# Morkers nress

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • FRIDAY AUGUST 4, 1972 • No. 833 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## **EMERGENCY POWERS MEAN RULE BY DECREE**

# TRUUPS IHREAT AGAINST DOCKERS

BY DAVID MAUDE

A STATE of emergency was declared from midnight giving the Tories power to move troops onto the docks if there is no settlement of the national docks strike early next week.

The sweeping emergency powers were seized by the government on the pretext that there is a shortage of animal feed. But its more obvious role is to pile pressure on docks delegates to accept the terms of the port employers in the rejigged Jones-Aldington report.

After shop stewards put their case to the committee on Wednesday night, T&GWU general secretary Jack Jones said he expected to be in a position to recall the docks delegates 'before very

ones and national docks secretary, Tim O'Leary, were summoned to the Depart-ment of Employment yesterday and told in advance of the emergency proclamation. A spokesman for Mr Maurice MacMillan said the 30-minute meeting was 'to inform them that the state of emergency would be declared today and the reasons

The state of emergency declared by the Heath government is the fourth since it took office in June 1970, and the second as a result of a docks strike. A government spokesman indicated yesterday that all three services—army, navy and air force—would be mobilized in the fight

against the dockers.

Heath yesterday officiated at the passing out parade of Sandhurst cadets at the Royal Military Academy near Camberley, Surrey. He took the opportunity to give a boost to the army prestige by saying that Northern Ireland provided 'the best

illustration' of the task of the army officer.
'Operations like those on Monday [taking the no-go areas] have been carried

out with skill', he said.
When the Commons met yesterday, the new Home Secretary, Mr Robert Carr, stood at the bar of the House and was summoned by the Speaker, Mr Selwyn Lloyd, to come to the table. Holding up

the proclamation, Carr said: 'Messages from the Queen signed by Her Majesty's own hand.'

own hand.'

He then handed it to Selwyn Lloyd who read it to the hushed House: 'If it appears to Her Majesty events occur or are about to occur of such a nature calculated to interfere with the supply and distribution of food, water, fuel or the means of locomotion to deprive the community or a substantial proportion of the community of the essentials of life, the Queen may by proclamation declare a state of emergency. The Queen has deemed it proper by proclamation . . . to declare a state of emergency exists.'

A debate on the Queen's message will

A debate on the Queen's message will be held next Tuesday, the day before parliament goes into its long, summer recess. During the lengthy adjournment the Tories will govern by decree through the Privy Council Privy Council.

The Queen signed the proclamation in the presence of four Tory Privy Councillors aboard the royal yacht 'Britannia' lying off the Isle of Islay on the West of Scotland.

The final decision was reached at a meeting of ministers at No. 10 Downing Street on Wednesday night—while Jones was with his co-chairman Lord Aldington and Victor Feather of the TUC was counter-signing a document on phoney arbitra-tion procedures with the head of big business, Mr W. O. Campbell Adamson of the CBI.

Those present at the emergency Cabinet were Home Secretary and author of the Industrial Relations Act, Robert Carr, Paymaster General Lord Eccles, Housing Minister Julian Amery and Overseas Development Minister Richard Wood.

Whitehall officials yesterday dropped the pretence that the emergency is solely a precautionary measure. The solidarity of the strike has bitten hard and quickly not only on imports, but also on exports which British industrialists are desperate to fulfil if they are to retain any competitiveness in the trade war.

But behind the-declaration is a blatant attempt to intimidate docks delegates to end the strike. The Tories are now applying a vicious pincer action on the dockers' leaders—the olive branch is a treacherous rephrasing of the discredited Jones-Aldington report, the mailed fist is the



Dockers began cheering and dancing outside Transport House on July 27 on hearing that the docks delegates had thrown out the Jones-Aldington report and called for a national strike. By rephrasing the report and threatening the use of troops under a state of emergency, the Tories are hoping to get the strike called off.

threat of troops moving into dockland and strike-breaking airlifts by the RAF. In this situation the continued reliance

the entire trade union and Labour leadership on the Jones-Aldington inquiry is criminal.

No amount of promises from port authorities, stevedoring firms or container-depot owners can solve the jobs crisis in the ports. The number of container jobs dockers can hope to win is at the most generous estimate 1,000.

The aim of the interim report—rightly

rejected by last week's docks delegate conference—was to slash the 41,000-strong register of dockers by means of improved

severance-pay terms.

No trade unionist can assist this policy

in a situation where 900,000 workers are already out of work nationally.

Vic Turner, chairman of the London docks stewards, says that the promises in the report must be turned into 'copper-

bottomed guarantees'.

But the nature of the committee was amply demonstrated when the demand of the national stewards' committee for representation on it was turned down. To imply that it can come anywhere near the dockers' demands is to give it

credence it very definitely should not

have.
The state of emergency is a declaration that the Tories are prepared for a

fight to the finish with the dockers. Heath and his Ministers know that what is implied by the dockers' demands is nationalization of the entire industry under workers' control, and they are de-termined that if Jones cannot end the strike through his committee, they will do it by force.

That is why the urgent recall of the T&GWU biennial delegate conference to plan the defeat of the Tories is so vital.

- Recall the T&GWU biennial confer-
- Recall the TUC.
- Forward to the General Strike.
- Force the Tories out.
- Return a Labour government pledged to repealing the Industrial Relations Act and nationalizing the docks, road trans-port, banks and basic industry under workers' control and without compensa-

# MARIE SIESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY AUGUST 4, 1972 ● No. 833 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## **EMERGENCY POWERS MEAN RULE BY DECREE**

# TROOPS THREAT AGAINST DOCKERS

BY DAVID MAUDE

A STATE of emergency was declared from midnight giving the Tories power to move troops onto the docks if there is no settlement of the national docks strike early next week.

The sweeping emergency powers were seized by the government on the pretext that there is a shortage of animal feed. But its more obvious role is to pile pressure on docks delegates to accept the terms of the port employers in the rejigged Jones-Aldington report.

After shop stewards put their case to the committee on Wednesday night, T&GWU general secretary Jack Jones said he expected to be in a position to recall the docks delegates 'before very long'

Jones and national docks secretary, Tim O'Leary, were summoned to the Department of Employment yesterday and told in advance of the emergency proclamation.

A spokesman for Mr Maurice MacMillan said the 30-minute meeting was 'to inform them that the state of emergency would be declared today and the reasons

The state of emergency declared by the Heath government is the fourth since it took office in June 1970, and the second as a result of a docks strike. A government spokesman indicated yesterday that all three services—army, navy and air force—would be mobilized in the fight

against the dockers.

Heath yesterday officiated at the passing out parade of Sandhurst cadets at the Royal Military Academy near Camberley, Surrey. He took the opportunity to give a boost to the army prestige by saying that Northern Ireland provided 'the best

illustration' of the task of the army officer.
'Operations like those on Monday [taking the no-go areas] have been carried

out with skill', he said.

When the Commons met yesterday, the when the Commons met yesterday, the new Home Secretary, Mr Robert Carr, stood at the bar of the House and was summoned by the Speaker, Mr Selwyn Lloyd, to come to the table. Holding up the proclamation, Carr said: 'Messages from the Queen signed by Her Majesty's own hand.

He then handed it to Selwyn Lloyd who read it to the hushed House: 'If it appears to Her Majesty events occur or are about to occur of such a nature calculated to interfere with the supply and distribution of food, water, fuel or the means of locomotion to deprive the community or a substantial proportion of the community of the essentials of of the community of the essentials of life, the Queen may by proclamation declare a state of emergency. The Queen has deemed it proper by proclamation... to declare a state of emergency exists.'

A debate on the Queen's message will be held next Tuesday, the day before par-liament goes into its long, summer recess. During the lengthy adjournment the Tories will govern by decree through the Privy Council.

The Queen signed the proclamation in the presence of four Tory Privy Councillors aboard the royal yacht 'Britannia' lying off the Isle of Islay on the West of Scotland.

The final decision was reached at a meeting of ministers at No. 10 Downing Street on Wednesday night—while Jones was with his co-chairman Lord Aldington and Victor Feather of the TUC was counter-signing a document on phoney arbitration procedures with the head of big business, Mr W. O. Campbell Adamson of the CBI.

Those present at the emergency Cabinet were Home Secretary and author of the Industrial Relations Act, Robert Carr, Paymaster General Lord Eccles, Housing Minister Julian Amery and Overseas Development Minister Richard Wood.

Whitehall officials yesterday dropped the pretence that the emergency is solely a precautionary measure. The solidarity of the strike has bitten hard and quickly not only on imports, but also on exports which British industrialists are desperate to fulfil if they are to retain any competitiveness in the trade war.

But behind the declaration is a blatant attempt to intimidate docks delegates to end the strike. The Tories are now applying a vicious pincer action on the dockers' leaders—the olive branch is a treacherous rephrasing of the discredited Jones-Aldington report, the mailed fist is the



Dockers began cheering and dancing outside Transport House on July 27 on hearing that the docks delegates had thrown out the Jones-Aldington report and called for a national strike. By rephrasing the report and threatening the use of troops under a state of emergency, the Tories are hoping to get the strike called off.

threat of troops moving into dockland and strike-breaking airlifts by the RAF.

In this situation the continued reliance

of the entire trade union and Labour leadership on the Jones-Aldington inquiry is criminal.

No amount of promises from port authorities, stevedoring firms or container-depot owners can solve the jobs crisis in the ports. The number of container jobs dockers can hope to win is at the most generous estimate 1,000.

The aim of the interim report-rightly rejected by last week's docks delegate conference—was to slash the 41,000-strong conferenceregister of dockers by means of improved severance-pay terms.

No trade unionist can assist this policy

in a situation where 900,000 workers are already out of work nationally.

Vic Turner, chairman of the London docks stewards, says that the promises in the report must be turned into 'copperbottomed guarantees'.

But the nature of the committee was amply demonstrated when the demand of the national stewards' committee for representation on it was turned down. To imply that it can come anywhere near the dockers' demands is to give it credence it very definitely should not

have.

The state of emergency is a declaration that the Tories are prepared for a

fight to the finish with the dockers.

Heath and his Ministers know that what is implied by the dockers' demands is nationalization of the entire industry under workers' control, and they are de-termined that if Jones cannot end the strike through his committee, they will do it by force.

That is why the urgent recall of the T&GWU biennial delegate conference to plan the defeat of the Tories is so vital.

- Recall the T&GWU biennial confer-
- Recall the TUC.
- Forward to the General Strike.
- Force the Tories out.
- Return a Labour government pledged to repealing the Industrial Relations Act and nationalizing the docks, road transport, banks and basic industry under workers' control and without compensa-

## **SCRAP** ANTI-**STRIKE DEAL**

SIGNING of the 'stop strikes' pact between the TUC and CBI was hailed by the press as another step on the road to defusing the industrial situation. ation and bringing shop-floor peace.

In fact it is nothing of the sort. The 'independent Con-ciliation and Arbitration Service' to which Victor Feather put his name with Britain's top boss, W. O. Campbell Adamson, is a dangerous diversion.

Under its cover the Tory government is laying its plans for all-out war on the working class—as it was being an-nounced to the press the Cabinet was preparing emergency powers to break the dock strike.

Take these paragraphs from the joint statement Feather and Adamson issued to the press:

The conflict between the government's role as manager of the economy on the one hand, and as agent for the promotion of industrial peace on the other, has undoubtedly weakened the confidence of unions in the impartiality of government - provided concilia-

tion and arbitration.
'Both the CBI and the TUC
believe that an independent service created by the will of employers and trade unions acting together would offer the best hope of acceptance by the parties to disputes and would have the best chance of lasting credibility.'
In other words, one of the principal aims of the service

is to restore to the government the political fiction that it is 'impartial' in the class struggle.

Feather, the union chiefs and the Labour leaders all agree with the big employers on this point because they are scared out of their wits by the rapid movement of the working class in a political direction.

The miners' strike focussed workers' attention on the question of power. The rail-waymen's ballot showed their distain for the Industrial Re-lations Act, the docks strike their determination to smash

As John Garnett of the Industrial Society, one of the most enthusiastic advocates of 'independent conciliation' said yesterday on 'World at One': BBC-radio's

One of the main difficulties of industrial relations today is . . . people are not striking against employers but against

political policies.'
Garnett, Feather and Adamson are all aware that the problem is even bigger than that. Those who stopped work over the jailing of the five dockers were striking for the removal of the Tory govern-

But instead of giving a lead to these thousands of workers and declaring the TUC-CBI deal a dangerous farce, TUC 'lefts' such as Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon are to be found in the ranks of its supporters.

Today's Tory state of emergency—the fifth since the Heath government came to power—demands that these men stop their time-wasting:

Break off all talks with the Tories.

Scrap the TUC-CBI strike-

breaking deal.

For a General Strike to force the Tories to resign. ● For the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

# **US Treasury Secretary admits** Two-tier gold under a strain

AMERICAN Treasury Secretary George Schultz has acknowledged that the rising 'free market' price of gold is putting the two-tier gold price structure under strain.

But he added that the US government had no present plans for dealing with the situation and expressed the hope that 'something will emerge' from the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington at the end of next

Asked at his first-ever on-therecord press conference if the two-tier system is still credible now the 'unofficial' gold price has topped \$70 an ounce, Schultz

there's a strain. doubt about it. But it's holding. The US, he added, would let the two-tier system 'function as it is BY JOHN SPENCER

-that's our present intention'. Schultz's statement means the Nixon administration has no intention of raising the official gold price—fixed last December at \$38 an ounce. In any event the US is not selling gold to anyone at this price and is not likely to do so in the fature.

The two-tier system, set up in March 1968 after the sterling devaluation the previous year, was a means of buying time to stave off the collapse of the Bretton Woods monetary agreements.

It fixed one price for gold sales to central banks and an 'unofficial' market for gold not held by central banks. On August 15 last year, Nixon declared that the US would not sell gold officially, even to central banks.

This decision — originally

This decision — originally described as 'temporary' — now has a remarkable permanent look, and there are moves by other central banks to break out of the system and fix their own 'official' price for the metal. This is the gist of the Emmed Italian is the gist of the Franco-Italian

proposal mooted following President Pompidou's visit to Rome.

The US administration is no longer concerned with maintaining the post-war monetary system. But it is going to war to win trading advantages and force rival capitalist powers to the

Schultz expressed his discontent with the other capitalist countries, notably Canada and Japan, which he claimed did not understand that 'the world has changed in the past 20 years'.

He was particularly angry at

the two countries' refusal to make trading concessions demanded by the United States in order to reduce the latter's balance-of-payments deficit. He said recent talks with Canada had made no progress towards reducing the unfavourable balance with that country.

American big business wants every other capitalist country to its exports and accept more US imports. To get this state of affairs, the Nixon government is moving towards an all-out trade war in a situation where recession is under way in all the main capitalist centres.

# Brno party chief on trial

PROFESSOR Jaroslav Sabata, a leading opponent of the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, went on trial in the Moravian town of Brno yesterday.

Sabata is the former party chief of Brno, an important centre of

Earlier this week he refused to testify in the case of his friend Milan Huebl, a former Central Committee member imprisoned for 6½ years earlier this week.

official news agency Ceteka yesterday

said Sabata 'and associ-ates' were being tried under Article 98 of the Code covering Penal subversion.

In the last two weeks, 31 people have been sentenced under this section of the Code—all of them supporters of former CP secretary Alexandr Dubcek.

The others on trial are thought to include Sabata's daughter and his daughter-in-law. His two sons are already serving sentences of two and 2½ years' jail for subversion.

The 'subversion' charges are thought to relate to leaflets circulated by the defendants during the presidential election last November.

leaflets reminded voters of their right to cross names off the printed ballot slip, write new ones in or refuse to vote altorefuse to gether.

They also accused the regime of using the elections to condone the Soviet occupation and the resultant loss of liberties.

Sabata has stated that he does not consider the leaflets violated Czech law or the contion. However, the constituStalinist Stalinist press has already condemned the defendants.

A cartoon in the weekly 'Tribuna' showed a man turning out leaflets on a duplicator with two huge rats sitting nearby saying: 'He's of the same breed as us, but he's got a human face.'

This is a sarcastic reference to Dubcek's slogan 'socialism with a human face'.

Like the other trials, the Brno process is being carried on behind closed doors with all servile except functionaries excluded.

## Second US base attacked by NLF

LIBERATION forces fired 38 rockets into the huge US airbase at Da Nang, South Vietnam, yesterday. The rockets killed one US serviceman wounded 20 others.

It was the second major rocket attack on a big US base in three days and inflicted the base's highest casualties for three years.

Around Ouang Tri close to the demilitar-

ized zone, liberation forces subjecting are South Vietnamese troops to the heaviest bombardment since the offensive opened in

They are using the

gun with a range of 17 miles, firing a shell which destroys all but

the deepest bunkers.
The guns are hidden in jungled hills west of Quang Tri and repeated US bombing has failed

#### **Biggest** Arab state built on sand?

EGYPTIAN President Anwar Sadat flew back to Cairo yesterday after concluding an agreement with Libyan head of state Col Muammar Gaddafi to merge the two countries in September.

The combined state—the big-gest in the Middle East—will unite Libya's oil wealth, worth at lease \$1,000m a year and expected to double by the merger date, with Egyptian skilled labour, much of which is at present out of work.

The merger decision follows

Sadat's expulsion of Soviet military experts from Egypt. Gaddafi, a fervent Muslim, noted for his fanatical anti-communism, has long opposed the Soviet military

presence in Egypt.
Some of Sadat's officer corps were broadly in agreement with Gaddafi's position and Sadat had feared a coup attempt unless he broke the Soviet link.

The merger proposal is yet another effort to overcome the fundamental inability of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois nationalism to defeat Zionism and carry through the Arab revolution. But like the United Arab Republic formed with Syria in 1958, it is a structure built on

The UAR was hailed with demagogic oratory like the present merger, but after three years it broke down in mutual recrimination.

Libya, Egypt and Syria are already joined in a loose Federation of Arab Republics, but there was no indication yesterday of the role Syria would play in relation to the new

merged state.

The merged state would give certain strategic advantages in a future war with Israel, supplying Egypt with a more extensive hinterland.

But despite Sadat's repeated promises of a 'final struggle' with Zionism, he has yet to undertake anything of the sort.

Gaddafi has been even more militant in words. But this has largely been a function of his distance from the front line.

What the merger does do, however, is to link Libya's main international barraining counter.

international bargaining counter its vast oil deposits—with the demand for Israeli withdrawal from cccupied Egyptian territory.

In future negotiations for settlement with Israel, the united countries would have the possibility of putting pressure on Israel's main ally, the United

# 2 oppositionists near deat

TWO LEADING Soviet oppositionists Viktor Fainberg and Vladimir Borisov, are dying in a Leningrad 'psychiatric hospital' run by the secret police.

A desperate appeal to save their lives has been made by Academician Andrei Sakharov, the inventor of the Soviet H-bomb and a leading campaigner against Stalinist repres-

In an open letter addressed to Boris Petrovsky, the Soviet Health Minister, Sakharov

'Fainberg and Borisov are in solitary confinement, deprived of books and writing materials. Without your intervention there are no forces capable of saving

The two oppositionists are among the best-known victims of the KGB technique of incarcerating oppositionists in so-called mental hospitals until they recant their views or go mad.

General Pyotr Grigorenko, the World War II hero and military historian, and the poetess Natalya Gorbanevskaya are among the score of other anti-Stalinists suffering this treatment.

Viktor Fainberg, a former metal worker who graduated



**Vladimir Borisov** 

from Leningrad University to become a fine-arts specialist, was arrested on August 25, 1968, in the course of a courageous demonstration in Red Square, Moscow, against the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The demonstration was viciously attacked by plain-clothes KGB men shouting 'They're all Jews' and 'Beat the anti-Sovietists'.

Fainberg was hit in the face until he bled and some of his teeth were knocked out. He was not tried with his fellow-demonstrators but detained for a report on his mental state.

The investigation was con-icted by Professor Daniel headed Lunts, who has headed the 'political' department of the Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry in Moscow since the early 1950s.

Lunts has 'certified' such prominent oppositionists as Grigorenko and Vladimir Bukovsky—he declared him 'insane' in 1963 and reversed the decision four verse later. I not a such a such as a such a decision four years later. Lunts found Fainberg to be suffering from 'schizoheterodoxy'—a diagnosis exceptionally cynical even by KGB standards.
On Christmas Eve 1968 Fain-

berg was sentenced to be confined in a 'special' hospital for compulsory 'treatment'.

In 1970 Fainberg wrote a long appeal to world public opinion denouncing the KGB doctors and the system to which they be-

He followed this in 1971 by launching a hunger strike which lasted an incredible 81 days. He was joined in this strike by Vladimir Borisov, an electrician from Moscow and a member of Action Group for the Defence of Civil Rights.

Borisov spent four years in a psychiatric prison from 1964. After his release from this first spell of incarceration, he signed a letter in defence of Gen igorenko and an appeal to the United Nations.

In June 1969 he was rearrested and taken back to the Leningrad psychiatric hospital. On his arrest, one of the doctors told him: 'Listen, Borisov, you're quite normal: you don't want to be sent to a lunatic asylum do you? Better change your ideas about politics.'

The doctor told him he was being hospitalized 'not on my own initiative but in accordance with orders'. In November of that year he was tried and judged to be of unsound mind. The court decreed compulsory treatment in a psychiatric hospital of special type, i.e. a KGB mental

After their long hunger strike and their years in the hellish KGB special hospitals, Fainberg and Borisov are in danger of

Unlike other political prisoners of the Stalinists, they have no date for release and can be held

indefinitely.

The entire world labour movement must come to the defence of these courageous fighters against Stalinism in the USSR.

### Visions of troop-picket clashes by 'City Press'

# Strikebreaking 1926 style?

THE LEADING newspaper of the City of London, 'City Press', yesterday warned that troops and armoured vehicles may have to stand by to break the national dock strike by

In its front-page leading article the paper says: 'In the 1926 General Strike the armoured cars were able to force a way through cordons of picketing dockers to enable army food convoys to remove vital food supplies from London docks.

'Fighting between dockers and troops might break out if the army operate food convoys out of the docks next week and the operation could escalate into something approaching civil war.

The paper says that the troops will be specifically used on the docks to unload meat, flour and vital foodstuffs.

'There are sufficient troops in London for this,' it adds. 'The Royal Engineers have the Royal Engineers have the necessary skilled men to operate forklift cranes and other dock machinery. The Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps would provide the transport for food convoys convoys.

'Armoured cars would have to 'Armoured cars would have to open a way for the military food convoys from the London docks through hordes of picketing dockers and militant youth.'

These panic-stricken images show the depth of agitation in the ruling class. They indicate the detailed plans and intentions of the ruling class in this present

of the ruling class in this present situation.

Just as in Ulster, the Tories resort to the military to smash the defiance of the working class, so in the rest of Britain the army will be brought into the front lines to defend the privilege and property of the bourgeoisie.

The military theme is also taken up by the editor of 'City Press', Richard Lamb, in a centre page article entitled 'Nation must be united.'

Lamb says: 'The dock dispute and the Industrial Relations Act have divided the trade union movement from the rest of the nation more deeply than at any time since the General Strike of 'If the dispute escalates, we face near revolution. In the 1926 General Strike convoys of flour had to be unloaded from the London docks by the troops and then escorted through pickets of strikers by armoured cars. This may have to be done again now, and the mind boggles at the resulting risk of violence.'

Lamb's article is a plea to Heath to change his tactics with the working class.

'Somehow Mr Heath must pour oil on the troubled waters as Stanley Baldwin did after the 1926 General Strike collapsed. Otherwise we face industrial anarchy. Baldwin's brilliant otherwise we have anarchy. Baldwin's brilliant handling of the aftermath of the General Strike contributed enormously to his winning millions of working class votes in the extraordinary 1931 General

In particular, there must be 'big changes' in the Industrial Relations Act, Lamb says.

He cites the fact that the government has not intervened in the docks dispute with a cooling-off period as an example of how the Act has been rendered unworkable in situations which are too explosive.

The greatest understatement in

the greatest understatement in the paper is this:

'With the grim prospect of a prolonged dock strike and the fears of clashes between troops and dockers, this week's rise on the Stock Exchange is mis-



# The horror of the 'black wards'

ANOTHER report has revealed the horror story of 'black wards' in mental hospitals where people are often shut up just because they are old. In his annual report for the Hospital Advisory Service, Dr A. A. Baker writes:

'It is possible to find wards in mental hospitals where patients sleep, eat, excrete, live and die in one large room.

'As would be expected under such conditions the wards will be quite sordid with foul smells, and all kinds of per-sonal activities and distress publicly exposed.

'Sometimes the nurses concerned seem to become so hardened to the sight, sounds and smells of this type of accommodation that they seem unable to realize the impact on the first visitors and indeed new admissions.'

Dr Baker finds these appalling conditions have a destructive affect on the nursing staff.
'It has been distress-

ing to see good nurses on wards of this kind with 40 or more patients, who are sometimes stress.

tears, and well aware that they cannot give the standard of care they would like.

'In such conditions, 'In such conditions, student and pupil nurses do not get adequate instruction, the qualified staff not sparing the time to teach so that the quality of training is below standard. As a result nurses become result, nurses become discontented and leave before training is com-pleted.

The report also gives more evidence of people being sent into mental wards merely because of their age. Often they were admitted without having seen a doctor.

Dr Baker says that undoubtedly some should have been admitted to general hospitals and not mental hospitals and some did not need hospital admission at all.

'I am sorry to say that some of these old people are admitted into very bad conditions indeed,' he concludes.

The failure to spend

'Elderly patients sleep, eat, excrete, live and and die in one sordid, foul-smelling room

money on psychiatric and geriatric services and geriatric services has led to gross over-crowding. Dr Baker cites two wards each housing 80 or more patients in one hospital with only two nurses on data.

with only two nurses on duty in each ward.

'Staff appeared to be overwhelmed by the work load and the total inadequacy of facilities,' he says.

'The patients were mainly elderly. They were largely unsupervised for meals, and

were largely unsupervised for meals, and those temporarily sick in bed could not be properly attended to.

'Patients were retiring to bed from 5.15 p.m. onwards and clearly even this everging to the second second

even this exercise was a mammoth task for the very limited staff. The bathroom was a separate building and it was a large bare room with absence of seating and no storage facilities for

no storage facilities for clothing.

'The floors were of concrete and some attempt had been made by spreading bed sheets

on the floor. In wintertime conditions in this
bathroom must border
on the arctic.

'Two nurses bath 40
patients each morning,
during which time the
other patients have to
be left to fend for
themselves. Some of the
patients are destructive
and given to scratching and given to scratching each other, in these working and living conditions tensions must inevitably arise both among staff and patients.

The report says that more attention is being paid to the 'black wards' by regional hospital boards and management committees, but it will be a year or two at least before any significant sums of money are

spent on improvements.
Sir Keith Joseph,
Tory Secretary of State
for Social Services, said
the report did not refer
to the many measures already taken to im-prove hospital and local authority services for the elderly and mentally disordered.

# **NUR** leaders abandon fight

THE LEADERSHIP of the National Union of Railwaymen has abandoned its fight against the planned massive redundancies in the industry.

Despite earlier war-like cries of industrial action the union has signed a pact with British Rail which offers increased redundancy money to get men to leave the service voluntarily.

Sidney Weighall, senior ssistant general secretary of the NUR, said he hoped these increased payments would persuade older men to leave the service to make room for younger workers who had lost their jobs.

Though the union is still formally opposed to compulsory redundancy, this conciliatory attitude is a dramatic change from statements made at the last TUC Congress in September.

Then Weighall called a total to redundancies

threatened industrial action.

Under the new proposals a man on the £20 minimum with 45 years' service would qualify for £1,300 redundancy—roughly equal to 13 months' wages.

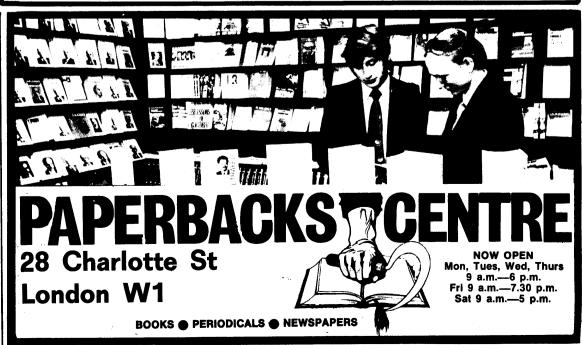
This is in comparison with the £660 he could have got before the deal.

An engine driver with 45 years' service can qualify for £2,072 payment instead of £1,115, plus a special £500 payment in certain circumstances.

A man who is prepared to move to keep his job gets £300 immediately and a further £275 if he moves within a month.

The aim of British Rail, headed by ex-Labour Minister Richard Marsh, is to get rid of 20,000 workers in the next 4½ years. On Tuesday Marsh said: Within the next ten years the railway system as it exists today could be gone for good.'

The Board is working towards a denuded rail network with only the main inter-city routes open, plus commuter services around big industrial centres.





# GRISIS EANS WAR NN JINBS

Tory Transport Minister Mr John Peyton above has rubber stamped plans for the axing of between 4,500 and 6.500 jobs on the railways.

The decision coincides with the news that British Rail expects a £40m deficit this year and as a result will raise passenger fares by an average of 7½ per cent and freight

charges by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

Since 1969 the Board has slashed 30,000 jobs and in the past two years 482 loco-motives, 115,000 wagons and 1,100 passenger coaches have been taken permanently out of service in a bid to cut costs.

An official said the Board would be in serious difficulties without further government financial aid.

He said: 'No other railway in the world is undertaken with such a low level of government support.'

But railways are only one of Britain's ailing industries and, because of the recession, successive governments and particularly the Tories have been called upon to pour millions of pounds into 'lame ducks'.

The Tories have made it plain that they cannot go on doing this except in circumstances where special political criteria apply—as in the cases of Belfast's Harland & Wolff, Rolls-Royce and Upper Clyde Shipbuilders.

Their hands are tied. The Exchequer is not a bottomless well and unemployment and inflation are steadily eroding its solvency.

This leaves the nationalized industries to be run in accordance with the most ruthless canons of capitalist business practice -in the case of the railways it has led to the near dismantling of the network.

However, even after a decade of formidable pruning,

the Board's books have once again lurched into the red and while inflation rages on the situation can only get worse.

By inflicting heavy fares increases on rail passengers the Board, like the government, is merely recognizing the reality of its position.

Neither wants to consciously encourage inflation, but there is no choice.

The eventual consequences of unfettered inflation hold enormous dangers for the working class and the labour movement against whom it will be used mercilessly.

That point has not yet been reached. For the moment British Rail's losses stress once more the utter impossibility of maintaining industries under state ownership with all the benefits that nationalization should confer without bringing them under workers' control in a fully socialized economy.

# TOOLS SLUMP MANCHESTER

The closure of Churchill Machine Tools at Altrincham, near Manchester, is proceeding apace. By the end of the year Churchill em-1,000 ployees will have joined the dole queue.

Altrincham employment exchange is setting up special facilities to cope with the increase of jobless men. But its manager, Mr William Bailey,

'Finding work is going to be a very difficult task indeed. Many of the workers may find it necessary to move out of the area.

'There are 300 fitters about to lose their jobs at Churchill's and in the Manchester area 500 unemployed fitters are already chasing ten vacancies.'

The situation is the same for electricians. Special hardship will fall on Churchill's 120 apprentices who have next to no chance of resuming their trade.

Churchill's is closing its Altrincham plant and moving the facilities to its Coventry headquarters. It is one of a number of machine-tool firms which has been hit by the huge slump in orders.

By the end of next week 50

Churchill employees will have started work in Coventry with the Alfred Herbert parent

There were plans to stage an occupation of the factory, but little has been heard of this recently. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer Anthony Barber visited the factory late last year his limousine was attacked by angry engineers.

**Below: Anthony Barber** 



Journalists in Ireland have been advised by their union not to accept any further contract employment with Radio Telefis Eireann, the state television network, without first consulting the union.

The advice was issued at the weekend by the Irish area council of the National Union of Journalists.

The statement added: 'The NUI completely

RTE's proposals that journalists be given temporary employment on contract to the news division, eroding the traditional principle of permanent, pensionable employment in that area.

'The Irish Council accordingly informing RTE that recruitment on such contracts is unacceptable to the union and is advizing all its members not to accept contract employment in RTE without consulting the union.

'The Council is also instructing its members not to work with non-journalists who might be employed by RTE to do journalistic work'.

# FAURE: SINISTER 'LIBERAL' OF FRENCH POLITICS

BY ALEX MITCHELL

Edgar Faure is back in the French cabinet, serving under Pierre Messmer. That in itself is almost a programme.

In July 1968 Faure was selected by General de Gaulle to carry out a special task of great delicacy. He had to restore order to the French universities after the student revolt of May, outwit and isolate the leadership of that revolt and carry through a reform of the antiquated educational system to meet the needs of modern capitalism.

There was no doubt about his astuteness in carrying through the first part of that task. He completed the work of the CRS (para-military police) and revealed the political bankruptcy of the student leadership of May. Before the reforms had been carried through, however, he was replaced in the government reshuffle which followed the election of Pompidou.

Now the old troubleshooter, miscalled a liberal, is back on the job. This time it is the toughest one of his career: he has to find a way of opposing the demands of the working class while appearing to make a few (inexpensive) concessions.

Edgar Faure has had a strange and tortuous political career. A brief survey of its highlights may shed some light on his role in the Messmer government of class war.

His background and contacts span a wide spectrum of French politics. He has friends on the extreme right while he likes to pass for a 'left'. He was actually Prime Minister at what, for France, was the early age of 41—if only for three weeks.

#### A POLITICAL CAREER

Before 1939 Faure was mainly concerned with building up a prosperous legal practice. One of his best friends was the extreme rightwinger and Petain-supporter, Jean-Louis Tixier-Vignancourt, also a lawyer, and later to be a candidate for the presidency. He now gives conditional support to Pompidou.

During the war Faure fled to Tunisia (then a colony) and after the arrival of the Anglo-American forces joined de Gaulle. He was one of the French prosecuting team at the Nuremberg Trial of Nazi leaders. With the peace he decided to embark on a political career.

After a flirtation with the Catholic MRP, he joined the Radicals, the traditional anticlerical party. His colleagues included Michel Debré and Jacques Chaban-Delmas—both later to become Gaullist Prime

In 1946 he became a deputy for the first time. His first post as a junior minister came in the right-wing Queuille government in 1949. At this time French politics was like a game of musical chairs. By 1952 the up-and-coming Edgar Faure became Prime Minister. Unhappily for him the music started up again after only three weeks in that office.

About this time he began to seek a reputation as a liberal. His father, an ex-army doctor, had flirted with the Communist Party. His wife, who writes detective stories, is described as 'progressive'.

After a spell as Minister of







Top: Faure in 1968 as Minister of Education. Above left and right: his friends, de Gaulle and Chaban Delmas

Finance in the right-wing conservative government of Laniel in 1953, he moved on to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the 'left' government of Pierre Mendès-France. Protection of the franc was one of his main concerns—after the advance-

ment of his personal career.

Besides being a successful politician of the Fourth Republic Faure had also made a comfortable fortune. There were ugly rumours in 1955 that he had secured a reduction in the tax on the sale of

race-horses for personal reasons. He and Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber almost fought a duel over this question—with pistols. An apology came in time for it to be called off, though not before J-J-S-S had posed for the cameras doing some practice shots.

### COMPROMISING PERSONALITY

Not long after this lurid incident Faure was back as Prime Minister, this time for a few months. At the end of 1956 the so-called Republican Front of Mendès-France and Guy Mollet won the elections. Faure was out. Not long afterwards he was pushed out of the Radical Party as well. He was too compromising a personality and a hint of scandal floated about his name.

May 1958, in the crisis provoked by the settler uprising in Algeria, found him in the last, short-lived government of the Fourth Republic. De Gaulle took power two weeks later. At this time Faure was not a Gaullist; in fact he criticized 'the personal power' in company with the Communist Party

But Faure was making his

way back to political life. In 1961 he was re-admitted to the Radical Party. He learned that Gaullism was likely to last for some time, so he became a confidant of de Gaulle's. By 1963 he was the General's informal envoy to Mao Tse-tung, preceding Nixon by nine years. His book on China helped to give him a 'left' image. Enjoying the confidence of the ageing General he built himself a clientele among young and 'progressive' technocrats.

'progressive' technocrats.

In 1966-1967 he was Minister of Agriculture in a Gaullist cabinet with the special task of dealing with the restive peasantry whose position was being undermined by the Common Market price policy and the advance of big capital.

So it was not surprising that

So it was not surprising that the wily lawyer was brought into the cabinet to handle the students in 1968—nor that Chaban-Delmas considered him a dangerous rival.

Faure is not aiming to remain a minister or even to become Prime Minister for the third time. It is clear that he aims still higher, his eyes on the 1976 presidential elections. But he is not the only candidate for Pompidou's succession and there are many things which can happen before then.

#### BY JOHN SPENCER

The Pentagon has at last admitted to bombing the dams and dykes of North Vietnam — though it claims that the bombardment is incidental to attacks on 'military' targets

Until last week United States officials had always denied any damage to the dykes, which are vital to control flooding during the current monsoon season.

Then, on Thursday, July 27. President Nixon coolly admitted that dykes had been hit by his planes. He had the Central Intelligence Agency release carefully selected aerial photographs to carefullyselected reporters along with an eight-page report.
The photographs showed

dykes hit by bombs during two raids on July 10 and 11.
According to the Pentagon
ten of the 12 damaged dykes were close to 'military' targets.

This supposedly proves that the North Vietnamese allegations are worthless lies, and everyone should go back to the comfortable fable that the US planes are only over Indo-

China to hit military targets. In fact, Nixon's clumsy attempt to justify the bombing of the dykes has only rebounded in his face as the Hanoi radio service was quick

to point out. It has once again brought into prominence the grim reality of the US air war in Indo-China—a war described by some of its opponents as the 'Third Indo-China War'.

The war is being waged fullscale by 50,000 US airmen and 500 strike aircraft ranging from the huge B52s to the killer gunships. The planes operate from a dozen mammoth airbases and aircraft

This continuous air war is the Nixon administration's substitute for the use of American ground soldiers. Most of these have now been withdrawn, but US air power

is stronger than ever. Bombing is now the heart of American policy, unlike previous wars, where the planes took a secondary role.

The ground troops are now the demoralized and mutinous South Vietnamese conscripts who have no interest in fighting and have repeatedly suffered defeats at the hands of the North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front troops.

The daily air strikes against North Vietnam are only a small part of the war. Vast regions outside the control of the United States-including two-thirds of Laos, three-quarters of Cambodia, all of North Vietnam and much of South Vietnam are virtually 'free-fire' zones where anything that moves is a 'legitimate' target.

This policy has a strategic ourpose—to drive the peasant inhabitants of the countryside into the cities where they can be herded together and kept under surveillance by the Americans and their puppets.

To wage this war against the population of entire countries demands enormous technological resources and vast supplies of armaments.

From 1965 to 1971 the US dropped 6.3 million tons of bombs on Indo-China — this represents 250 pounds for every inhabitant of Indo-China, or 22 tons for every square mile.

The figure is more than twice the total amount dropped during World War II and the Korean war combined. Far from cutting back the level of the air intervention,

fighting began in the south. More B52s have been sent, particularly to Thailand, where the main US air effort is concentrated. And the carrier fleet on 'Yankee stations' sailing in a predetermined pattern off the coast of North Vietnam has been reinforced by two more ships.

Nixon has radically stepped it

up since the current heavy

The aircraft involved in the air war are highly specialized and sophisticated for the task of killing—each in its

own specific way. There are at least five

different types of fighterbomber, some operating from Thailand and others from the carriers.

There are attack aircraft, subsonic and designed specifically to hit targets on the ground. They carry more bombs and can deliver them with greater accuracy than the fighter-bombers.

Observation aircraft, giving air controllers and heavily protected by electronic gadgetry, carry a fast-firing machine gun to strafe targets on the ground.

There are also electronic warfare aircraft which receive messages from automatic sensors on the ground. They are also equipped with antiradar devices to confuse gunners on the ground.

#### SINISTER

Reconnaissance aircraft use the latest techniques of infrared photograph to detect human or animal life on the ground. They also record the effects of the bombing raids.

A more sinister role is played by the gunships. These are flying gun platforms equipped with machine guns capable of firing 6,000 rounds

minute against fleeing

Most sinister and destructive of all are the high-flying B52s. Their pilots bomb entirely on electronic instructions with huge ordnance ranging up to the 'commando vault' bomb of 15,000 pounds.

The planes cover the skies at all times of the day and night. Gen William Westmore-land. the former American commander in chief in Indo-China, boasted: 'In Vietnam, where artillery

and tactical air forces inflict over two-thirds of the enemy casualties, firepower is responsive as never before. 'It can rain destruction any

where on the battlefield within minutes . . . whether friendly troops are present or not. 'On the battlefield of the future, enemy forces will be

located, tracked and targetted almost instantaneously through the use of data links, computer-assisted intelligence evaluation and automated fire control.' Westmoreland's gruesome vision is now the rule in Viet-

nam — and not just on the 'battlefield'. The entire war in the air is synchronized and controlled by remote computer-operators sitting in Udorn, Thailand, or on carriers out at sea.

Whole areas have been seeded with air-dropped

devices that can detect vibrations or people. They can listen to sounds; they may be sensitive to metallic objects, to heat radiation or to chemical emanations from human beings.

Even the planes are increasingly automated. A new system called Pave Phantom merely requires the pilot to punch data on to the desired target position onto his computer's keyboard, together with information about his chosen weapon.

The computer steers the aircraft over the target and releases the weapon. This is often another piece of advanced electronic gadgetry, the tele-guided or laser-guided 'smart' bomb which homes on its target to pin-point accuracy.

The weapons themselves

show better than anything else the real character of the counter - revolutionary war Nixon is waging. They are directed specifically

towards destroying people and the very land on which they depend to live. From the skies over some parts of Vietnam, says 'Newsweek', the damage seems staggering.

High explosive bombs ranging in size from 250pounders to the giant 15,000pound blockbusters — have carved out a total of 21 million bomb craters averaging 30 feet across and five feet deep





Westmoreland, centre: 'It can rain destruction anywhere on the battlefield

over the past ten years.

The craters cover a total of 345,000 acres and have displaced more than 3,000 million cubic vards of earth.

They form a vast breeding ground for mosquitoes, spreading virulent forms of malaria throughout the peninsula.

High explosive, however, is not very effective against people who have learnt to dig themselves well underground to escape its effects.

#### **VICIOUS**

At least 50 per cent of all combs dropped over Indo-China are designed to kill or maim people and animals with sharp flying shrapnel.

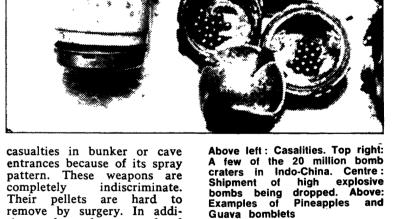
They include the pineapple bomblets which can dropped a thousand at a time by a single plane.

When these vicious weapons are near landing they spew 250.000 tiny steel pellets in a horizontal pattern to shred any flesh in the vicinity.

A similar weapon is the guava bomblet, which can be set to explode in the air, on the ground or with time delay. Each contains 50 grams of explosive and about 300 tiny

This bomb can inflict





tion, they have rendered thousands of acres of prime

timber useless by filling the

Incendiary bombs are the

third widely-employed form of

weaponry in the air war. They

include napalm (and various

forms of 'souped-up' napalm),

thermite, magnesium, white

phosphorus and mixtures of all

a sheet of flame which can

extend for hundreds of yards.

Phosphorus continues to burn

despite determined efforts to

put it out. And the mixture

over whole areas to 'deny'

An additional sadistic refine-

ment of these last weapons is

the use of plastic pellets and

shrapnel. This is cheaper to

make and the pellets do not

show up on X-ray plates,

them to any form of life.

its components.

Napalm covers its target in

tree trunks with shrapnel.

thereby prolonging the victim's agony and necessitating exploratory surgery to remove

Conservative estimates of it at \$2,000m to \$4,000m a year, almost equal to the US's expected balance of trade deficit. The sensor programme alone cost \$1.600m according to the Department of Defence. One B52 bomber costs \$8m to

produce. The figure does not include the vast research and development effort which goes into the air war.

combines the deadly effects of The most striking thing about the air war in Indo-Then there are the so-called China is its ineffectiveness. area-denial weapons, like the The workers and peasants of dragontooth mine and the Vietnam, Thailand and Camspider mine. These are bodia continue to win victories designed to explode when against the US and its puppets stepped on, killing or maiming despite the enormous weight the unfortunate victim. They of armour and technology are dropped indiscriminately ranged against them.

Nixon is discovering what all his predecessors found out: against a determined revolutionary movement and a people's war, no amount of weaponry can compensate for the lack of fighting spirit in the puppet armies.



ball-bearings.

# LET HISTORY JUDGE STALINISM

The book by Roy Medvedev translated as 'Let History Judge: the Origins and Consequences of Stalinism' (Macmillan £5.75) is the first independent attempt in the Soviet Union to understand the Stalin era which has come out of that country. It is a damning indictment of Stalin and Stalinism which confirms everything which Trotsky wrote about the bureaucratic degeneration of the first workers' state. From the great tension under which it is written, its passion drawn from the sufferings of millions of people, is also a testimony to the fact that the conquests of the October 1917 Revolution have not been destroyed. Medvedev writes as a communist intellectual, an oppositionist who is harassed and persecuted for his struggle to tell the truth as he sees it. His book has great merits and deserves a careful study both for what it provides in the way of corroboration for the Trotskyist analysis and what it leaves out. On some crucial questions the book is fundamentally wrong. This series of articles submit Medvedev's book to detailed scrutiny with the aim of pursuing the struggle against Stalinism to the end. It will deal in particular with his errors and omissions and point the way for a more rounded analysis which must begin with the works of Trotsky which are cited in the footnotes.

BY TOM KEMP PART 7

#### STALIN AND WORLD WAR II

The foreign policy corollary to 'socialism in one country' was 'peaceful co-existence' with capitalism on the basis of an acceptance of the existing division of the world.

Contrary to some assumptions, 'peaceful co-existence' had nothing in common with Leninism, nor was it an invention of the Khrushchev era; it was a necessary part of Stalinism and took definite form after 1934.

The fact that a new imperialist war was being prepared at that time posed difficult problems for the practitioners of 'peaceful co-existence': which gang of robbers should they co-exist with? There was no objection in principle to co-existing, which meant co-operating, with either.

The rise of fascism made no difference. Stalin could cooperate as will with Hitler, indeed better, than with a 'democratic' government more liable to alter its policy.

The policy of 'collective security', or alliance with the capitalist 'democracies', which went alongside the policy of the Popular Front, gained Stalin many friends and supporters on the non-communist left and among those capitalist politicians disturbed by the growing threat to the other imperialist countries from Nazi Germany

They were prepared to stomach the Moscow Trials, and even defend them, turn a blind eye to the purges and praise Stalin's statesmanship.

It was a different story in August 1939 when Stalin changed course and sought security in a pact with the Third Reich. The cries of 'betrayal' were as deafening as they were hypocritical. Many good 'democrats' were hoping that the Red Army would, to use Stalin's phrase, pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them.

The wave of Stalinophobia which followed found its expression in the Trotskyist movement, leading a section of the American Socialist Workers' Party to abandon the slogan of defence of the Soviet Union and question its class nature. But, in complete contrast with the Stalinists, The Fourth International remained

loyal to the Leninist policy of revolutionary defeatism.

The communist parties were thrown into acute disarray by Stalin's volte-face. Prepared for many years to adopt a defencist position behind their own ruling class in the coming war under the banner of antifascism, they now had to adopt an entirely different policy in which the warmongers were the governments of Britain and France.

Their embarrassments increased as Stalin carried out his undertakings to Hitler fully and enthusiastically even after the Nazis had made themselves masters of western Europe and had begun to turn their attention and their forces towards the East.

When the Nazis launched their attack on the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, Stalin was taken completely by surprise. He had refused to credit the many reports of war preparations and the warnings which were received both from foreign governments and from Soviet intelligence agents who were risking their lives in order to obtain such information.

Nothing had been done, in the period of the Pact, to prepare for the German attack. The Red Army was still staggering under the blows inflicted by Stalin himself on its high comand and its officer corps. To the last, under corps issued statements claiming that Germany was strictly observing the terms of the Pact and that there was no truth in the rumours that an attack was being prepared.

Stalin's culpability for the defencelessness of the Soviet Union in the face of the Nazi attack and criticism of his conduct of the war were obviously not raised during his lifetime in the Soviet Union. It was the 20th Congress which first revealed such facts to the general public and gave the all clear for historians and publicists to investigate his role in the events leading to the war and in the war itself and to demolish the myth of the great war leader.

the great war leader.

Medvedev brings together
the case against Stalin and
argues persuasively against
those who, in the past few
years, had begun to rehabilitate
Stalin.

Medvedev turns a blind eye to the degeneration of the bureaucratic regime which enabled Stalin to wreak the havoc which nearly brought the Soviet Union to disaster and blames everything onto 'the system of one-man rule combined with one man's limitations'. However, given this limitation, he undoubtedly





Top: Stalin and Ribbentrop shake hands after the Nazi-Soviet pact. Above: General Zhukov (right) with Sokolovsky (left) and Bulganin in command headquarters near Moscow. In the early stages of the war, Stalin overrode the advice of his Generals with regard to the advancing German troops, which resulted in huge Russian losses and in October 1941 he panicked and left Moscow

makes clear Stalin's responsibilities. As he insists, against those who now try to resurrect Stalin the great war leader, the facts cited by Khrushchev in 1956 have been been disproved. His judgement in this respect is worth quoting:

'Stalin was in fact a mediocre commander. He did make correct decisions, gave his subordinates correct orders, and accepted from them — often after arguments and resistance — much good advice. But his personal qualities—his nastiness and narrowmindedness, his contempt for

people and boundless love of power, his suspiciousness and his bureaucratic style of leadership — were bound to affect his behaviour as a commander. The result was something much worse than the mistakes that cannot be avoided in any war. Most of Stalin's wrong decisions were so extravagantly and senselessly costly that they cannot be condoned.'

When the German attack began, Stalin had difficulty in believing it. The first orders given to the Red Army left open the possibility that there had been a mistake and Stalin ordered Molotov to see the German ambassador and get in touch with Berlin. Only when Molotov returned to confirm that Germany had declared war did Stalin believe it. For a period, from June 24 to July 2, 1941, Stalin withdrew from public life, apparently believing that all was lost.

What he was doing in those days no one knows for sure. In private Khrushchev once said that he was drinking. At any rate, as Medvedev points out, the system of command



Needless offensives exhausted the troops. Russian prisoners in late 1941 transported by the train load.

was so highly centralized that Stalin's temporary defection had a paralysing effect and helped to account for the rapid penetration of Soviet territory by the invaders in the early days of the war.

Once Stalin had come to his senses, he imposed his own views on strategy on the military command, namely to avoid retreat until the last moment. This made defence in depth impossible and on a number of occasions left large bodies of troops in exposed positions where they could be encircled. Huge losses resulted from fruitless offensives and troops were needlessly exhausted in premature attacks when a strategic withdrawal was called for.

## An atmosphere was created which stifled initiative

In the early stages of the war Stalin overrode the advice of Generals Koniev and Zhukov and then on October 16, 1941, again he panicked and left Moscow.

Early in the winter of 1942, when the German troops had been brought to a halt by the resistance of the Red Army and were facing the rigours of a Russian winter—for which they were ill-prepared—Stalin again insisted on a large-scale offensive.

The offensive was, in any case, continued too long and during the spring and summer the Wehrmacht was again able to go over to the attack and score victories. Stalin had a good deal of responsibility for the heavy losses suffered during the offensive around Kharkov and in the crimea.

During the war, of course, the Red Army suffered incalculably from the purge of 1937-1938. Not only had the most brilliant commanders been killed, but an atmopshere had been created which stifled initiative and, in particular, made it difficult for anyone to stand up to Stalin, however foolhardy or illiterate his proposals.

It was the heroism of the Red Army and the reawakened power of the October Revolution which enabled the invaders to be defeated despite the costly mistakes of Stalin.

The evidence which Medvedev brings together about Stalin's record as a war leader is damning indeed. His conclusion is worth quoting at length:

'In short, Stalin was in several respects a poor commander, with a weakness for schematizing, for abstract underestimating the enemy and overestimating his own forces. He was shortsighted and cruel, careless of losses, unwilling or unable to fight with little loss of blood, little interested in the fate of soldiers or the common people. He had much more to do with the reverses at the beginning of the war than with the victories at the end. Those military historians are wrong who accept the simple syllogism: since the war ended in victory, and Stalin was the Supreme Commander in Chief, he was a very good commander. A careful examination of the record supports a very different view. With other leadership the army could have defeated the Nazi aggressor not at Stalingrad and Kursk, but much further

west and much sooner. Hundreds of towns and tens of thousands of villages would not have been destroyed. Victory would not have cost 20 million lives.'

Moreover, during the war Stalin continued to carry out arbitrary arrests and ordered the execution of many military commanders and reprisals against their families. In most cases they were made scapegoats for his own blunders.

Medvedev claims that by refusing to sign the Hague convention on war prisoners, which deprived Soviet prisoners in German hands of help from the International Red Cross, he opened the way for many to join Vlassov's army which fought on the German side. They did so, he says, 'to save themselves from starvation, hoping at a suitable moment to cross over to the Soviet army or the partisans'.

After the war the promise that returned Soviet prisoners would not be prosecuted was not kept. Returned prisoners were treated like traitors even when they were war heroes. Most of them were sent to remote labour camps, there to die or to languish for years.

The conditions under which they lived have been described many times, most vividly, perhaps, in the works of Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

#### CONTINUED TOMORROW

<sup>1</sup> In France many deputies, senators and other elected representatives left the Communist Party, which was made illegal in September, 1939. The effect in Britain was hardly less devastating 'Stalinism in Britain'. R. Black. New Park Publications.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

#### PAYING TO STAND UP

One of the joys of working at the National Theatre consists of the understudies having to pay to **stand** to watch the show they are meant to be understudying.

Due to administration 'difficulties' it can take up to two days to get a free pass for one of the company to watch the show he or she is understudying.

Rather than go through the hassle of telephoning about ten secretaries to explain who he is and why he wants to see the show, the actor in desperation and frustration ends up by buying a standing place.

This can cost anything up to £2. And again, because of the heavy administrative machinery at the National, most understudies don't be her to try and claim the money back.

No wonder some of the actors are listening a little cynically to the claims of internal democracy heard at the theatre.

#### **CHEERS**

Listen to this correspondent in the Tory-controlled 'Yorkshire Post'.

'Sir,—As one of the silent majority, who are weary of the constant industrial strife initiated by the tiny militant minority, I would like to ask, through your columns, if there are any influential and capable leaders who could form an organization to call upon voluntary labour from the ranks of this silent majority—such labour to be used to take the place of strikers wherever such a step is possible.

'I, for one, would willingly give up my evenings to work, for example on the docks.'

The authority of this amazing burst is none other than well known supporter of the working class Frank Ogden Waddington. Cheers, Wodders, old man! Why not put up your suggestion at the next meeting down at the Royal Group of docks.

#### HOUSE TRAINED SHEEP

Further notes of Lord Aldington. He was a junior minister at the Board of Trade with Edward Heath during the late 1950s. He resigned and left politics because he said he could no longer afford to live on a junior minister's salary. He and Lady Aldington share an eccentric hobby. They keep house-trained sheep whose wool is used by Lady Aldington to knit mittens and pullovers for the family.

#### Below: Heath and Aldington





# **BOOKS**



LEON TROTSKY:
Germany 1931/1932
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½
Where Is Britain Going?
Paperback 37½p
Revolution Betrayed
Paperback 62½p—cloth £1.05
Problems of the Chinese Revolution
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £1.87½
Permanent Revolution:
Results and Prospects
Paperback 75p
In Defence of Marxism
Paperback 75p
Lessons of October
Paperback 60p

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

# Rebel unions allowed to attend TUC

A TOTAL of 34 unions have now been suspended from the TUC for remaining on the Tory register established by the Industrial Relations Act.

But they may be allowed to send delegates to and speak at the Brighton Congress early next month.

And it may not be until the

#### **Post Office** doubles its profits

THE POST Office made a £36m profit last year—nearly double the trading surplus of the previous 12 months.

On the telecommunications side—which includes telephones and telex—the corporation made a £58m surplus. But the postal, giro, remittance and data-processing services lost nearly

The government had set a £100m plus profit target for the Post Office in the period 1971-

In the annual report out yesterday, chairman Bill Ryland warns Post Office workers about excessive wage claims.

'The Post Office is very vulnerable to inflation. On present trends this will make the financial results for 1972-1973 much worse than those for 1971-1972,'

If increases in wages and in the prices paid for goods destroyed the 'benefits of growth', and improved productivity, he added, there would be a financial gap to be filled, especially on the postal side.

The postal service itself lost £12.6m, a much smaller loss than

£12.6m, a much smaller loss than in the previous year, but fell £23.2m short of the set target.

Ryland said an important contribution towards price restraint in the Post Office would be the writing-off of past losses in the postal service. By the end of 1972-1973, the losses are expected to have mounted to £180m.

1973 Congress that any of them

1973 Congress that any of them will face expulsion for continued defiance of official policy.
Victor Feather, TUC general secretary, says that 102 unions with 9 million members are already following policy and that he expects representatives of another 500,000 will be doing so by this year's Congress next month.

In letters sent out yesterday to all affiliated organizations he says that several unions are taking steps through their internal procedures to come into

Inne.

The letter continues: 'The General Council will be giving further consideration to the precise nature of suspension under Rule 13 and of the pro-cedure to be adopted at Congress.

'In the meantime all affiliated unions are expected to observe strictly the requirements of the Bridlington and Croydon prin-

Bridlington and Croydon principles and procedures.'

In fact Feather expects that the General Council's recommendation in September will be that unions are given a final deadline for coming into line of December 31.

They would not than be auto-

They would not then be automatically expelled, but their suspension continued until the September 1973 Congress. This, Feather explained to reporters, was because only a full Congress could take a decision to expel a

The General Council will be deciding its recommendation at its pre-Congress meeting on August 23.

Until then, it will not be decided whether suspended unions can attend the Congress, move motions or submit nominations for the General Council.

It would be unprecedented if they were allowed to do so. But Feather's argument is that there is 'no other case where a suspended union was in company with 33 others'. The General Council is not afraid of creating precedents, he says.

Three of the suspended unions are having special conferences in an attempt to deregister.

They are the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs and the Civil Service Union. The National Graphical Asso-

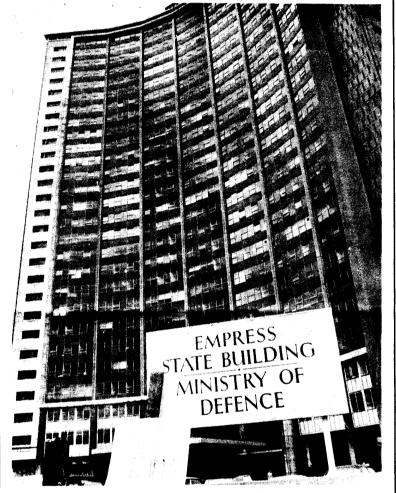
ciation is holding a ballot.

#### Camden won't implement Rent Act

# Let Tories do own dirty work

THE DECISION by Labour-controlled Camden, London, council not to implement the Housing Finance 'fair rents' Act leaves them open to surcharges and disqualification. A £1 rent increase for the council's tenants due this October will not be passed on. Instead, the government's Housing Commissioner will be invited to come in and try and do the job.

### Chars' 24-hr picket



A 24-HOUR picket is being maintained by women cleaners outside Cleanagents Limited in Fulham over a recognition

The Civil Service Union has

just given official backing to the women's struggle. The picket line will be strengthened in the next few days by other trade unionists, including building workers.

The firm employs women in London who work at four government ministries and private buildings.

A mass meeting at Earls Court is planned for Monday. The Department of Employment fears that the strike will now spread to other buildings, many of them where highly-secret government work is carried out.

Camden's decision was made in the face of a split in the Labour group. At least 15 Labour councillors voted with the Tory opposition and the final vote against implementation was 30 to 20.

After the meeting on Wednesday night, Mrs Millie Miller, leader of the council,

'We have asked that the Houswe have asked that the Hous-ing Commissioner be appointed to take over the affairs of the borough as soon as possible. This is inevitable now and we feel it may minimize the seriousness of the surcharge.

'We cannot stop the government on this, but we are not bringing in extra rents. They will have to bring in a Commissioner to do their own dirty work,' she added.

The Tory government's attack on housing and the social services has meant that Labour

The Housing Finance Act and its equivalent the Housing (Financial Provisions) Scotland Act both received the Royal Assent on

councils have had to make up their minds. Were they to be the instruments of Tory policies?

Mrs Miller and the Labour majority on Camden find their predecessors on Poplar council in East London. In 1921 the council, led by George Lansbury, refused to hand over local rates to the London County Council.

To hand the money over would have meant cutting the relief given to the unemployed through the Board of Guardians.

By September 1921, 30 members of the council had been sent to prison for contempt of the High Court. Demonstrations took place outside the prisons and the dockers threatened a strike.

The government rushed a Bill through parliament easing the rates burden and the councillors were released. And they never purged their contempt.

#### **SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE**

#### PUBLIC MEETING

**CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE** LONDON, WC1.

#### Thursday August 10, 7.30 p.m.

**END THE TUC TALKS WITH HEATH VICTORY TO THE DOCKERS** 

NATIONALIZE DOCKS AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRIES

MAKE THE TORIES RESIGN

Speakers: Larry Cavanagh, dock worker G. Healy, SLL national secretary

I would like information about

#### Airport **builders** stop work on extension

WORK on Manchester Airport's £8m redevelopment plan has been stopped by more than 100 building and construction men who downed tools in support of a claim for a guaranteed £30 for a 35-hour week.

They are members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and the Union of Construction and Allied Technicians. UCATT regional organizer John Brooms, said:

'Until the men get a satis-

factory wage agreement negotiated or an order from national level to go back to work, they

are staying out.'
Work on a new Jumbo Jet pier, multi-story car park complex and the airport south front is halted, and pickets say they will stop any lorries carrying material entering the site.

# Magazines may stop over pay dispute

THE NATIONAL Union of Journalists has served notice of strike action on the magazine and book companies of the International Publishing Corporation.

The move followed the rejection by a vote of 631 to 224 at a mass meeting of members of a pay offer of £300 to last 18 months against a claim for £495 for 12 months as part of a new house agreement (pay and con-ditions agreement for a par-ticular group or office).

Said a spokesman:

'The companies have also refused to concede an additional week's holiday, to agree higher minimum rates for long-service employees, to introduce paid maternity leave or to provide creche facilities for working mothers.

'Our members are particularly angered that the money offer

represents less than half of what the newspaper division of the corporation agreed last week to concede to NUJ chapels in London, Manchester and Glasgow.

'If the companies make no better offer and the strike takes effect, most of this country's leading women's journals, comics, general and specialized magazines, and trade and technical journals will disappear from the bookstalls.'

The spokesman added that strike notice was due to expire in about a month's time and that 1,800 employees were affected.

If the management wanted to meet the union 'they can make a new proposal'.

OFFICE STAFF at Crescent Shipping, Rochester, Kent, are staging a 'go slow' in dealing with pay and tax refunds for 100 striking dockers.

#### BBC 1

9.45 Camberwick Green. 10.00 Casey Jones. 10.25 Attenborough and Animals. 10.50 Tin Tin. 10.55 Magic Roundabout. 12.55 Eu Tyb Name Report Advisor Report News, weather. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Monkees. 5.20 Ask Aspel. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News, weather.

- 6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.
- 6.20 TOM AND JERRY.
- 6.30 THE VIRGINIAN.
- 7.45 IT'S KNOCK - OUT Second international heat.
- 9.00 NEWS, weather.
- 9.25 THE MAN OUTSIDE. Man-
- 10.15 DAVE ALLEN AT LARGE.
- 11.00 NEWS.
- 11.05 SUMMER TALK.
- 11.50 Weather.

#### BBC 2

- 11.00 Play School. 6.05 Open University.
  7.30 NEWSROOM, weather.
- THE ENTERTAINERS. Two Players in the Music
- Market. 8.50 THE BEETHOVEN SYM-PHONIES. New Philhar-monia Orchestra conduc-
- ted by Otto Klemperer.

  SPORT TWO. Denn Dennis
- Lillie—Fast Bowler.

  GARDENERS' WORLD.

  With Percy Thrower.

  NEWS, Weather.
- 11.10 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

#### ITV

11.20 The Lords. 12.25 Women today. 12.50 Freud on food. 1.15 Bellbird. 1.30 Dan. 1.40 Bush boy. 2.05 Castle haven. 2.30 Racing from Redcar. 3.45 Delta. 4.40 Happy house. 4.55 Land of the giants. 5.50 News

6.00 MIDSUMMER MONTY.

- Monty Modlyn.

  THE NEW DICK VAN
  DYKE SHOW. The Tele-
- THE BEST OF PLEASE 7.00 SIR.
- THE FBI. The Quarry. 7.30 8.30
- THE COMEDIANS.

  MAN FROM HAVEN.

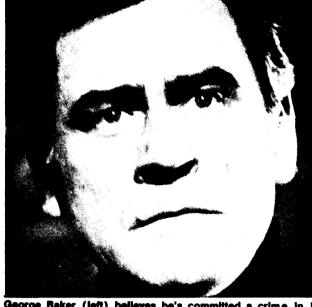
  Episode 3. 9.00 MAN
- NEWS.
  THE FRIGHTENERS. The 10.00 10.30 Disappearing Man.
- WICKED WOMEN. Christiana Edmunds. First in series of plays based on 11.00
- true crime.
  SCALES OF JUSTICE.
  THE BISHOPS.

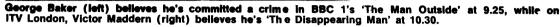
#### **REGIONAL TV**

CHANNEL: 1.45 Racing. 4.05 Happy house. 4.20 Puffin. 4.22 Jimmy Stewart. 4.50 Pebbles and Bamm Bamm. 5.20 Primus. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.10 Cartoons. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 FBI. 8.30 In for a penny. 9.00 London. 10.35 Film: 'The Tingler'. 12.00 News, weather.

WESTWARD, As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 10.32 News. 12.00 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 12.55 News. 1.00 Beloved enemy. 1.25 Hillbillies. 1.50 Cook book. 2.15 Racing. 3.45 Cartoon. 3.55 Weekend. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Paulus. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Voyage. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day by day. Scene south east. 6.30 Who do you do? 7.00 In for a penny. 7.30 Weekend. 7.35 Sale. 8.05 FBI. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Look Back In Anger'. 12.20 News. 12.30





Weather, Guideline,

HTV: 2.15 Racing. 3.45 Women. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Woobinda. 5.20 Flaxton boys. 5.50 News. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 In for a penny. 7.30 Comedians. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London. 11.00 Film: 'Account Rendered'. 12.10 Scales of justice. 12.40 Weather. HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/ Wales as above except: 4.15 Cantamil. 6.01 Y Dydd. HTV West as above except: 6.15 Report West.

ANGLIA: 1.35 World War I. 2.00 Mad movies. 2.25 Racing. 3.45 Yoga. 4.10 News. 4.15 Cartoons. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Glamour 72. 7.35 Comedians. 8.00 Combat. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Victim'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 1.45 Racing. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women.

4.10 Julia. 4.40 Happy house. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 In for a penny. 7.30 Persuaders. 8.25 London. 10.30 Film: 'Black

**ULSTER:** 1.45 Racing. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Cowboy in Africa. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.10 Viewfinder. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sale. 7.30 In for a penny. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Comedians. 11.00 Film: 'Night Slaves'.

YORKSHIRE: 1.45 Racing. 3.40 Eisteddfod. 4.10 Calendar. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Happy house. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 News. 6.00 Calendar. 6.05 Randall and Hopkirk. 7.00 Film: 'Seven in Darkness'. 8.30 in for a penny. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Peeping Tom'. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA: 1.45 Racing. 3.40 University challenge. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Happy house. 4.50 Skippy. 5.15 Funky phantom. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.05 OK. 6.30 Riptide. 7.30 In for a penny. 8.00 Protectors. 8.25 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Snorkel'.

SCOTTISH: 1.45 Racing. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Animaland. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.50 Happy house. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 Cartoons. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.15 Love, American style. 6.30 Helen McArthur. 7.00 Please sir. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 London. 10.30 In camera. 11.00 At odds. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 Theatre of

GRAMPIAN: 1.45 Racing. 3.37 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Happy house. 4.55 Rumblie Jumblie. 5.20 Bush boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Mr and Mrs. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Jesse James. 8.05 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 10.30 Hogan's heroes. 11.00 Job look. 11.05 Film: 'Paranoiac'. Road report.



#### What vou've been waiting for: a new impression of 'The New Course'

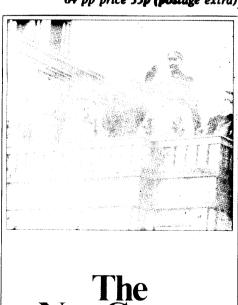
A salient work of Trotsky treating with his struggle against the rising Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union. Written in the aftermath of the civil war and in the period of the New Economic Policy when, despite all the conservative pressures generated within the Soviet Union, there still seemed every chance of curbing and overcoming this bureaucracy. This book makes a bridge between Lenin's deathbed struggles against Stalinism and the later founding of the Joint Left Opposition.

108 pp price 65p (postage extra)

#### Trotsky's reply to critics of 'Where is Britain Going?"

This collection of articles was penned by Trotsky in reply to various critics of his then recently-published 'Where is Britain Going?' They appeared in the Soviet press of the time and constitute a necessary corollary and sequel to that work. Trotsky here dissects the arguments of all the brands of opponents of Marxism: reformist, centrist, pacifist, Fabian, trade-union bureaucrat and by implication, its Russian counterpart, the nascent Soviet bureaucrat. Here also he unravels many of the knotty problems facing the infant Communist Party developing a strategy for power in the revolutionary epoch.

64 pp price 35p (postage extra)



**NewCourse** 

**BOOKS** 



Paperback, 621 MAX SHACHTMAN : **Behind The Moscow Trial** Paperback 75p ROBERT BLACK : Stalinism In Britain Paperback £1.12½-LEON TROTSKY: -cloth £2 Death Agony of Capitalism (The Transitional Programme) Pamphlet 5p Class Nature of the Soviet State Pamphlet 20p
In Defence of the October Revolution Pamphlet 15p The Theory and Practice of Revisionism Pamphlet 15p Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from : NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG

**Moscow Trials Anthology** 

#### Subscribe! WULKELS II

The daily the Tories.

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

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

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

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

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

Days required

MONDAY

**THURSDAY** 

(Please tick)

**TUESDAY WEDNESDAY**  FRIDAY SATURDAY \*

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

ADDRESS .....

Amount enclosed £

Available from 186a, Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG and the Paperbacks Centre (see p. 3)

#### London men plan picket at Colchester dockyard

IAN YEATS

MEN AT wharves at Colchester and Rowhedge docks. Hythe, were working normally yesterday despite requests from London docks shop stewards to back the national strike.

A 300-strong picket failed to arrive yesterday because dockers had to collect tax rebates and social security for their families, and sign on for

strike pay.

But Jim Carpenter, chairman of the Port of London Authority

of the Port of London Authority stewards at the Royal docks, told Workers Press: 'We will be out in force today.'

The Colchester wharves employ a total labour force of 30 including ten dockers, but none are members of a trade union. The men work for three private wharfingers handling coasters of up to 500 tons which carry grain, timber and animal foods.

Two 18-year-old students working at the wharves left on Thursday after National Union of Students President Digby Jacks made a flying visit to Colchester to urge them not to scab on dockers.

The container terminal at

The container Harwich, Parkestone Wharf, was also open for business yester-day. Operated by members of the National Union of Railwaymen. Pickets from nearby Harwich navy yard had asked

them repeatedly to stop work.
Transport and General
Workers' Union shop steward for the 120 unregistered dockers at the navy yard, Ernie Blake, said his men were not affected by redundancies at the mainly roll-on, roll-off dock. But he added: 'We have been

called out on official strike. We are all T&GWU members and we are all dockers, so we stopped

'The main thing the dockers are after is guarantees. They have lost so much through modernization and now things have come to a head.

'The Jones-Aldington report

has not given enough. The strike has been made official and Jones will have to come up with something. If he calls it off without giving the men what they want, there is going to be a lot of angry lads about, including me.'

Unlike the Hythe men, who see no end to the use of small coasters and therefore no threat to their own jobs, the navy yard has seen redundancies in the past and the dockers there back the strike because they fear modernization could inflict it on them again.

Pickets on duty yesterday said the dockers had a 'good case' and were entitled to jobs in container depots where non-dockers worked for less pay. Across the Orwell estuary,

ships at the unregistered port of Felixstowe were idle as a result of the 425 dockers decision to join the strike.

#### LATE NEWS

LEADERS of 110,000 electricity supply manual workers decided yesterday to go for a £6-a-week increase on the basic minimum wage, bringing it to £25, with increases up the scale. They also want a 35-hour week and four weeks annual holiday. The claim will be put next month and the four unions concerned will demand an early settlement to avoid a possible dispute running into the depths of winter. Last year they won  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

THE 34 unions suspended from the TUC for remaining registered under the Industrial Relations Act will not automatically be suspended at branch level from local trades councils. In a letter to the trades councils, the TUC

says:
'The decision whether or not beauches is left to suspend the branches is left to each individual trades council.' (See page 10.)

# Labour MP accuses government department

# Cover-up conspiracy over 13 companies

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR MP, Mr Arthur Lewis, yesterday accused the Department of Trade and Industry of deliberately aiding and abetting the breaking of the law.

In a wide-ranging attack on the department Mr Lewis, MP for West Ham North, named companies which the department should taken action against.

One of them, the offshore property fund Real Estate Fund of America, had the former Tory Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling, as its first president.

Mr Lewis told the Commons:

'The department have been guilty of a deliberate conspiracy on the part of their officials to cover up and protect a number of illegal activities to the detri-ment of the shareholders of the

companies.'
Mr Lewis said he would name
13 companies to which he had
drawn the attention of the
Department. They were: Hartley
Baird and Co; H. J. Baldwin;
Vehicle and General Insurance
Co; Competitive Insurance Co;
Dollar Land Holdings; Pinnock
Finance Co; Threeways Nurseries; Camp Bird Ltd; Rolls Razor
and the Bloom Empire; Associated Leisure Holdings; Sempah
Holdings; Third Mile Investment Holdings; Third Mile Investment Trust and Real Estate Fund of America. He also mentioned the

Poulson affair.

Maudling resigned two weeks ago after the Scotland Yard

fraud squad was called in to investigate the bankrupt empire of Yorkshire architect John Poul-

He became the inaugural president of the offshore fund REFA early in 1969, but retained shares in the group's management com-pany for more than 12 months after his resignation. He left the company, he said, to concentrate on the 1970 General Elec-

tion.

The founder of REFA, Jerome
D. Hoffman, a former Missouri
baseball player, is now serving
two years in a United States jail

for mortgage fraud.

It was revealed a week ago that a Scotland Yard fraud squad inquiry into REFA has been handed to the Director of Public Prosecutions to decide whether charges should be laid against anybody connected with

Referring to REFA, Mr Lewis said that as far as he knew the DTI had taken no action, although he had heard whispers that the police had been investigating

ating.

Mr Lewis said: 'One of the directors, Mr Maudling, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer and former Home Secretary, has de-clared—and I must accept his word—that he has not been investigated, asked to give evidence or called on to give any information at all.

'It is an amazing situation where the prime director of a company is now in jail [Hoffman), the company is being investigated, but the directors associated have not been and

are not being questioned.
'When did the police start to

investigate REFA? Have they interviewed all those concerned with REFA, including all direc-

tors? If not, why not?'
Mr Lewis said he would like
to know why Mr Maudling had not been given an opportunity of being questioned and to put his case with regard to REFA.

He had been told that with regard to the Poulson case nothing could be done because the law had been properly activated. But with regard to REFA, it was possible, and Mr Maudling should have been given an opportunity of stating his case.
(Maudling was chairman of an

overseas company connected with the failed empire of John Poulson.)

Replying to the debate, the Minister for Trade, Mr Michael Noble, said he realized Mr Lewis felt strongly that the department should step in when anything went wront. Mr Lewis thought the department should do everything and the shareholders nothing, Noble said. 'I cannot accept that.'

The Minister went on: 'I obviously don't want to talk about the Real Estate Fund of America or the Poulson case as both are sub judice, and it would be quite improper for me to do so.'\_\_\_\_

(This is not true. Neither case is the subject of criminal proceedings and it would be perfectly in order for the minister to answer questions on these cases. And two days ago, Maudling himself was given headlines when he protested about evidence given by Poulson at his bankruptcy hearing.) Noble defended the role of

Noble defended the role of his department.

'I want to repudiate allegations that civil servants in my department have been deliberately aiding and abetting the breaking of the law. They have carried out their tasks aided by the best legal advice and working under enormous pressure.'

The 'enormous pressure' which Noble refers to could mean the enormous political pressure which is frequently applied to officers in the DTI.

There is no doubt that the investigations branch of the department looked into several of the companies on Mr Lewis' list.

the companies on Mr Lewis' list. But the reports were either ignored or suppressed by the politicians of the day.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission has ordered hearings into the operation of the Oceanographic Fund, a mutual fund in which President Nixon's brother, Edward, was once a director.

Nixon's brother, Edward, was once a director.

Edward Nixon resigned his directorship last year. Officials would not say when it began its investigation, but there were newspaper reports about the probe early this year.

The Commission charges also involved the brokerage firm of Mittendorf, Colgate and Company, of which Mr J. William Mittendorf, the US Ambassador to the Netherlands, was a part-

ner.
A member of the Republican Party's national committee, Mr J. Carl Shipley, was also an officer in the mutual fund.

Commission officials alleged there had been 'gross misconduct or gross abuse of trust' in the buying and selling of stocks in the fund by the brokerage firm.

## Coventry 1-day strike called against Act

THE DISTRICT committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union has called for a one-day total shutdown in Coventry on Monday, August 14, in protest against the Industrial Relations Act.

Bill Lapworth, Coventry district secretary, said the city would be brought 'to a complete standstill'. Most local industry, public transport and local gov-

SCOTLAND and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with some

rain or drizzle in the west and some sunny intervals in the east. England and Wales will be mostly

dry with sunny spells and longer

periods of sunshine in the east and south. Temperatures rising back to near the seasonal nor-

NEWS DESK 01-720 2000

**CIRCULATION 01-622 7029** 

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

mal in most areas.

**WEATHER** 

ernment services would have to shut down, he said.

The one-day strike decision was taken by 400 votes to four and is expected to involve about 60,000 T&GWU members in the

In particular the men want to protest against the fines of £55,000 imposed on their union by the National Industrial Relations Court.

Ironically, the leadership of the union has already paid the fine to the courts, despite the overwhelming view of the mem-bership that the court and the Act should be boycotted.

SO FAR, your response has been good. Keep it up at all costs.

The decision to invoke the The Tory government will not halt its attacks on the working class and to make it resign is now the vital question of the day.

Use Workers Press in every way for this fight. Help us this month to raise another total of £1.750.

> **Workers Press** August Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

#### **AUGUST FUND** NOW £151.28

emergency powers is a warning to the whole labour movement.

The extra money is needed to cover increased costs. Post all donations off to:

# Marathon deal within a week?

A WORKING agreement which could finally launch the American oil rig builders Marathon Manufacturing on the Clyde is likely to be signed within a week.

Fourteen unions involved in Marathon's take-over of the Clydebank yard met company chiefs including president Wayne Harbin for talks over the deal.

A major obstacle is Marathon's suggestion that disputes during the life of the four-year deal should go to arbitration on the suggestion of unions or manage-The unions are insisting that

arbitration should be mutually accepted. 'We know there are very few arbitrators who find for the working man,' was the com-ment from one Clydeside union official yesterday.

The Marathon deal involves penalty clauses. The craftsmen's rate of £1 an hour includes a 10 per cent bonus. This is paid on a twice yearly basis, but if a worker loses more than 140 within the six-month period without a legitimate excuse, he looses his bonus.

Some stewards have pointed out that this clause could be used against strikers, but the unions say they would not accept loss of bonus through industrial The other major problem is jobs. Over a thousand Clydebank workers face the dole in September when the UCS liquidator's work is cleared out of the Over 400 men will follow the

Shipbuilders where they will be finished and a further 500 men are expected to be employed by Marathon. But this leaves a large surplus.

I understand unions are waiting until Marathon and Govan Shipbuilders — who take over three former UCS yards—start operations in the yards before they start lobbying for some absorbtion of a thousand men. But a large redundancy is now accepted.

for higher productivity and faster delivery dates once they begin building rigs at Clydebank.

British companies only made half the 18 rigs operating on this side of the continental shelf.

One of the main reasons, according to Peter Emery, under-Secretary for Industry, was that the first four orders won by Clydebank were delayed because of labour disputes.