them to start work while I put the dispute in procedure. Because the pressure was too great they stopped again. The sealer deck stopped in sympathy. For three-quarters of an hour they waited for me, but the supervisor never informed me they were asking for me.

They were told to go home. Work dried up in other

sections and I too was told to go home 45 minutes after they were, together with the metal repair section, where I was working. I went my usual route home through the plant. As I went to the door, the men stopped me and asked me what the score was.

This was the 'unauthorized meeting' I was accused of. I went to the supervisor's office. By then, the men were naturally incensed and came crowding into the office. I persuaded them to go out of the plant to a meeting.

The strike which followed my sacking did not result in the total victory that John Mathews implies in his book. He says the strike ended on the basis that 'Dillon was to be reinstated, not as a steward, but as an operative in a different section of the plant' and then says 'the demand for a joint investigation was abandoned'. Finish. No comment.

We decided to return to work on a recommendation from the platform that I would be reinstated as an operative, pending an inquiry. On that basis I said at the time that it was a 'victory for commonsense'. I was so confident that it was such a ham fisted attempt to frame me that I said to someone the union would be able to prove the allegations made by the company were untrue.

I went to work the next day with everyone else. Then came disillusion and disappointment. I went to see the personnel manager of the paint, trim and assembly (PTA) plant with my convenor to discuss where I was working. Mr Mitchell, the personnel manager, told me there was definitely no agreement to conduct an inquiry.

First off, I told him I wasn't going on the other job, I wanted my old job back as we had been misled. We argued for two hours. The company said if I didn't take the job I'd be sacking myself as there was no alternative job.

In the end I felt I would have to accept the situation and fight it through the branch.

The next thing I saw was the Ford supervisors' bulletin. It stated quite categorically that the agreement for my reinstatement was that I would never be allowed to have a shop stewards' credential within the company again.

When challenged about this at a branch meeting, Bro. McGuire (convenor) and Bro. Craig denied that any such agreement was made.

What struck me was I was



John Dillon: 'the management is trying to use as scapegoats lads who stick up for themselves.'

not really re-instated. Re-instated means you are returned to the conditions you had before. Twelve months later I am still employed in a place separated from the main body of the plant. The ban on me being a steward has not been challenged officially by the union.

NEGATIVE RESULTS

After the strike, at successive branch meetings, there were overwhelming votes asking for an investigation by the union. I personally asked for it, to clear my name. I wrote to Harry Wall, regional official, now retired, appealing for an investigation. I asked to be present at a regional committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union which was to hear a report. From all this I got negative results.

Was the strike a victory? The whole of the victory was in the way the shop floor came out so promptly. It stopped

the company in their tracks. It was a fantastic victory for solidarity which the lads thought, and I thought, left us in a position that I would be reinstated as a shop steward in a few weeks. They felt they had done all the heavy work and all the union had to do was to tie it up. But the union never told us about the agreement which meant that Ford's were deciding who could be shop steward.

John Mathews is right when he says in his book that a different atmosphere was reigning in the plant after this strike, and that Ford's couldn't go on then to pick the next man off their list. But, at this time of writing Ford's have got another blacklist.

'SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS'

At the last PTA joint works' committee, the company complained of a spate of 'unofficial stoppages'. They blamed 'subversive elements' operating

within the plant and asked for trade union co-operation to get rid of them.

Blacklists, reds under the beds, is one of the oldest forms of smokescreens to cover up bad working conditions and under-manning. No responsible trade unionist can fall for this.

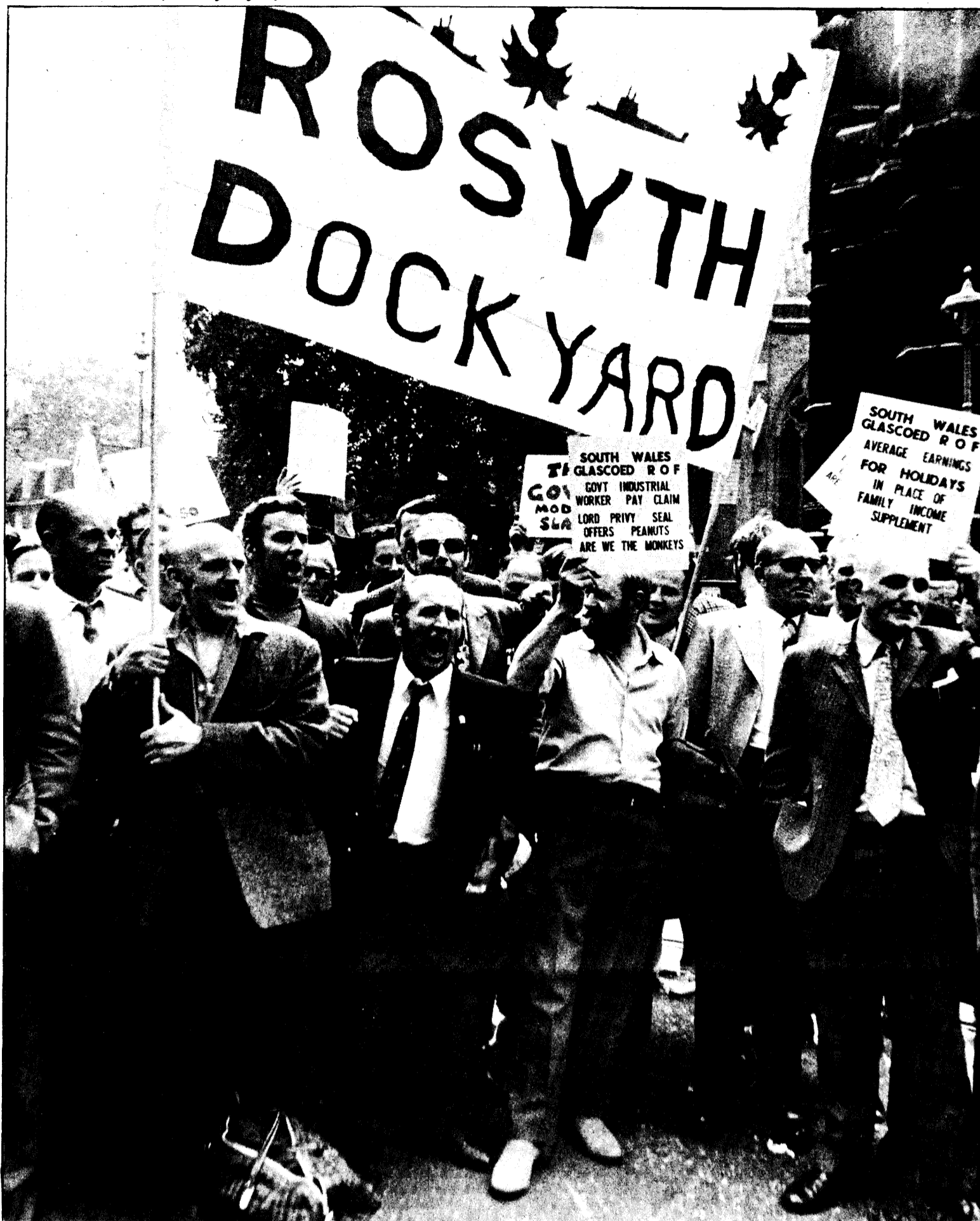
Once again, the management is trying to use as scapegoats the lads who stick up for themselves, naming six in the PTA, over a six-month period. Two militants on the list were sacked last week. Twelve months ago it was the stewards who were being attacked as the 'subversives'. The shop floor knew then that they weren't just defending me but all shop stewards.

Twelve months ago the shop floor didn't fall for it. Why should the stewards? It is the responsibility of the stewards now to defend the shop floor. If they don't, then I'm afraid that John Mathews will have to write another chapter in his book called 'The aftermath is still going on'.

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Left: workers employed in government industrial establishments lobby Parliament. Above: Mike Orton.

According to the Department, this works out at just under 8 per cent. But 8 per cent of what?

Present basic rates are £17.30 a week for unskilled men and £23.35 for craftsmen. There is no disagreement between the Department and its workers here. Where they do disagree is on figures for average earnings.

The Department says that at the beginning of this year skilled timeworkers were earning on average £30.22 a week and unskilled £20.87. It gives a figure of £36.12 for pieceworkers.

Most lobbyists last week maintained that such figures were impossible to attain without large amounts of overtime—something which is becoming increasingly scarce.

I was shown a large number of wage-packets with columns of typed calculations. The highest take-home figure I saw, on the packet of a highly-skilled dockyard worker, was £19.47.

Negotiations between the unions and the Department have not actually broken down, but on July 5 the staff side of the JCC declared that as far as they were concerned the normal talks machinery was exhausted.

The union negotiators will be meeting their executives this Thursday to decide the next move.

Fleet Street industrial correspondents close to the negotiators believe that a national strike call can virtually be ruled out as far as they are concerned.

They think the executives will try to keep talks going so as to squeeze a few extra pence from the Department. White-collar civil servants were offered 8½ per cent the day before last week's lobby, and it is thought the union chiefs will hold out for at least that.

Mike Orton and his 194,000 friends seem in no mood to accept just a few pence, however.

They came to London last week from Scotland, Yorkshire, South Wales, the Midlands and the South-West to say no to £1.50.

Most lobbyists I spoke to calculated that as far as they, personally, were concerned anything less than £2.50 would be a cut in their standard of living.

Rory McCarthy, full-time official for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in Portsmouth, reckoned that his members would continue to demand at least £5.

The Civil Service Department expects to be back in talks with the unions next week. If 8½ per cent is to be its bid, it seems certain that guerrilla strike action, at least, will break out in the most militant sections of the service.

Union leaders would be extremely foolish to try and block such moves when they meet this Thursday.

The danger is, of course, that they will try and put themselves in the leadership of such limited action only to head the rank and file off at a later date. The lesson of last week's lobby for government industrial workers is: Be on your guard.

GOVT WORKERS GET MISERLY OFFER

BY DAVID MAUDE

Mike Orton and his 194,000 fellow-workers in government industrial establishments around the country feel a deep sense of personal insult at the £1.50 pay offer made to them by the Civil Service Department.

With about 800 other delegates from dockyards, ordnance factories, research centres and other state enterprises, Mike lobbied MPs at the House of Commons last week to express his feelings about the offer.

As they waited in the hot sun, penned claustrophobically between metal barriers in the exhaust fumes of busy Old Palace Yard, Westminster, their chants turned from an occasional 'Why are we waiting?' to a steady '30 bob? Heath out!'

The story Mike told me as

we waited was typical of many of the lobbyists. And it explains why the men who keep the wheels of government turning are determined that, this year, they are not going to be fobbed off with yet another meagre rise leaving them trailing the increase in the cost of living.

A worker at Portsmouth dockyard, Mike scorned Civil Service Department claims that average earnings in the service range from £20.87 at the lower end of the scale to over £36 a week.

'We don't think we're bad employers,' a spokesman for the Department told me complacently before I went to the lobby. 'We don't think our offer is too unreasonable.'

His statements were greeted with bitter ribaldry down the queue at Old Palace Yard.

Married with two children, Mike Orton is semi-skilled in the middle pay range. For a 40-hour week he takes home the princely sum of £16.50.

Outside London, Portsmouth is one of the highest rented areas in the country. Mike's rent, not by any means one of the highest among his friends at the dockyard, is £8.15 a week. Which leaves him with £8.35 to keep his growing family and transport himself to work.

'It's degrading that we've got to be crammed together like this, to demonstrate in the street, just for a decent living wage,' Mike told me.

'It's degrading to the intelligence of grown men that they think we will accept the first measly pittance they offer us.'

'We asked for a "substantial" increase at the start of both 1971 and 1972 pay negotiations. Last year we got a few bob—8 per cent.'

'If they think they can pull the same stroke this year, they're wrong.'

'They're trying to exploit the loyalty of the government

industrial worker. There's been almost no industrial action in the dockyards since the time of Nelson.

'But this time they're trying to push us too far.'

Pay negotiations between union national officials and the Civil Service Department kicked off this year on June 1, when, as Mike Orton says, the usual unspecified, 'substantial' increase was asked for.

There have been several meetings since then. But so far the senior civil servants from the Ministries of Defence and the Environment, who constitute the official side of the Joint Co-ordinating Committee, have stuck fast to their first offer.

The offer is: £1.50 a week extra for men, two more days' holiday for almost everyone with ten years' service and a further step towards equal pay for women (bringing them to 92½ per cent of the men's rate).

THE ROLE OF THE PABLOITE REVISIONISTS

A special background series examining the class struggle in Ceylon from 1964 to the present day. Part seven.

The political situation in Ceylon cannot be grasped correctly without analysing the role of the Pabloite revisionists in the class struggle. For in Ceylon they carried their theory and practice to its logical conclusion.

Since the revisionists around Pablo, Mandel and Frank broke from the Fourth International in 1953, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party remained with them until the 1964 betrayal. Defended and protected by the theories of Pablo-Mandel this party not only entered into a coalition with the capitalist class, but in 1971 also actually participated in the massacre of youth and willingly supported the banning of the Trotskyist press of the Revolutionary Communist League.

Now it is plodding along the footsteps of Indonesian Mwiba party, which produced Adam Malik, with its vicious anti-communist propaganda. After forging the alliance with the SLFP, it joined hands with all the reactionaries to denounce the Soviet Union, slander the October revolution and attack the Ceylon Stalinists from the right.

The original opposition to Stalinism, when the Kremlin betrayed the national liberation struggles of the colonial peoples, remained a nationalist one, though it was covered by Trotskyist phraseology.

RESTRICTIVE CO-OPERATION

The LSSP's break from Stalinism was not a move toward the internationalism of the Fourth International and they played no role in building the international whatsoever. The revisionist centre in Paris protected and nourished this reactionary heritage of the Ceylon middle class and when the true colours of the LSSP became clear after 1964 they remained silent about it.

In a period of severe economic crisis, this nationalism inevitably takes the path of defending 'national economy' by strengthening the capitalists' plans for a corporate state.

Only the International Committee of the Fourth International carried a conscious struggle against these traitors in its struggle to build the Fourth International. The Pabloites supported every move from the LSSP towards the capitalist class.

When the first Bandaranaike government came to power in 1956, the LSSP adopted a policy of 'restrictive co-operation' towards the government with the backing of the Paris centre.

And when the masses threatened the regime of Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike during the 1960s the same Paris centre introduced to the LSSP a popular formula of building a front with the petty-bourgeois MEP and the Communist Party.

In the published resolutions of this 'unification' congress of 1963 we can read this criminal policy statement, which asked the LSSP to form a 'genuinely socialist united front government'. The same resolution suggested the LSSP to form 'united front committees' to

prevent the 'possible counter-revolutionary manoeuvring from the part of the Stalinists'.

This historical statement should not be forgotten. This policy was formulated precisely at the moment when the working class and the rural masses launched their biggest offensive against the SLFP regime. In a situation where the revolutionary party should place all its emphasis on the question of defeating the MEP and the CP in the class struggle, and of course to achieve this task to defeat the right-wing opportunism of the LSSP leadership, the 'Secretariat' drove the LSSP to a 'front' with the Stalinists and nationalists on the pretext of preventing the old counter-revolutionary manoeuvring from the CP.

In fact, it actually did encourage new counter-revolutionary manoeuvres from the LSSP.

Even eight years after the great betrayal, Pierre Frank still has some compliments for the 'united front' policy, though he is now completely silent about his own role of advocating it during the 1963-1964 period.

'Nevertheless, there was another partial turn to the left by the party (LSSP) in 1962-1963. When the masses again went into action together with the Ceylonese CP, and a small radical appearing bourgeois organization, the MEP, the LSSP formed what was called the United Left Front. This organization was well received by the Ceylonese masses and could have, were it not for the inadequacy of its programme, constituted the point of departure of an extra-parliamentary struggle for power.' (Pierre Frank — Intercontinental Press, May 8, 1972. Emphasis added.)

Thus the 1964 betrayal was not cooked by the LSSP alone as the 'Secretariat' remained critical. This is a lie. Pabloism was really the architect for the plan of betrayal by the LSSP. (This episode is analysed in detail in the pamphlets by G. Healy 'Ceylon, the Great Betrayal' and by M. Banda 'The Moscoso Affair—A Case History of Revisionism'.)

The section eventually opposed the betrayal and split from the LSSP in 1964.

The breakaway LSSP (R) was repeatedly disoriented by the Paris centre. Instead of training these militants as Marxists, to take up the battle for the alternative leadership, the Pabloite centre supplied them dead ropes of 'united fronts'. This encouraged the development of opportunism inside the party and it split into pieces within two years. Now this LSSP (R), under the leadership of Bala Tampoe, is actually an appendage of the Ceylon Mercantile Union, but still plays the deadly dangerous role in Ceylon class struggle, as we shall see.

CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The foundation of the Ceylon section of the International Committee (the RCL) was laid in a struggle against this betrayal of Marxist principles and theoretical confusion.

In 1971, when the coalition returned to power, the Trotskyists around the RCL were in a position to publish regularly a Sinhala weekly paper, a



Right: Bala Tampoe, leader of the LSSP. After uncritically backing the JVP, Tampoe turned towards the 'liberals' of the SLFP and towards hunger strikes—that is to popular frontism

Tamil fortnightly and a youth paper. They launched energetically the campaign to force the 'left' leaders to break from the coalition. (The press of the RCL has been banned since April 1971.)

A considerable youth movement was built around these policies and regular educational work was conducted.

Because they fought for the perspective of power for the working class, their fight had to be carried against the centrists who adapted themselves to the traditional leaderships, adventurists who refused the role of the working class, and at the same time against the trade union consciousness of the working class. This was a fight for Marxist theory against all forms of revisionism.

The revisionists vehemently opposed RCL policy.

As the first wave of struggles mounted in defence of the trade unions, the LSSP (R) clearly avoided all the political questions involved with this fight and acted as a brake on the revolutionary political development inside the working class. They asked the government to bring legislation

against the employers and thereby adapted to the backward illusions of the working class, strengthening these illusions at the same time.

POLICIES SUICIDAL

This assault on Trotskyism by the LSSP (R) is the international line of the Pabloite revisionists and not a national peculiarity of their Ceylon stooges. The attack by the British International Marxist Group on the policy of the SLL to bring a Labour government to power and the opposition of the American Socialist Workers Party to the fight to build a Labour Party in the USA is the expression of this attack on Trotskyism internationally.

The meaning of the LSSP (R)'s opposition to RCL policy is clearly revealed in an interview given by Bala Tampoe to the Stalinist press in Australia on March 16, 1972:

'The right and imperialism want to force the government to capitulate completely to imperialism or to take action

which would precipitate a crisis. Unfortunately I fear it will capitulate.

'To resist the pressure of imperialism on the economy and to once more rally the masses and gain revolutionary enthusiasm, the government would have to break with imperialism economically, challenge local reaction and come to some arrangement with the Soviet Union for economic aid to help overcome the difficulties resulting from a break with imperialism.' (Intercontinental Press, May 10, 1971.)

This is, precisely, the perspective of the Ceylon Stalinism! And it is not difficult to understand why the Australian Stalinists gave publicity to these ideas of Tampoe.

While attempting to confine the working class only to a trade union perspective and strengthening reformism and Stalinism, Tampoe at the same time made a special contribution to the suicidal policies of the JVP 'guerrilla' youth, whose rising began in April 1971.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



IRLAM: STEEL TOWN CONDEMNED TO DIE

BY STEPHEN JOHNS. PHOTOGRAPHS BY P. J. ARKELL

Lord Melchett hear our words today.

Lord Melchett hear our plea. We are not machines or numbers.

We are people can't you see.

The verse was written by a steelworker. It could be called the song of Irlam — a south Lancashire community halfway to economic extinction and waiting for the process to be complete in June 1974.

This date is the British Steel Corporation's deadline for the near total closure of the Irlam

steelworks—first announced in June 1971.

In December this year nearly 2,000 steelworkers went quietly on the dole as the first phase took effect with the closure of the coke ovens, blast furnace, No. 2 steel plant and the foundry.

Irlam — once a fully-integrated steelworks relying mainly on scrap metal—is now a cold steelmaking and billet production unit. The BSC will run this operation down, sacking 2,000 men and leaving only the profitable rod mill in production, employing about 500 workers.

Irlam is a victim of the Corporation's preparations for the Common Market. These involve concentrating basic

iron and steel production at big integrated plants using the modern BOS method for smelting imported ore. The balance of its steel output would come from smaller electric arc furnaces—the so called mini-mills.

BSC has sunk £200m in the Anchor project at Scunthorpe, and there, and at Lackenby in Yorkshire, large BOS plants will be installed.

By 1973 billet output at Scunthorpe will have expanded sufficiently to make up for the loss from the rolling mills of Irlam and Warrington. This whole process of rationalization and concentration of production at selected big sites involves a massive 50,000 redundancies throughout the industry.

The philosophy within the BSC boardroom was brutally summed up by Herbert Morley, managing director of the general steels division, when he told the Irlam Action Committee: 'Even if we could produce more steel, we would have to do it with fewer people to compete, this is just regrettable.'

He crushed the delegation with a reminder that production per man in the Common Market was three times the British rate.

INEFFICIENT

Indeed it is not just centres like Irlam and the West of Scotland which depend on the ancient and inefficient open-hearth process, who are feeling the cold wind. Scunthorpe itself has suffered 2,000 redundancies over the past 18 months.

But for Irlam the closure is a fatal wound to the community's economy.

The original steel labour force of 4,662 was four times larger than all the other sources of employment within the Irlam area. Redundancies

outside steel have been severe. The local soap works has lost half its labour force and only last week Lancashire Tar Distillers announced the virtual closure of its Irlam plant.

Before the phase one redundancy, one in five of the town's working population were steelworkers and more than half the 2,000 involved in stage two are local people.

It is impossible to predict exactly the resulting unemployment the closure will cause since Irlam is statistically classed as part of the Manchester travel-to-work area, but estimates range from a jobless rate of between 10 and 20 per cent.

It will mean that the men between 45 and 64 who compose 40 per cent of the existing labour force will be unlikely to find new jobs. The younger men who do get employment will have to move out of the area or travel long distances to work and most will suffer considerable wage cuts.

But steelworkers will not be able to walk into other jobs in the greater Manchester area. Contrary to popular belief the North West is an area in economic decline.

The dole queues in Manchester and the surrounding

towns are not as long as those in Scotland, but the basic industries—engineering, textiles and coal—are all being rationalized.

Last year the North West Development Council noted: 'Since the beginning of the year factory closures and other reductions in industrial activity have led to over 16,000 redundancies in the region... on the positive side few substantial developments are taking place.'

Now local employers report no resurgence of business confidence and most are still planning on further economies.

UNCERTAINTY

For men like Eric Teal, a 33-year-old maintenance fitter at Irlam, the future is fraught with uncertainty.

Eric, secretary of the works action committee, says he is now resigned to the closure.

'If I do get another job it will mean a considerable loss of income. The rate for engineers in the Manchester area is £23.50—this is £10 to £15 less than what the steelworks pays,' he told me.

'I was walking through

Stockport with the wife the other day. At the Labour exchange there were two cards in my field, one was for a job with a wage of £26.50 in Preston—30 or 40 miles away. The fact that they advertise this in Stockport shows how bad things are.'

Acceptance of closure is directly related to the hopeless reformist and even Tory leadership of the 'save-Irlam' campaign.

This has taken place under such militant banners as 'Irlam requests Lord Melchett for adequate modernization'. This very polite pleading has not impressed Melchett. In fact BSC has played a crafty game. Originally the final closure was planned for 1973. After the first mild protests, which included a mass pray-in for the works, BSC relented and said it would withdraw stage two and listen to the arguments.

This gave maximum advantage to those who argued for moderation (that is most of the action committee comprising of Tory and Labour councillors, local MP Fred Lee and union bureaucrats). To 'prove' their worth, the steelworkers were persuaded to drive up production to 10,000 tons a week.

These efforts stifled any more radical initiative—particularly any industrial action against the closure. In June, BSC calmly announced that phase two would go ahead because Irlam just could not produce steel cheaper than Scunthorpe—the much vaunted 'social' arguments closure had not made the slightest impression on Melchett or the government.

But the most miserable role of all was played by the trade union leaders. It is no exaggeration to say that they have done almost nothing to fight for the right to work at Irlam. The men are very bitter over this abdication of responsibility.

Says Eric Teal: 'As far as I am concerned, the 10,000-ton figure was just a carrot that the BSC hung in front of us. I think the same goes for this talk of Irlam getting an electric arc furnace.'

'I am bitterly disappointed with the action of our unions at national level. They have done very little. We were promised a common policy on steel involving union members everywhere.'

'We were promised meetings with Sir John Eden, who was then Minister of Trade and Industry. But none of these

came off. I feel that if the AUEW had taken some initiative, the other unions representing the production workers would have started to move. But nothing has really been done to save our jobs.'

RUTHLESS

Even a delegation to last year's TUC Congress at Blackpool brought no results. The Irlam men requested union leaders visit the steel town while they were in the North West—but none came.

Understandably after a year of this kind of leadership there is an air of resignation in Irlam—many people accept that Irlam will die industrially and at best become a group of houses on the busy highway between Manchester and Warrington.

In many ways the Irlam story is the story of all British heavy industry. Workers are facing the most ruthless and calculated attack on their jobs and living standards. And the union leaders can only respond with empty pleading and indignation over the social consequences.

This is the workers' answer to the crisis. It is a crisis only because profit is still King. Hence the guilty ones are those who had their chance to legislate for the people of Irlam in 1964... but failed.

Above: May 21, 1971, Irlam workers and their families march against the closure of the steelworks.

MP Fred Lee has proposed endless detailed schemes for making Irlam the most profitable steel plant in Britain—just as the Scottish union leaders and MPs do for their ailing steel mills. Lee, of course, had the best chance of all. In the Wilson government he was responsible for steel nationalization and the handsome compensation paid out to Lancashire Steel for the Irlam mill which was destined to close anyway!

The answer to Melchett must be a political one. Progress under the capitalist economy is no progress at all—it simply means longer dole queues and more dereliction in areas like Irlam.

Only a planned socialist economy can advance material welfare by introducing new processes and reaping the benefits with shorter hours and better conditions.

This is the workers' answer to the crisis. It is a crisis only because profit is still King. Hence the guilty ones are those who had their chance to legislate for the people of Irlam in 1964... but failed.

FLORIDA GROWERS REVIVE SLAVE SYSTEM

With the recent indictments of crew leaders and foremen at two Florida labour camps for violating the anti-slavery provision of the US Constitution, the brutal exploitation and inhuman living conditions faced by most farm workers were all too briefly exposed.

B. McKay, reporter for the 'Bulletin', the weekly newspaper of the Workers League, files this report from Tampa in Florida where the slave system still survives.

Near Ruskin, 20 miles south of here, crew leader Walter Taylor Jr. and five of his foremen were arrested June 13 by the FBI on an indictment charging them with holding workers in bondage.

In Putnam County near Jacksonville, crew leader Willie Charles Simmons was arrested on a similar indictment returned by a federal Grand Jury investigating migrant labour conditions in Florida.

This investigation is not part of a government campaign to alleviate the conditions of virtual slavery faced by nearly all farm workers here. On the contrary, it is merely designed to provide a few sacrificial offerings to hide the continued widespread existence of such conditions.

It is not the growers—increasingly dominated by the conglomerate giants of finance capital—who were the targets of these indictments but rather the crew leaders and camp foremen: the paymasters and drill sergeants.

The crew leaders hire workers, contract with various growers as they criss-cross the country in search of work, then pay their workers part of whatever is paid them by the growers.

The grower simply pays the crew leader the piece rate wages earned by his workers and ends up in the comfortable position of having no legal responsibility for the workers, although he may provide quarters on his own property for the crew leader to set up a camp for the workers and their families.

The crew leader is responsible for providing food and housing and other necessities, as well as transportation for his workers, and this comes out of their wages. Inflated prices are often charged for food, drink and cigarettes by the crew leader so he can keep a larger share of his workers' wages for himself, and many workers are told they actually are in debt to the 'boss man' as a device to keep them tied to his crew.

This degrading system is not a product of individual crew leaders but of the capitalist system which uses the migrant labour system to support conditions of super-exploitation unheard of since the sweat shops of the 19th century.

The crew leader himself enjoys a standard of living only slightly higher than that of his workers and is forced by the system to wrestle as much as possible away from them in order to maintain it. He becomes the slave driver of the capitalists and is often driven to trickery and physical brutality to keep as many workers as possible under his command.

John Bryant was one of



Top: at work. Above: shack where workers are forced to live.

Walter Taylor's workers for eight months as his crew of 40 workers followed the crops through Virginia, South Carolina and Florida.

'I was a slave. I'd like to cry to myself some of those nights, especially after getting a beating,' he said. 'I didn't have any decent clothes. Couldn't leave the camp. If you managed to get away, he found you. It was just like being a slave.'

He says he tried to escape six times but was caught each time and beaten to a pulp: 'When he hit you, you hit the ground. One time he hit me with a tree limb. I ran. Then he got my friend Tramp and beat him with a two-inch iron pipe.'

Bryant had paid a high price to the capitalist class even before joining Taylor's crew, having lost his hand several years ago in a factory accident. This puts him at a great disadvantage in a system where the worth of a man's labour is

measured by how fast he picks.

He says that when he was with Taylor's crew, he was paid \$3 a week and given two bottles of cheap wine, as workers in most camps are, to dull their minds when they aren't working. Taylor also allotted each worker two packs of cigarettes per week at 75 cents a pack.

Bryant now works in a camp where he is free from the physical violence he formerly suffered under and he now makes \$70-\$80 per week, but while he seems to be satisfied it is only because he has become accustomed to a way of life which seems to swallow you whole and offers no escape.

Bryant, in fact, like most farm workers, still faces inhuman living conditions and a future which is a dead end.

He is no exception, and most farm workers face similar conditions, whether they live in a migrant camp, a grower's camp or in a rural ghetto. Not only

is their wage actually far below the official minimum—Bryant works 60-80 hours for his \$70-\$80 but is paid only for the time actually spent picking tomatoes—but housing is almost always a travesty of building codes and frequently lacks water, electricity or sanitary facilities.

This 'Bulletin' reporter saw one camp in the Ruskin area, not Taylor's Sun City School camp, but another untouched by the forces of 'law and order'—where about 40 migrant tomato pickers and their families were crowded together in a ramshackle building about 10ft by 30ft which appeared to have originally served as a produce storage shed.

A grower supervised as they moved in a few old mattresses. Belongings were scattered among trash, and there was obviously no running water or electricity, and only a makeshift outhouse.

Our entry was blocked by a tall barbed wire fence and a gate almost obscured by the two huge 'No Trespassing' signs on each side, as well as by the grower and crew leader who were not anxious to have the workers talk to anyone, much less let any outsider view the inside of the camp.

Father Antonio Diaz, a Catholic priest in Ruskin, who has been waging a one-man battle against conditions in the migrant camps, told the 'Bulletin' in an interview that the Taylor camp was no different than many others:

'There are camps that are worse, much worse. None of them meet even the most minimal health standards. No

sanitation. Nothing. I go to the Health Department about these all the time, but no action. They won't lift a finger to do anything about the problem. None of these places operate according to state regulations, but they are still open, because the growers have power.'

Diaz said his only reaction to the arrests was surprise that anything at all had been done. His own efforts to alleviate conditions faced by migrants in the area have won him little but the enmity of the growers and numerous threats on his life.

'They hate me. They hate me with a vengeance,' he said. 'They fight every improvement. They treat the migrants like cattle, and they don't want that changed. I've been here for six years, and yet not one person has offered to help. They're afraid. I'm told there is a price on my head.'

The growers increasingly fear the movement of farm workers and are prepared to crush anything which threatens to upset the system which allows them to reap superprofits from the misery of farm workers.

Union organizers face harassment, threats and physical violence from the growers themselves, as well as crew leaders who fear an end to their role in the system. And the growers are preparing to bring the full weight of the government against the union with 'right-to-work' laws, anti-strike laws, anti-boycott laws, injunctions, jailings and ultimately, that 'armed body of men' which comprises the basis of the capitalist state.

ROUBLE SUMMIT BEGINS AS DOLLAR CRASHES

The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), consisting of representatives from the Soviet Union, six East European states and Mongolia began its annual meeting in Moscow on July 10.

For the first time Yugoslavia is also fully represented at the Moscow meeting, though Belgrade has held 'associate' status since 1964 and was an 'observer' state from 1955.

There is also talk of admitting Cuba as a full member, following Prime Minister Fidel Castro's cordial and extensive visits to the various Comecon countries.

'Socialism in a single country'

This year's meeting is probably the most crucial in the organization's 23-year history. It is taking place against the background of the most severe monetary and economic crisis ever to strike the capitalist world.

And despite the nationalized property relations within the Comecon states, they are by no means immune from the repercussions of the crisis.

In fact the bureaucratic rulers of Eastern Europe and the USSR face enormous political, social and economic problems of their own. Many of these are rooted in the isolation of these states from the world economy and the imperialist encirclement around them.

This creates a shortage of certain types of raw materials and finished goods which can only be produced within the Comecon bloc at the cost of great sacrifices. In addition, there is a chronic shortage of capital for development.

These objective problems are the result of the counter-revolutionary policies of the Stalinist bureaucracy whose vested interest in maintaining the isolation of the workers' states is epitomized in their slogan 'Socialism in a single country'.

Top of the agenda in Moscow is likely to be a review of the progress made in carrying out the ambitious programme of economic integration agreed a year ago at the Council meeting in Bucharest.

The programme, strongly fought for by the Soviet Union particularly against opposition from Rumania, is aimed primarily at increasing the economic ties between the various member states.

It envisages measures to increase the convertibility of member-states' currencies with one another and particularly with the rouble. It also provides for a more-developed division of labour between the various countries, some concentrating on particular lines of industrial production while importing other products from their neighbours.

The plan also contains pro-



'Peaceful co-existence' to suppress revolution everywhere—Nixon and Brezhnev in Moscow.

visions for building a genuine—as opposed to the existing paper—customs union between the Comecon states. Though already formally committed to do away with tariff barriers, the member-countries in fact operate various systems to discriminate against their partners' goods and thus protect their own industry.

The 1971 programme remains at present little more than a pious wish—far from being a harmonious community of co-operating states, Comecon is in fact riven with contradictions.

'Peaceful co-existence'

The bureaucracy knows that its privileges will exist only so long as it can continue to subordinate the working class to its own selfish requirements. This, in turn, means aiding imperialism under the slogan of 'peaceful co-existence' to suppress revolution everywhere.

Hence the Nixon visit to Moscow and the preparations for a European security conference. At the same time, the Stalinists hope to extend their co-operation with imperialism through increased trade and economic ties, in particular with the Common Market and the United States.

Brezhnev and Nixon concluded the most extensive trade and economic co-operation deal ever entered into by the USSR and the US. And in March this year, the Soviet leader announced his willingness to recognize the 'reality of the previously vilified Common Market, provided the latter would do the same for the Soviet bloc.

When the Common Market was first formed in 1957 the Comecon leaders denounced it accurately as 'an association of imperialist countries, in the interests of the monopolies and the banks'. Since 1965, however, four Comecon countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Rumania) have signed agricultural agreements with the Common Market and 'associated' Yugoslavia is also tied to the EEC by a non-preferential commercial pact.

Both Rumania and Cuba have formally asked to be included in the EEC's generalized preference system. In fact, the Rumanian government letter asking for this status was the first-ever direct official communication to the Common Market commission from a Comecon member-state.

Since 1958, trade between Comecon and Common Market members has risen from a yearly value of \$1,700m to \$6,800m. Imports from the EEC have increased by nearly 400 per cent over this period, while imports from the rest of the world have risen only by 180 per cent.

The turn towards recognition of the EEC can also be seen in the policies of the West European Stalinists. The Italian Communist Party has long accepted the Common Market and takes part in the European parliament.

And in France, the common programme just ratified by the Communist and Socialist Parties envisages continued French membership of the Market under a 'Popular Front' government.

The Comecon meeting can be expected to continue this bureaucratic turn to the right.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

IN THE JOB-CUTTING BUSINESS

Lord Aldington is a busy man. He is chairman of the Port of London Authority currently engaged in sacking 2,000 dockers. He is deputy chairman of GEC, also in the job-cutting business throughout the vast GEC-AEI combine.

He is now in secret talks with Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers' Union which can only result in further loss of docks jobs.

Between all this Aldington, the former deputy leader of the Tory Party, finds time to pursue his banking business.

His bank, National and Grindlays, has just completed the takeover of the William Brandt merchant banking group for a cool £6.5m.

National and Grindlays, the overseas bank in which Lloyds has a large stake, has been discussing the deal for the remaining one-third interest for about a year.

The bank originally acquired two-thirds of Brandt's capital in 1965.

Under the agreement Grindlays has paid £6.50 for each share, roughly five times more than the shares cost in the original stake.

Aldington, National and Grindlays chairman, takes over as head of William Brandt and brings in Michael Andrews as chief executive.

Two Brandt family members, Walter and Peter, stay as directors.

Below: Lord Aldington



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FURTHER SLUMP IN COMPUTERS

The extent of the slump in the computer industry is revealed in figures just published by official government sources.

Output has dropped to the lowest level for two years during the first quarter of this year.

Up to the end of March, production, repairs and maintenance in the UK by British firms and British-based subsidiaries of overseas concerns totalled only £61.5m.

This was a drop of 24 per cent compared with the previous three months and some 16 per cent below the £73.6m produced in the same quarter last year.

A detailed breakdown of sales of computer hardware over the past two years shows that the British-made computers have suffered most from the recession.

The value of machines delivered by UK makers to the home market fell 30 per cent to £22.2m in the first quarter this year compared with a year ago.

But deliveries of machines, almost all of which are imports, managed a modest 11 per cent increase to £15.7m. But British machines, on the

other hand, fell by one fifth to £15.8m.

Meanwhile unemployment is rising rapidly in the industry. From 52,400 jobs at the end of 1970, there were 47,400 at the end of March. During the past three months a further 300 jobs have been lost by the industry, most of them in the research and development sector.

Britain's major computer outfit, International Computers Limited, is a classic reflection of the computer slump.

Forged by the Labour government out of an amalgamation of ICT, Elliott Automation and Plessey, the company was floated on huge government grants.

But as sales dropped and competition intensified the British company could not get a foothold. Two weeks ago the Tories were forced to pump another £14.2m into ICL, but this will scarcely revive ICL's sour fortunes.

ICL's latest accounts show interim profits down from £4.49m to £1.44m. These figures have sent ICL shares sliding down the share market.

They slipped from 122p to 96p in a matter of days. During the past 12 months ICL stock has been as high as 155p and in 1970 they reached a peak of £3.

PRODUCTIVITY AND JOBS AT TILBURY DOCKS

Tilbury's container through-put will be a record this year. The number of containers passing through the berths for the first six months of this year just fell short of the total handled through 1971.

These figures are calculated on containers passing through the common-user berths—Nos. 40, 41 and 43. More than 59,000 containers were handled on these berths up to midnight on June 30 compared with

77,401 throughout 1971.

This huge expansion in traffic can be accounted for only when the work conditions are studied. The Port of London Authority, chaired by Lord Aldington, has a unique agreement with the unions at Tilbury. It permits dockers to work round-the-clock, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Since the start of the year the PLA has won a new weekly service to New York operated by Hapag-Lloyd, a regular service to the American gulf ports operated by Combi Line and the Svea Line service to Scandinavian ports.

In addition, the Comar Line service, carrying Ford traffic to and from the Continent, began operating earlier this year.

These day-and-night work schedules, coupled with labour-intensified work conditions, are at the root of the crisis over jobs on the docks.

As the Tories rush Britain into the Common Market, these terminals will become the areas of more vigorous exploitation of trade increases.

Jobs can only be defended on the docks today on the basis of a policy of nationalization.

WASTE TURNED INTO MONEY

A German chemical firm has devised a process of taking waste that pollutes the rivers and streams and turning it into building material that could be the rival of concrete.

The waste comes from the worthless and unwanted phosphate chemical that is thrown out by fertilizer plants.

A German company with an Italian name, Guilini, in its factory in Ludwigshaven on the Rhine, was faced with enforced closure if it did not stop polluting that famous river with its waste product.

So Guilini scientists worked on the problem and, after intensive research and experiment, found the answer.

They discovered the way to turn the waste into money. The throw-out becomes a kind of gypsum, but it is so full of impurities that it has no value.

Guilini, by a secret process, has discovered how to turn this into a gypsum that can be used as building materials; principally plaster boards, blocks and floor coverings, but is strong enough to be used for outer walls.

A natural gypsum, mined in Canada and US, sells, mostly to building industry, for around \$12 a ton. This Guilini product sells for \$5 a ton.

So the company appears to be sitting on a fortune; a basic material in strong demand made from a raw material that

not only costs nothing but which has its removal paid for by the suppliers.

Guilini is a private, family-dominated company which sees no reason to go public.

Sabina, a hopeful but smallish Canadian mining company, has its own breakthrough and has secured the North American licence rights for the Guilini process.

Two large Canadian chemical producers have taken options to manufacture.

One is Esso Chemical Canada. The second, Cable Industries, will pay Sabina \$500,000 by next August if they exercise the right they have to start manufacturing. After that royalties and a handsome cut of the profits will be paid to Sabina.

Sabina directors believe there is room in North America for 30 factories producing this new material for the building trade. That sounds a little optimistic but the prospects are bright.

There is some surprise that none of the big British chemical producers, worried as they must be by their own pollution problems, have so far taken an option on the process.

Sabina shares, little known before they obtained this franchise, have become an interesting market here.

Some shrewd buying has sent the price of the \$1 shares up to 190p. If Sabina get as much out of the Guilini prospect as it expects, the shares are going to be worth a lot more than that.

TUBE INVESTMENTS CLOSURE FIGHT

The fight against the closing of Tube Investment's stainless steel plant at Walsall in the Midlands will be bitter.

Protests mounted so far by the workforce have not had the slightest effect on the management.

The plant, which employs 1,400 workers, is to be phased out of production because of the world surplus capacity in stainless steel and the depressed state of the market.

A £1.6m modernization project at Walsall, aimed at making it one of the most advanced stainless steel tube plants anywhere, was completed 12 months ago.

Production facilities include manufacturing plant for turning out long-length tubing, used in the 'light water' type of nuclear power stations.

A Swedish order for these tubes has been completed, and an Italian order will be finished in the next few weeks and the company has no new orders.

Hopes that Tory government spending on new nuclear power stations might provide a need for long-length tubes are remote.

And though closing the Walsall plant would mean, in theory, that tubes would have to be imported to fulfil new orders, this likelihood is distant at present.

No new nuclear power stations are projected at present in Britain, and the favoured gas-reactor type does not use long-length tubes.



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Wage rise accepted at CAV, Acton

WORKERS at CAV Lucas, Acton London, have accepted a £3.25 general wage increase. The award will apply to every worker on the site save canteen staff.

On top of the general increase, skilled workers will get a further £1 a week and semi-skilled 50p. The deal was accepted at a 2,000-strong mass meeting on Friday.

Originally shop stewards voted to pool the increase so every worker would receive a general pay rise of £3.63. But management insisted on the differentials after dissatisfaction from the skilled section.

Militants on the shop stewards' committee argued that the £3.63 award would reduce antagonism caused by differing pay rates and break the £3.25 pay norm maintained by Lucas during plant battles over the engineering pay claim.

Meanwhile laboratory technicians who have been on official strike for three weeks at the Acton site are increasingly bitter over what they claim is a failure by some union officials to mobilize support.

In March lab workers were promised 100 per cent action in their dispute, but so far there has not even been a factory collection.

THE ACTION committee at Tube Investments, Walsall, is calling a mass meeting today to plan the next stage of the fight against the stainless steel factory's closure.

The committee wants to launch a national campaign involving the trade union leadership and Labour MPs.

At last Friday's meeting between management and workers' representatives, TI chairman Lord Plowden said the phased closedown would go ahead.

Alan Colpitt, action committee chairman, said after 90 minutes with Plowden: 'We have got nothing out of the meeting whatsoever.' A total of 1,400 jobs will be lost if the closure is allowed.

Maudling out of public eye for week Rumours fly over Home Secretary

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

SPECULATION intensified at the weekend that the deputy prime minister and Home Secretary Reginald Maudling might be about to resign.

When he was telephoned at his country home in Essendon, Hertfordshire, Maudling refused to deny rumours that he was going.

In the next 24 hours the Prime Minister, Edward Heath, will receive a report on the Poulson bankruptcy case prepared by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

He will then make a further statement to the House on the Poulson affair which has links with the names of three MPs, including Maudling, and several high-ranking civil servants.

Maudling was a chairman of one of Poulson's companies and he—and the rest of the Maudling family—

belonged to two other Poulson operations.

Poulson is currently appearing before the Wakefield bankruptcy court where his debts have been revealed at almost £250,000.

Since last Thursday's three-hour Cabinet meeting to discuss the Poulson case, Maudling has not been as conspicuous as usual. He was missing from the



Maudling seen on Monday last week at the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions' conference with Harold Wilson

front bench during Heath's statement to the House and then he went into seclusion at his country house on Saturday.

He has fulfilled only one political engagement—a long-standing invitation to speak at a summer school of the Conservative Political Centre at Cambridge.

He told the Tory

'think tank' that the rise in violence and crime was due in part to the decline of the traditional disciplines, including parental discipline.

He said that science was more and more able to treat the criminal and change his personality. 'Many forms of violence and wickedness can be altered by scientific methods,' he said.

Poulson case proceeds in camera

FURTHER proceedings in the Poulson bankruptcy case will be heard in chambers at Wakefield tomorrow.

District Registrar Mr D. M. Garside said: 'There is an application proceeding in chambers. Applications have been made and, as they are in chambers, I cannot disclose what they were.'

Because the application is in chambers, press and public are barred.

News that the court had gone into chambers emerged last Friday when it was revealed that a private hearing was held six days ago.

Mr Garside said the public examinations of Poulson would be held on August 1, the date which the case has been adjourned to.

'Matters are going on from time to time in chambers in connection with the bankruptcy. Matters don't stand still. There is nothing unusual about it.'

Esso site talks planned

ANOTHER meeting will be held this week in a bid to resolve the dispute which has closed down the £20m extension works of the Esso site at Milford Haven, South Wales.

The strike involved 2,000 men on the site and follows the sacking of 37 men by one of the main contractors, Foster Wheeler Limited. Talks ended last Friday after nine hours without any agreement. Officials of the Department of Employment were present throughout the meeting.

Pickets will again be out today. Last week there were scuffles between pickets and police.

TODAY'S BBC 1

9.45 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 10.00 Casey Jones. 10.25 Attenborough with Animals. 10.50 Tin Tin. 10.55 Magic Roundabout. 11.25 Cricket. 1.30 Pogles' Wood. 1.45 News, weather. 2.10 Cricket. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Penelope Pitstop. 5.15 It's Your Word. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.

6.20 ANIMALS AT HOME. What animal makes a good pet.

6.40 THE MOVIE QUIZ.

7.05 Z CARS. Forget It.

7.30 THE VIRGIN FELLAS. Episode 2.

7.55 THE OLYMPIANS. Abebe Bikila.

8.00 PANORAMA.

9.00 NEWS, Weather.

9.20 DOOMWATCH. Deadly Dangerous Tomorrow.

10.10 ROYAL INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW; ATHLETICS.

11.15 NEWS.

11.20 ATHLETE. Pole Vault.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 4.30 Cricket.

6.35 Open University.

7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.

8.00 HIGH CHAPARRAL. Sudden Country.

8.50 HIS LORDSHIP ENTERTAINS. Ronnie Barker.

9.20 HORIZON. Navajo — The Last Red Indians.

10.10 THIRTY - MINUTE THEATRE. Getting In.

10.40 NEWS, Weather.

10.45 CRICKET.

11.15 LATE NIGHT LINE UP.

TV

ITV

11.35 Seven Seas. 12.25 Women Today. 12.50 Freud on Food. 1.15 Bellbird. 1.25 Yak. 1.35 Skippy. 2.05 Castle Haven. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'The Long, Long Trailer'. 4.40 Enchanted House. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 Treasure Island. 5.50 News.

6.00 YOU AND THE WORLD.

Part 1. Up West. 14-year-old John Pullar is caught stealing.

6.20 CROSSROADS.

6.40 THE DAVID NIXON SHOW.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.

8.30 LOLLIPOP (New Series). Comedy with Peggy Mount and Hugh Lloyd.

9.00 MAN AT THE TOP. How to Make a Fortune.

10.00 NEWS.

10.30 NAME OF THE GAME. The Skin Game.

11.55 THE COMMON MIND.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 2.55 Once upon a time. 3.05 Puffin. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Film: 'The Large Rope'. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. What's on where? 6.15 Pursuers. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.15 Visages de France. 12.30 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 2.35 Gus Honeybun. 2.58 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sport. 10.59 News, weather. 12.20 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 12.55, News. 1.00



Three of the 'Doomwatch' team on BBC 1: Elizabeth Weaver as Anne Tarrant, John Paul as Dr Spencer Quist and Vivien Sherrard as Barbara Mason

Tennis. 1.25 My three sons. 1.55 Cooking. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Let's face it. 3.30 Bird's eye view. 3.55 Houseparty. 4.10 Twizzle. 4.25 Junking. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Afloat. 11.00 News. 11.10 Marcus Welby. 12.05 Weather. Guideline.

HTV: 2.35 Edgar Wallace. 3.30 Enchanted house. 3.45 Women. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.25 Superman. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'Deadly Nightshade'. 11.40 Mysteries. 12.10 Weather.

HTV Wales as above except: 1.55 Awdur A'r Mis. 4.15 Cantamil. 6.01 Y Dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.22 This is the West This Week.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15 Cantamil. 6.01 Y Dydd.

ANGLIA: 1.40 World War 1. 2.05 Arthur. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Jokers. 3.45 Yoga. 4.10 News. 4.15 Cartoons. 4.25 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Brian Connell. 11.05 Holloway's daughters.

ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Good afternoon. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Nanny. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Challenge. 11.00 Randall.

ULSTER: 4.00 Let's face it. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Smith family. 6.35 Cartoons. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.35 Name of the game.

YORKSHIRE: 1.45 Bewitched. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'White Tie and Tails'. 4.35 Calendar. 4.40 Once

upon a time. 4.55 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.25 Under these roofs. 6.45 London. 11.55 Yesterdays. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 2.20 Yesterdays. 2.45 People like us. 3.15 Danger man. 4.10 News. Peyton place. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Crime and mystery.

SCOTTISH: 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Casebook. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Dick Van Dyke. 6.45 London. 10.30 At odds. 11.10 Late call. 11.15 University challenge.

GRAMPIAN: 3.37 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Rumble jumble. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. Farming news. 6.15 Lucy. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Saint.

Brick barriers abandoned

LONDONDERRY appeared quiet yesterday afternoon after a decision to abandon plans to build brick barriers across three main routes from the Bogside into the central shopping area.

The plans were abandoned by Ulster Secretary William White-law after the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, Paul Channon, held talks with local businessmen, representatives of the Bogside and Creggan areas and Social Democratic and Labour MP John Hume. Further talks will take place early this week.

In Belfast yesterday morning, however, a police station and army post at Andersonstown came under rocket attack and police said an experiment in blocking off all roads into the city centre 'could well become permanent'.

The army agreed yesterday to reduce its presence in the Lenadon area of Belfast.

Govt. workers: 8.5 p.c. offer 'insult to our intelligence'

MORE THAN 10,000 of Britain's government industrial workers are being sent papers for a secret ballot asking them if they are prepared to strike over pay.

The workers involved—drivers, electricians, fitters and even maintenance workers at the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace—are among 194,000 government industrial workers whose leaders have rejected a pay offer of just under 8 per cent.

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

On Thursday about 50 executive members of ten unions involved will meet to decide the next steps in their campaign for a 'substantial' increase.

Observers feel that the union chiefs want to spin out talks with the Civil Service Department, under whose umbrella the various Ministries negotiate pay.

It is thought the unions would demand at least the 8½ per cent given to white-collar staff last week. But big rank-and-file pressure is building up for militant action behind demands which are considerably larger.

Simon Diamond, staff stewards' chairman for Environment Department depots in London, said at the weekend that the present offer was 'an insult to our intelligence'.

He added: 'If it was at least doubled, our members might be prepared to consider it.'

One course of action which may be considered on Thursday is selective strikes at key government centres.

If this took place, the government could find itself asking for assistance from the new conciliation service TUC leaders have

agreed to set up with the Confederation of British Industry.

The Civil Service Department's hard-line refusal to improve its offer to a by and large low-paid section of workers, however, is a further condemnation of the TUC chiefs' attempts to talk turkey to the Tories on wages.

It is yet another argument for the immediate breaking-off of these talks, the scrapping of so-called conciliation and the recalling of the TUC to plan action to force the Tories out.

● See special article, page four. 'Government workers get miserly offer.'

Peyton wielding Beeching axe against rail jobs

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THE TORY government has agreed to plans to devastate services offered by British Rail and sack tens of thousands of railwaymen.

John Peyton, Minister for Transport Industries, will spell out the strategy in a statement in the House of Commons before the summer recess.

Any remaining notion that some lines have to remain open as a social service has been thrown overboard. Instead British Rail will run on an 'economy and efficiency' basis.

Last year British Rail made a loss of £15.4m—mainly because of the slump in the volume of freight carried which fell as the industrial recession developed. The operating profit was actually £30.2m, but crippling interest rates of £45.6m led to the deficit.

It is thought that British Rail has speeded up its new strategy following the recent pay settlement on the railways.

The plan involves large-scale closures of 'uneconomic' branch lines and curtailed services, with inevitable redundancies.

As things stand, union leaders have called off any fight against the sacking of 12,500 railway

workers announced last September.

Leaders have accepted redundancies—the only haggling is now about the terms. They involve 5,500 rail shopmen at Swindon, Barassie in Ayrshire (where complete closure is envisaged), and 560 at the Ashford works, Kent.

In addition 6,000 administrative staff are due for sacking notices.

Now the Tories—aided by ex-Labour Minister Richard Marsh at British Rail and encouraged by the feebleness of the rail union leaders—are ready to continue the massive run-down launched by Lord Beeching under the Macmillan government.

The 11,000-mile network will probably be cut by about 25 per cent. Passengers will be offered a few high-speed advanced passenger trains as a substitute for a comprehensive service.

And no doubt a number of property men are standing by to reap any benefits that might come their way from the purchase and sale of former railway land.

Employment on the railways has been cut by two-thirds since nationalization in 1947. Now the 280,000 workers left in the industry face a fight to prevent the complete decimation of their jobs.

Jones-Aldington report sure to infuriate dockers

LIVERPOOL dockers will be out in force to lobby the key Transport and General Workers' Union docks delegate conference on July 27.

The port will come to a standstill and a special train will carry 500 men to London to insist on no retreat from the threat to strike in 11 days time if there is no satisfactory solution to the port jobs crisis.

A mass meeting at the Stadium, Liverpool, decided this unanimously yesterday after hearing a report from the national port stewards' committee at the beginning of this month. That meeting, which took place at Birmingham, decided that all ports would stop on the day of the delegate conference.

The platform at yesterday's meeting seemed anxious not to completely dismiss the union-employer inquiry into the jobs issue, due to report on Thursday week, July 26.

But rank-and-file dockers were certain that they will get nothing from the inquiry, which is chaired jointly by Jack Jones,

T&GWU general secretary, and ex-Tory Party chairman Lord Aldington.

It is now believed that the meat of their report will be a plan to gradually reduce the register of dockers—currently 41,000-strong—by 8 per cent.

To encourage men to leave the industry grants of £500 per head and at least £1,000 for unfit men would be added to the existing severance-pay scales, which now yield up to £2,300. Last Friday the government was asked to subsidize the plan to the tune of at least £5m.

Such a scheme would be almost certain to receive the enthusiastic backing of Transport Minister John Peyton, who told employers in March that the industry could not afford to carry surplus labour.

But an 8-per-cent cut in the register (about 3,300 jobs) is only the tip of the iceberg as far as the employers are concerned.

The National Ports Council, on which Jones sits with employers, said last month that 5,000 jobs must go over the next three years. Wearing the hat of Port of London Authority chairman, Aldington said in May that 2,000 must go in London alone this year.

Behind closed doors with the union leaders, the port employers said recently that one in seven on the attached register were surplus to their requirements now (over 5,600 men).

More than 30,000 dockers' jobs have been lost over the last ten years.

Dockers lobbying next week's delegate conference will no doubt have some sharp questions to ask Jones about his apparent agreement to further cuts.

Briefly...

SECRECY in the proceedings of the Common Market Council of Ministers was attacked by the EEC 'ambassador' to Britain yesterday. Georges Berthoin, chief representative of the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities, speaking at the Conservative Political Centre's Summer School, called for a transformation from what was now too much a diplomatic process to a democratic one. 'The Council of Ministers in one way or another should be more answerable to what is said and for the position they take up', he said.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

DOCKS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 8 p.m.
CO-OP HALL, FANSHAWE AVENUE
BARKING

DOCKERS AND TRANSPORT WORKERS UNITE AGAINST TORIES!
DEFEND THE RIGHT TO WORK! RECALL THE TUC!

ULSTER

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 8 p.m.
CO-OP HALL, SEVEN SISTERS RD
HOLLOWAY

DOWN WITH DIRECT RULE! WITHDRAW BRITISH TROOPS!
UNITE PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC WORKERS FOR A UNITED
SOCIALIST IRELAND

ALL TRADES UNIONS
ALLIANCE MEETINGS
The currency crisis
and the working class

WANDSWORTH: Monday July 17, 8 p.m. 'Selkirk Arms', Selkirk Road, Tooting Broadway.
GOOLE: Monday July 17, 8 p.m. 'The Buchanan', Wetherill St.
SOUTHAMPTON: Tuesday July 18, 7.30 p.m. The Bay Tree Inn, New Road.

LEEDS: Tuesday July 18, 7.30 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane. 'Building workers' pay claim and the Summer Camp.'

SW LONDON: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

W LONDON: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfe-

dale Road, Kings Cross. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

N KENT: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Road, Dartford. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

PRESTON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m. Railway and Commercial Hotel, Butler Street (near railway station).

NOTTINGHAM: Wednesday July 19, 7.30 p.m. Thurland Hall, Pelham St. 'Build Councils of Action.'

LUTON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Hall, Lea Road. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

SE LONDON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opposite New Cross Station. 'Force the Tories to Resign.'

LATE NEWS

WEATHER

FUND

TWO SOLDIERS were killed yesterday afternoon when a mine exploded under an army vehicle near the border village of Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh. An army spokesman said the two men were in a two-vehicle patrol of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

One other soldier is said to be 'seriously injured'.

According to police 99 British soldiers have now died since the IRA terror campaign began.

In addition 16 members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and 24 policemen have also been killed.

Most of the Lenadon estate, Belfast, was expected to be deserted by last night following a call at a crowded meeting for a protest walk-out by Parish priest Father Jack Fitzsimmons.

Committee headed by Father Fitzsimmons rejected army offer to cut down troops in area, and made clear they would be satisfied with nothing less than total withdrawal.

IT WILL continue warm and sunny in most places although coastal districts of eastern England also north west and north Scotland will have mist and fog patches which will clear away in many places by late morning. Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Sunny and very warm. Perhaps some showers in the south.

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£745.65 AND A DECISIVE WEEK

WE HAVE five days left before our summer camp begins. By that time we would like to complete most of our July target of £1,750.

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