

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 1972 ● No 887 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY DAVID MAUDE

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At the end of yesterday's lengthy conference debate on economic policy in Blackpool the unions and Labour leaders endorsed a series of demands which leave the working class absolutely defenceless against the greatest crisis it has ever faced (for report of the debate, see below).

This is the situation facing Britain's trade unionists and Labour Party members:

● **HARD-CORE** unemployment last month stood at 817,000—3.6 per cent of the working population. This month it will be up again.

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This will certainly send the jobless figures leaping upwards. The Tories have already opened the door to a massive export of capital into Europe.

And a shock report out today from the powerful Engineering Employers' Federation says that even though 370,000 jobs were axed from the industry between January 1971 and June 1972, the industry is still in decline (see page four story, 'Job cuts fail to tame workers').

● **PRICES** are again rocketing upwards at an increasing rate. Big employers like British-Leyland have told the Confederation of British Industry that they cannot withhold their price increases any further.

So when the CBI price-restraint policy ends next month, the rate of price increases will speed up sharply from the 6.6-per-cent-per-year rate it had reached in August.

Common Market entry—with its 10 per cent increase in prices as a result of Value-Added Tax alone—will send them leaping up even further.

Despite the cowardice of its leaders on both the pices front and in the struggle against this week's brutal increase in rents, the working class is fighting back with increasing vigour.

Yesterday's EEF report bemoans the fact that although

30 unemployed engineers are now chasing each available job in the industry, wages are still rising at an annual rate of 10 per cent.

And on housing estates throughout the country the courageous struggle of housewives' flying squads against the Tories' Housing Finance Act testifies to the continued determination to struggle.

But the Labour and trade union chiefs leave this determination leaderless and try to break it.

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He also urged delegates to beware of a future Labour government being committed 'to this kind of economic illiteracy'.

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associate itself with the proposals.

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delegate in the morning-long debate who discussed the ASTMS resolution. He said his union felt bound to express some reservations.

He attacked the resolution because it rejected absolutely talks which were currently in progress.

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Both the POEU and ASTMS resolutions were passed on a show of hands. Conference also approved the following resolutions:

● An engineers' union call for a code of practice on multi-national companies.

● The introduction of a wealth tax.

● The introduction of legislation to end speculation and asset stripping.

● A resolution from the clerical union APEX to campaign nationally for full employment through the lowering of the retirement age, more holidays and reduction in the working week.

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# Trade war stakes IMF clash over Group of 20

BY JOHN SPENCER

**OFFICIALS of the International Monetary Fund are reportedly raising objections about the size of the Group of 20, the committee established to discuss in detail the reform of the world monetary system.**

They claim that the committee is too large and cumbersome to be efficient and fear that it will not be able to decide any issues before next year's annual meeting in Nairobi.

The Group of 20 was formed there was the insistence of the United States to replace the Group of 10, which consisted of delegates from the main industrial countries of the capitalist world.

The old committee was deeply divided and repeated meetings failed to resolve the basic disagreements between the United States and the other main capitalist countries.

At last month's IMF meeting there was a sharp clash between the Common Market countries and the United States over who should chair the Group of 20. The post went to the Bank of England's Jeremy Morse.

The United States hopes that by enlarging the forum of the IMF committee they will be able to dilute the votes of the Common Market countries with those of their client states in Latin America and Asia.

This, they hope, will enable them to push through the proposals for a new world monetary system which were outlined by US Treasury Secretary George Schultz at last month's Washington meeting.

The primary purpose of Schultz's proposals is to force Europe and Japan to shoulder the burden of the economic crisis by opening their markets to American goods and at the same time cutting their own exports.

He proposed international sanctions against countries running balance-of-payments surpluses to force them to rectify their balance of trade.

Since America is the main debtor country in the capitalist world the system proposed by Schultz would enable it to liquidate its debts at the expense of its creditors.

Peter Jay, 'The Times' economics editor, yesterday described the Washington annual meeting as 'exceptionally successful and constructive' though 'superficially marred by some silly scrapping over personalities'—a reference to the Group of 20 chairmanship and the US insistence that director-general Pierre-Paul Schweitzer must go.

Jay listed 14 general points on which he claims there is a degree of agreement. But an examination of his 14 points shows that the disagreements between the US and its major creditors retain all their force.

And even Jay is forced to conclude that 'some fierce disagreements as well as the obvious conflicts of national interest remain.'

In fact, the disputes over 'personalities' are not 'silly scrapping', but part of the jockeying for position on the international stage before the real fights begin.

**SHAH** of Iran is to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union this month—his fourth since he first visited Moscow in 1956. Empress Farah, who has just returned from a ten-day official visit to Peking, will accompany him. During the visit, to start on October 10 to last ten days, the Shah will discuss with Soviet leaders further expansion of trade, economic and technical co-operation, and regional and international affairs.

## US copper firm to seize Chile cargo

**AMERICAN copper firm, Braden Kennecott has won a court order in France for the temporary seizure of a cargo of Chilean copper due to arrive in Le Havre later this week.**

Kennecott's assets in Chile have been nationalized by the Salvador Allende regime.

Although as the result of the court order, the ship bringing the copper may not now put in at Le Havre, the legal decision may start moves to get hold of more than £10m of gold which the Allende government moved from the United States to a French bank.

## What we think

**MICHAEL FOOT MP**, who topped the poll in this year's election for Labour's National Executive Committee, has built himself the reputation of being on the far 'left' of the party. But few right-wingers lose any sleep over him. And neither do the more thoughtful Tories.

At the annual 'Tribune' meeting at the Party conference, Foot made clear that for him the age of tolerance has dawned. The Party, he said, had lost a great opportunity of driving the Tories out over the Common Market issue. 'We had a setback on October 28 for some 60 Labour MPs voted in the Tory lobby.'

Added Foot: 'Some people said to me "Why don't you drive them out of the Party?" But the first result would have been that any chance of defeating the Tories in the House of Commons would have disappeared.'

Apart from this, said Foot, such action would have violated the principle of tolerance.

This version of events is something less than accurate. Last year's five-to-one Party conference decision against Market entry on Tory terms took place more than three weeks before the parliamentary vote on October 28. There was ample opportunity for Foot and his friends to campaign for constituencies to make clear to their MPs that a vote for the Tories would mean the end of their political careers.

**They did nothing of the sort. In fact it was Foot himself who coined the phrase 'No witch-hunts', behind which all the 'left' MPs took cover and allowed the pro-Market faction let the Tories stay in office.**

Foot then went to last year's 'Tribune' meeting and cynically asked: 'Who says we can't have an election on the Common Market?' The real answer, of course, was ... Michael Foot.

The 'left' of course offers tolerance to

## Foot reassures the Tories

the pro-Market faction around Roy Jenkins, while denying the working class—totally opposed to the Market and the Tory government—any means of expression.

In Foot's own words he admitted that it had been the MPs around the discredited 'Tribune' group that had kept the right wing in the fold. 'It has been the left of this Party who held it together over the last 12 months', he said.

The real aim of Foot's speech was to offer a deal to the right wing. He said: 'They ought now to demonstrate their loyalty to conference decisions.'

Foot and his acolytes are now very conscious of their key role in the Party. As he himself said over the Common Market: 'If you seek to impose this on a turbulent society we have today when respect for law and order is breaking down because the institutions of law and order are unjust, there will be violence and explosion.'

'The democratic institutions could be blown to smithereens and we are the only people who can stop it.'

He also told the 'Tribune' meeting, which took place in Blackpool on Thursday night, that: 'We don't want any more lectures from newspapers' [about the need to conciliate Jenkins and the pro-Marketees].

Foot complained: "'The Times' and 'The Guardian' never raised any voice to protect Aneurin Bevan when he was subject to right-wing tyranny.'

Again Foot's own record is not pretty. Bevan was barely scratched. But when the Young Socialists were being systematically slandered and witch-hunted out of the Labour Party by the creatures of the right wing at Transport House in 1964, Foot and his friends never raised a squeak of protest.

In every way this week, Michael Foot has proved himself to be the man who may yet save the Tories' bacon.

## Gigantic US bombardment fails to cut supplies

THE United States has dropped more bombs on Indo-China over the last nine months than it did over the whole of last year.

Pentagon figures give the lie to Nixon's boasted 'Vietnamization' programme and show that US bombardment has intensified in direct proportion to the withdrawal of GIs.

According to the Defence Department over 800,000 tons of 'air ammunition' have

been used over Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos between January 1 and September 30, 1972, compared with only 763,160 tons in the whole of last year.

The increase reflects stepped-up bombardment of both North and South Vietnam and has been particularly marked since the latest liberation offensive began in April.

But American intelligence reports show that North Vietnamese supply routes to the south have not been cut.

Defence Department figures show that over the last 7½ years the US has dropped an average million tons of bombs a year over Indo-China—roughly three and a half times the tonnage dropped by all the allies in World War II.

Since 1971 more than the 1,554,000 tons dropped on Germany between 1939-1945 have been released over Indo-China.

But still the Americans' allies are under pressure on the ground. The Saigon puppet gov-

ernment has been forced to strengthen its defences around the South Vietnamese capital.

South Vietnamese commanders have moved their forces close to the capital to defend major installations in the area, following a series of attacks in the south by liberation troops.

At the same time the US command ordered the stepping up of B52 heavy bomber attacks on areas where liberation forces are believed to be concentrated.

## Spanish CP avoids condemning trade deal

THE SPANISH Communist Party has failed to condemn the Soviet-Spanish trade agreement signed in Paris on September 15. It argues that the deal is no alternative to Spain's entry into the Common Market.

'\$40m worth of trade with the USSR does not solve the problems of the commercial and economic development of Spain,' it says.

The first half of the CP's statement is an attempt to water down the impression given by the fascist press that the deal was a triumph for Franco's regime.

This 'triumph', the CP says, is a smokescreen to hide the fact

that the fascist regime is the greatest obstacle to Spain's entry into the Common Market, a political necessity if there are going to be 'democratic' changes in the country.

Finally, the CP makes a pathetic attempt to respond to the anger in Party ranks and the Spanish working class at the trade deal:

'It is necessary to recognize that these deals do not help the prestige of those who make them among democratic, working-class forces in Spain.'

'And we are very distressed about this indeed. It is not that we are opposed to the existence of commercial contact between socialist countries and Spain, even with the present regime. We

know that would not be realistic.

'But they ought to keep within certain limits which prevent any speculation by a regime, which whatever future awaits Spain, is on the eve of being changed.'

The Spanish CP's support for the EEC is, in itself, a very useful instrument in breaking down working-class militancy which is concentrated precisely in those factories and concerns owned by European capital—Seat in Barcelona, Citroën in Vigo and the north coast shipyards.

On Tuesday, the general director of security fined a Vigo shipyard workers' representative £1,500 for leading a sympathy strike in defence of striking car-workers.

## Arab unions banned by Brandt

WEST GERMANY's social-democratic government has given a further twist to its anti-Arab witch-hunt by banning the General Union of Palestinian Students and the General Union of Palestinian Workers. They threaten violence in the country, it claims.

Arabs in Germany have been subjected to constant harassment since the Munich Olympics shoot-out on September 5 in which 11 Israelis and five Palestinian guerrillas were killed.

Chancellor Willy Brandt's Minister of the Interior, Hans Dietrich Genscher, says, 'Well under 100 Arabs have been expelled from Germany since the killings on suspicion of having links with the Palestinian guerrilla movement.'

In the same period 1,990 Arab travellers have been turned back from West German frontiers either for lack of proper papers or on suspicion of having 'undesirable' connections.

50,000 Arabs live and work legally in West Germany. Most are brought in as cheap labour for German factories under the Common Market immigration schemes.

Police claim to have found bomb detonators at the home of students' union leader Abdullah Hassan el-Frangi (30), but they did not bring him to trial.

IN AND OUT



## OF LABOUR'S CONFERENCE

By ALEX MITCHELL in Blackpool



See no conference. Hear no conference. Speak no conference

CAV lobby  
for sit-in  
support

LIVERPOOL MPs are expected to hold an emergency meeting over the jobs threat to 1,000 workers at the Lucas combine's CAV factory in Fazakerly.

Shop stewards from the plant, which produces pumps for the heavy-vehicle industry, lobbied the Labour Party conference at Blackpool to raise support.

They saw Walton MP Eric Heffer, who arranged to meet them in the city on Saturday and has promised to organize a meeting of local Labour MPs on the issue next week. The stewards told Workers Press that the men are prepared to take any action necessary, including a sit-in strike, to stop the closure.

Transport and General Workers' Union steward Nick Chute said: 'We are facing the action of a big monopoly who are rationalizing ready for their entry into the Common Market.'

Deputy convenor John Howe said that the parent company, Lucas, has a monopoly of the product, but was phasing out the Fazakerly operation because it was losing orders in Europe.

'There is a plant in Barcelona, Spain, and during the big strike which hit Lucas factories in Birmingham, we found the company was importing headlamps from a plant it controls in Germany. This is a big carve-up and we are the victims', he said.

The men found out about the closure earlier this week after stewards had made a fact-finding visit to Simm's Motors, a Lucas subsidiary in Edgware, London.

They found that production there was being stepped up and key personnel were being transferred south to produce another kind of pump.

T&GWU steward Franny Martin emphasized that this was not a squabble over jobs with the Edgware workers.

'The Lucas combine is rationalizing all round. We think workers throughout the combine should unite to resist these attempts.'

The men also saw the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' Hugh Scanlon, and Jack Jones



Heffer: Arranged meeting

of the T&GWU. Both men advised them to go through official channels.

Eddie Loyden, president of the Liverpool Trades Council and a delegate to the conference, said his organization would back the men.

'We are on record for complete opposition to closures and mergers which lead to unemployment. At the next executive meeting of the Trades Council I shall be raising the question of mobilization to support the CAV men.'

How Harold Wilson neutralized Jack Jones  
The Market fix

A SERIES of squalid manoeuvres between Harold Wilson and trade union leaders lies behind the decision to give the Labour Party leader a free hand on the Common Market.

With that free hand, Wilson will continue to pursue his coalition politics with the Tories and ensure the safe entry of Britain under crippling Tory terms.

No one seriously believes that he will renegotiate when re-elected—even if re-negotiation is feasible once Heath signs the Treaty of Rome.

When the bureaucrats were wheeling and dealing, they were playing with the future of the British working class.

By refusing to call for an all-out fight against the Market they are aiding the big monopolies which see the extension of the Six as a means of increasing their power over the European working class.

For the British working class, entry spells soaring prices and higher unemployment. We have investigated the deals made in the smokers' rooms at Blackpool which opened the door to this.

We publish our findings to expose the utter bankruptcy of the Labourites and their unwillingness to fight on behalf of the Labour and trade union movement against the Tory government.

THE TORY PRESS began tumbling into Blackpool on Friday, September 29, three days before the start of the 71st annual conference.

They made for the Imperial Hotel, on the sea-front, where the National Executive Committee was in pre-conference session. These are private gatherings at which conference policy is framed and the stage-management of delegates arranged.

On this occasion there was one outstanding issue intriguing every pressman—the Common Market.

They were to be disappointed. When the NEC broke, publicity director Percy Clark announced

that there had been no decision on Market policy. That was to be postponed until Sunday when the conference arrangements committee had concluded the compositing of the seven Market resolutions of the agenda.

AT 2 p.m. on Sunday the NEC resumed talks, with the field narrowed down to three EEC resolutions:

- Clackmannan and East Stirlingshire's pro-Market resolution.

- The boilermakers', which called for the renegotiation of the terms of entry and significantly included the 'abandonment' of the common agricultural policy and Value-Added Tax (VAT); and

- The constructional engineers' (AUEW) resolution—firmest on the agenda—which declared opposition to entry in principle and called on a future Labour government to withdraw from the Market.

The NEC could handle two of the resolutions without much difficulty.

It would oppose both Clackmannan and AUEW, and be reasonably confident of victory. But having settled their attitude towards both the extreme positions, the big question remained: what to do with the boilermakers?

The NEC decided the boilermakers' motion was far too strong.

It bound the Party to renegotiation of specific items. These binding directives were anathema to Wilson.

It was decided, therefore, to draw up an NEC statement filled with double-talk about renegotiating the Tory terms.

Implicit in this statement was the acceptance of Market entry in principle. And it also left Wilson completely free to deal with the terms in whatever way he pleased.

In a movement seething with anti-Market feeling it was a bold attempt to con the conference.



Wilson's attack on Spain: 'That's for Jack' . . . And Jack stayed silent on the crucial vote.

THE ACTION then transferred to the trade unions.

The biggest obstacle to the NEC's strategy was the giant Transport and General Workers' Union, which controls a decisive block of 1 million votes.

Wilson desperately needed Jones's support to give his statement a resounding victory. At 2 p.m. on Tuesday, one of Jones's henchmen phoned his leader from the foyer of the Imperial:

'Harold wants to see you here at 3.30 p.m. Can you make it?'

It was the afternoon of the poorly-attended private session, so the two men could quietly get together without creating a fuss in the press.

At this stage, the T&GWU delegation had decided to support both the AUEW and the boilermakers' resolutions. In other words, Jones was voting to oppose Market entry in principle.

In all honesty, he was obliged to oppose the NEC with his 1 million votes. That was certainly the understanding in his delegation.

The meeting with Wilson was inconclusive.

When asked on Tuesday night how he was casting his vote, Jones replied: 'I haven't made up my mind yet.'

AT 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 30 minutes before the start of the Market debate, the union's delegation held a hurried meeting in the conference hall.

Wilson's speech to conference was a masterpiece of brinkmanship.

Unless he made some 'left' concessions, he faced a complete polarization between two positions: the outright anti-pledge of the AUEW and the NEC statement, which had become identified as at best misleading and at worst a sell-out to Roy Jenkins.

Suddenly, during his speech, Wilson introduced the subject of Spain.

Delegates looked bewildered as their leader, who hasn't spoken on Spain for years, launched a tirade against the proposed entry of Spain into the EEC.

'No Labour government will have any truck with a European Common Market which accepts Franco's Spain as a member or even as an associate.' (Applause).

He went on with a heartrending plea in defence of those struggling against 'the rusty shackles of oppression'.

Jack Jones, sitting in his aisle seat directly in front of the platform, looked mightily stirred. Few people knew that Jones is chairman of the Spanish

Social - Democratic Committee and still romances about his fight against Franco in the Civil War.

One Labour Party bureaucrat knew the scene:

'The Spanish stuff was purely for Jack. But if Wilson was to get the T&GWU vote he had to do one more thing—he had to give vocal support in his speech to the middle resolution—the boilermakers'.'

In the event Wilson had none of it. In his rambling speech he declined to give endorsement to the boilermakers and argued for a big vote for the NEC statement in the interests of unity.

Immediately he sat down chairman Anthony Wedgwood Benn called a vote. 'Those in favour of the NEC statement, please show.'

Jack Jones kept his hands firmly in his lap.

'When we saw Jones wasn't voting with the NEC we thought we had lost,' an NEC member told us.

Then Benn said: 'Those against the NEC please show,' and again Jones kept his hands down.

The neutralizing of the T&GWU vote ensured beyond doubt that the NEC, Wilson and Roy Jenkins had won the day.

FINAL VOTE: 3,407,000 for the NEC. 1,802,000 against.



# JOB CUTS FAIL TO TAME ENGINEERS

BY DAVID MAUDE INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

**Tough government action to curb shop-floor militancy is urgently needed, says the powerful Engineering Employers' Federation in a report\* out today.**

Workers have continued to press forward determinedly for wage increases despite a savage shake-out of labour from the industry.

Although the almost incredible total of 370,000 jobs were axed from engineering during 1971 and the first six months of this year, figures for the period January-June 1972 showed average gross wage and salary earnings in the industry to be rising at an annual rate of over 10 per cent.

The report threatens that unless the government acts firmly to stop rising costs and halt the disastrous slump in the rate of profit the shake-out will continue, become permanent and make engineering a relatively minor section of the British economy.

It is sharply critical of the Tories for giving the impression they will not allow unemployment to rise to very high levels.

## IMMEDIATE ACTION

Immediate government action is called for in the report to:

- Stop wages rising faster than productivity, and
- Prevent money supply — growing of late at annual rates of up to 20-30 per cent — expanding faster than the real level of production in the economy as a whole.

In the longer terms, says the EEF, ways must be found to: HELP employers bear the financial strain of resisting militant action by trade unionists, who feel themselves cushioned by Social Security and other state benefits even if they strike.

CURB workers' confidence by changing the law or the established institutions of industrial relations.

CHANGE the entire method of determining wages in such a way as to avoid the instability which appears built into the present set-up.

Exactly what the authors of the report mean by these proposals is not made clear.

In their last report, issued in September last year following the far-reaching US decision in August to stop exchanging dollars for gold, the EEF Research Department declared that 'doubt has been cast on the viability of a full employment economy'.

And even more fundamental issues are clearly under close consideration in October 1972 by this influential section of the British capitalist class.

Hence the menacing little

quotation — strange thing to find in an economic report — which occurs on the second title page:

'There are still so many intelligent and informed people who in most respects will defend freedom and yet are induced by the immediate effects of expansionist policy to support what, in the long run, must destroy the foundation of a free society.' (F. A. Hayek. 'The Constitution of Liberty', 1960.)

The quotation is not only menacing, it is extremely apt. For what runs through the report is the extreme pessimism, not to say desperation, of the engineering employers. And, like desperate men, desperate classes turn to desperate solutions.

The report begins by stressing the 'critical' nature of the national economic situation. This it puts down to a series of so-called imbalances in the economy, the foremost of which it says is the 'imbalance between trade union bargaining power and labour productivity improvement'.

The EEF researchers admit that their conclusions — drawn from a survey of 950 member firms of different sizes and in different sectors of the industry — are pessimistic.

So were their conclusions in previous years. But the researchers insist: 'Nor has our pessimism in previous years been at all groundless.'

Rather wearily, they go over their previous explanation of the failure of unemployment and the drastic decline in the number of unfilled vacancies per jobless worker to curb wage demands.

'In addition to the upsurge in union militancy itself, which was a political phenomenon,' they say, 'there were a number of economic factors which increased the cost to the individual firms of any possible strike, and this in itself would have an influence on the amount of money they would be willing to give away in order to avoid strikes.'

Together with the shrinkage of the industry, these problems were still present.

## DECLINING PRODUCTION

The report draws attention to the fact that during the first quarter of 1972 the declining production trend seen last year became accentuated.

'In addition,' it says, 'the order book figures for the engineering group of industries and even more so the machine-tool industry indicate the likelihood of further decline during the remainder of 1972. Export orders particularly have shown a dramatic downturn.'

Figures for June 1972 showed the engineering labour force down 5.8 per cent on the same month last year.

The only bright spot in the



**The only success the engineering employers can claim in their report is the alleged failure of the union leaders' 'plant bargaining' strategy on wages. But engineering workers — like these north-west sit-in strikers at the Mirrieles factory — have remained undeterred by the massive job loss from the industry.**

entire picture was that 'some measure of success has been demonstrated by federated engineering firms in resisting the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions "plant bargaining" strategy'.

Claims the report: 'By concentrated resistance federated firms were able to limit themselves to granting increases in earnings that were on the whole not greater than the average increases being conceded elsewhere.'

In other words, the only success the employers can claim was handed to them on a plate by the union leaders.

But, of course, this does not serve to conciliate the employers. It merely encourages their demands. In what is presumably a reference to the TUC-Heath-Confederation of British Industry talks, the report says:

'Mere verbal agreement on "moderation" in the pursuit of wage and salary claims has been shown in the past to offer no lasting solution to the inflationary problem.'

The employers may be pessimistic, but they are by no means giving up the fight. The EEF report is a warning to trade unionists of fresh, carefully-planned attacks.

\* 'The Engineering Industry in an Inflationary Environment'. EEF Research Department, October 1972. £1.50.

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Trading profits in engineering and allied industries<sup>(1)</sup> 1960-70

	Gross <sup>(2)</sup> Profits	Net <sup>(3)</sup> Profits	Capital goods Price Index	Real Net Profit <sup>(4)</sup>	Annual change in Real Net Profit (%)
	£m	£m	1960 = 100	1960 = 100	
1960	812	582	100	100	
1961	760	476	102	80	- 20
1962	784	488	105	80	NIL
1963	890	521	107	84	+ 5
1964	1057	632	110	99	+ 18
1965	1054	570	114	86	- 13
1966	981	609	118	89	+ 4
1967	958	614	119	88	- 1
1968	1116	738	123	103	+ 17
1969	1119	682	128	92	- 11
1970	1143	610	138	76	- 17

Notes: (1) Profits of engineering companies (excluding shipbuilding) operating in the UK  
(2) Before providing for depreciation and stock appreciation  
(3) Gross profits less statutory depreciation allowances  
(4) Net profits deflated by increase in capital goods prices over same period

Sources: National Income and Expenditure 1972  
National Institute Economic Review



# ITALIAN CASH FOR PORTUGAL'S COLONIAL WAR



Top: Portuguese soldiers in Angola. Above left to right: Salazar, Caetano, Joseph Luns of NATO

**Support given by Italian capital to Portugal's imperialist wars in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea reveals the threat of fascism in Europe.**

Portugal spends 58 per cent of its annual budget on the wars, at a rate of \$600,000 a day to maintain a 130,000-strong army in Africa.

To shore up the war effort, US President Nixon recently granted a \$436m loan to Portuguese premier Caetano.

The secretary-general of NATO, Joseph Luns, has given glowing praise to this imperialist venture:

'Portugal has been responsible for notable cultural progress in its overseas territories . . . Salazar led the country very wisely . . . NATO has more need of Portugal than Portugal has of NATO . . . Portugal is sacrificing its own blood for our freedom . . .'

One enthusiastic backer for

Caetano's cultural mission against the African national liberation struggle is the Italian capitalist class, which is intent on a large slice of the profits from mining and farming when the Cabora Bassa and Cunene dams are finally built.

Despite public statements by the Italian government that it is no longer participating in the Cabora Bassa project and that Italy is not strengthening the Portuguese armies, Italy is second only to the US in supplying war equipment to Caetano.

Italian munitions factories have supplied Beretta light automatic rifles and Breda machine guns. Fiat have obliged with 40 G91 fighter bombers, specially equipped for anti-guerrilla warfare.

The G91 is a real symbol of European co-operation: the frame is built by Fiat, the engine by an English company, the landing equipment by a French company and the electronics by a Dutch firm!

Agusta supply helicopters, and OTO-Melara armoured cars and guns. The AER

Macchi company has a factory in South Africa which builds aircraft for Portugal and South Africa.

Italian capital is already well represented in the Portuguese colonies. Pirelli and the Naval construction firm in Venice are part of a consortium controlling the main iron ore mines in Angola.

Italian capital is also involved in the Cassinga project, which will enable the iron ore to be transported more rapidly.

Perhaps the most sinister venture, however, is the steps being made to establish an Italian settlement in Angola and Mozambique to realize old colonial ambitions of the Italian fascist movement.

The first Italians arrived in Luanda (Angola) at the beginning of October 1971. The Portuguese planned for the arrival of more than a million soldier settlers in order to finish off the liberation armies.

Until now, only 500,000 have arrived, 350,000 in Angola and 150,000 in Mozambique. To speed up the process, Portugal has now decided

to appeal to ex-colonialists from east and north Africa, now driven back to Europe, and has offered them vast expanses of fertile land in the Cunene and Cabora Bassa valleys.

The project is already under way. The director of the Portuguese Information Centre in Rome, Alvaro Mesquitela, has made contact with a Christian Democrat and a farmer in difficulty with the Somali government, Giovanni Capassa.

As a result of this friendly get-together, an agreement was concluded to send to Angola over 100 Italian families expelled from Libya, or pre-occupied with the threat of other nationalizations in Somali—refuge for Mussolini's men!

The Christian Democrat involved in the transaction is thought to be Bettiol, of the openly pro-fascist wing of the CD party in Venice. Bettiol was the head of a delegation of Italian parliamentarians which, after talks with Caetano, declared that the liberation movements did not exist and

that 'Portugal was an important reality which the world should take into account.'

This development from selling arms or profiteering from colonial plunder could lead to the establishment of an old frontier-type occupation force ready to defend illegitimate gains against the native population which is starving to death.

The project has the backing of the Italian Mercantile Company, which controls 30 per cent of Angolan exports to Italy, the manager of which, Silvano Fantoni, hopes to expand the business of banana exports from Angola.

The latest possibility is that apart from ex-colonialists from Libya and Somalia, recruits of a different kind could be made in poverty-stricken southern Italy, a stronghold of the fascists. Perhaps shipments of poor peasants or unemployed to Portuguese Africa to fight on behalf of imperialism in this new land of opportunity?

This 'answer' to the unemployment problem is a good indication of the 'new Europe' that capital wishes to forge.



# BLACK FARCE IN STRASBOURG

BY DAVID MAUDE

The Strasbourg - based European Human Rights Commission has agreed to consider charges of torture, degrading punishment and political discrimination laid against the British government by the Republic of Ireland.

No Irish worker, of course, should have any illusions on the role of the commission. This bureaucratic body is no more concerned with the rights of the working class than any other organ of capitalist rule.

In fact the case is clearly seen by the Eire government of Jack Lynch as a means of diplomatic pressure on the Tories.

The commission will not even begin its detailed examination of the charges until next February. Meanwhile British imperialism will continue to reveal its hideous, brutal face daily to the Irish working class.

The two most serious of the original seven Eire charges will, in fact, not be heard at Strasbourg. One was conveniently withdrawn under pressure from the Tory government at Westminster, the other declared inadmissible by the commission itself.

The withdrawn charge was brought under Article Seven of the Convention of Human Rights which the commission is supposed to administer.

Article Seven forbids retrospective criminal legislation. Eire claimed that provisions of the Northern Ireland Act 1972 were in breach of this.

(The Act legalized the arrest policy already being pursued by British troops, although they had previously had no strict legal authority for this under the Special Powers Act.)

The charge was withdrawn after assurances to the head of the Irish legal team, Attorney-General Colm Condon, from his British opposite number Sir Peter Rawlinson.

Condon and the 'Green Tory' government of Lynch also heaved sighs of relief when their second charge was declared inadmissible by the commission.

## BLOODY SUNDAY

This referred to the massacre of 13 people in Londonderry on 'Bloody Sunday' (January 30, 1972), the killing of Seamus Cusack and Desmond Beatty in Derry in July 1971 and of Fr Mullen in Belfast in August 1971.

The commission found there was no evidence these killings were 'an administrative practice', or that there was official tolerance of them. The charge of 'unlawful killing' under Article Two of the convention was therefore disallowed.

Since Condon and Lynch had only included this charge in a bid to appease militant Catholic criticism of them in the north, they were not at all unhappy at this turn of events.

The five charges which the British government will, eventually, be called upon to answer are:

1 The Special Powers Act places Britain in breach of Article One of the convention.

Article One binds member states to 'secure to everyone within their jurisdiction' the rights and freedoms set out elsewhere in the convention. The Irish claim the Act breaches this both in letter and in spirit.

2 Interrogation methods used against interned and detained men by the British government in Ulster are a breach of Article Three of the convention, which forbids torture and degrading punishment.

Some evidence is cited from the Tories' own Compton Report. Although discounting charges of brutality, on grounds that have been widely questioned, Compton admitted that internees were subject to severe ill-treatment.

3 The convention does lay down grounds on which countries can pull out of its own stated ban on internment without trial.

But Eire argues that Britain went further than 'required by the exigencies of the situation'—the phrase used on Article 15 of the convention. (Article 15, Clause Two allows internment when there is 'a public emergency threatening the life of the nation'. The Lynch government argues that this is not the case in Ulster.)

4 Internment breaches Article Six of the convention, which guarantees the right of arrested persons to a fair trial and other safeguards.

5 The operation of internment and detention without trial in Ulster breaches Article 14 of the convention. Article 14 bans discrimination on grounds of political opinion. Eire argues that internment is founded on precisely this principle.

It is quite plain from the class character of the commission, the vague wording of the charges and the cynical attitude of the Lynch government itself that Strasbourg is to be an extended black farce.

Meanwhile in Ulster itself—as more and more well-documented case histories show—the military, police and vigilante thuggery of imperialist rule goes on.

For instance there is this report, given to the Association for Legal Justice, of alleged brutality last month against prisoners awaiting trial in Cage Six of the Long Kesh internment camp.

This report is on the savage attacks on prisoners in Cage Six, Long Kesh, by British troops and prison warders.

At 9 p.m. on Friday, September 22, 1972, a hot water boiler was brought to Hut 61. A lot of prisoners were queueing outside the door of this hut for hot water to make tea. Suddenly the doors of all the huts were slammed closed and locked by the prison warders.

About ten minutes later the doors opened and a soldier in

full riot gear came in with a loud hailer and announced that everyone was to go out into the yard.

This was done. When we reached the door of the hut we were made to run a gauntlet of about 300 soldiers and wardens wielding batons and kicking wildly.

We were then made to kneel against the perimeter wire of the compound. Here everyone was savagely attacked and beaten.

This went on for approximately half an hour, then we were made to run back into our huts through another gauntlet of British troops and wardens.

No one escaped injury, some men were bleeding badly from head and face wounds. There were a lot of men suffering from previous illnesses, but no one was exempt from these beatings.

About ten minutes later we were offered hospital treatment but a lot of injured men refused because of fear of another beating. This was proved to be the case when some badly injured men were brought to the camp hospital. There they were refused treatment by the doctors and then beaten back to their huts.

We call on all representatives of the minority in Belfast to protest against these savage and brutal attacks on the prisoners of Cage Six.

We also call for an independent inquiry into these attacks by local MPs and Association for Legal Justice and an independent medical examination by our family doctors or the International Red Cross.

## INFORMANTS

The ALJ's informants append a list of 55 named victims of the alleged attacks, whose injuries include severe bruising of the legs, arms, ribs and genitals; bad cuts to the head and arms requiring stitches; bites to legs and arms from wardens' dogs.

A 60-year-old man from Belfast, Bernard Morgan, is said to have received badly bruised ribs, plus injuries to his legs, back and head.

Ed Campbell (55), also from Belfast, reportedly received a head wound requiring ten stitches, plus bad bruising of his back, arms and legs.

Belfast's J. Wilson, although only 14 years old, is claimed to have suffered a badly swollen right arm, badly bruised right leg and bruising of his head and genitals.

From Armagh, Kevin Trainer is said to have received dog bites on both his legs and his arms. But it is claimed that he was refused treatment by a doctor.

Evidence of military brutality outside the internment camps is cited in a statement collected by the ALJ on August 30 from the father of two young Belfast boys. Although his name and address are withheld by the association in case of further reprisals, the statement is witnessed by R.



O'Boyle and is in the hands of

ALJ solicitor P. J. McCrory. On the night of August 29, 1972, I was moving some furniture from my house to the house of an old age pensioner. I was in fact giving this furniture to him as I was installing a new suite. In the moving I was helped by my two sons, Eamonn and Kieran. The reception of the furniture was also being helped by some local lads.

Our house is facing the military post at St Genevieve's School, and while we were moving the furniture we had remarked that it would not surprise us if we had a visit from the troops.

When the operation was complete we did in fact have a visit from them. We were all arrested, that is, the helpers at both houses.

We were arrested at 11 o'clock and brought to the military post at St Genevieve's and then to Black's Road military post. We were all interrogated. We went through the usual formalities and were eventually released, but my son Eamonn (17) was kept behind.

Kieran told me that he saw Eamonn's shirt torn from his back and that he had been crying. While I was there waiting to be called for interrogation I saw a former Hong



Top: Londonderry, January 30, 1972—'Bloody Sunday'. Men are marched off for interrogation under techniques the European Human Rights Commission will not even begin to consider, until next February. On the massacre of 13 people by paratroopers on 'Bloody Sunday', the Commission refused to take evidence. Above: one of the 13 dead.

Kong policeman (who was now apparently in the army as their prize 'hatchetman') intimidating the boys and striking them about the legs with his baton, at the same time issuing threats as to what he would do with them, such as 'Would you like to have your throat slit', and that he knew karate, and 'Would you like to have your face changed?'

The information about his Chinese background was conveyed to the boys by this particular star of the army himself in a boastful attitude.

He also asked them to sing 'The Queen'. At 3 a.m. August 30, when Kieran told me what had happened, I inquired about Eamonn from the military post at St Genevieve's. They in turn rang Black's Road post and they told them that he had been released. This was repeated.

I was most anxious after this and I again went back but without any success. I then went to Andersonstown, and they told me that he was in fact at Castlereagh holding centre.

Eamonn was released at 9 p.m. on August 30, 1972. He had been ill-treated at the army post by the said 'hatchetman' Chinese policeman, now member of Royal Regi-

ment of Fusiliers. He was verbally intimidated and struck on ankles with baton, pulled back by the hair of the head and made to drink cold coffee.

His shirt was pulled open and he was made to stand out in the cold 15-20 minutes. He reported his treatment in Castlereagh to a military policeman.

Aemonn had been interrogated at Castlereagh holding centre from 6 a.m. until he was released at 9 p.m. He was isolated all this time and there had been different Special Branch personnel questioning him, i.e. queries about his opinions on present situation in the town and his views with regard to the political situation.

## SPECIAL BRANCH

Since the publication of the Compton Report, the activities of the Special Branch of the Royal Ulster Constabulary referred to in this last statement, have come in for more and more attention.

A recent 'World in Action' programme (Granada TV, September 25) detailed at least eight cases of alleged severe brutality at the Special Branch interrogation centres at Gird-

wood and Hollywood.

Assaults ranging from repeated kickings in the legs to the forcing of a metal chair leg up a man's anus were said to have taken place. In each case signed doctors' statements were given testifying that the injuries examined were consistent with what the person in question said had happened to them.

There were also accounts of the use of severe electric shock torture during interrogations at these centres.

But the programme was also interspersed with pious platitudes from Tory MP William Deedes and Labour's Roy Hattersley. Hattersley's parting shot was: 'I suspect what's said in Strasbourg will result in a new definition of torture.'

Maybe it will. But it will do so only to ensure that the process goes on and the system of class rule which produces it remains unchallenged.

Those like the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, which it taking a case to Strasbourg next month, who sow illusions in bodies like the Human Rights Commission cannot challenge the system of class rule.

The Lynch government's manoeuvres at Strasbourg demonstrate the sickening bankruptcy of these politics.

# STALIN 'BOLSHEVIZES' THE GERMAN CP

Part eight of a series by Tom Kemp on the history of the German Communist Party

Until March 1924 the German Communist Party (KPD) remained illegal. Even after that date warrants were still out for many of the leaders. Its Seventh Congress was held in secret in Frankfurt in April 1924 to coincide with an international exhibition which brought many tourists to the city.

This congress consecrated the Fischer-Maslow-Thaelmann leadership and its left line with a strong worker-base in Berlin and the Ruhr.

It took as one of its aims 'the complete liquidation of the Social Democratic Party' (SPD) and rejected the united-front tactic and all transitional slogans related to democratic institutions.

The Congress resolution foreshadowed the later 'social fascism' policy. It said: 'The Social Democratic Party, which has shifted to the right on a narrower base, has, as a fraction of fascism, from being an ally become a support for the bourgeoisie and has definitely lost, in the course of the past year, its decisive influence over the worker-masses.'

Not only the left, but delegates from the centre, spoke optimistically of the revolutionary wave rising again in the near future. The Congress proclaimed that preparation for revolution was the main immediate task and demanded a break with the tactic of the united front.

The left faction which dominated the Frankfurt Congress showed its independence by electing its own list to the central leadership rather than one with a more even representation of factions supported by the Moscow-based Communist International (Comintern). It would not be long before an open clash took place.

After the Congress the left further extended its influence at the expense of the centre. In May Maslow was arrested for suspected pickpocketing and later charged with high treason and kept in prison.

Like other political parties, the KPD set up a para-military organization, the **Roter Kampfbund**—the Union of Red Front Fighters—with Ernst Thaelmann as its chief. Its fighting activities at this time were aimed mainly at the Social Democratic workers organized in their 'Reichsbanner' movement.

In the Reichstag elections of May 1924 the KPD campaigned on an intransigent left programme of proletarian dictatorship and complete socialization. The Party also strongly attacked the Dawes Plan, set up with US support for the financing of reparations payments.

The election result was a considerable success. The Party polled over 12 per cent of the votes and won 62 seats. In some working-class areas it was the biggest party.

The confidence which the working class showed in the Party, despite its performance in October 1923 and its period of clandestinity, might have been the beginning of a deter-



Above: SPD supporters of Wilhem Marx the SPD candidate in 1925. Right: Ernst Thaelmann

mined attempt to win the masses away from the SPD. However, the ultra-left course had the opposite effect. When elections were again held in December it lost near a million votes, polling 9 per cent and getting only 45 seats.

## CONTROL

In June 1924 the Fifth Congress of the Comintern met in Moscow with a strong German delegation dominated by the left. The call of the Congress was for the 'Bolshevization' of the member-parties. This slogan concealed the desire of Stalin and Zinoviev to control the national sections and impose Comintern decisions on them which meant now, to an increasing extent, the will of the Soviet leadership and Stalin himself.

At first the path of 'Bolshevization' did not run too smoothly in the KPD. This was not because there was any sympathy for Trotsky or any real understanding of the danger which Stalin represented to the international movement. It was simply that the left leadership in Germany had opened the way for ultra-left trends and increasing criticism of Comintern policy, which made a clash with Moscow inevitable.

Ruth Fischer allied herself factionally with Zinoviev against the ultra-lefts as well as the Brandlerites, which entirely suited Stalin's book. The Congress was interpreted

as having been a victory for the lefts because the slogan of the united front was played down and the main blows were struck against right tendencies.

Discussion on the trade union question which continued after the Congress showed that there was a deep division between the KPD leadership and the Comintern. The former opposed unity with the reformist unions unless it was carried out on lines proposed by the Red International of Trade Unions. For that body Lozowsky made it clear that it rejected such a policy.

Many German communists saw the turn towards the reformist unions as a turn away from revolution. An instruction to join the reformist unions was ignored by many members and hundreds of expulsions took place. The disarray on this question and division within the Party no doubt help account for the poor showing at the December 1924 elections.

The electoral debacle helped to undermine the position of the Fischer-Maslow leadership. Maslow, from jail, had criticized Lozowsky. Fischer and Thaelmann were now on bad terms. This gave the Comintern the opportunity to push the pliable Thaelmann forward and to undermine the influence of the unreliable Maslow and Ruth Fischer.

Stalin, still not definitely committed to any group in the

KPD, was looking for supporters. In February 1925 he gave an interview in which he said that it was not 'Bolshevization' to drive all who think differently out of the Party. This came at a time when the KPD leaders were advocating the expulsion of the Brandlerites, then still resident in Moscow, on Comintern orders.

Maslow, from his prison cell, intervened to criticize Stalin for compromising with the right. Stalin came back with a firm but guarded reply; but he obviously noted Maslow's temerity with the idea of getting revenge. As for Maslow, he tried to make amends by proposing a united front, not only with the SPD, but also with the Centre (Catholic) Party.

## MOVE RIGHT

This question was bound up with the presidential election which took place in March 1925. On the first ballot Thaelmann pulled in only 1.8 million votes. The second ballot saw the SPD candidate standing down in favour of the Centre Party candidate (whose name was Marx) against Hindenburg, who offered himself as the representative of the right. The marshal stood for everything which was most reactionary in Germany and was a challenge to the republic itself.

The KPD, after considerable debate, decided to offer support to the SPD candidate on the second ballot, but when he



withdrew in favour of Marx to fight Hindenburg, Thaelmann's candidature was maintained. His vote rose slightly, but was decisive in the election of Hindenburg.

Under pressure from Moscow the KPD leadership moved to the right. Ruth Fischer did likewise, not for principled reasons, but in order to preserve her Party position.

Fischer and Maslow now came under crossfire from right and left. The former saw an opportunity for a united front against reaction which had been missed, the latter denounced a rotten compromise in the initial willingness to support an SPD candidate.

CONTINUED TOMORROW





Minamata is a fishing town on Japan's west coast facing the China Sea. Bizarre things began to happen there in the summer of 1953. The cats in the town and the nearby villages up and down the coast began to stagger, go mad and die.

By the end of that year the first human victims began to show the symptoms of the baffling paralytic disorder. It was the start of an eight-year epidemic in which 43 people out of a coastal population of 10,000 were to die and a further 68, many of them infants and children, were to be permanently and grotesquely disabled.

They were victims of poisoning by organic mercury compounds which attack the cells of the brain and cause permanent damage and eventually death. The mercury was in the fish they caught and ate. It came from the sewage outlets of the Chisso Fertilizer Company, which was pouring metallic mercury into the sea.

It took years of inquiry to pin down the sources of the pollution, largely because nobody

realized that metallic mercury could be converted bacterially into the extremely toxic organic form.

Meanwhile, close to the outlet of another chemical factory at Niigata on the coast of the Sea of Japan another five people were killed and 28 maimed by a similar discharge of mercury. The state of the victims at Minamata is revealed by the following case history reproduced from Tucker's book:

ADULT (case 2 in the records with initials M.F.). Woman aged 28, became ill on June 13, 1956, with numbness in fingers and lips and with difficulty in hearing. By June 16 speech and ability to walk were markedly impaired, and she developed marked tremor of the hands accompanied by sometimes violent involuntary muscular movements.

By early August she was unable to walk or to co-ordinate other movements; involuntary convulsions became more severe with outbursts of frenzied shouting and crying. After developing

a high fever she was admitted to hospital on August 30.

She was found to be severely emaciated and, suffering from involuntary seizures, unable to respond to normal stimuli, but shouting and screaming at intervals of about one minute. Her condition deteriorated rapidly. After a brief period of coma she died on September 2. The official cause of death was pneumonia.

Chisso's victims have been trying ever since to get the company to disgorge adequate compensation for the injuries they have suffered. Chisso had dragged the wrangle over compensation through the courts for more than ten years, offering contemptible *ex gratia* handouts to avoid taking responsibility for the victims.

When they protested outside the factory on December 18 last year, the Minamata victims were brutally beaten up by Chisso employees mobilized by the management. Later the Minamata victims occupied the company's head office in Tokyo as shown in our photograph.

rise of lead levels in the blood of British children.

His facts and figures are irrefutable: there is a build-up of poisonous metals in the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink which will poison many hundreds of thousands of people if they go on building up at the present rate.

By drawing together this material, Tucker's book testifies to the capitalists' lust for surplus value to which everything else is subordinated. Again and again in his book it is the failure of factory-owners to take the simplest precautions which leads to tragedies in which people are poisoned.

He has also documented the wilful 'blindness' of public health authorities which fix 'safe levels' of heavy metal pollution and yet neglect to carry out basic checks on specific pollution and take action only when the damage is done.

The author belongs to the liberal anti-pollution school. After documenting the criminal complicity between big business and the government authorities over heavy metal pollution, only he can conclude, like Peter Simple's Dr Hienz Kiosk, that 'we are all guilty'.

He regards it as a 'sad reflection' on the nature of humanity that, for example, an industrial hygienist 'who has for years supported an industrial view . . . will defend his viewpoint to the last, especially if his work is largely supported by the polluting industry'.

It would seem to be more a reflection on the nature of capitalism than on that of humanity that industrialists should be able to hire scientists to tell people how harmless their activities are.

Since Tucker blames human nature rather than capitalist society for the rising tide of poisonous heavy metals being inflicted on the world, it is not surprising that he should

adhere to the pessimistic view that technological advance must be stopped.

He describes the reactionary 'club of Rome' which produced the Malthusian Mansholt Report last year as 'an informal group of industrialists and humanists who . . . really care about the future', in contrast to those who advocate 'the wilful insanity of blind technological "expansion" with its phoney rosy futures'.

Tucker believes that pollution is inseparable from technology, basing his opinion on the obvious but trite point that the levels of, for example, metal production, are indicators of the rate at which resources are being used up.

His vision of the future is one in which the 'overriding aim should be stability through birth control, resources control and genuine control'.

He hopes that the facts about the increase of poisonous metals in water, food and air will 'spur governments to recognize the overwhelming case for ensuring that the complex basis of life on this planet remains as intact and as healthy as possible'.

This is reactionary nonsense. In a society based on private property and the pursuit of surplus value through exploitation there can be no 'genuine control' over that property and the use it is put to.

Urging capitalist governments to 'recognize the overwhelming case' against pollution is likely to be about as fruitful as urging them to recognize the overwhelming case against war.

This is not to say there is no 'ecological' crisis, for Tucker convincingly shows that there is.

But this crisis, in reality, is only one aspect of the death-agony of imperialism and will be solved only when the working class expropriates the exploiters and builds a planned economy in which the profit motive is eliminated.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## ACCOUNTS

First-year accounts from a £100 company known as Railway Finance Ltd have brought to light a breathtaking and entirely legal system of tax accountability by means of which leading British companies have for years been raking in large sums of government money.

Railway Finance was formed last year to lease rolling stock to British Rail. Its shareholders are Barclays Bank, Williams and Glyn's Bank, GEC, Distillers and Great Universal Stores.

Three of the four have stakes of £22.50 in the company, Williams and Glyn's only £10. But in return they shared tax cuts of about £300,000. And next year they will start picking up sums of £1m between them.

The scheme started out as a means of British Rail getting its rolling stock more cheaply than would otherwise be possible.

Rolling stock is bought by Railway Finance Ltd, which of course has no money of its own to do so, with cash lent to it by British Rail. In the first year the sum was £21.6m.

Then the stock is leased back to British Rail.

As a by-product, however, the bought stock counts as capital expenditure and thus qualifies for government investment allowances (by which companies can offset cost of equipment against their tax bills).

But politically British Rail is not allowed to make enough profit to gain from the offset, so Railway Finance gets the allowances and spreads them around its shareholding companies.

The companies involved agreed in advance to buy the allowances at an undisclosed discount, probably 10 per cent.

The first-year allowances amounted to about £3m, so the companies would have paid about £2.5m, for the right to cut their tax bills by that amount. The £2.5m goes back to British Rail as an interest-free loan.

Similar practices are widespread both in the nationalized industries and the private sector. But you just try pulling a similar stroke on the taxman . . .

## COMFORT

There was hardly a dry eye in the audience when chairman Dr E. J. Popham told the annual meeting of the Blackburn and district Council of Social Service that the voluntary social work they organize is really a modern equivalent of the work of the medieval monasteries and convents which served the poor, sick and needy.

Councils of Social Service (CSS), he declared, are really ecumenical organizations which serve their fellow men for love.

This is in stark contrast, he pointed out, to the actions of dockers and other workers who are 'clamouring for high wages'. While 'industrial unrest spreads hatred and bitterness, the CSS spread peace and goodwill'.

Unrest, he claimed, breeds violence and industrial strikes bring 'sorrow and suffering', but the CSS brings peace, comfort and joy.

## CORDIAL

In the 1840s when cotton was king, opium was widely used in some working-class districts of Manchester.

In the form of a mixture called 'Godfrey's Cordial' it was given to babies to keep them quiet while their mothers worked in the mills. Sometimes their mothers administered it, but more often it was given by old women who earned a few coppers by looking after as many children as they could get.

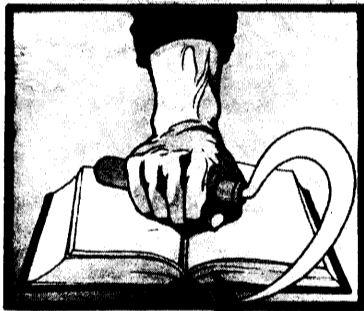
'Godfrey's Cordial' was a mixture of aniseed, treacle, water and laudanum — the alcoholic tincture of opium.

The effect produced suffusion on the brain and a host of glandular and mesenteric disorders.

A contemporary description of a victim runs: 'The child sinks into a low torpid state, and wastes away to a skeleton, the stomach alone preserving its protuberance. If it survives, it is more or less weakly and stunted for life — the complexion never assumes a healthy hue.'

The death rate in Manchester at that time was one in 30, compared with one in 45 in the average English town. Out of every 100 deaths in the city, nearly half were those of children.

## BOOK REVIEW



'THE TOXIC METALS'. By Anthony Tucker. Pan/Ballantine 50p.

# DANGER IN THE SEWERS

Heavy metal pollution is one of the most insidious and least understood by-products of many modern industrial processes, as Tucker points out in the introduction to this book.

Some of these metals are essential to life in small amounts, but others are so highly poisonous that even in quite tiny doses they can cripple or kill. Tucker's thesis is that vast amounts of these poisons (vast, that is, by comparison with their availability in nature) are being poured into the environment without any serious attempt to study their fate and effects.

He has amassed compelling evidence to back up this view from the appalling Japanese story of Minamata and Itai-Itai 'diseases'—in reality outbreaks of mercury and cadmium poisoning due to industrial effluent — to the steady

## BOOKS



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## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

**BRACKNELL:** Monday October 9, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre. 'The ATUA national conference'.

**COVENTRY:** Monday October 9, 8 p.m. 'Market Tavern', Junction Street (off the Butts). 'ATUA conference'.

**BIRMINGHAM:** Monday October 9, 8 p.m. Lecture Room 3, Digbeth Civic Hall. 'ATUA conference'.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'The ATUA conference'.

**WEALDSTONE:** Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Wealdstone Labour Hall, Station Approach, Station Road. 'ATUA conference'.

**WANDSWORTH:** Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Road, SW17. 'ATUA conference'.

**WILLEDEN:** Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Road, NW10. 'ATUA conference'.

**CLAPHAM:** Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Clapham Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'ATUA conference'.

**MANCHESTER:** Wednesday October 11, 7.30 p.m. Milton Hall, Deansgate. 'Fight the rent Act! Build Councils of Action!'

**SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Thursday October 12, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opposite New Cross Station. 'The ATUA conference'.

**LEICESTER:** Thursday October 12, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Hotel', Rutland Street. 'ATUA conference'.

### Socialist Labour League

#### LECTURES THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM

Given by G. Healy (SLL national secretary) in London; Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee member) in Leeds.

### London

Historical materialism today  
Sunday October 8  
**EAST HAM TOWN HALL**  
Lister Room  
Barking Road, 7 p.m.

### Leeds

The Marxist theory of knowledge  
Monday October 9  
**GUILDFORD HOTEL**  
Headrow, 8 p.m.

The nature of capitalism  
Monday October 16  
**PEEL HOTEL**  
Boar Lane, 8 p.m.

Historical materialism today  
Monday October 23  
**PEEL HOTEL**  
Boar Lane, 8 p.m.

Building the revolutionary party  
Monday October 30  
**PEEL HOTEL**  
Boar Lane, 8 p.m.

### Public Meeting

### Nottingham

Wednesday October 11, 8 p.m.  
Thurland Hall, Pelham Street,  
Nottingham

Speakers:  
Roger Stenson (Secretary  
Bilborough Tenants'  
Association), Jim Butler  
(T&GWU branch chairman).  
Both in personal capacity.  
John Eden (YS National  
Committee).



Robert Vaughn uses his UNCLE experiences to play Protector Harry Rule on London ITV at 7.00 p.m. Later on all independent channels, Bright Forsyth is in the final part of the thriller 'Holly'.

### BBC 1

9.38-11.53 Schools. 12.00 Let's get going. 12.25 Aelwyd ac Eiddo. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 The craftsmen. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Racing from Ascot. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Adventures of Parsley. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.50 Deputy dawg. 4.55 Help. 5.15 Michael Ben Time time. 5.45 News and weather.

**6.00 NATIONWIDE.**  
**6.45 TOM AND JERRY.** Neapolitan Mouse.  
**6.55 THE PINK PANTHER SHOW.**  
**7.15 THE VIRGINIAN.** Holocaust.  
**8.30 DAD'S ARMY.** Asleep in the Deep.  
**9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS.** Weather.  
**9.25 INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING.** Horse of the Year Show.  
**10.30 FRIDAY TALK-IN.** Robin Day.  
**11.15 LATE NIGHT NEWS.**  
**11.20 A MAN CALLED IRONSIDE.** Seeing is Believing.  
**12.10 Weather.**

### ITV

9.30 Schools. 12.00 Happy house. 12.15 Labour Party conference. 1.00 Dunlop masters golf. 2.05 Castle haven. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Dunlop Masters golf. 3.25 Marcus Welby MD. 4.20 Adventures of Gulliver. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 Nanny and the professor. 5.50 News.

**6.00 TODAY.**  
**6.35 CROSSROADS.**  
**7.00 THE PROTECTORS.**  
**7.30 HAWAII FIVE-O.** Pig in a Blanket.  
**8.30 DORA.** Dear Little Agatha Jane.  
**9.00 HOLLY.** Final episode.  
**10.00 NEWS AT TEN.**  
**10.30 POLICE FIVE.**  
**10.40 VILLAINS.** Grass. Bryan Marshall.  
**11.40 DUNLOP MASTERS GOLF.**  
**12.25 MISCELLANY.** Experiments with Extra-Sensory Perception.  
**12.30 DEPARTMENT S.** The Soup of the Day.

# TV

## BBC 2

9.30 Labour Party conference. 11.00 Play school. 11.25-12.30 Labour Party conference.

**6.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.**  
**6.35 IRELAND.** Remember 1690!  
**7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.**  
**7.30 NEWSROOM, CONFERENCE REPORT.** Weather.  
**8.05 MONEY AT WORK.** The Conservative Economy.  
**9.00 GARDENERS' WORLD.**  
**9.25 THE LOST WORLD OF THE MAYA.** Dr Eric Thompson returns to South America to explore the Maya's lost world.  
**10.25 NEWS ON 2.** Weather.  
**10.30 SPORT TWO.** Colin Welland and Ian Wooldridge.  
**11.15 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.**

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 9.30-12.00 London. 1.00 London. 3.53 Puffin. 3.55 Jimmy Stewart. 4.25 Pebbles and Bamm Bamm. 4.50 London. 5.20 Alexander the greatest. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Report. 6.35 London. 7.30 FBI. 8.30 London. 10.30 Golf. 11.15 Film: 'House of Frankenstein'. 12.25 News, weather.

**WESTWARD. As Channel except:** 12.15 Gus Honeybun. 12.25 Labour Party conference. 3.53 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 11.12 News. 12.25 Faith for life.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 12.05 Labour Party conference. 1.00 News. 1.05 Golf. 4.10 Houseparty. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Scene SE. 6.35 Out of town. 7.05 Sky's the limit. 7.35 FBI. 8.30 London. 10.30 Golf. 11.15 Weekend. 11.20 Film: 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers'. 12.30 News. 12.40 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.10 Tinkertainment. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Gustavus. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: 'Gorilla at Large'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Golf. 11.15 Now it's your say. 11.45 Dora. 12.15 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except:** 4.10-4.25 Cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30 Outlook. 11.00 Sports arena. 11.30-12.15 Golf.  
**HTV WEST as above except:** 6.18-6.35 Report West.

**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 Skippy. 4.50 London. 5.20 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 O'Hara. 8.30 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 Film: 'Kisses for My President'.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 2.20 Horoscope. 2.30 London. 4.25 Forest rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Protectors. 8.00 Adventurer. 8.30 London. 10.30 Golf. 11.15 Film: 'Alexander the Great'.

**ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.30 News. 1.32 Cartoon. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Golf. 4.00 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Shirley's world. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 UFO. 8.30 London. 10.30 Golf. 11.15 Epilogue.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Cade's county. 8.30 London. 10.30 Golf. 11.15 Film: 'The Secret Four'. 12.50 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 4.20 News. Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.15 Crossroads. 5.45 Felix the cat. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.20 Speedy Gonzales. 6.35 Kick off. 7.00 Riptide. 8.00 Protectors. 8.30 London. 10.30 Golf. 11.15 Film: 'The Captive City'.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.30 London. 12.00 Make a wish. 12.15 London. 2.30 Yoga. 2.59 News. 3.00 London. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Cade's county. 8.30 London. 10.30 Golf. 11.15 Film: 'The Wind of Change'. 12.25 News. 12.50 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 4.25 Skippy. 4.50 London. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Shirley's world. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 London. 10.30 Golf. 11.15 Friday night. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 Theatre of stars.

**GRAMPIAN:** 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.57 News. 3.00 London. 4.20 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Thompson at teatime. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hogan's heroes. 8.00 McCue's music. 8.30 London. 10.30 Golf. 11.15 Job look. 11.20 Film: 'The Mad Magician'. 12.45 Epilogue.

# Strikers' 36-mile trip for Social Security

## Knitwear workers reject arbitration

HUNDREDS of the 3,500 knitwear workers on strike in the border town of Hawick are angry at having to face a 36-mile trip if they want to apply for Social Security supplementary benefits.

The two-week-old strike by 5,000 workers which has halted 29 mills in border towns as far apart as Arbroath, Berwick-on-Tweed, Cumberland, Annan and Hawick, is in support of their claim for a £6 across-the-board increase, a 35-hour week and an extra week's holiday a year.

So far the 16-member Hawick Knitwear Manufacturers' Association has offered them £2 from September 1 with three further £1 increases in April and September 1973 and April 1974.

The Scottish Social Security Ministry's decision to handle benefits inquiries at Galashiels—36 miles from Hawick — has been described as 'unusual' by the strikers since 700 of the total 900 possible applicants actually live in Hawick.

Attempts by the Manufacturers' Association to get the General and Municipal Workers' Union to go to arbitration for a settlement have been met with a flat refusal.

Alex Whillans, Hawick Knitwear branch secretary, told Workers Press:

'We have had too many poor examples of arbitration. Our last increase in 1970 was for £3. The employers gave us £1 first, but when it came to the last £2 we had to fight for it.'

'As far as the union is concerned, we have done everything in a cool, calm way. What we want is to negotiate a decent agreement whereby the cost of living is taken into consideration.'

At a press conference earlier this week, Association chairman William Kyle said:

'We are all in business to make a profit. If you do not make a profit we have to keep borrowing money, but how long can that go on?'

'Eventually any firm, big or small, will fold up under these circumstances, but the tragedy is that the people on strike will not believe this.'

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## IAN YEATS EXAMINES

THE WORK-IN at Briant Colour Printers, Peckham, south-east London, has reached a crucial stage. Shop stewards at the print factory, which has been occupied for 14 weeks, have turned down all offers from up to a dozen potential buyers because they have been linked to demands to slash the workforce.

As far as the liquidator P. Granville White is concerned, the workers can stay where they are and sweat it out until they are forced on their knees to accept a negotiated settlement.

Liquidator's spokesman H. B. Blandford Baker said yesterday there were still potential buyers available, but only on condition the size of the workforce was cut.

The work-in has been unable to build up the plant's turnover to commercial levels and Blandford Baker told me that any new owner would want fewer workers during the period trade was being expanded.

A formula fitting in with this sort of requirement was signed by Communist Party leaders at Glasgow's Clydebank shipyard with this week's disastrous results.

So far the Briant shop stewards' committee, led by Bill Freeman, has stuck to its guns and turned down all suggestions not only that any of the 150 workers should be dismissed, but that they should be asked to accept voluntary severance.

Blandford Baker told me that negotiations with the aim of inducing workers to accept severance pay were the only foreseeable solution to the problem of finding a buyer.

A number of workers at the plant appeared to be coming round to acceptance of this view, he said, although the work-in committee was standing firm.

There was plainly hope in the liquidator's office that after three months without wages

# Crucial stage in Briant work-in

and without any marked progress, demoralization among some rank and filers may force the committee's hand.

Little has been heard of the work-in for nearly a month when the liquidator announced that the workers would have to foot their own bills—which they have done.

But deadlock has now been reached. No buyer wants the factory with the existing workforce and the workers won't entertain a buyer who won't employ all of them.

If the situation remains as it is, the only question to be answered is when will the work-in committee be forced to open what the liquidator's office calls 'reasonable' negotiations.

Difficult though it may seem, the only way to save the 150 jobs for which the print-workers have fought so gallantly so long lies in exposing the right wingers and 'lefts' in the print unions and insisting on a real fight throughout the industry.

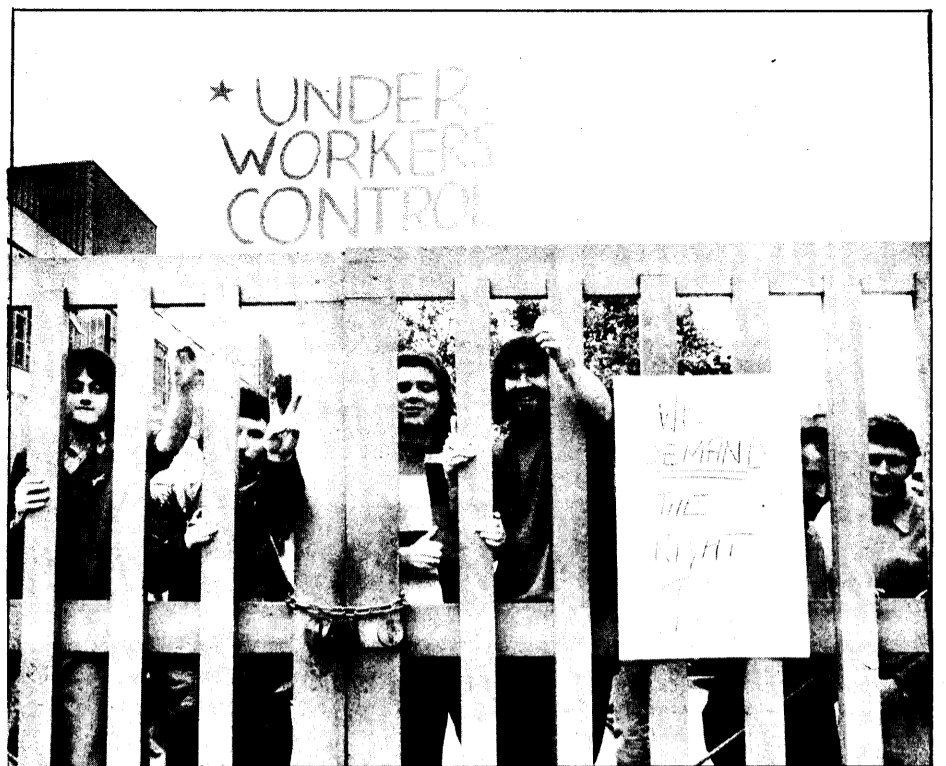
In the 15 weeks since the work-in began, thousands of other workers have lost their jobs in south east London—2,000 from Sainsbury's alone.

The fight at Briant's cannot be won—as it has not been at the upper Clyde—by separating off a handful of workers in a single plant from the general fight for the right to work against the employers and the Tory government.

The working class—and not

just printers—can aid the Briant men and women by fighting their unions for the mobilization of the class to force the Tory government to resign and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies of nationalization—including the printing trade—under workers' control and without compensation to the old owners and creditors.

● **BRITAIN'S** entry into the Common Market will expose the printing industry to the most intensive competition it has known, Lord Robens, chairman of Vickers, told a conference organized by the British Federation of Master Printers yesterday.



Locked gates at Bryant work-in

## Stubborn liftmen win £5.60 pay rise

WORKERS at Marriott and Scott's lift manufacturing plant in Hounslow, west London, have returned to work after a two-day strike which won them a two-stage £5.60 pay rise.

The 22 storemen and drivers, who have been organized in the engineers' union for less than five months, struck work on Monday after four months' negotiations on their claim.

Last week management had again offered them a £2-a-week increase on their £22 basic. The men insisted, however, that they should have parity with staff in the firm's Basingstoke factory, who were getting £28 for 40 hours.

At a meeting on Tuesday morning with a local AUEW official, management offered a £2.50 rise to the storemen and £3.60 to the drivers. This was turned down.

Shop steward at Marriott's, Muhammed Raza, told Workers Press: 'In the meeting the AUEW official and another shop steward said they would recommend a £3.60 rise for all the members with a further £2 to come on November 1.'

Management discussed this and came up with a proposal for £3.60 for all, with £2 on December 1. Said Mr Raza: 'They also wanted a pay freeze for 12 months and to do away with our two tea breaks a day. We were furious at this and told them we were not prepared to accept it.'

On Wednesday morning after further negotiations in which a six months pay freeze was agreed, management acceded to the demand for £3.60, £2 more in November with the tea breaks retained.

## Jaguar men forced to work deal

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

TRIM-SHOP workers at the Coventry-Jaguar factory were yesterday forced by their national union officials into working the settlement terms of the recent 11-week strike.

Dissatisfaction with the terms led to a refusal on Wednesday by 260 trim-workers to agree to proposals from the national officials to return to normal working.

Jaguar has accused the men of going slow and of breaking the agreement reached in August after the strike. This established a rate of £44 for 40 hours and gave workers earning more than this sums varying from £20 to £105 spread over three months while talks on a new Measured-Day Work system take place.

Trim-men told Workers Press yesterday that the firm had given them an ultimatum that they either adhere strictly to the letter of the agreement or they would be suspended.

At yesterday morning's meeting with convenors and national union officials the men were told that if they struck work they would get no support from the national or local union officials or even their own shop stewards because of the terms of the agreement.

The upshot was that the men took a decision to work to the agreement.

But trim workers commented: 'This is not over by a long shot. There is too much feeling in the shop. Our 11 weeks' strike should have had support from the whole of British-Leyland workers.'



## Turner decision today

LONDON dock shop steward Vic Turner's letter of resignation will be put before a meeting today of the joint committee of the transport union and stevedores' union which covers the Royal Group of docks.

Turner, chairman of the London port shop stewards' committee and one of the jailed Pentonville Five, announced earlier this week he intended resigning as a shop steward.

No comment was forthcoming from Turner at the Royals yesterday on a story that he was reconsidering his decision. But if he does go, it is believed a number of other leading stewards will follow him.

## Gierek in Paris

POLISH Communist Party chief Edward Gierek, on an official visit to France for talks with President Georges Pompidou, has called for closer ties between the Common Market and Comecon, the Soviet-dominated trading bloc.

At a dinner given in his honour by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Gierek said the reality of the existence of the EEC and Comecon, based on different social systems, could not be ignored.

'I think that at the right time it will be necessary to establish between these systems indispensable relations in accordance with the character of the systems. This will come about all the faster as the Common Market abandons its discriminatory principles against the Comecon countries and puts forward new proposals on these issues.'

The closer economic ties Gierek is advocating were spotlighted on Wednesday when the Polish leader visited the Berliet truck factory outside Lyon.

Last August Berliet signed a ten-year contract with the Polish POL-MOT to set up a plant at Wroclaw.

Berliet is supplying POL-MOT with models and equipment on licence to build 5,000 buses a year. The agreement is worth 400 million francs according to Berliet management, which is also hoping to open ties with China for production of similar vehicles.

## WEATHER

SOUTH-WEST England, Wales and Northern Ireland will start mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain becoming brighter later. North-east, east and central districts of England will be dry with prolonged sunny periods. North-west England and western Scotland will start bright, but become generally cloudy with perhaps some rain later.

Eastern Scotland will have some fog patches early followed by a dry day with sunny spells. Temperatures near or a little above normal.

## Let's have EEC and Comecon ties



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## Councils still defy the act

### ENGLAND AND WALES

Those Labour councils still refusing to implement the 'fair rents' Act are:

Barrow-in-Furness, Carlisle, Doncaster, Salford, Walsall, Eccles, Clay Cross, Conisborough, Halstead, Skelmersdale, Bedworth, Slough and the London Borough of Camden.

Individual councillors face the possibility of being surcharged by the Tories. Housing subsidies can be withdrawn and eventually a Housing Commissioner can be sent in to take over the housing affairs of the council.

### SCOTLAND

Twenty-five Labour-controlled authorities are defying the rent-increasing Scottish Housing Act. They are the counties of: Fife, Lanark and Midlothian.

And the following burghs: Clydebank, Dunfermline, Falkirk, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Rutherglen, Alloa, Barrhead, Buckhaven, Cowdenbeath, Cumbernauld, Dalkeith, Denny and Dunipace, Lochgelly, Maybole, Renfrew, Stewarton, Tranent and Whitburn.

Between them they have over 400,000 council tenants.

## WILSON AND PAY

### FROM PAGE ONE

investment proves that the union leaders' demands for a 6-per-cent-per-year growth rate in the economy are an absolute and conscious fraud.

How can there be 6-per-cent growth in an economy in which investment for the first six months of 1972 fell 7 per cent from its level in the last half of 1971?

The EEF spells out the real situation very clearly today. The jobs shakeout has been so severe, they say, that even if there is a temporary upturn in the economy, there will be no investment worth speaking of.

Employers will simply pick up some of the huge spare capacity they have created in their war on the unions.

Perhaps the most convincing demonstration of the fraudulent nature of yesterday's Labour Party decisions is the fact that the resolution condemning the £2 plan was backed wholeheartedly by the Party executive.

This week, by a series of squalid manoeuvres (full story, page three), the executive has guaranteed Heath a smooth sail into the Common Market conspiracy on January 1 next year. They back him absolutely on Ireland.

The only thing preventing these traitors from forming an immediate coalition with Heath against the working class is that the Tories for the moment do not need them.

**OCTOBER  
FUND £53.35  
PRESS AHEAD  
TODAY!**

LET'S MAKE a very special effort this month for our Fund. Raise extra money wherever you can and keep our paper out in front. We have many plans to expand our circulation and improve our news coverage, but we know that it is only your magnificent support that enables us to carry them through.

Only Workers Press has exposed the treachery of the reformist Labour leaders at Blackpool during this week.

We have not a moment to lose in the campaign for our October Fund. Help us collect a record amount by the end of this month. Our target is £1,750. Let's press ahead now and raise it. Post all donations immediately to:

Workers Press  
October Appeal Fund  
186a Clapham High Street  
London SW4 7UG.

## Tenants storm South Shields council

### FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

were hurled as the police tried for 35 minutes to evict local housewives. Hundreds of leaflets were thrown across the chamber at the councillors as the public gallery was cleared. A further attempt to rush the main entrance was foiled as police called in reinforcements.

In the chamber ten Labour group members voted with the Tories to defeat the Management Committee's recommendation not to implement. The decision to implement was then carried by 31 votes to 22 with three abstentions on a motion by the Tories.

POLICE were rushed to South Shields Town Hall on Wednesday night to restrain 800 angry tenants and trade unionists lobbying the Labour-controlled council over the Tory Rent Act. Two hundred were forcibly evicted by police from the public gallery on instructions of mayor Vincent Fitzpatrick, local convenor of Reyrolle.

He adjourned the meeting because of angry scenes as some demonstrators tried to climb the barrier to reach Labour members who declared they would use their 'free' vote to vote with the Tory opposition.

Screams of 'traitor' and 'scab'

Cllr John Robert Wakeford, a local JP, and Cllr Jim Davison.

Among those who had walked out Cllr Malcolm Campbell said: 'These people are worse than the Tories. They are traitors and must be expelled.'

Davison Brennan, secretary of the Federation of the Tenants in South Shields, announced to the angry crowd:

'By their actions tonight, the council of this town have forfeited their right to act on our behalf. The fight is just beginning. We must be determined more than ever to carry out our rent strike.'

## Manchester rents centre to be picketed

### FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN MANCHESTER

MANCHESTER corporation is opening local rent centres to deal with the new Housing Finance Act.

From Monday, council tenants will have to go to the centres to pay their new increased rents or to arrange rebates under the scheme.

An important result of this decentralization drive, is that many rent collectors will be withdrawn from the estates where tenants are resisting the increases.

A corporation spokesman said yesterday that one aim was to reduce the 'security risk' associated with rent collection. He claimed there would be no redundancies and that the collectors would be 'redeployed'.

Tenants' leaders suspect, however, that the move is designed to avoid any confrontation between the rent man and working-class families.

They also point out that tenants will have to pay increased fares to get to the centres to enjoy the privilege of paying a higher rent.

Joe Potts, Manchester tenants' leader, told me yesterday that pickets at the centres were planned.

They are not going to smuggle these increases in behind our backs,' he said. 'We must get out and tell people on the estates about this Act and show them how they can resist the Tory plans. These next few days will be vital.'

Militant tenants in the Manchester area were trying to spread the campaign against the increases yesterday.

They picketed Manchester town hall and then went on to estates in Wythenshawe and Stretford.

Mr Potts claimed some tenants were being intimidated when the rent man circled their names in his book—if they did not pay the increase.

He said that some old age pensioners in the Ardwick area found themselves paying 7p to 10p extra a week despite Tory claims that they would not be penalized under the legislation.

'In some other areas the agent was telling tenants last week that by refusing to pay the increase they faced a fine of £20.

Manchester tenants are disgusted at Labour's performance in Blackpool when housing spokesman Frank Allaun said the Party would not back people victimized under the Act.

And they have had little or no support from local trade unions.

This is despite the fact that in the Ardwick area alone the best part of 9,500 working-class people face a direct 92p wage cut if the increase stays.

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## Tenants' mood ahead of 'leaders' protests

# Two-week ban on Hackney rent rise

### BY PHILIP WADE

HUNDREDS of Hackney council tenants in London's East End are refusing to pay rent for the next two weeks following a call by the local tenants' association. At a mass meeting of 500 in the town hall on Wednesday, however, there was some confusion as to what action would follow at the end of the fortnight.

Many called for a total rent strike, but the platform said from the beginning it would refuse to accept any amendments to its proposed resolution.

Eventually the meeting agreed to withhold all rent for a two-week period and then to stay in permanent arrears. No decision was taken on what action was to follow.

A mass demonstration and lobby will be held outside the October 25 meeting of the Labour-controlled Hackney council—which in August decided to implement the 'fair rents' Act—to try and force a policy reversal.

To enable the Tories to get away with their increases in Hackney, some 33 Labourites joined three Tories in voting down 27 Labour councillors seeking non-implementation.

The size of the turn-out and Wednesday meeting's angry response to any mention of the Tories or the local Labour traitors showed Hackney tenants' determination to fight the increases, the Housing Finance Act and the government.

On the other hand, however, the platform of the Hackney United Tenants' Federation appeared to be trying all the time to restrict the movement's scope to a mere two-week protest, after which tenants would be left in the lurch without leadership.

It was not as if the platform was composed of non-political elements. There was at least one Communist Party member, several Labour Party members and an executive committee member of the local trades council.

Federation secretary Al Fenton told the meeting: 'I say these councillors who voted for implementation are not representative of the people because they voted with three Tory councillors.'

But he made no call for their resignation.

From Hackney trades council Lew Smith told tenants the fight had to be 'intensified like the struggle of the building workers. By the time that finished there were 400,000 out on strike and we partially won our demands. And that was done by organization.'

'The trade union movement has time and time again defeated the Industrial Relations Act and you must defeat the Housing Finance Act,' he said.

When Labour councillor Bob Masters rose to speak he was quick to turn the heat off those who had voted for implementa-

tion. 'Don't divide ourselves in bitter internal fighting,' he told the meeting. Significantly there was little applause for his statement.

It was left to Stalinist Monty Goldman to restrict the scope of the tenants' fight. He said if the tenants reflected the militancy expressed by the Labour Party rank-and-file at Blackpool we 'could get the council to rescind their decision'.

The formula forced through by the tenants' federation executive committee is a recipe for disaster and defeat. Simply to urge tenants to refuse all rent for two weeks and then leave it at that amounts to protest politics at their most dangerous.

Tenants at the meeting were rightly confused about the suggestion to 'stay in arrears until the Housing Finance Act was defeated' when the leadership gave no indication as to how

this end was to be achieved.

The present perspective of the Hackney tenants' leadership will result in the movement being isolated and hounded by the Tory government.

Unless the fight is turned towards the trade union movement in a struggle to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies, including the repeal of the Act, Hackney tenants will eventually be left with a massive rents bill to pay and nothing else to show for their fight.

The urgent question facing all tenants and workers as the rent strike movement develops throughout Britain is the formation of Councils of Action in each area to unite the entire working class around a campaign to make the TUC call a General Strike to force the Tories to resign. It is the only way forward for all those facing the massive rent increases.

## ATUA CONFERENCE

The way forward for all trade unionists

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 22  
10-30 a.m.  
TOWN HALL, BIRMINGHAM**

Send for delegates' and observers' credentials from: Conference Secretary, R. Goldstein, 103 Lewis Flats, Dalston Lane, London E8

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